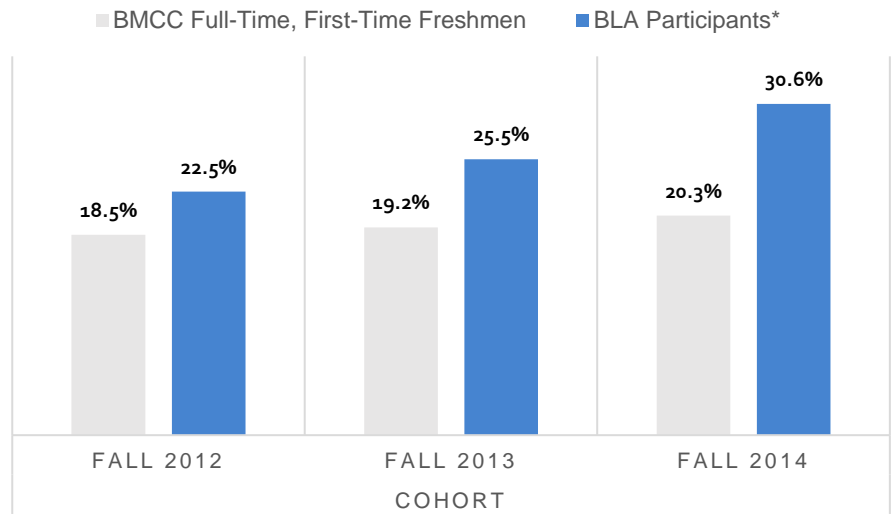




## PROGRAM IMPACT ON GRADUATION THREE-YEAR RATES



\*Includes some BLA participants who were not full-time first-time

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BMCC OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND ANALYTICS

# Improving Student Retention and Graduation

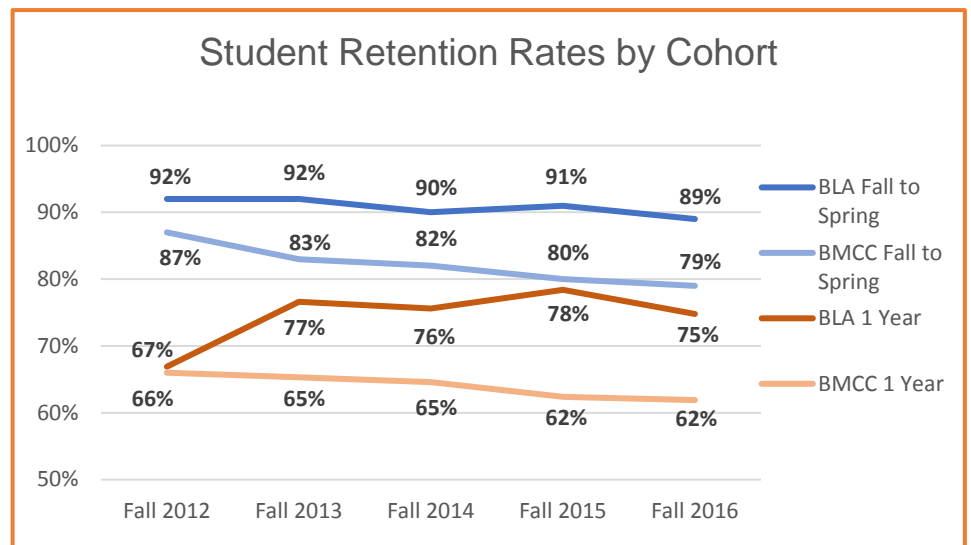
*The BMCC Learning Academy (BLA) was designed as the Freshmen Learning Academy in 2012 to help first-time, full-time Liberal Arts majors make a smooth transition from high school to college. The program has expanded over time, but its ultimate goal has always been to enhance students' college experience and increase retention and graduation rates.*

The Learning Academy's central support for students stems from individualized advisement and student success seminars. These seminars are taught by advisors to help students develop their academic and professional skills in a cohort with other Learning Academy students. In the program's initial cohorts, new students participated in first-semester success seminars and individual advisement with continued advisement in their second term. Starting in fall 2014, the Learning Academy began supporting students with ongoing advisement, success seminars, high impact practices with faculty connection, transfer preparation, and career mapping from the time they join the program until they graduate.

The analysis of retention and graduation rates for 1,620 students who participated in fall cohorts of the Learning Academy from 2012 to 2016 demonstrates that BLA students have higher rates of success when compared to

BMCC freshmen as a whole. The three-year graduation rates for Learning Academy students (shown above) have been consistently higher than the graduation rates of full-time, first-time students generally. Additionally, BLA graduation rates have improved over time, with a significant jump for the fall 2014 cohort, which marks the Learning Academy model shift from one-year priority advisement to continual advisement and support of students.

The chart below demonstrates trends in student retention for Learning Academy participants and full-time, first-time students, comparing both fall to spring rates, indicated in blue, and fall to fall rates in orange. On both measures, college retention rates for Learning Academy participants are demonstrably higher. This distinction has been maintained over time, despite slightly declining rates of retention for the college as a whole.



# Program Design and Evolution

In the early years of the program, BLA targeted full-time students majoring in Liberal Arts, expanding over time to include most majors as well as part-time students.

The chart to the right outlines how the Learning Academy has expanded programmatically over time. Initially, cohorts participated in one section of success seminar followed by an additional semester of advisement. Beginning in spring 2014, student support was expanded to provide continual advisement to program participants until they reached graduation. In fall 2014, the Learning Academy began offering two semesters of seminar in addition to continual advisement. In fall 2017, the Graduation Advantage Program (GAP) was created for students with over 45 credits completed who intended to graduate at the end of the semester. While most GAP students graduated after their first semester with the program, a few required an additional semester and were provided advisement through BLA until graduation. In fall 2018, the program will expand yet again with the addition of the On-Track Program, providing support for continuing students with 16 - 44 credits.

Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Fall 2018
Fall 2012 cohort – 16 sections of seminar												
Spring 2013 cohort – 10 sections of seminar												
Fall 2013 cohort – 18 sections of seminar												
Spring 2014 cohort – 6 sections of seminar – Continual advisement until graduation adopted							→			→		→
Fall 2014 cohort – 13 sections of seminar									→		→	→
Fall 2015 cohort – 14 sections of seminar								→				
Fall 2016 cohort – 14 sections of seminar												
Fall 2017 cohort – GAP introduced. 2 GAP sections, 18 BLA Sections												

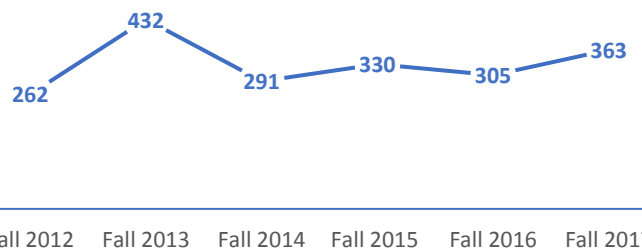
### Current Learning Academy Eligibility Requirements

- All majors accepted except Allied Health and Nursing.
- Entry for continuing students requires a GPA of 2.5 or above.
- Participation is open to students who are Reading and Writing Exempt, or to those placing no more than one level below college readiness in reading and writing on the CUNY placement exam. All levels of math placement are eligible.
- BLA students can not be participants in other success programs such as ASAP, College Discovery or Year Up.
- International and part-time students are eligible for BLA.

## Program Participation

While the number of students participating in the Learning Academy has fluctuated with the number of available success seminar sections, on average around 330 new students began participation each year.

### NEW BLA PARTICIPANTS OVER TIME

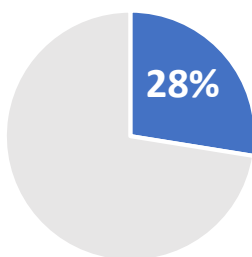


This is significant because we know that enrollment in a success program (including others like ASAP and College Discovery) increases the likelihood of a students' graduation by 20%. A 2016 study by OIEA showed that 35% of students who were enrolled in ASAP or College Discovery programs graduated within three years compared to 15% of those not enrolled, other factors held constant. Among important predictors of graduation were also summer enrollment, freshmen GPA and accumulated credits, as well as incoming math scores and students' gender (female). In most cases, success programs are mutually exclusive. Of BMCC's new students, 27.5% join a success program.

### STUDENT DATA

The graduation and retention rate comparisons included all BLA students who were a part of fall program cohorts between 2012 and 2016. They were compared against BMCC full-time first-time student cohorts. The inclusion of part-time (2.9%) and new transfer students (1.1%) in BLA totals does not alter any rates significantly.

Percent of New Students in Success Programs



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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