



Impact of Use of GPS on First-Time Students Fall-to-Spring Persistence

WHAT IS GPS?

SMC GPS (Gateway to Persistence and Success) is an online **communication and retention tool** that facilitates connection between students, faculty, and campus services. GPS currently functions primarily as an **early alert tool**



KUDOS

Communicate positive, encouraging, and affirming messages to students



FLAGS

Raise a concern about students' progress and performance to open communication



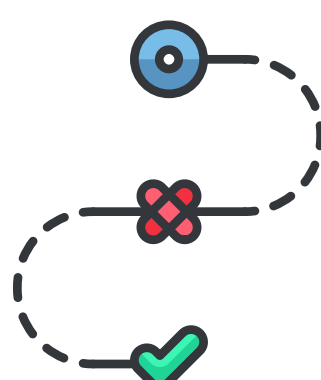
REFERRALS

Refer students to relevant resources and support services

GOALS OF GPS

TERM PERSISTENCE

Through **intentional and proactive outreach and communication**, the primary goal of GPS is to improve students' sense of mattering and connection which ultimately increases their likelihood of **persisting** and returning back to SMC in subsequent terms



69%

On average, the fall-to-spring persistence of first-time SMC students (freshmen and transfer-in) was 69% for Fall 2019

IMPACT OF GPS

442

Students

of first-time SMC students enrolled in Fall 2020 who used the GPS tool (credit students only)

150

Students

of the 442 first-time students who used GPS who were **predicted not to persist** based on a statistical model developed by the Office of Institutional Research

84%

Persistence Rate

126 of the 150 (84%) **GPS users** who were first-time at SMC in Fall 2020 and were **predicted not to persist but successfully persisted** and enrolled in Spring 2021

54%

Persistence Rate

In comparison, 54% of first-time SMC students who were **non-GPS users** who were predicted not to persist yet **successfully persisted** to Spring 2021

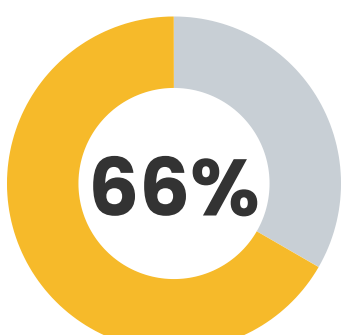
+1,228

Credit Units

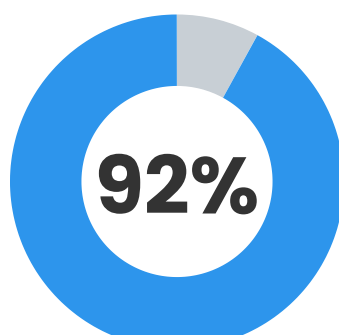
Spring 2021 **credit units enrolled** by first-time SMC students and GPS users who were predicted not to persist (GPS's impact on future enrollment)

FALL 2020 TO SPRING 2021 PERSISTENCE

Did not use GPS in Fall 2020 (N = 7584)



66%



92%

Used GPS in Fall 2020 (N = 442)

The Fall 2020 to Spring 2021 persistence rate for first-time SMC students was 66%. Students who used GPS persisted at a rate **26% higher** than those who did not use GPS.