

RESEARCH BRIEF

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Retention Rates: Fall 2011 through Fall 2013 Cohorts

This Research Brief presents Fall-to-Fall retention rates at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and its constituent campuses for the Fall 2011 through Fall 2013 cohorts. Retention rates are presented for all students and for first-time in college (FTIC) students. During the presented time period, retention rates decreased at the College overall by 3 percent for all students and by 6 percent for FTIC students.

Table 1 and Figure 1 (next page) present the Fall-to-Fall retention rates for all students by campus. The overall retention rate at the College decreased from 47 percent for the Fall 2011 cohort to 44 percent for the Fall 2013 cohort. The retention rate of all students decreased at five of the six campuses. Not only did Medical Education Campus not see a decrease in retention rates for all students, it saw the highest retention rates for each cohort during this period. (51 percent for the Fall 2011 cohort, 54 percent for the Fall 2012 cohort, and 53 percent for the Fall 2013 cohort). The Annandale Campus experienced retention rates higher than the College average, ranging from 50 percent for the Fall 2011 cohort to 46 percent for the Fall 2013 cohort. For all three cohorts, the Alexandria Campus experienced the lowest retention rates, which decreased from 45 percent for the Fall 2011 cohort to 41 percent for the Fall 2013 cohort. The Loudoun, Woodbridge and Manassas campuses had similar retention rates, which decreased from around 45-46 percent for the Fall 2011 cohorts to 43-44 percent for the Fall 2013 cohorts.

**Table 1. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of All Students:
Fall 2011 through Fall 2013 Cohorts**

Campus	Fall 2011 Cohort		Fall 2012 Cohort		Fall 2013 Cohort	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alexandria	5,122	44.5	5,075	42.6	4,844	41.4
Annandale	7,066	49.8	7,041	47.2	6,820	45.9
Loudoun	3,527	45.3	3,622	44.7	3,602	43.3
Manassas	2,994	45.9	3,051	43.9	3,060	43.6
Medical Education Campus	1,354	51.0	1,318	54.2	1,249	53.3
Woodbridge	3,366	45.5	3,316	43.9	3,252	43.0
College-Wide	23,429	46.8	23,423	45.2	22,827	44.1

**Figure 1. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of All Students:
Fall 2011 through Fall 2013 Cohorts**

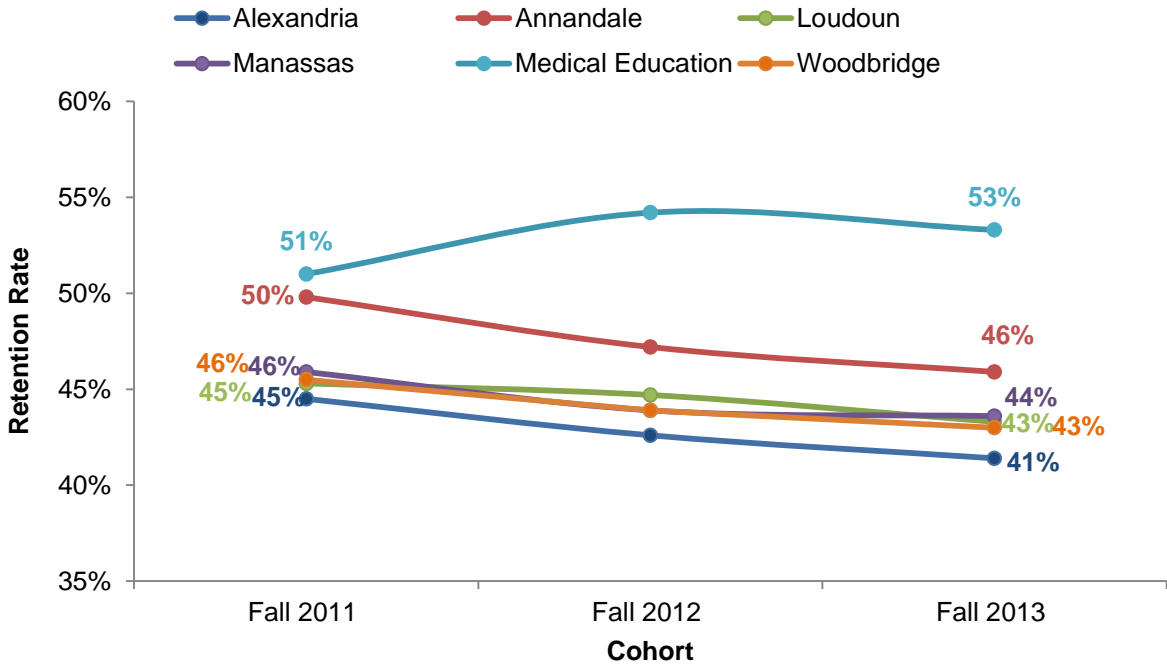


Table 2 and Figure 2 (both next page) present the Fall-to-Fall retention rates for FTIC students in the Fall 2011 through Fall 2013 cohorts. As with all students, the overall retention rate for FTIC students decreased, declining from 58 percent for the Fall 2011 cohort to 52 percent for the Fall 2013 cohort. This college-wide downward trend was mirrored at each campus. Retention rates were highest at the Annandale Campus across all cohorts, from 64 percent (Fall 2011 cohort) to 57 percent (Fall 2013 cohort). Across the presented time period, the Alexandria Campus experienced the lowest retention rates (50 percent for the Fall 2011 cohort, 42 percent for the Fall 2012 cohort, and 44 percent for the Fall 2013 cohort). The Medical Education Campus experienced the largest decrease, declining from 64 percent for the Fall 2011 cohort to 50 percent for the Fall 2013 cohort. Retention rates for the Loudoun, Manassas and Woodbridge campuses were fairly similar for the Fall 2011 and Fall 2012 cohorts (57-58 percent and 53-55 percent respectively). However, for the Fall 2013 cohort, the Manassas and Woodbridge campuses maintained retention rates around 54-55 percent while Loudoun Campus' retention rate decreased to 50 percent.

**Table 2. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of FTIC Students:
Fall 2011 through Fall 2013 Cohorts**

Campus	Fall 2011 Cohort		Fall 2012 Cohort		Fall 2013 Cohort	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alexandria	830	50.3	719	41.9	794	44.2
Annandale	1,541	63.9	1,617	60.2	1,639	57.3
Loudoun	793	57.0	819	54.7	904	49.9
Manassas	805	57.2	793	54.2	861	54.6
Medical Education Campus	80	63.5	62	49.2	66	49.6
Woodbridge	774	57.5	744	53.3	793	53.5
College-Wide	4,823	57.9	4,754	53.5	5,057	52.4

**Figure 2. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of FTIC Students:
Fall 2011 through Fall 2013 Cohorts**

