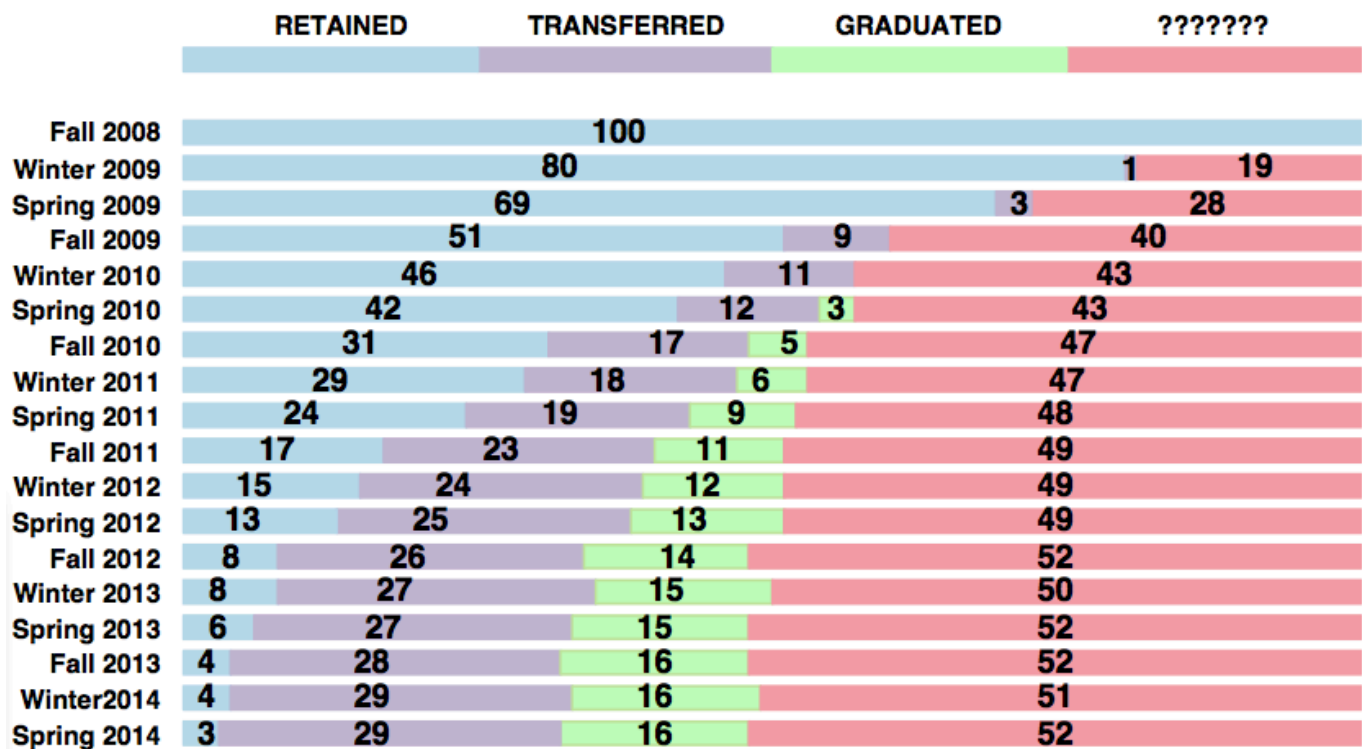


Could We Do Better?

As vital as community colleges are to the education of underserved students, *low completion rates strand too many with debt and no credential*. According to a national study of first-time-in-college degree-seeking students entering community colleges in fall 2008, **only 39.1% attained some higher education degree within six years** (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, Signature Report, November 2014). This chart follows first-time degree-seeking students at Lane Community College during the same six years.

Percent Retention, Cumulative Graduation and Cumulative Transfer over Six Years among First-Time-in-College Degree-Seeking Students at Lane Community College



- *About half of our new-to-college degree-seeking students leave with no documented attainment.*
- *Roughly one-fifth drop out after one term; two-fifths after one year.*
- *Lane's 6-year graduation rate for these students is about 16%; our transfer rate about 29%.*

Lane serves many needs besides degree acquisition, but in the eight academic years from 2006 to 2014, **fully 84% of our new credit students were award seeking—38,541 individuals**. Imagine the benefit to Oregon, and in the day-to-day lives of our alumni and their families, if we could improve our retention and graduation rates.

One clear message in the data about this improvement: **there is room for it.**