



**Tracking Undergraduate Student Success for International Students at  
UMass Boston, Fall 2018**

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The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning (OIRAP) has been working with Kristof Zaba, the Executive Director of the UMass Boston Navitas Global Student Success Program (GSSP), to provide tracking of student success for undergraduate GSSP students, also identified as Navitas students. The tracking can be complicated because Navitas students are admitted in both spring and fall and because, although the majority of the students are classified as freshmen, some Navitas students are transfers by UMass Boston standards. They also may be classified as either full-time or part-time. The GSSP has requested tracking on a semester by semester basis, thereby tracking multiple cohorts through multiple semesters. This report provides a comparison of the progress of Navitas students, non-Navitas International students, and US domestic first-time full-time (FTFT) freshmen entering with the cohort.

The Navitas students listed include transfers, full-time, and part-time freshmen. Therefore, the retention rates will not match those reported for the official cohort. Appendix A provides key metrics for each cohort, including first-year retention rate, credits earned, and grade point average, as well as graduation rates and final grade point average (Tables A-1).

Overall, Navitas students perform at a comparable level to other international students as well as domestic students for many of the key metrics for undergraduate student success.

**Fall 2012 Cohort**

The Fall 2012 cohort of students represent the second cohort of Navitas students to graduate within 6 years. Table 1 depicts the progress of Navitas students compared to other student types from the Fall 2012 cohort. While the first-year retention rate for Navitas students was higher than other student types, the graduation rates for Navitas students exceeded those for domestic students and lagged those for other international students.

Table 1

*Retention and Completion for Fall 2012 Cohort by Student Types*

	Navitas	Non-NVT Int'l	Domestic
Cohort Size (N)	78	147	1044
Continued F13	69	126	783
% Continued F13	88.5%	85.7%	75.0%
Continued F14	47	96	632
% Continued F14	60.3%	65.3%	60.5%
4-Yr Graduates	18	32	192
4-Yr Grad Rate	23.1%	21.8%	18.4%
5-Yr Graduates	39	77	415
5-Yr Grad Rate	50.0%	52.4%	39.8%
6-Yr Graduates	42	82	476
6-Yr Grad Rate	53.8%	55.8%	45.6%

#### 4-Year Graduation Rates

Figure 1 illustrates the 4-year graduation rates for the 2011-2014 Fall cohorts. Navitas students have graduated within 4 years at the same rate or better than other student types over the past four years.

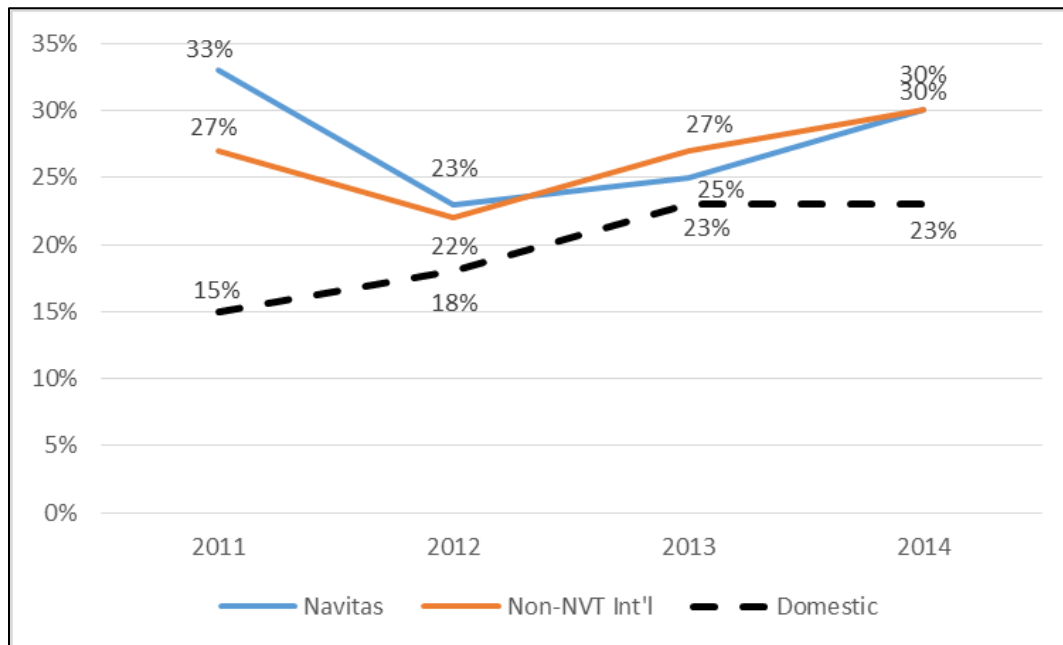


Figure 1. 4-year graduation rates for Fall 2011-14 cohorts by student types.

## Credit Load

For the matriculating (degree-seeking only) undergraduate students in the Fall 2018 semester, all Navitas students ( $N = 486$ ,  $M = 14.3$ ) carried a higher credit load when compared with other international  $N = 827$ ,  $M = 14.0$ ) or domestic ( $N = 10,875$ ,  $M = 12.9$ ) students. However, fewer Navitas students were part-time students (4%) compared to other international students (6% part-time) and domestic students (20% part-time). Table 2 depicts the average credit hours taken and percentage of full-time students for student types by level. Navitas students take a comparable or greater credit hour load to other student types across academic levels.

Table 2  
*Fall 2018 Credit Hour Load by Student Types, by Level*

	<b>Student Type</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean Credit Hours</b>	<b>Full-time (%)</b>
Freshmen	Navitas	192	15.0	99
	Non-NVT Int'l	266	14.6	98
	Domestic	3,241	14.5	93
Sophomore	Navitas	115	14.1	97
	Non-NVT Int'l	191	14.3	95
	Domestic	2,268	13.0	82
Junior	Navitas	114	14.1	97
	Non-NVT Int'l	200	13.9	94
	Domestic	2,588	12.5	77
Senior	Navitas	65	13.0	85
	Non-NVT Int'l	170	13.0	83
	Domestic	2,778	11.1	63

## Final Grade Point Average

Figure 2 illustrates the final grade point averages for graduates from the 2011-2014 Fall cohorts. Navitas students graduated with lower final GPAs than domestic students.

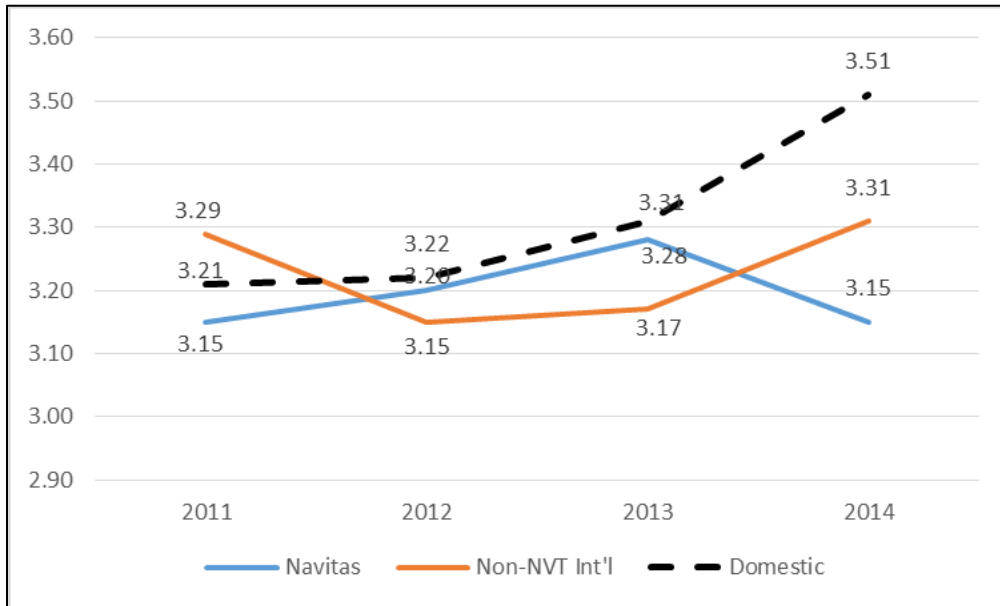


Figure 2. Final grade point averages for graduates from Fall 2011-14 cohorts by student types

### First-Year Student Success

Figure 3 illustrates the one-year retention rates by student types from the 2011-2017 Fall cohorts. Navitas students maintained a comparable or higher retention rate relative to other international students and domestic students. While retention rates for Navitas and other international students increased, the overall one-year retention rate for full-time students decreased because international students only account for less than 12% of students in the Fall 2017 cohort.

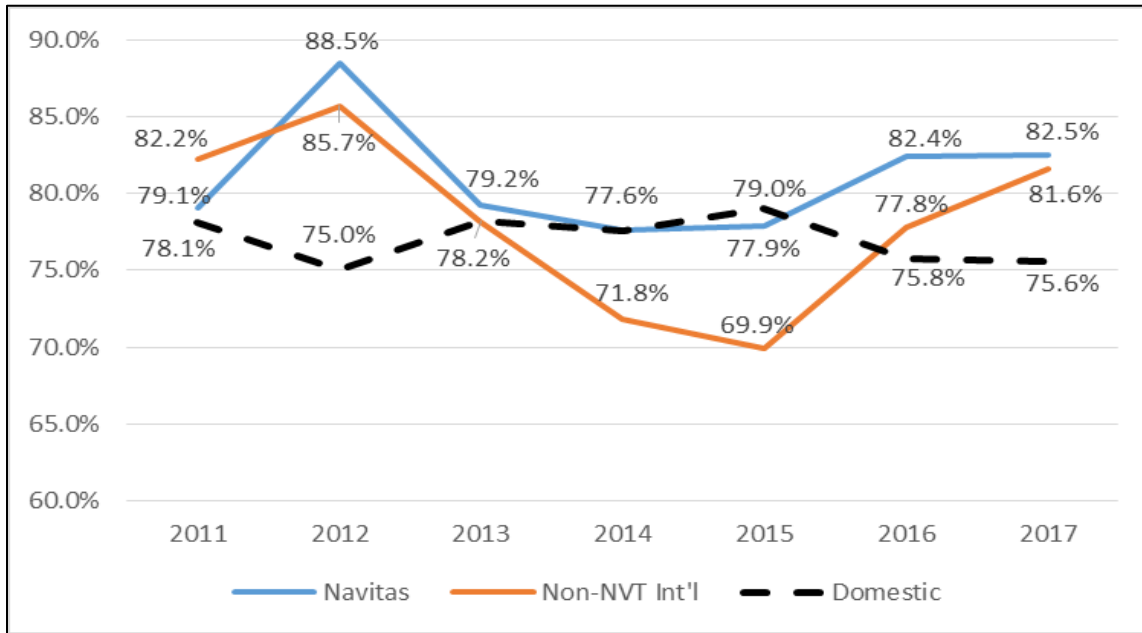


Figure 3. One-year retention rates from Fall 2011-17 cohorts by student types

Figure 4 illustrates the first-year cumulative grade point averages by student types from the 2011-2017 Fall cohorts. Navitas students maintained a comparable grade point average relative to domestic students and a higher grade point average relative to other international students..

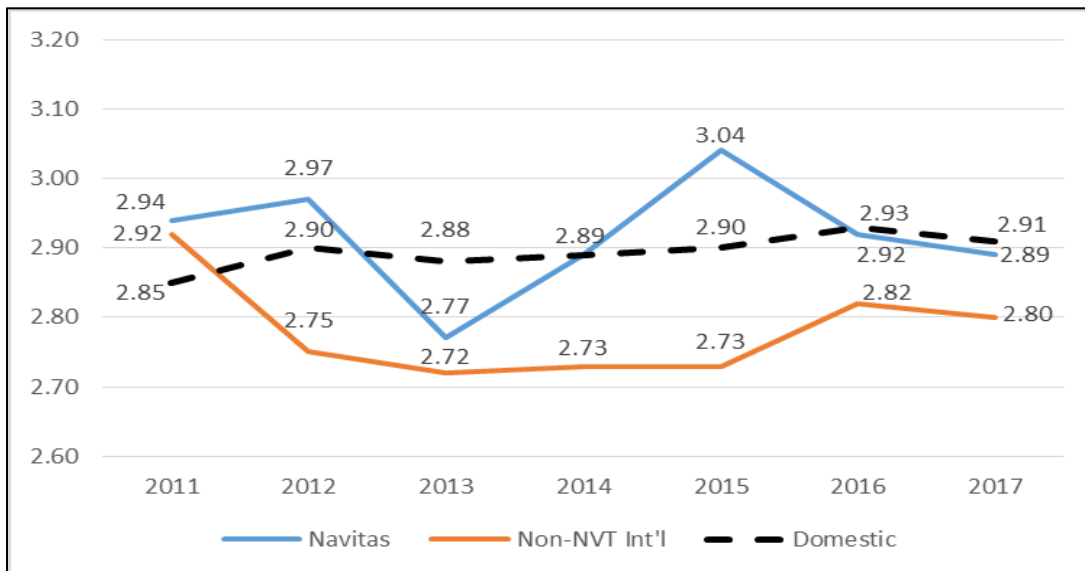


Figure 4. First-year grade point averages from Fall 2011-17 cohorts by student types

Figure 5 illustrates the first-year credit hours earned by student types from the 2011-2017 Fall cohorts. Navitas students maintained an average of 26.6 credit hours earned in the first year over the past five years.

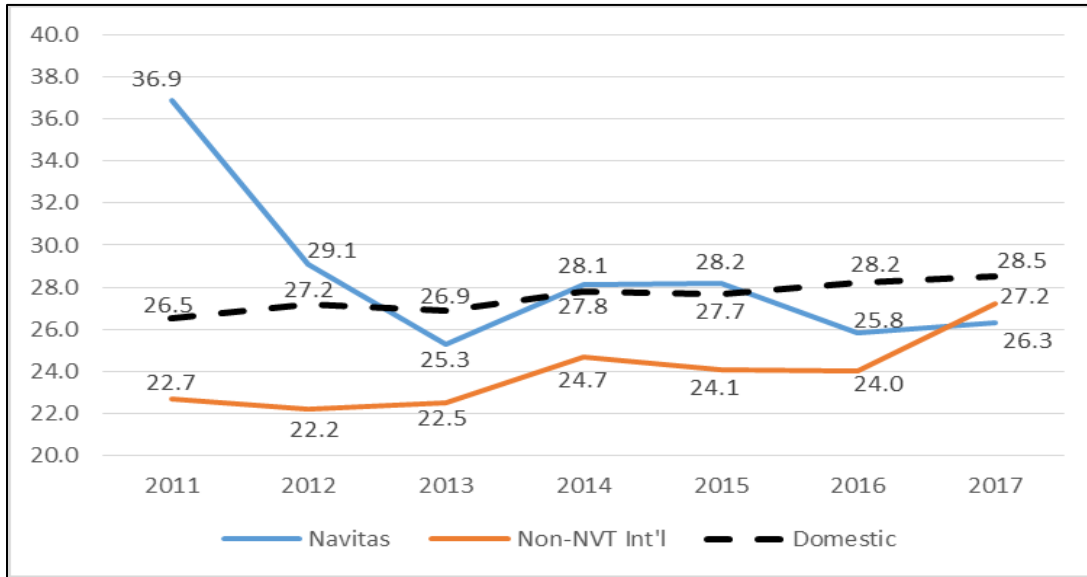


Figure 5. First-year average credit hours earned from Fall 2011-17 cohorts by student types

### Gender

While 56 percent of the UMB undergraduate domestic students are made up of female students, international students consist primarily of male students, with 66% of Navitas students and 63% of non-NVT international students identified as male during the Fall 2017 semester.

### National Origin

The 486 Navitas students hailed from 36 different countries. The 827 non-NVT international students hailed from 80 different countries. The top five countries that the respective student types consider their national origin are depicted in Table 3.

Table 3

*National Origin between International Student Types Enrolled in Fall 2018 Semester*

<b>Navitas (N =485)</b>		<b>Non-NVT (N = 827)</b>	
China	49.3%	China	50.5%
India	10.5%	India	4.8%
Korea, Republic of	7.0%	Viet Nam	4.5%
Viet Nam	5.2%	Brazil	4.1%
Indonesia	4.1%	Korea, Republic of	3.7%

### **Primary Major Area of Study**

Table 4 depicts the primary major areas of study for the two groups of international students. There is a lot of overlap among the two groups in terms of majors. Management is the most subscribed program among international students, with computer science, economics, and biology as distant runner ups.

Table 4

*Primary Major Area of Study between International Student Types for Fall 2018*

<b>Navitas (N =485)</b>		<b>Non-NVT (N = 827)</b>	
Management	56.7%	Management	26.5%
Economics	7.8%	Economics	11.6%
Computer Science	6.8%	Undeclared	11.5%
Undeclared	5.8%	Biology/BioChem	10.0%
Info Technology	3.9%	Computer Science	8.5%
Communication	3.5%	Info Technology	5.0%

Table A-1

*Mean Performance Measures across Student Types for Fall 2012-17 Cohorts*

Fall Cohort	Student Type	N	First-Year			Completion			
			Ret Rate	Credits Earned*	GPA*	4-Year	5-Year	6-Year	Final GPA
2012	Navitas	78	88.5%	29.1	2.97	23%	50%	54%	3.20
	Non-NVT Int'l	147	85.7%	22.2	2.75	22%	52%	56%	3.15
	Domestic	1,044	75.0%	27.2	2.90	18%	40%	46%	3.22
2013	Navitas	101	79.2%	25.3	2.77	25%	40%	na	3.28
	Non-NVT Int'l	142	78.2%	22.5	2.72	27%	41%	na	3.17
	Domestic	1,170	78.2%	26.9	2.88	23%	42%	na	3.31
2014	Navitas	143	77.6%	28.1	2.89	30%	na	na	3.15
	Non-NVT Int'l	177	71.8%	24.7	2.73	30%	na	na	3.31
	Domestic	1,221	77.6%	27.8	2.89	23%	na	na	3.51
2015	Navitas	145	77.9%	28.2	3.04	na	na	na	na
	Non-NVT Int'l	193	69.9%	24.1	2.73	na	na	na	na
	Domestic	1,295	79.0%	27.7	2.90	na	na	na	na
2016	Navitas	148	82.4%	25.8	2.92	na	na	na	na
	Non-NVT Int'l	135	77.8%	24.0	2.82	na	na	na	na
	Domestic	1,389	75.8%	28.2	2.93	na	na	na	na
2017	Navitas	103	82.5%	24.6	2.89	na	na	na	na
	Non-NVT Int'l	114	81.6%	27.2	2.80	na	na	na	na
	Domestic	1,617	75.6%	28.5	2.91	na	na	na	na

Note: \* Credits earned and GPA for first-year are mean values based on those that returned for third semester.