



NOVA PROGRAM

Assessment of the Six-Year Graduation Rate of NOVA Participants



Description of NOVA

NOVA is a federally-funded project with the legislative intent to increase retention and graduation rates of low-income and first generation students.

NOVA participants enter the project as first-time freshmen and participate in the highly structured NOVA first-year experience. During their freshmen year, participants become part of the NOVA Learning Community through their enrollment in the specially designed NOVA Academic Orientation and Leadership Development courses taught by project staff.

NOVA's service delivery design also includes peer mentoring, academic advising and monitoring, personal counseling, financial aid consulting, and academic support. In addition, NOVA offsets loan debt to eligible participants through the provision of grant aid and scholarships.

NOVA assesses grade point averages, persistence rates and graduation rates of project participants for annual reporting to the U.S. Department of Education.

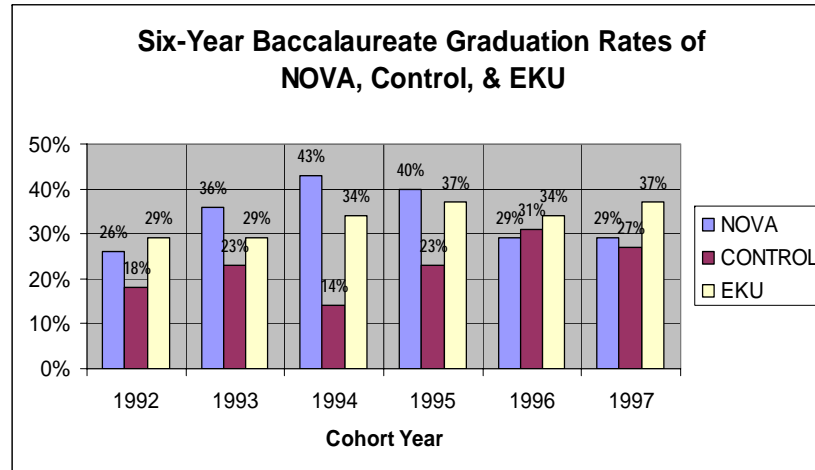
NOVA Six Year Graduation Objective:

NOVA freshmen participants who enter in the same cohort year will earn a degree within six years at a rate at least 8% greater than the NOVA-eligible freshmen control group from the same cohort year who did not participate.

Key Performance Indicators:

Percentage of NOVA participants who graduated in six years.

Percentage of the NOVA-eligible Control Group who graduated in six years.



Evaluation Process:

Fall 2004:

- Collected graduation data from Banner on both the NOVA Freshmen cohort groups and the NOVA-eligible Freshmen control cohort groups for 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997.
- Compared EKU baccalaureate degrees conferred for each group within six years from the entering freshmen fall semester.
- Updated Trac Dat with assessment results.

Results:

- Objective was met and exceeded for the 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995 cohort
- Objective was not met for the 1996 and 1997 groups.

Use of Results:

- It was concluded that further study is needed to determine what is different about the 1996 & 1997 cohort groups as compared to the earlier cohort groups who graduated at a greater rate.
- The results were used in the recent grant proposal as a baseline to modify the graduation objective for the next funding cycle, which will begin in Fall 2005.