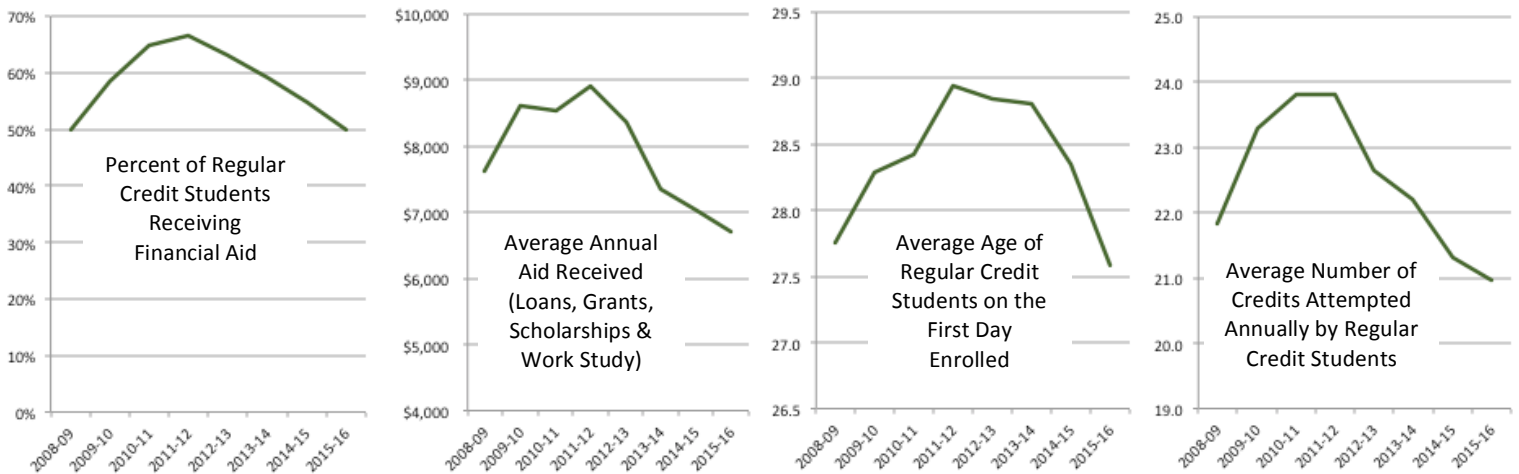


“Students These Days”

We often tend to speculate or assume that many challenges in higher education are related to changes in the students we serve. Are today’s Lane Community College students changing in ways that inhibit their success?

- **Are students more stressed financially?** Actually, both the proportion of Lane students receiving financial aid and the average total amount of aid received have declined in the last 4 years.
- **Are students older on average?** Actually, in the last 4 years Lane’s credit students are trending younger.
- **Are students less focused on college—attempting fewer credits?** In the past 4 years, YES, but...

All of these trends run counter to trends observed during the prior 4-year period. Much of what we are seeing may just be fluctuations related to a volatile economy and the enrollment surge that peaked in 2011-12.

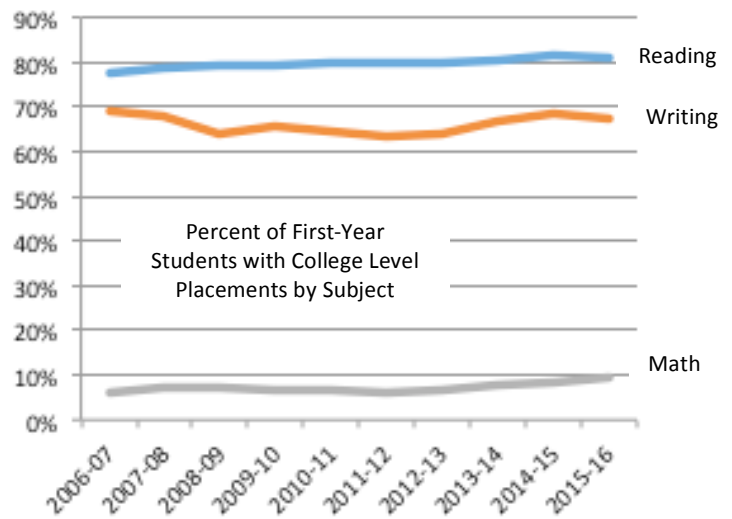


Compared to ten years ago, larger proportions of Lane students are male (50% vs 45%), Latino (12% vs 5%), and non-Latino of color (13% vs 9%).

But are students less prepared academically?

Perhaps not. Despite ongoing challenges Lane faces in serving underprepared students, Oregon D4A data (reflecting changes in tests and policies as well as in preparedness) show rates of college-level placement among Lane’s first-year students have been stable.

Another statistic that remains remarkably stable is the proportion of Lane credit students embracing the goal of completing a degree or credential: **85%**



Regardless of the positive and negative impacts future changes will inevitably bring, *we believe that positive changes we can choose to make at Lane will have the power to increasingly bring student goals to fruition.*