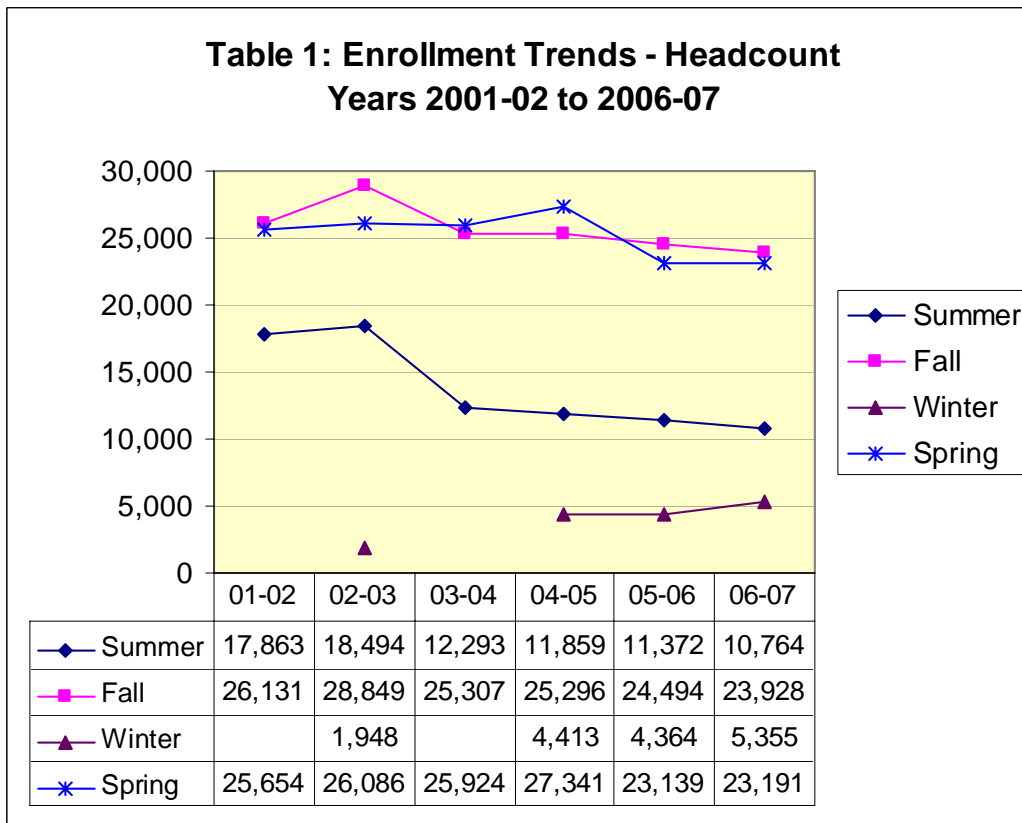


## Fall to Spring Enrollment Persistence Winter Term Analysis El Camino College

The Winter Intercession was offered at El Camino College beginning in 2003 and repeated for the last 3 years. This study examines how persistence rates from fall to spring may have been affected by the Winter Intercession in recent years.

### Enrollment Trends

The first table examines headcounts for each term. In only one case was a drop in enrollment experienced in spring following a decline in winter (2005). Conversely, cases exist where spring enrollment climbed in the presence of a winter session (2003) and declined despite a winter enrollment increase (2007). Enrollment in winter was flat for 2 years followed by a strong increase last year (2007). Winter intercession is about half the size of spring in terms of headcount.



### Persistence Rates

Fall to spring persistence rates are provided below. They reflect the percentage of students who enrolled in at least 3 units in fall and subsequently enrolled the following spring. Although persistence declined markedly in the first year of the winter intercession, this may have been a response to change rather than a long-lasting effect. Persistence rates for the second two winter intercessions rose above persistence levels of the non-

intercession years. Rates are aggregated by the status of winter intercession in the table to the right. On the whole, persistence rates do not seem to be affected by the presence or absence of the winter session.

Fall to Spring Terms	Persistence Rate	Winter Session?
Fall01-Sp02	68.2%	N
Fall02-Sp03	65.4%	Y
Fall03-Sp04	67.6%	N
Fall04-Sp05	68.4%	Y
Fall05-Sp06	67.8%	Y
Fall06-Sp07	66.8%	Y

By Winter Status	Persistence
No Winter (02, 04)	67.9%
Winter (02, 05, 06, 07)	67.0%
Winter (05, 06, 07 only)	67.7%

Persistence rates were then analyzed by whether or not students enrolled in winter 2007. As indicated, winter-enrolled students persist into spring at higher rates than those who do not (95% vs. 60%). This is likely due to the fact that winter has a higher concentration of traditional college-aged students intending to transfer. This is borne out when comparing average spring credit loads of students who are or are not enrolled in winter. Winter students enrolled in an average of 12 units in spring vs. 9 units for students who skipped winter session (table not shown).

		Spring		Total	Persistence Rate
		Yes	No		
Winter	Yes	4,068	236	4,304	94.5%
	No	10,114	6,816	16,930	59.7%
Total		14,182	7,052	21,234	66.8%

Finally, the table below compares average units in spring by year. In general, the presence of a winter term does not seem to diminish the number of units in which students enroll in spring.

Fall to Spring Terms	Avg Spring Units	Winter Session?
Fall01-Sp02	8.6	N
Fall02-Sp03	9.2	Y
Fall03-Sp04	9.3	N
Fall04-Sp05	9.3	Y
Fall05-Sp06	9.4	Y
Fall06-Sp07	9.6	Y

At the aggregate level, it does not appear that spring enrollment was adversely affected by the introduction of the winter intercession. However, winter session may influence course-taking patterns which would be masked at the aggregate level. Further, more in-depth studies may be considered in the future.