### Appendix 1-C

**APS Persistence Definitions (Longitudinal Cohort /Cohort 1)**

Date: 17 September 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Persistence and Non-Persistence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persistence = Declared an engineering major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-persistence = Declared a non-engineering major after having intent to study engineering at admission to university</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Guidelines for determining persistence from APS Longitudinal Cohort (Cohort 1) data**

1. Majors are determined to be engineering or non-engineering on a school-by-school basis. If the subject chooses a major within the school of engineering at his/her institution after having the intent to study engineering at admission, the student is considered a "persister". (Therefore some majors, such as computer science, may be considered an engineering major at some institutions and not others).

2. A student's persistence status is determined when s/he formally declares her/his major. (The major must be reflected in the academic record, i.e., stating an intent to declare a specific major in an APS interview will not change their persistence status.)

3. For subjects who are not listed as persisters or non-persisters, we do not have enough information to classify them. (For example, the subject may have dropped out of the study and researchers are unable to track him/her down - or the subject has not yet formally declared a major.)

4. Subjects with double (or more) majors of which (at least) one is an engineering major, are classified as persisters.

5. Persistence status should be considered subject to change:
   a. Persistence status is periodically revisited (~twice a year). (I reanalyze previous classifications to update persistence status, for example, there are still subjects declaring non-engineering majors - and we've had one subject declare an engineering major after having declared a non-engineering major).
   b. Persistence status will be finalized once transcript analyses are completed.

**Note**: In the Longitudinal Cohort, we have one exception who is a CS major (CS is not considered engineering at one APS partner institution) - this student was recruited as a CS student and has remained a CS student. He was initially considered a persister, but as of August 2007 will be excluded from persistence analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
DROPPED OUT
Longitudinal Cohort subject who left the university they were attending during the APS study.

EXIT
When a Longitudinal Cohort subject declares a non-engineering major (same as non-persister). Not all “exited” students had exit interviews. (For people who are no longer a part of the study, please say they “left the study.”)

EXIT INTERVIEW
A special semi-structured interview given to Longitudinal Cohort subjects who formally declared a non-engineering major (or exited engineering).

FULL DATA
Full data refers to subject data sets that are complete for their contact grouping, e.g., the low contact group has a full data set for 24 subjects at Orchard University (24 Orchard subjects participated in all of the surveys and APS has all of their transcripts).

INCOMPLETE DATA
Incomplete data refers to a subject data set that is not complete, e.g., a Longitudinal Cohort subject took five (out of a total six) surveys.

LEFT THE STUDY
Used to describe Longitudinal Cohort subjects who left APS before the study ended – therefore they have an incomplete data set (e.g., they took three surveys and then no longer took part in the study). We do not characterize these students.

PROFESSIONAL PERSISTENCE
Subject intends to work in engineering for three years following graduation with their undergraduate degree.

RETURNED
Returned refers to a Longitudinal Cohort subject who exited engineering and then returned to engineering, i.e., declared a non-engineering major and then changed majors to an engineering major.

UNKNOWN
Refers to Longitudinal Cohort subjects whose persistence status(es) are unknown based on conversations with researchers at the associated Longitudinal Cohort institutions.