The state of the Kern Promise: Finish In 4 (Fi4) at Bakersfield College (BC) is strong and growing. The Kern Promise: Finish in 4 is a new program that supports the increase in student completion with an Associate Degree for Transfer in 60 semester units at BC. Students are then guaranteed admission to CSUB, in a similar major, and will complete an additional 60 semester units to earn a bachelor’s degree. The Finish in 4 efforts aim to guarantee students complete their transfer degree in 2 years at BC and a baccalaureate degree in the following 2 years at CSUB. Together, the goal is to move students through to the next stage of their educational and career goals in a more efficient and impactful way.

Five Year Trend, Disaggregated by Demographics

The number of first-time students for the Kern Promise has decreased by 46%. This decrease may be attributed to the Kern Promise being absorbed by Finish in 4, as Finish In 4 started in 2018.

The Kern Promise: Finish In 4 first-time students are mostly Hispanic/Latinx, which is reflective of Bakersfield College’s overall student population.
All of Kern Promise: Finish In 4 first-time students are 19 or younger in age.

First-Time Student Headcount for Kern Promise, by Age Group

- 19 or Younger
- 20-24
- 25-29
- 30 or Older

Momentum Points

The percent of first-time Kern Promise: Finish In 4 students attempting 15+ units in their first term is much higher than BC’s overall student population. In fact, almost 90% of students attempt 15+ units in their first term.

First-Time Kern Promise Attempting 15+ Units in Their First Term

- Fall 2017: 89%
- Fall 2018: 88%
Similar trends can be observed in first-time students attempting 30+ units in their first year.

First-Time Kern Promise Attempting 30+ Units in Their First Year

First-Time Kern Promise: Finish In 4 students completing transfer-level English and math in their first year has slightly decreased by 11%.

First-Time Kern Promise Completing Transfer-Level English and Math in Their First Year
Events and Actions Taken to Advance the Momentum Points

In 2018-19, the Kern Promise: Finish In 4 Program recruited students online through the program website. There was not a marketing plan, and the program was assigned to one Counselor and student worker. During the length of the original iteration of Kern Promise, there were no events offered for students. Marketing and recruitment occurred during the Outreach and School Relations Department’s New Student Workshop events at the local high schools. Enrolled students were required to meet with the Counselor once during their participation in the program to complete a comprehensive education plan.

The Kern Promise: Finish In 4 programs merged in Fall 2018 as a result of the Associate Degree for Transfer Pathways agreement between Bakersfield College and CSU Bakersfield; the Finish In 4 program was developed to streamline transfer. With 23 ADTs (36 total transfer pathways) in a similar major with CSU Bakersfield, a partnered marketing plan, one Counselor and three Advisors, the program has seen significant enrollment in Spring 2019. Students remaining in the Kern Promise Program are under the guidance and tracking of Finish in 4.

Participating students, enrolled in 15+ units each term, are guaranteed to complete an ADT at Bakersfield College in four semesters with a guaranteed admission to CSUB, in a similar major. The Finish in 4 efforts aim to guarantee students completion of a baccalaureate degree in the following 2 years at CSUB.

Of all the Fall 2019 BC transfers to CSUB (945), 13% (127 students) were graduates of the Finish In 4 Program. This percentage is significant, as these students began their participation in Spring 2019.

2018-2019 Events and Activities

- Kern County College Night presentation of FI4
- Spring 2019 Welcome Celebration
- KHSD Parent Center presentation of FI4
- Eight Advising for Registration sessions
- Spring 2019 FI4 Transfer and Graduation Celebration
- KHSD Administrator Breakfast presentation of FI4
- California Community College Counselor Conference presentation of FI4
- KHSD API Meeting presentation of FI4

Recruitment also includes our partnership with the Outreach and School Relations Department’s New Student Workshops in the local high schools, as well as Bridge to BC.

Looking Ahead at the Next 3 Years

2019-2020 Planning

Our planning includes recruitment throughout all terms of the academic year, including the Delano campus. At this time we have hosted and are planning:

- Eight informational sessions to enroll qualifying students
- Six to eight application completion workshops each month
- Four registration workshops each advising season for FI4 students
- Monthly “Transfer Talks” sessions focusing on transfer preparation (pre and post)
• One “Meet Up” group session per month to remain connected with program students

2019-2020 Goals
• Increase student enrollment
• Improve momentum point achievement
• Increase retention