

Credit Momentum: First Semester Outcomes for the Fall 2019 Freshmen

Credit momentum, defined as taking 15 or more units in the first semester, is associated with higher graduation rates, especially for students of color.



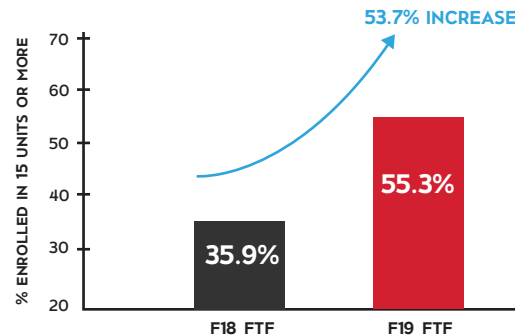
This report focuses on the full-time freshmen only, which is the focus of the GI2025 efforts. For a fuller discussion of credit momentum, see our first [credit momentum report](#) and [related research literature](#).

The Fall 2019 Freshman cohort

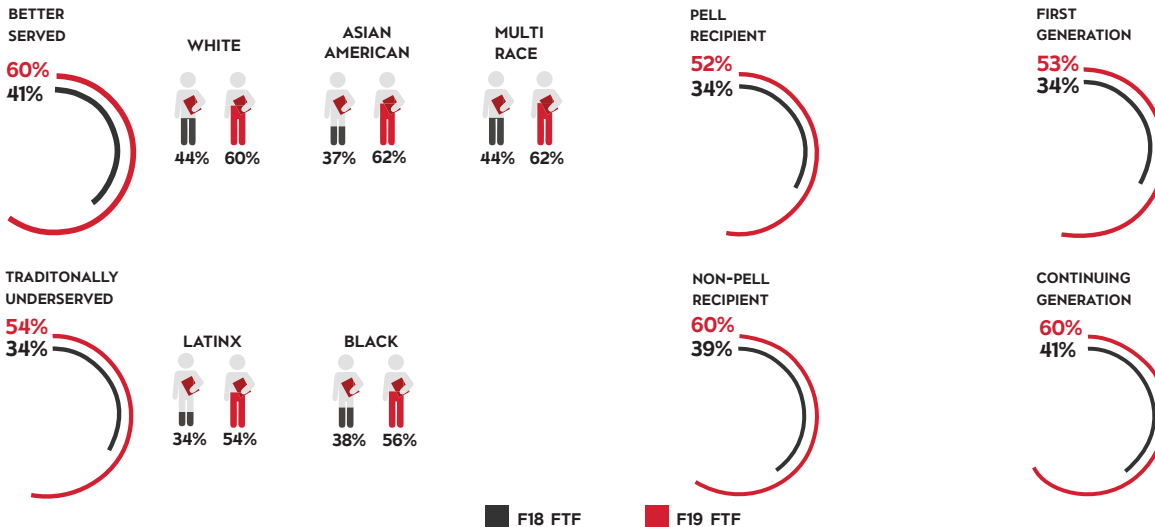
One of the key pieces of [Matadors Rising](#), has been to encourage students to enroll in 15 or more units. The launch of the [Matador Academic Challenge](#) in Fall 2019 allowed them to do so with relatively less at stake.

As a result, a record 55.3% of the full time freshmen in Fall 2019 enrolled in 15 or more units.

This translates to an additional 919 freshmen enrolling in 15 or more units in Fall 2019. This was true across all demographic groups, by race¹, Pell status, and first generation status.



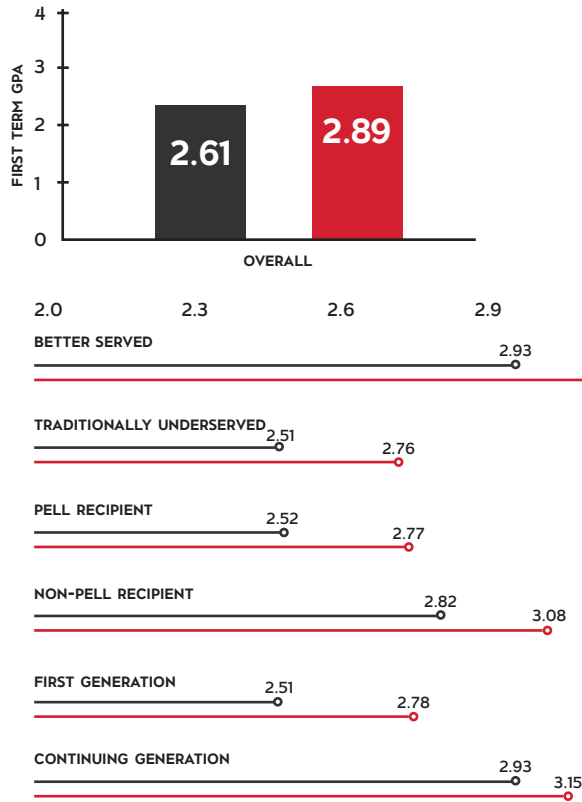
PERCENTAGE ENROLLED IN 15 UNITS OR MORE



¹Exceptions to this are American Indian students (of which there is only 1 in the Fall 2019 FTF cohort) and International students (among whom there was a decrease in the proportion taking 15 or more units).

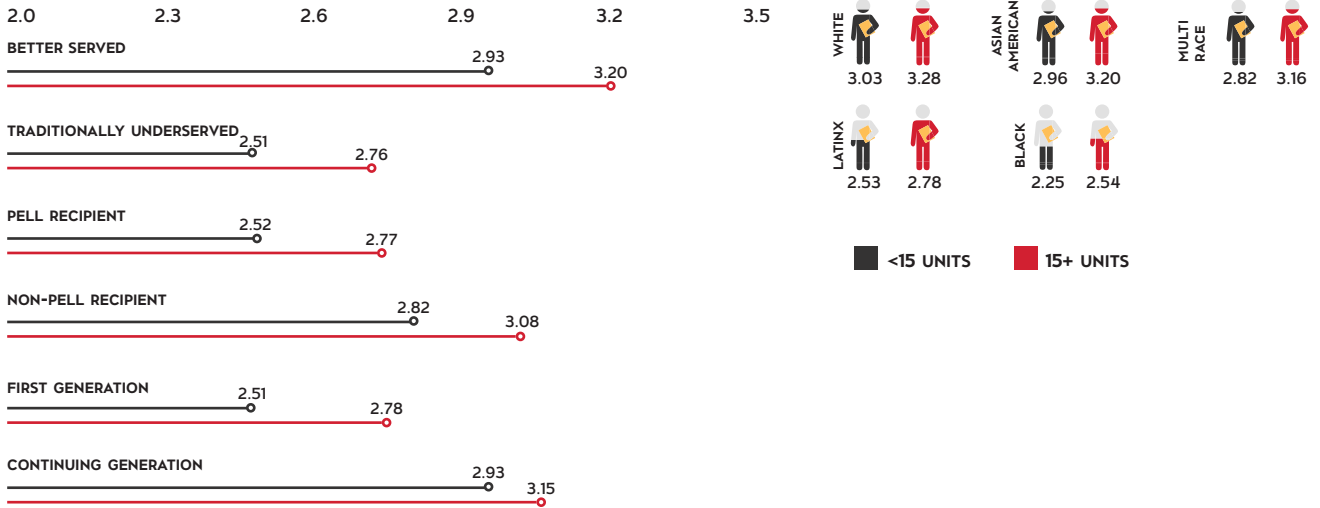
Fall Semester Outcomes

FIRST-TERM GPAS BY MOMENTUM STATUS AND DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP



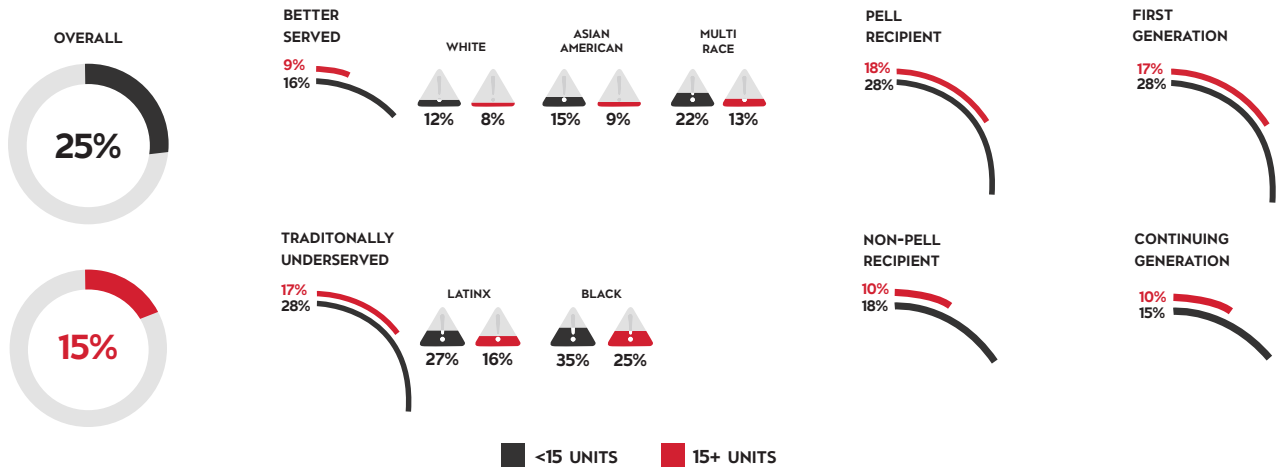
Now that their first term grades have come in, we wanted to look at outcomes for the Fall 2019 freshmen by momentum status. All of the first semester outcomes indicate improved student outcomes associated with taking 15 or more units, and this is true for all demographic groups.

Full-time freshmen enrolled in 15 or more units achieved higher first term GPAs than their peers who were taking fewer than 15 units.



Additionally, full-time freshmen enrolled in 15 or more units were less likely to be on academic probation than their peers who were enrolled in fewer than 15 units.

PERCENTAGE ON ACADEMIC PROBATION BY MOMENTUM STATUS AND DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP



Conclusion

Fall outcomes look very promising, and the research literature indicates that the benefits of credit momentum in the first semester will continue. We will continue to follow outcomes for these and future credit momentum students to better understand how best to support our students.