

THE FIFTH DIMENSION



The 5th Monday Newsletter from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

October 29, 2018

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What is IE?

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) provides high-quality data and analysis to inform college decisions. Our office is located in the Day Road Center. If you ever feel like taking a leisurely walk across campus, stop by and say hi.

Degree and Certificate Completion

VC has seen an explosion in the number of degrees and certificates awarded to students. In 2013-14, VC awarded 1,857 total degrees and certificates. In 2017-18, this number increased to 3,749. These numbers are total award counts, which means that if a student received two degrees, they are counted twice.

When we look at unique graduates, we find that 1,547 students received at least one degree or certificate in 2013-14. In 2017-18, this number increased to 2,215. **This is an increase of 43%!** Our enrollment stayed relatively flat during this time, which means that this increase is not due to VC serving more students.

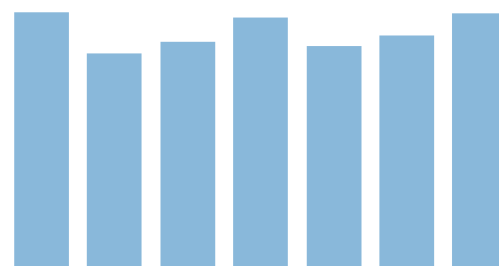
Combined with the total award numbers, this also means that graduates leave VC with more awards than they did five years ago. In 2013-14, the average graduate received 1.2 awards. In 2017-18, the average graduate received 1.7 awards.

2018-2019 awards haven't been processed yet. In the meantime, take a look at our [Degree and Certificate Dashboard](#) for detail on your favorite degree or certificate.

Student Persistence

A key indicator of student success is student persistence. Persistence is defined as the percentage of first-time fall students who enroll again in the subsequent spring semester, and/or in the subsequent fall semester.

In fall 2017, 2,277 first-time students enrolled at VC. 76.7% of these students enrolled again in the spring, and 63% enrolled in fall 2018. This means 531 new students did not return for their second semester, and 842 new students didn't return for their second year. There are a wide variety of reasons why this occurs. Many are related to family or work, but there are also things that VC could be doing better. Take a look at our [Persistence Dashboard](#) for more detailed data.



Data Contest! Win an Amazon Gift Card!

Correctly answer three questions about VC by **5pm on Friday, May 3rd**, and you could win!! An Amazon gift card will be awarded to one randomly selected full-time faculty member, adjunct faculty member, classified staff member, and administrator.

[Click here to enter the contest.](#)

Last Semester's Big Winners:

- Full-Time Faculty Member – Ryan Petitfils (Math)
- Adjunct Faculty Member – Salpy Tovar (Business)
- Classified Staff Member – Sandra Gustafson (Admissions)
- Administrator – Debbie Newcomb (Career Education)



VC's [Corporate Games Dodgeball team](#) took home a silver medal this year!!