Degree Completion Initiatives
Degree Boost

Degree Boost was one of the recent Initiatives designed to *increase the completion rates* of students at Walla Walla Community College. What started as a single focus on degree attainment of a cohort of students within 30 credits of completing a degree has expanded into a three component initiative. The three components are:

- **Retention & Completion**  WWCC Students within 30 credits of degree completion
- **4-year Transfer & Completion**  4-year transfer students with less than 12 credits to WWCC transfer degree completion
- **Recovery & Completion**  WWCC students who stopped out within 15 credits of degree completion at WWCC

The pilot project, *Retention & Completion*, selected students based on their program intent code, targeting those enrolled in the Associate in Arts and Associate in Sciences degree as well as select direct transfer agreements. In 2008, the initial pilot cohort (218 students) was invited to meet with professional advisors for review of their degree progress, and completion of an efficient educational course plan. In collaboration with the WWCC Foundation, students were offered a $10 bookstore gift card as their incentive for participation. 81 students met with advisors and completed completion plans. 78 students have completed degrees. In response to the excellent results of the initial pilot, additional initiatives were identified for the 2011-12 school year focusing on identified disadvantaged populations, including Opportunity Grant and TRiO/Student Support Services participants.

In collaboration with Walla Walla Community College Technology Services, Student Services developed the data query needed to easily identify the cohort of students. That data query was used to develop a dynamically driven report that significantly improved the efficiency of cohort identification. This became the springboard for a new application, currently in use, providing students and advisors a tool for review of degree progress related to all degree options at the institution. This data is produced by the [Degree Estimation Appliance](#) and exposed in the ADP (Advisor Data Portal). Future plans are to expose this data in MyWWCC – the student portal.