

Historic Institutional Retention and Graduation Rates



Figure 37. Historic Institutional Retention and Graduation Rates

Notes: Fall semester Cohorts are defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/> definition of first-time full-time degree seeking students.

Definitions

General Cohort: Students entering the institution as full-time, first-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students in the summer or fall of the cohort year.
Retained: Students are considered retained only if they are bachelor’s degree seeking and have not yet obtained a bachelor’s degree. Students are retained if they have received an associate’s degree and if they continue in a bachelor’s degree program. Students are not removed from the original cohort or retention numbers based on deceased status. Student retention is not based on full-time/part-time status. Prior to Fall 2015, a student is retained only if they are enrolled in the institution in which they started.
Continued: Students are considered continued if they are enrolled in a fall semester beyond their fourth year at an institution. The continuing student rate is calculated using the same method as retention rate (it is essentially the retention rate after four years). Continuing students are identified differently from students retained after their first, second, and third years at the institution due to the goal for continuing students shifting from retaining to graduating them.
Graduated: Students are considered graduated only if they graduate with a bachelor’s degree. Graduation rates are cumulative. For example, a student within the 2010 cohort is considered graduated if they have graduated with a bachelor’s degree on or before Summer 2016. Graduation rate refers only to the proportion of the cohort which received a bachelor’s degree and not the actual number of degrees which have been awarded to those in the cohort.