



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



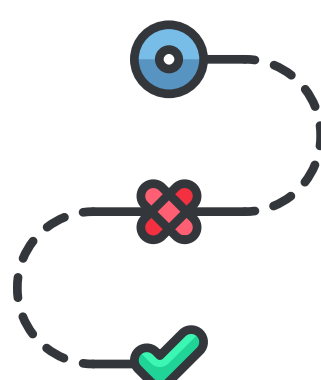
REFERRALS

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

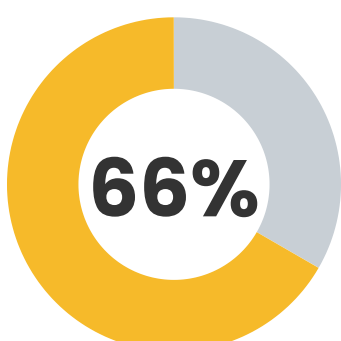


69%

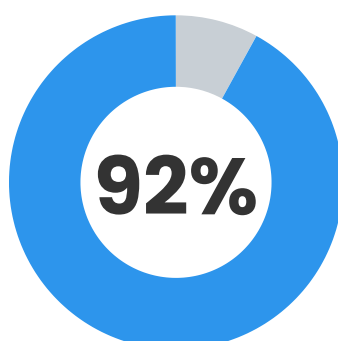
On average, the fall-to-spring persistence of first-time SMC students (freshmen and transfer-in) was 69% for Fall 2019

FALL 2020 TO SPRING 2021 PERSISTENCE

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



66%



Used GPS in Fall 2020 (N = 442)

92%

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.

IMPACT OF GPS

**GPS users or "used GPS" is defined as a student who interacted with the tool, including receiving a referral, kudo, or flag and communicating with faculty, counselors, and staff through the tool*

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%

vs

54%

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

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

+1,228

Credit Units

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