

One Year Grant Program Progress Report

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Brief Overview

The One Year Grant (OYG) process requires a separate application form that gathered information on the applicant's academic, social, and financial status at Dominican. Applicants are required to not only report on their current financial needs, but also to craft a plan for sustaining their enrollment at Dominican for the future. Applications are reviewed by a One Year Grant Committee that was comprised of the Dean of Students, Director of Academic Advising and Support Services, and the Associate Vice President for Financial Aid and Career Services.

For 2006-07, 27 students were awarded an OYG totaling \$141,900. This represents a drop in the number of recipients (40 in the 2005-06 year).

Distribution of One Year Grant

2006-07 recipients included 4 new freshmen and 2 new transfer student who enrolled in fall 2006, 2 transfer students who enrolled in spring 2006, and 19 continuing students. The number of new students (freshmen and transfer) was much lower than the prior year; the number of continuing students was comparable.

Eight students were considered federally independent for financial aid purposes; the remaining 19 students were considered dependent and included parental information on their financial aid applications.

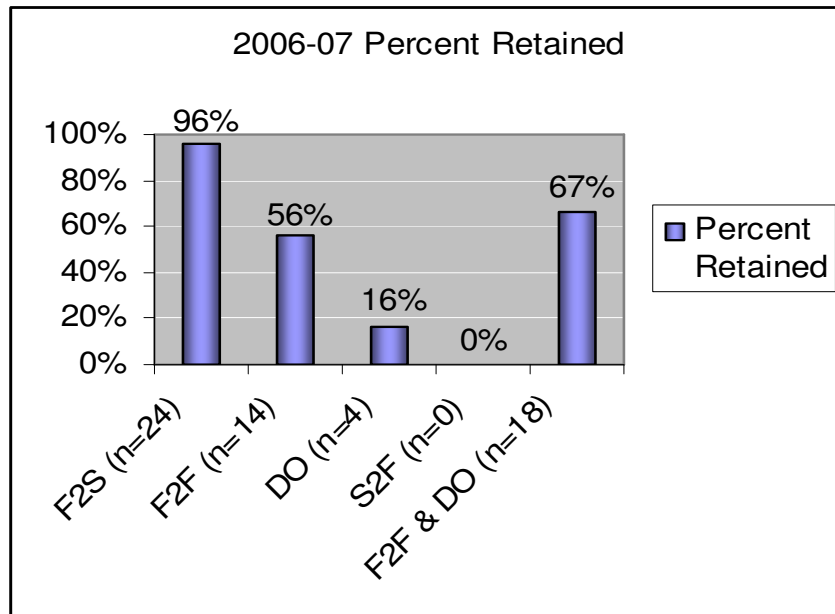
The ethnic distribution of recipients was as follows: 5 Caucasian students; 4 Asian American, 6 Black, 9 Latino/a, and 3 Multi-racial. Five males and 22 females received the grant.

The average grant offered to recipients in 2006-07 was \$5,254. The lowest grant offered was \$434 and the maximum grant was \$10,000.

2006-07 Results

Retention

Of the 27 students awarded grants, 18 (66.6%) either re-enrolled for fall 2007 or successfully graduated at the end of spring 2007. Two students who enrolled in spring 2007 as new admits were awarded grants, but neither returned for fall 2007 (0%). All 27 grant recipients were considered by the One Year Grant Committee as being at serious risk for attrition.



F2S: Fall to Spring; F2F: Fall to Fall; S2F: New Spring to Fall; DO: Graduated

Retention by Student Type

The retention rates for OYG recipients by student population show the most success for new transfer students, but the number of transfer recipients is too small to draw meaningful conclusions.

	Number of OYG Recipients	Fall to Spring Retention	Fall to Fall Retention	Retention Rate
New Fall Freshmen	4	4	3	75.0%
New Fall Transfer	2	2	2	100.0%
New Spring Transfer	2	n/a	0	0.0%
Continuing, including Spring 2006 graduated	19	18	9 *	47.3%
			4 **	21.0%

* No. Continuing enrolled ** No. Successfully graduated spring 2007

Other Retention Rates

Information on retention by ethnicity and gender follow. Although the predominant number of OYG recipients were female and ALANA, the underlying denominator for all the OYG recipients was the difficulty of managing Dominican's cost based on family income and family resources, despite the presence of other forms of financial assistance.

	Number of OYG Recipients	Fall to Spring Retention	Fall to Fall Retention	Retention Rate
Males	5	5	3*	60.0%
Females	20	19	11*	55.0%*

* Does not include 3 female students who graduated spring 2007 (1 male, 3 females)

	Number of OYG Recipients	Fall to Spring Retention	Fall to Fall Retention	Retention Rate
Asian American	4	3	2**	50%
Black	6	6	3**	50.0%
Caucasian	5	5	3**	60.0%
Declined to State	0	0	0	0.0%
Latino/a	7*	7	4	57.19%
Native American	0	0	0	0.0%
Multi-ethnic	3	3	2	66.6%

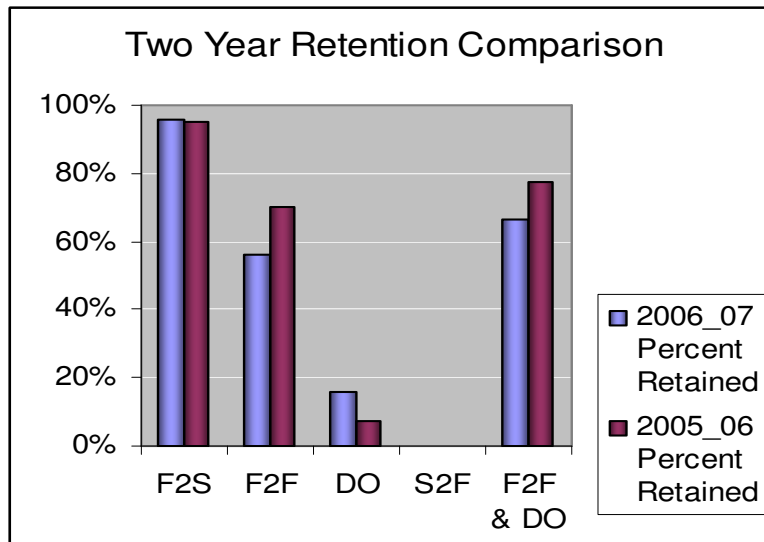
*Does not include 2 students who began in spring; **Does not include students who graduated in spring 2007

Income and Need

Recipients had average family income of \$37,010, and the median income was higher: \$43,906. The average financial need was \$37,745, and median need was higher: \$38,491. The income and need data is consistent with the prior year in suggesting that the students who received One Year Grants represent a significantly needier subset of the overall undergraduate day population. However, there are not significant differences in the 2006-07 recipients between income and need levels of those that persisted or graduated, and those who were not retained.

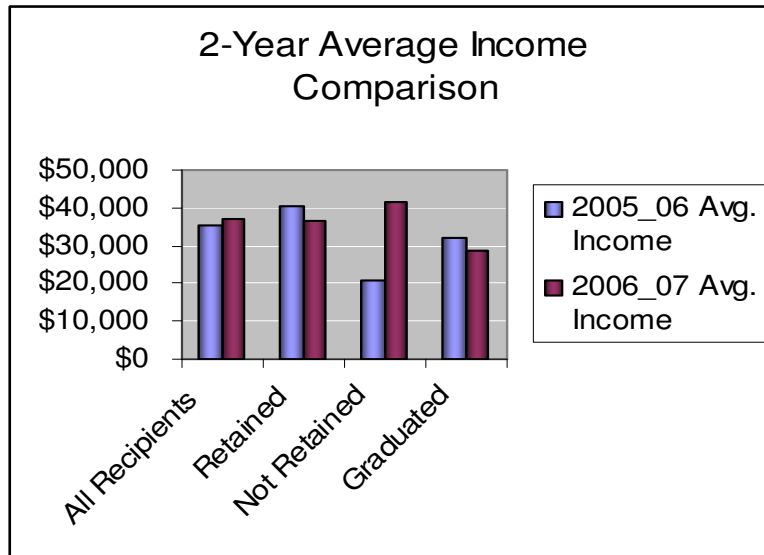
Two-Year Comparison

As a percentage of students retained, there were similar results for fall to spring retention each year (95% in 2005-06 and 96% in 2006-07). However, beyond that, the percentages do not bear out similar patterns.

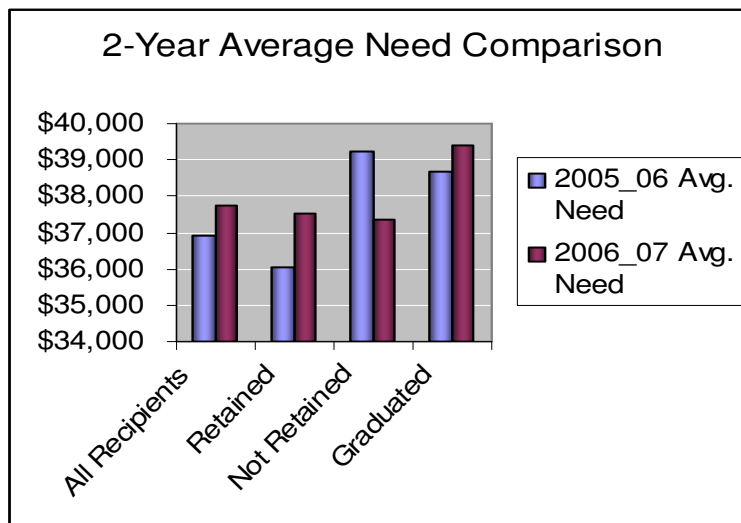


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Interestingly, the average need and income for students retained versus not retained in 2006-07 and 2005-06 shows some unusual differences. One would expect that average income of non-retained students would be lower than those retained, but in the 2006-07 year, average income of non-retained students was roughly double that of 2005-06 non-retained students.



The two year comparison shows that average need for OYG recipients remains significantly higher than the overall undergraduate day population. For 2006-07 the average financial need of undergraduate day student population was \$22,600 compared to the over \$37,000 average need for OYG recipients.



Summary

This program was very successful in its first year, and was clearly successful in the second year in impacting fall to spring retention and successful graduation of recipients. An early read might indicate that the program is most successful for short term (within year) retention, but additional years of data is needed before appropriate conclusions can be drawn.

Future Directions

For the 2007-08 year, the Financial Aid Office has spun off some of the OYG funding to create a “Supplemental Grant” program that assists students with additional need-based aid through the normal financial aid application process by increasing their need-based grant by a modest (approximately 3%) amount. Students are identified in counseling

appointments or through referral as at risk of attrition. The purpose of the supplemental grant program is to identify and assist need-based aid recipients for whom a small amount of additional aid may help to make the tuition increase more manageable. Unlike the OYG, which is temporary assistance, the Supplemental Grant becomes a renewable part of students' aid.

The OYG and Supplemental Grant Programs are need-based financial aid programs and must continue to be managed and controlled by the Financial Aid Office in order to ensure compliance with federal and state financial aid regulations. Additionally, the grants represent a direct tuition discount, therefore must be managed as part of the overall financial aid budget.

The 2005-06 OYG Progress report identified a number of possible directions for linking the grant program to other student success programs. These remain possibilities:

- Linkages to academic support services
- Specialized programming for OYG recipients such as:
 - Money management/financial literacy
 - Locating and applying for private grants/scholarships
 - Time management
 - Career services
- Additional (intrusive) financial aid counseling
- Linkages to community support services
- Peer mentoring