

Trends in IPEDS Graduation, Transfer, Success, and Retention Rates for VCCS Colleges: Fall 2001 Cohort to Fall 2010 Cohort



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Trends in IPEDS Graduation, Transfer, Success, and Retention Rates for VCCS Colleges: Fall 2001 Cohort to Fall 2010 Cohort

Introduction

This report presents data on graduation, transfer, success, and retention rates at the 23 community colleges within the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). The data were pulled from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Data Center (<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/>) and pertain to the Fall 2001 through the Fall 2010 cohorts.

The purpose of this report is to compare the performance of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) to the overall performance of VCCS institutions. The following is a summary of the data:

- The data in this report reveal that in the VCCS, on average, three-year graduation rates have increased, three-year transfer rates have stayed relatively stable, three-year success rates have increased, fall-to-fall retention rates for full-time students have increased, and fall-to-fall retention rates for part-time students have slightly decreased.
- There were large differences in performance across colleges in the VCCS. For the 2010 cohort, the differences in percentage points between the highest attaining college and the lowest attaining college was 22 for three-year graduation rates, 15 for three-year transfer rates, 12 for three-year success rates, 21 for fall-to-fall retention rates for full-time students, and 20 for fall-to-fall retention rates for part-time students.
- NOVA attained higher rates than the VCCS average in transfer, success, and retention rates. In the 2010 cohort, the most recent year available, NOVA attained the highest fall-to-fall retention rates for both full-time and part-time students and the third highest transfer rate and success rate.

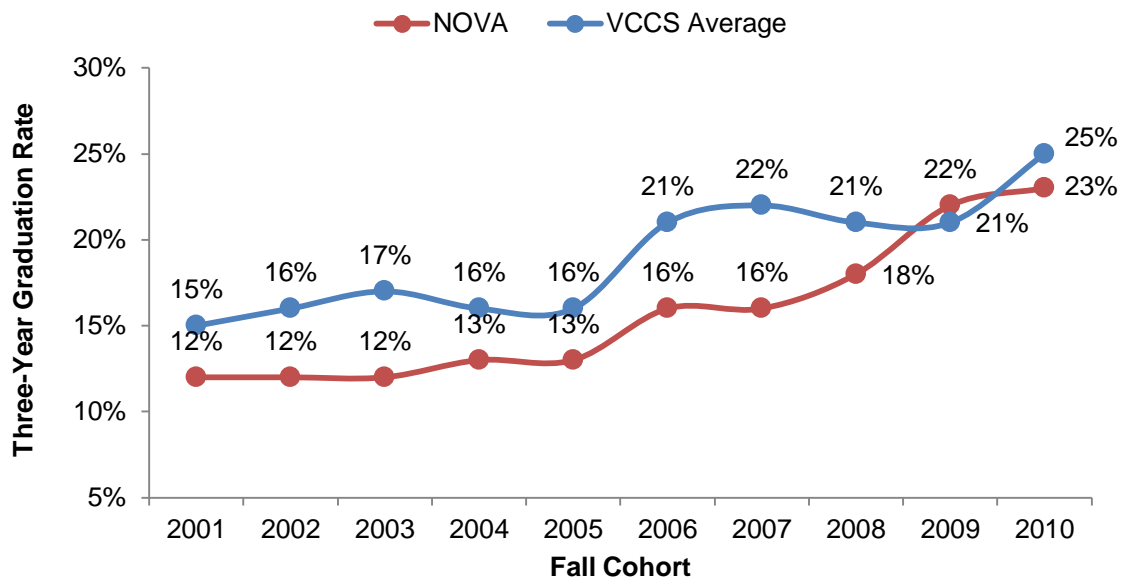
Section 1. Three-Year Graduation Rates: Fall 2001 through Fall 2010 Cohorts

As shown in Table 1 and Figure 1, the three-year graduation rate at NOVA increased over the years, from 12 percent for the 2001 cohort to 23 percent for the 2010 cohort, which was an increase of 11 percentage points. The VCCS average increased from 15 percent for the 2001 cohort to 25 percent for the 2010 cohort, which was a 10 percentage point increase¹. NOVA's graduation rates were consistently below the VCCS average, except for the 2009 cohort, when VCCS averaged 21 percent and NOVA attained a graduation rate of 22 percent.

Table 1. Three-Year Graduation Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students: NOVA and VCCS

Grouping	Fall Cohort									
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
NOVA	12	12	12	13	13	16	16	18	22	23
VCCS Average	15	16	17	16	16	21	22	21	21	25
Difference from VCCS Average (% points)	-3	-4	-5	-3	-3	-5	-6	-3	1	-2

Figure 1. Three-Year Graduation Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree or Certificate-Seeking Students: NOVA and VCCS

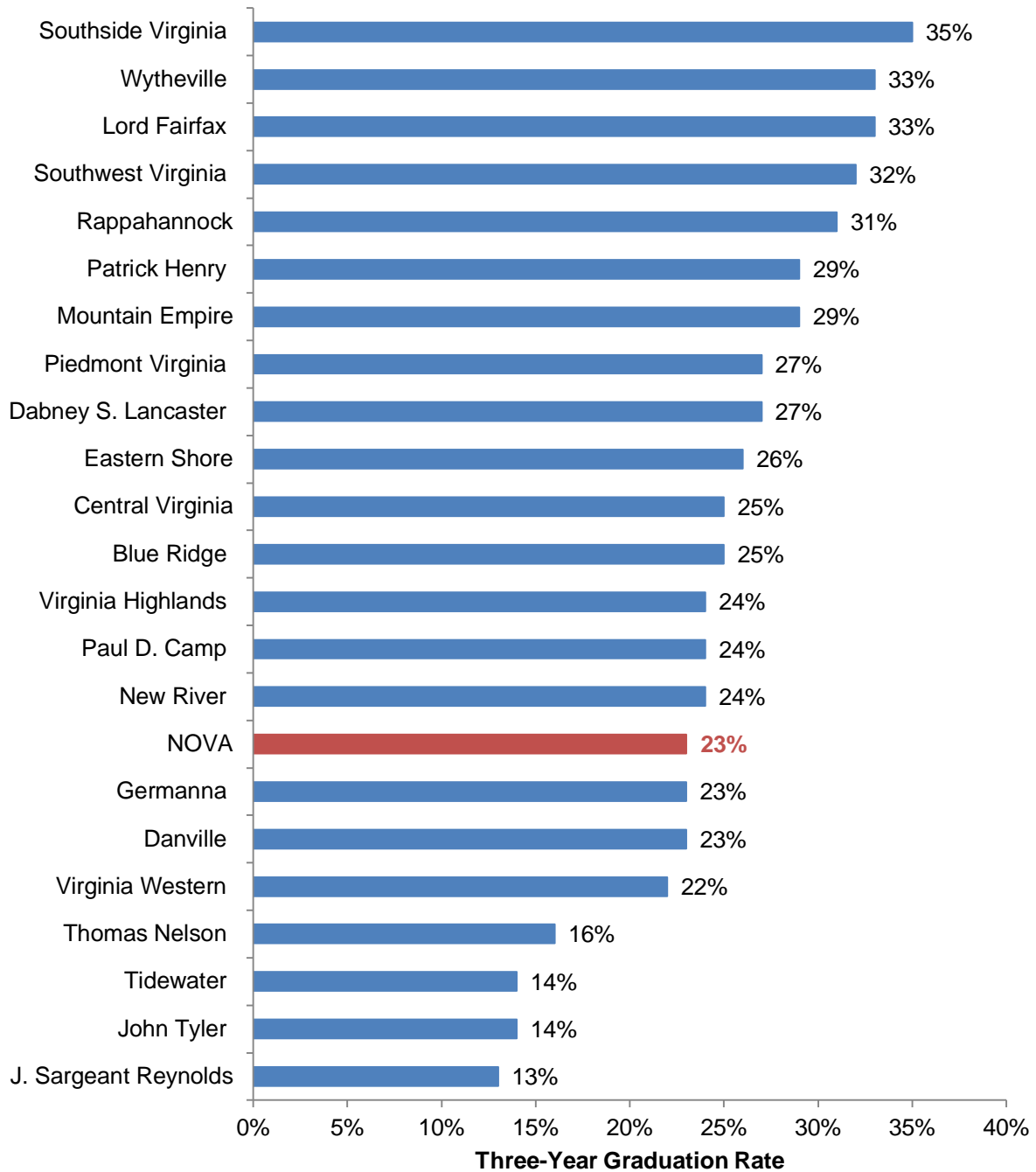


¹ See Appendix A for complete list of three-year graduation rates by VCCS college.

Three-Year Graduation Rate Snapshot: Fall 2010 Cohort

Figure 2 presents data on three-year graduation rates for the most recent cohort available, which is the 2010 cohort. NOVA attained a graduation rate of 23 percent.

Figure 2. Three-Year Graduation Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2010 Cohort



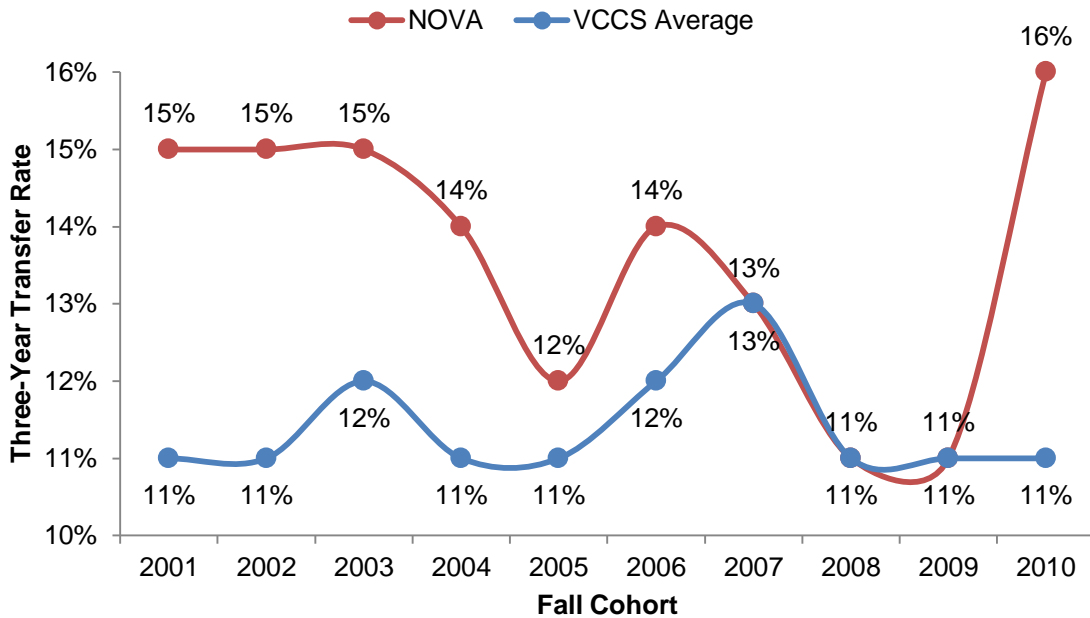
Section 2. Three-Year Transfer Rates: Fall 2001 through 2010 Cohorts

As presented in Table 2 and Figure 3, at NOVA the three-year transfer rate fluctuated from 15 percent for the 2001 cohort to a low of 11 percent for the 2008 and 2009 cohorts and then increased to 16 percent for the 2010 cohort. The VCCS average transfer rate remained at or around 11 percent in the years presented². In the cohorts presented here, the NOVA average was equal to or above the VCCS average.

Table 2. Three-Year Transfer Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students: NOVA and VCCS

Grouping	Fall Cohort									
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
NOVA	15	15	15	14	12	14	13	11	11	16
VCCS Average	11	11	12	11	11	12	13	11	11	11
Difference from VCCS Average (% points)	4	4	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	5

Figure 3. Three-Year Transfer Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students: NOVA and VCCS

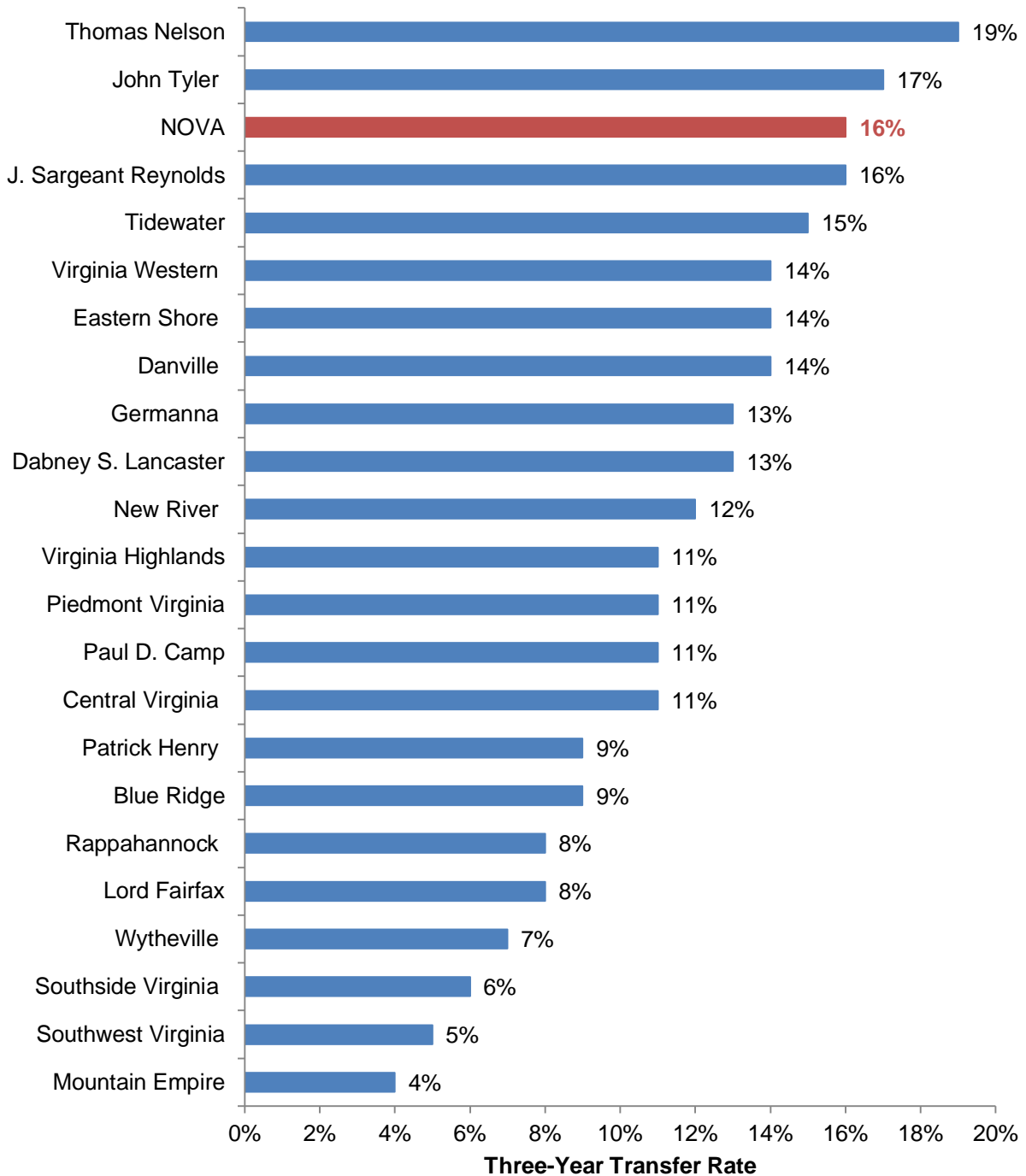


² See Appendix B for complete list of three-year transfer rates by VCCS college.

Three-Year Transfer Rate Snapshot: Fall 2010 Cohort

Shown in Figure 4, NOVA and J. Sargeant Reynolds tied for the third highest three-year transfer rate (16 percent).

Figure 4. Three-Year Transfer Rates among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2010 Cohort



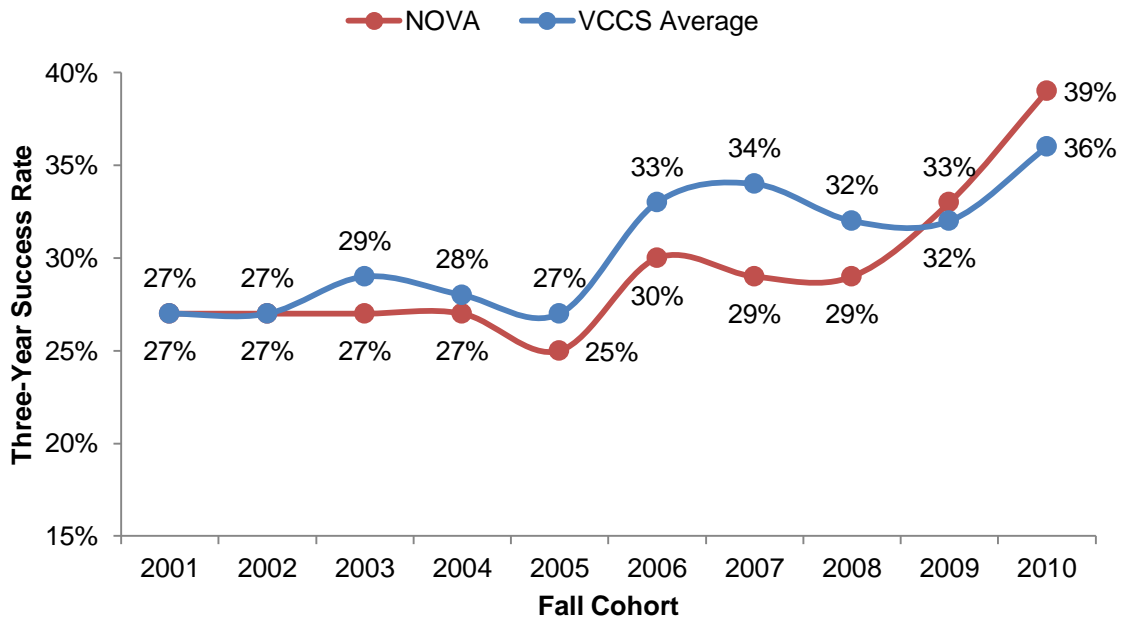
Section 3. Three-Year Success Rates: Fall 2001 through 2010 Cohorts

Success rates presented in Table 3 and Figure 5 are calculated as the percentage of the first-time, full-time cohort that either graduated or transferred within 150 percent of program time (three years). NOVA's success rate went from 27 percent for the 2001 cohort to 39 percent for the 2010 cohort, a 12 percentage point increase. The VCCS average went from 27 percent for the 2001 cohort to 36 percent for the 2010 cohort, a nine percentage point increase³. NOVA's success rates were equal to or below the VCCS average until the 2009 cohort when NOVA surpassed the VCCS average.

Table 3. Three-Year Success Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students: NOVA and VCCS

Grouping	Fall Cohort									
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
NOVA	27	27	27	27	25	30	29	29	33	39
VCCS Average	27	27	29	28	27	33	34	32	32	36
Difference from VCCS Average (% points)	0	0	-2	-1	-2	-3	-5	-3	1	3

Figure 5. Three-Year Success Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students: NOVA and VCCS

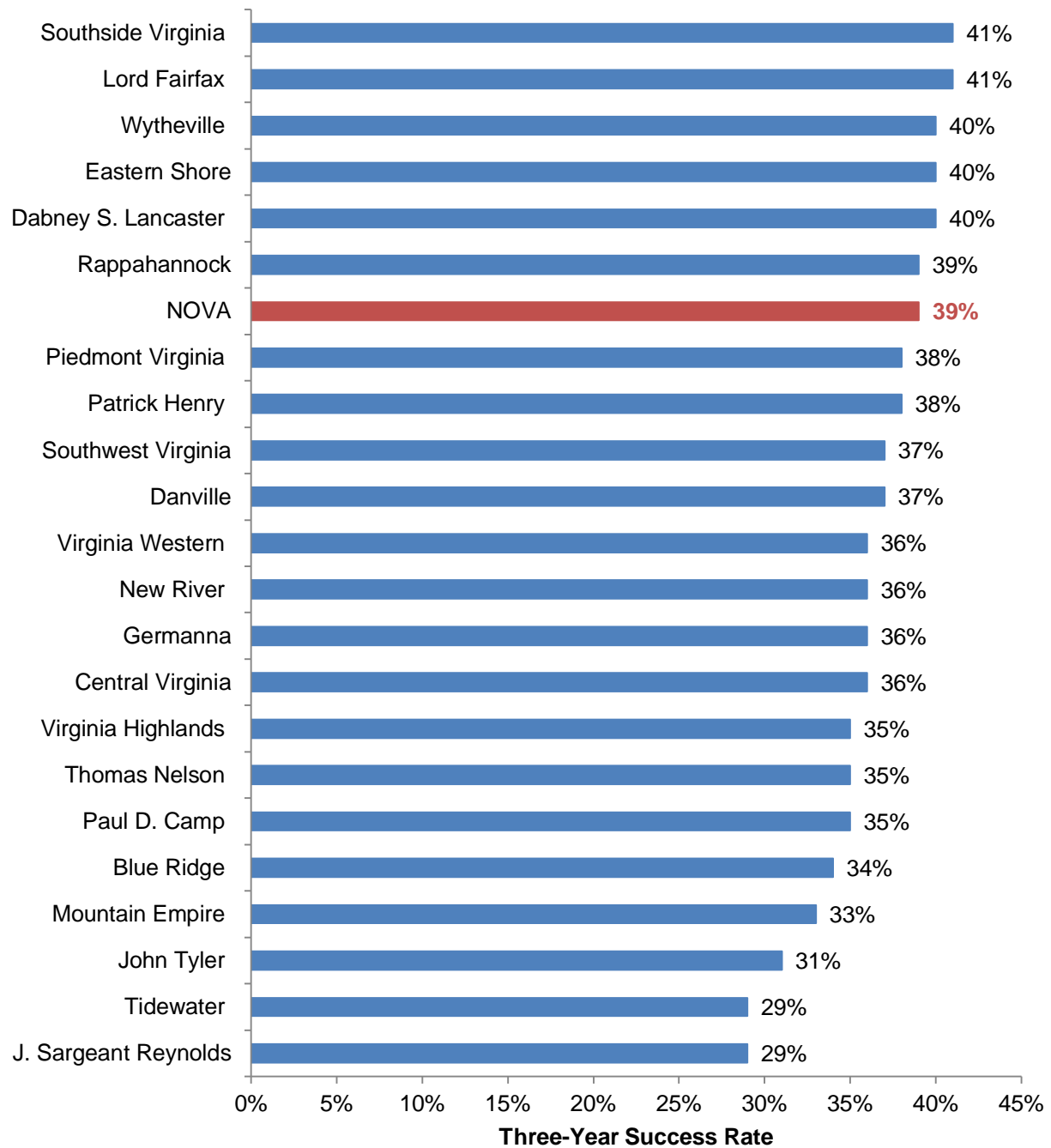


³ See Appendix C for complete list of success rates by VCCS college.

Three-Year Success Rate Snapshot: Fall 2010 Cohort

Achieving a success rate of 39 percent among its 2010 cohorts, NOVA tied with Rappahannock Community College for the third highest rate in the VCCS.

Figure 6. Three-Year Success Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2010 Cohort



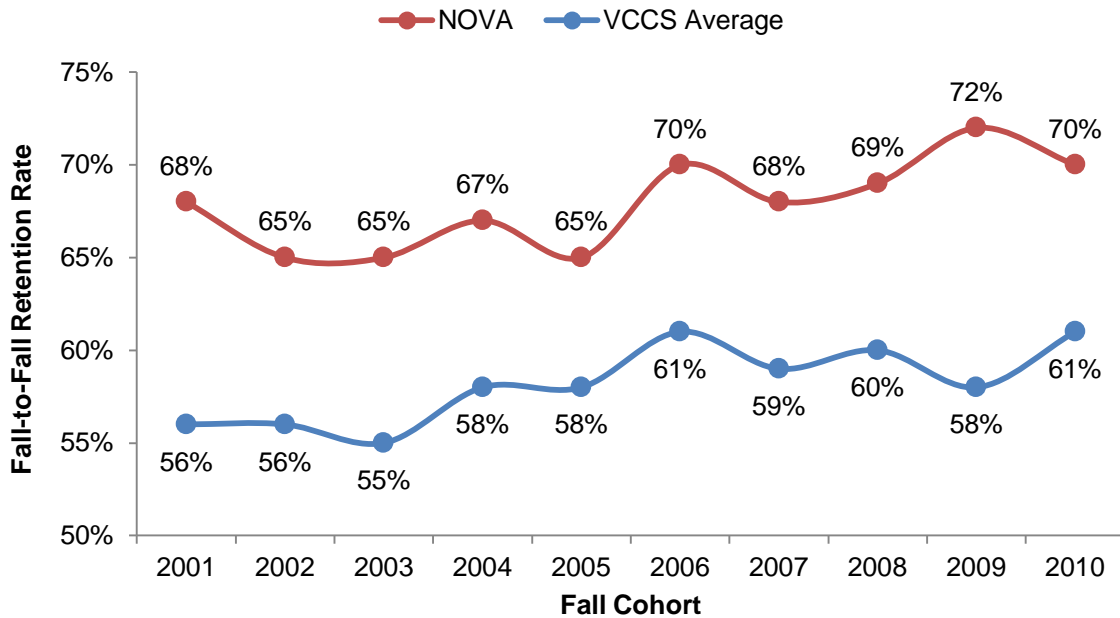
Section 4. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Full-Time Students: Fall 2001 through 2010 Cohorts

NOVA's fall-to-fall retention rate for full-time students was consistently above the VCCS average for all years presented, by at least seven percentage points and by as many as 14 percentage points for the 2009 cohort⁴.

Table 4. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Full-Time Students: NOVA and VCCS

Grouping	Fall Cohort									
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
NOVA	68	65	65	67	65	70	68	69	72	70
VCCS Average	56	56	55	58	58	61	59	60	58	61
Difference from VCCS Average (% points)	12	9	10	9	7	9	9	9	14	9

Figure 7. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Full-Time Students: NOVA and VCCS

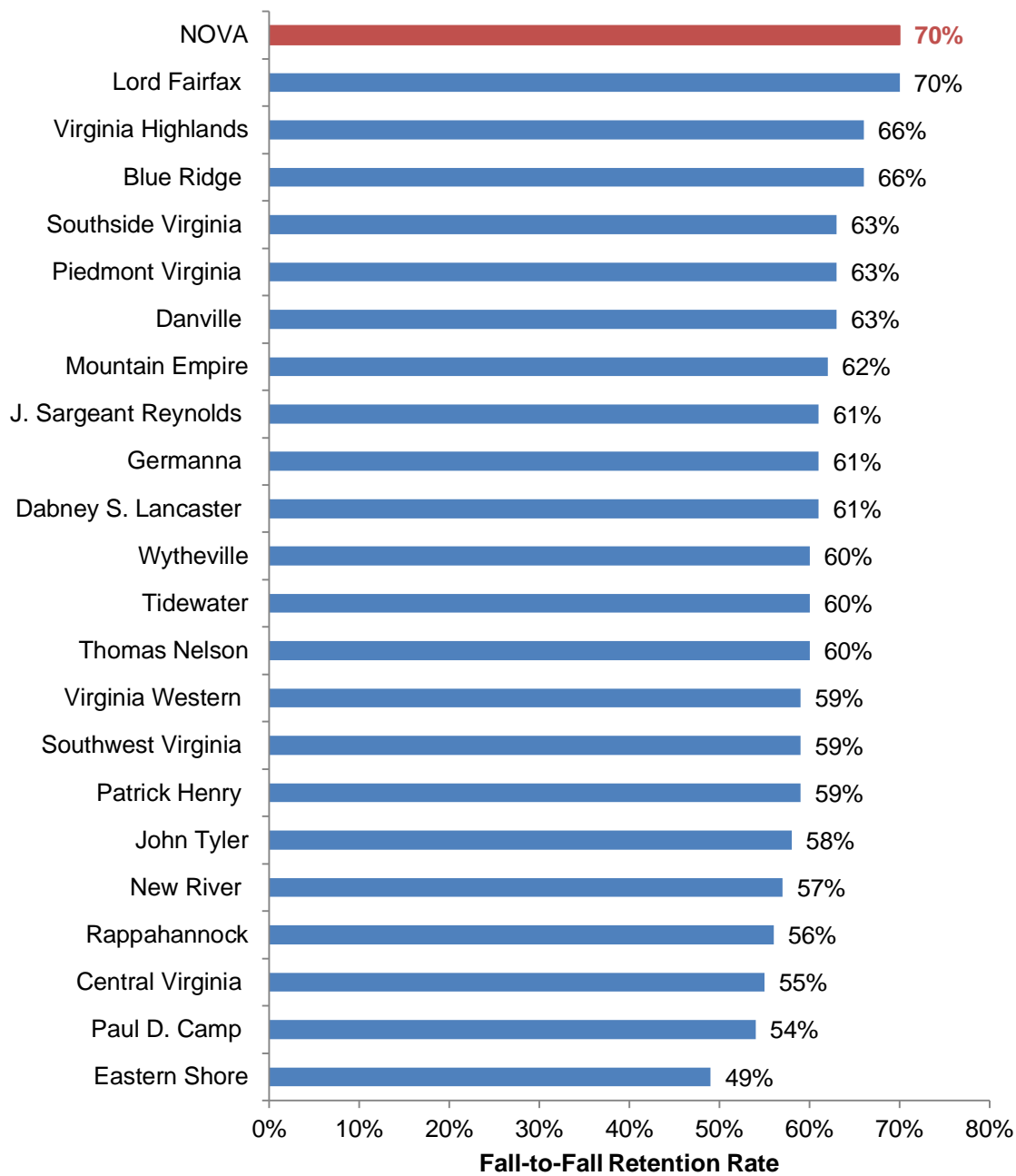


⁴ See Appendix D for complete list of fall-to-fall retention rates for full-time students by VCCS college.

Fall-to-Fall Retention for Full-Time Students Snapshot: Fall 2010 Cohort

Figure 8 displays fall-to-fall retention rates for the Fall 2010 cohort. The 2010 cohorts for NOVA and Lord Fairfax attained a 70 percent fall-to-fall retention rate for full-time students, the highest rate within the VCCS.

Figure 8. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Full-Time Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2010 Cohort



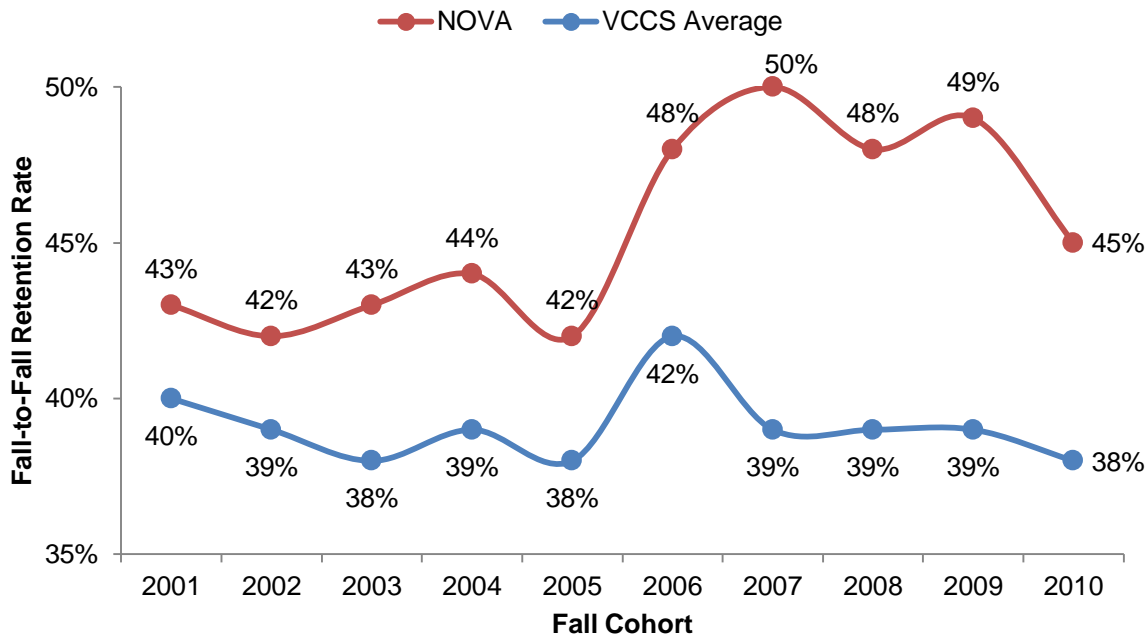
Section 5. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Part-Time Students: Fall 2001 through 2010 Cohorts

NOVA was one of the seven colleges that increased fall-to-fall retention rates for part-time students between the Fall 2001 cohort and the Fall 2010 cohort. NOVA attained a higher fall-to-fall retention rate for part-time students than the VCCS average in all years studied, ⁵as shown in Table 5 and Figure 9.

Table 5. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Part-Time Students: NOVA and VCCS

Grouping	Fall Cohort									
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
NOVA	43	42	43	44	42	48	50	48	49	45
VCCS Average	40	39	38	39	38	42	39	39	39	38
Difference from VCCS Average (% points)	3	3	5	5	4	6	11	9	10	7

Figure 9. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Part-Time Students: NOVA and VCCS

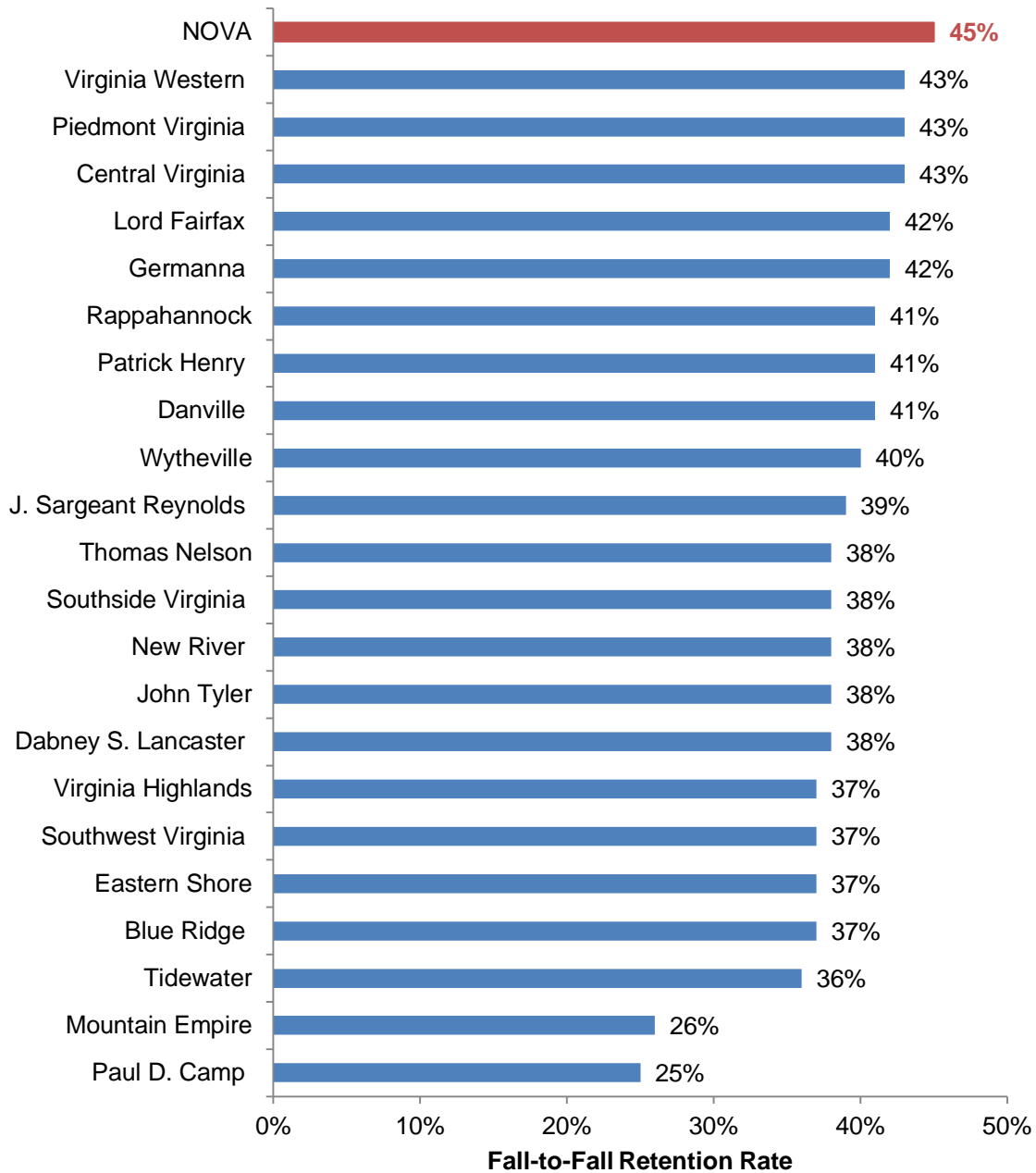


⁵ See Appendix E for complete list of fall-to-fall retention rates for part-time students by VCCS college.

Fall-to-Fall Retention for Part-Time Students Snapshot: Fall 2010 Cohort

Shown in Figure 10, NOVA's Fall 2010 cohort attained a 45% Fall-to-Fall retention rate among part-time students, the highest rate within VCCS.

Figure 10. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Part-Time Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2010 Cohort



APPENDICES

Appendix A. VCCS Three-Year Graduation Rates

Three-year graduation rates at VCCS fluctuated but followed an increasing trend across all colleges.

Table A. Three-Year Graduation Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2001 through Fall 2010 Cohorts

Institution	Fall Cohort										10-Year Change
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	
Blue Ridge	23	21	21	19	21	23	21	21	26	25	2
Central Virginia	17	11	13	12	18	24	20	20	24	25	8
Dabney S. Lancaster	22	17	24	24	26	21	27	30	25	27	5
Danville	18	22	18	23	20	34	23	19	21	23	5
Eastern Shore	17	31	17	12	20	26	22	26	23	26	9
Germanna	14	19	18	17	19	25	20	17	21	23	9
J. Sargeant Reynolds	8	11	11	9	11	13	11	9	13	13	5
John Tyler	10	13	13	13	8	16	12	13	12	14	4
Lord Fairfax	22	21	29	24	26	25	29	26	25	33	11
Mountain Empire	12	10	15	13	15	17	25	20	21	29	17
New River	18	13	15	13	14	18	21	21	25	24	6
NOVA	12	12	12	13	13	16	16	18	22	23	11
Patrick Henry	15	24	19	21	10	24	27	24	22	29	14
Paul D. Camp	14	2	13	11	14	24	16	26	15	24	10
Piedmont Virginia	13	15	13	13	11	18	22	18	22	27	14
Rappahannock	9	10	17	13	18	13	25	24	22	31	22
Southside Virginia	16	18	23	23	20	32	30	26	26	35	19
Southwest Virginia	29	28	19	22	15	23	30	35	24	32	3
Thomas Nelson	8	11	10	10	11	14	13	11	14	16	8
Tidewater	9	9	9	11	12	13	13	13	14	14	5
Virginia Highlands	18	20	17	20	21	19	21	18	22	24	6
Virginia Western	13	14	14	13	12	16	16	20	20	22	9
Wytheville	16	23	27	22	21	35	37	36	31	33	17
VCCS Average	15	16	17	16	16	21	22	21	21	25	10

Appendix B. VCCS Three-Year Transfer Rates

Table B presents three-year transfer rates for first-time, full-time students for the Fall 2001 through Fall 2010 cohorts. Transfer rates have fluctuated within the VCCS. The 10 year change, measuring the percentage point difference between the 2001 cohort and the 2010 cohort, shows that transfer rates increased at 12 colleges, decreased at nine colleges, and remained the same at two colleges.

Table B. Three-Year Transfer Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2001 through Fall 2010 Cohorts

Institution	Fall Cohort										10-Year Change
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	
Blue Ridge	11	10	12	11	13	14	12	13	9	9	-2
Central Virginia	9	13	16	15	11	13	14	14	11	11	2
Dabney S. Lancaster	9	16	13	8	8	16	14	13	13	13	4
Danville	13	11	10	10	13	14	11	12	13	14	1
Eastern Shore	24	8	14	8	3	9	15	7	17	14	-10
Germanna	17	12	15	14	15	15	17	15	13	13	-4
J.Sargeant Reynolds	11	11	14	15	16	14	16	16	14	16	5
John Tyler	13	12	15	15	12	18	17	14	15	17	4
Lord Fairfax	12	10	12	11	12	15	11	12	10	8	-4
Mountain Empire	4	4	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	4	0
New River	12	14	17	19	11	19	19	19	13	12	0
NOVA	15	15	15	14	12	14	13	11	11	16	1
Patrick Henry	4	5	7	9	8	11	11	7	9	9	5
Paul D. Camp	9	20	20	13	13	15	17	10	16	11	2
Piedmont Virginia	15	12	18	17	16	16	14	12	10	11	-4
Rappahannock	11	17	16	17	15	11	16	13	14	8	-3
Southside Virginia	11	6	7	7	7	5	9	9	6	6	-5
Southwest Virginia	8	3	8	7	8	8	7	7	6	5	-3
Thomas Nelson	13	10	12	11	12	12	13	11	13	19	6
Tidewater	8	9	8	9	8	9	9	9	8	15	7
Virginia Highlands	10	11	8	8	13	6	9	8	8	11	1
Virginia Western	10	12	13	12	12	14	14	12	13	14	4
Wytheville	8	10	9	9	10	8	9	6	6	7	-1
VCCS Average	11	11	12	11	11	12	13	11	11	11	0

Appendix C. VCCS Three-Year Success Rates

Table C presents three-year success rates in the VCCS. Success rates are calculated as the percentage of the first-time, full-time cohort that either graduated or transferred within 150 percent of program time, which is three years. The 10-year change, which is the percentage point difference between the Fall 2001 and Fall 2010 cohorts, increased or stayed the same at all colleges except Eastern Shore Community College. Despite fluctuations at all colleges, the VCCS average success rate increased by nine percentage points from 27 percent for the Fall 2001 cohort to 36 percent for the Fall 2010 cohort.

Table C. Three-Year Success Rates Among First-Time, Full-Time Degree- or Certificate-Seeking Students: Fall 2001 through Fall 2010 Cohorts

Institution	Fall Cohort										10-Year Change
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	
Blue Ridge	34	31	33	30	34	37	33	34	35	34	0
Central Virginia	26	24	29	27	29	37	34	34	35	36	10
Dabney S. Lancaster	31	33	37	32	34	37	41	43	38	40	9
Danville	31	33	28	33	33	48	34	31	34	37	6
Eastern Shore	41	39	31	20	23	35	37	33	40	40	-1
Germanna	31	31	33	31	34	40	37	32	34	36	5
J. Sargeant Reynolds	19	22	25	24	27	27	27	25	27	29	10
John Tyler	23	25	28	28	20	34	29	27	27	31	8
Lord Fairfax	34	31	41	35	38	40	40	38	35	41	7
Mountain Empire	16	14	18	16	18	22	32	25	25	33	17
New River	30	27	32	32	25	37	40	40	38	36	6
NOVA	27	27	27	27	25	30	29	29	33	39	12
Patrick Henry	19	29	26	30	18	35	38	31	31	38	19
Paul D. Camp	23	22	33	24	27	39	33	36	31	35	12
Piedmont Virginia	28	27	31	30	27	34	36	30	32	38	10
Rappahannock	20	27	33	30	33	24	41	37	36	39	19
Southside Virginia	27	24	30	30	27	37	39	35	32	41	14
Southwest Virginia	37	31	27	29	23	31	37	42	30	37	0
Thomas Nelson	21	21	22	21	23	26	26	22	27	35	14
Tidewater	17	18	17	20	20	22	22	22	22	29	12
Virginia Highlands	28	31	25	28	34	25	30	26	30	35	7
Virginia Western	23	26	27	25	24	30	30	32	33	36	13
Wytheville	24	33	36	31	31	43	46	42	37	40	16
VCCS Average	27	27	29	28	27	33	34	32	32	36	9

Appendix D. VCCS Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Full-Time Students

The VCCS average Fall-to-Fall retention rate for full-time students was 56 percent for the Fall 2001 cohort and 61 percent for the Fall 2010 cohort, a five percentage point increase. Between the Fall 2001 and Fall 2010 cohort, retention rates increased at most colleges.

Table D. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Full-Time Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2001 through Fall 2010 Cohorts

Institution	Fall Cohort										10-Year Change
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	
Blue Ridge	64	61	60	61	57	60	59	61	60	66	2
Central Virginia	50	48	53	56	57	59	59	54	57	55	5
Dabney S. Lancaster	57	59	56	48	55	60	53	60	61	61	4
Danville	54	61	53	68	57	63	64	61	60	63	9
Eastern Shore	57	56	61	54	56	65	62	56	55	49	-8
Germanna	54	55	54	63	60	61	62	63	63	61	7
J. Sargeant Reynolds	56	55	54	59	57	61	59	59	53	61	5
John Tyler	69	59	63	62	59	60	57	59	50	58	-11
Lord Fairfax	64	59	58	61	63	60	61	65	65	70	6
Mountain Empire	55	55	53	52	54	55	55	57	61	62	7
New River	53	54	55	59	57	58	60	60	58	57	4
NOVA	68	65	65	67	65	70	68	69	72	70	2
Patrick Henry	51	53	45	56	53	65	52	56	60	59	8
Paul D. Camp	42	42	48	49	58	53	49	52	42	54	12
Piedmont Virginia	59	59	58	61	64	63	67	64	58	63	4
Rappahannock	50	57	62	60	60	59	61	60	61	56	6
Southside Virginia	47	50	50	60	49	63	59	64	61	63	16
Southwest Virginia	57	59	55	59	51	66	53	57	59	59	2
Thomas Nelson	52	53	54	53	53	56	61	59	58	60	8
Tidewater	60	61	60	62	62	64	63	62	52	60	0
Virginia Highlands	51	55	58	56	61	56	59	60	54	66	15
Virginia Western	55	57	51	56	60	59	61	62	63	59	4
Wytheville	56	45	48	62	62	68	62	56	59	60	4
VCCS Average	56	56	55	58	58	61	59	60	58	61	5

Appendix E. VCCS Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Part-Time Students

For the Fall 2001 through Fall 2010 cohorts, fall-to-fall retention rates for part-time students fluctuated across VCCS institutions, increasing at only 7 of 23 colleges. The VCCS average 10-year change amounted to a decrease of two percentage points.

Table E. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Part-Time Students by VCCS Institution: Fall 2001 through Fall 2010 Cohorts

Institution	Fall Cohort										10-Year Change
	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	
Blue Ridge	45	48	36	40	45	46	45	42	40	37	-8
Central Virginia	37	39	32	36	29	36	34	39	37	43	6
Dabney S. Lancaster	43	45	44	29	21	43	33	30	33	38	-5
Danville	58	42	49	42	39	54	50	50	56	41	-17
Eastern Shore	35	45	42	43	32	50	49	43	46	37	2
Germanna	41	41	36	46	41	43	40	41	39	42	1
J. Sargeant Reynolds	41	42	36	39	40	44	43	42	38	39	-2
John Tyler	49	42	44	50	45	48	46	45	39	38	-11
Lord Fairfax	43	34	34	40	42	48	42	44	47	42	-1
Mountain Empire	31	26	25	27	32	37	26	33	36	26	-5
New River	39	37	31	47	35	35	32	39	32	38	-1
NOVA	43	42	43	44	42	48	50	48	49	45	2
Patrick Henry	43	34	35	42	36	40	39	43	42	41	-2
Paul D. Camp	26	39	43	32	36	34	36	40	26	25	-1
Piedmont Virginia	39	44	36	39	45	48	42	45	38	43	4
Rappahannock	35	42	36	36	30	40	33	31	39	41	6
Southside Virginia	39	36	36	39	41	45	42	39	38	38	-1
Southwest Virginia	22	31	28	35	31	26	23	17	22	37	15
Thomas Nelson	41	37	36	37	36	39	37	39	37	38	-3
Tidewater	44	42	40	41	40	43	44	43	34	36	-8
Virginia Highlands	43	41	32	31	40	35	41	30	42	37	-6
Virginia Western	47	35	40	37	39	46	42	40	43	43	-4
Wytheville	44	40	49	53	47	44	36	45	48	40	-4
VCCS Average	40	39	38	39	38	42	39	39	39	38	-2

NOVA Mission and Strategic Goals

Mission

With commitment to the values of access, opportunity, student success, and excellence, the mission of Northern Virginia Community College is to deliver world-class in-person and online post-secondary teaching, learning, and workforce development to ensure our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia have an educated population and globally competitive workforce.

Strategic Goals

- I. **STUDENT SUCCESS** – Northern Virginia Community College will move into the top tier of community colleges with respect to the college readiness, developmental course completion, retention, graduation, transfer, and career placement of its students.
- II. **ACCESS** – Northern Virginia Community College will increase the number and diversity of students being served to mirror the population growth of the region.
- III. **TEACHING AND LEARNING** – Northern Virginia Community College will focus on student success by creating an environment of world-class teaching and learning.
- IV. **EXCELLENCE** – Northern Virginia Community College will develop ten focal points of excellence in its educational programs and services that will be benchmarked to the best in the nation and strategic to building the College's overall reputation for quality.
- V. **LEADERSHIP** – Northern Virginia Community College will serve as a catalyst and a leader in developing educational and economic opportunities for all Northern Virginians and in maintaining the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the region.
- VI. **PARTNERSHIPS** – Northern Virginia Community College will develop strategic partnerships to create gateways of opportunity and an integrated educational system for Northern Virginians who are pursuing the American Dream.
- VII. **RESOURCES** – Northern Virginia Community College will increase its annual funding by \$100 million and expand its physical facilities by more than one million square feet in new and renovated space. This includes the establishment of two additional campuses at epicenters of the region's population growth, as well as additional education and training facilities in or near established population centers.
- VIII. **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS** – Northern Virginia Community College will be recognized as a leader among institutions of higher education in Virginia for its development and testing of emergency response and continuity of operation plans.

NOVA

**Northern Virginia
Community College**

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