

Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status and Demographics: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts



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OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND ASSESSMENT

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Section 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts.....	2
Section 2. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	3
Section 3. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	5
Section 4. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	7
Section 5. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Program Placement: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts.....	9

List of Tables

Table 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts.....	2
Table 2. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	3
Table 3. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	5
Table 4. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	7
Table 5. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Program Placement: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	9

List of Figures

Figure 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts.....	2
Figure 2. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time Students by Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	3
Figure 3. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time Students by Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	4
Figure 4. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time Students by Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts.....	6
Figure 5. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time Students by Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts.....	6
Figure 6. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	8
Figure 7. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	8
Figure 9. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time Students by Program Placement: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts	10

Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status and Demographics: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Introduction

This Report presents data on the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of first-time to NOVA students by enrollment status (either full- or part-time) for the Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 cohorts.

The following is a summary of the data:

- Retention rates of full-time students were consistently higher than that of part-time students; however, overall demographic trends across both groups were similar.
- The retention rate tended to be lower for male students than female students.
- Students ages 21 and under generally returned to NOVA in the Spring at higher rates than other age groups.
- Among racial/ethnic groups, Asian and Hispanic students had the highest retention rates in each cohort for both full-time and part-time students, with the exception of part-time students in the Fall 2010 cohort.
- Students not placed in a degree or certificate program had the lowest retention rates; students enrolled in A.A. or A.S. degree programs tended to have higher retention rates than those enrolled in other degree programs, regardless of enrollment status.

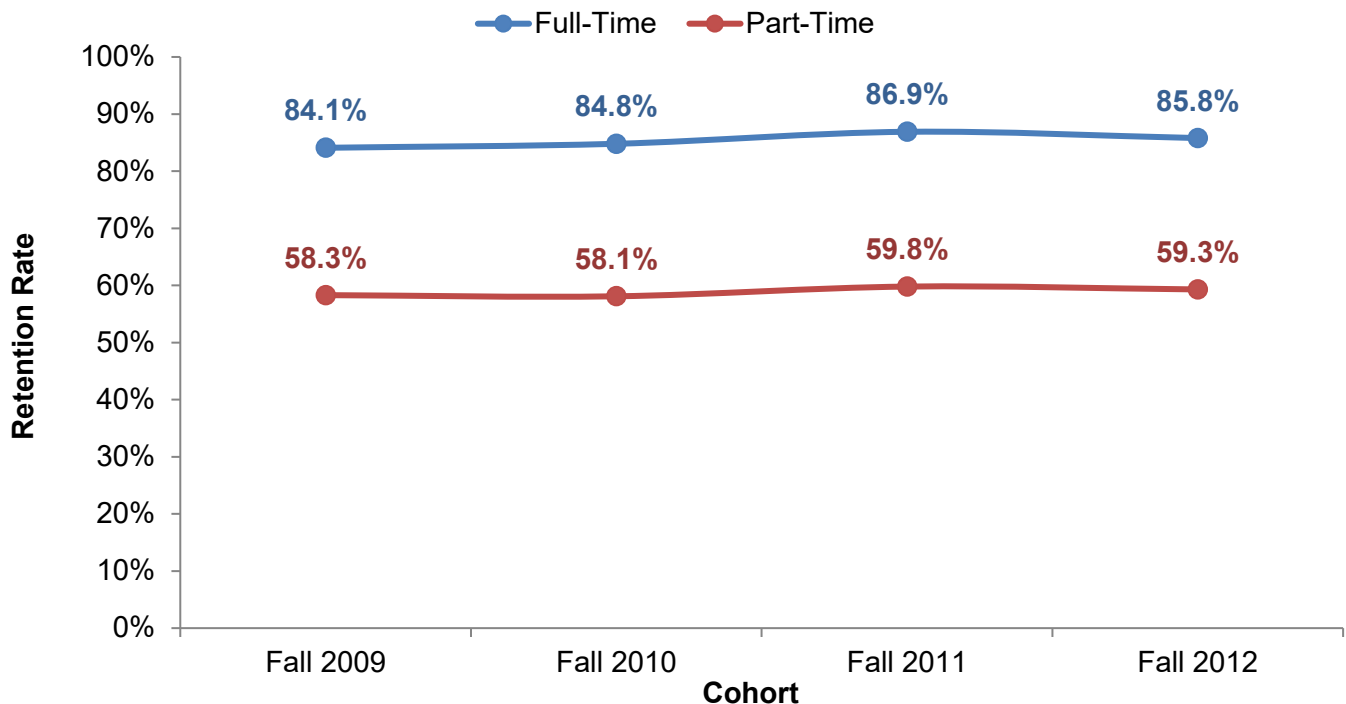
Section 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Table 1 and Figure 1 present the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of full- and part-time students at NOVA for the Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 cohorts. The retention rate gradually increased from year to year for both full-time and part-time students, with 84 to 87 percent of full-time and 58 to 60 percent of part-time students returning the following Spring.

Table 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Status	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	6,069	5,101	84.1	5,868	4,977	84.8	5,874	5,107	86.9	6,158	5,281	85.8
Part-Time	6,717	3,917	58.3	6,667	3,871	58.1	6,884	4,116	59.8	7,278	4,317	59.3
Total	12,786	9,018	70.5	12,535	8,848	70.6	12,758	9,223	72.3	13,436	9,598	71.4

Figure 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts



Section 2. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Table 2, Figure 2 and Figure 3 (see the next page for Figure 3) show the differences in retention rates by gender for full- and part-time students. Overall, the difference in retention rates between male and female students was small, although female students had higher retention rates than male students, generally higher by about two percentage points regardless of enrollment status.

Table 2. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Status	Gender	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
			#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	Male	3,143	2,607	83.0	3,083	2,572	83.4	3,125	2,698	86.3	3,244	2,770	85.4
	Female	2,926	2,494	85.2	2,785	2,405	86.4	2,749	2,409	87.6	2,914	2,511	86.2
Part-Time	Male	3,171	1,814	57.2	3,144	1,798	57.2	3,307	1,921	58.1	3,495	2,029	58.1
	Female	3,546	2,103	59.3	3,523	2,073	58.8	3,577	2,195	61.4	3,783	2,288	60.5

Figure 2. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time Students by Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

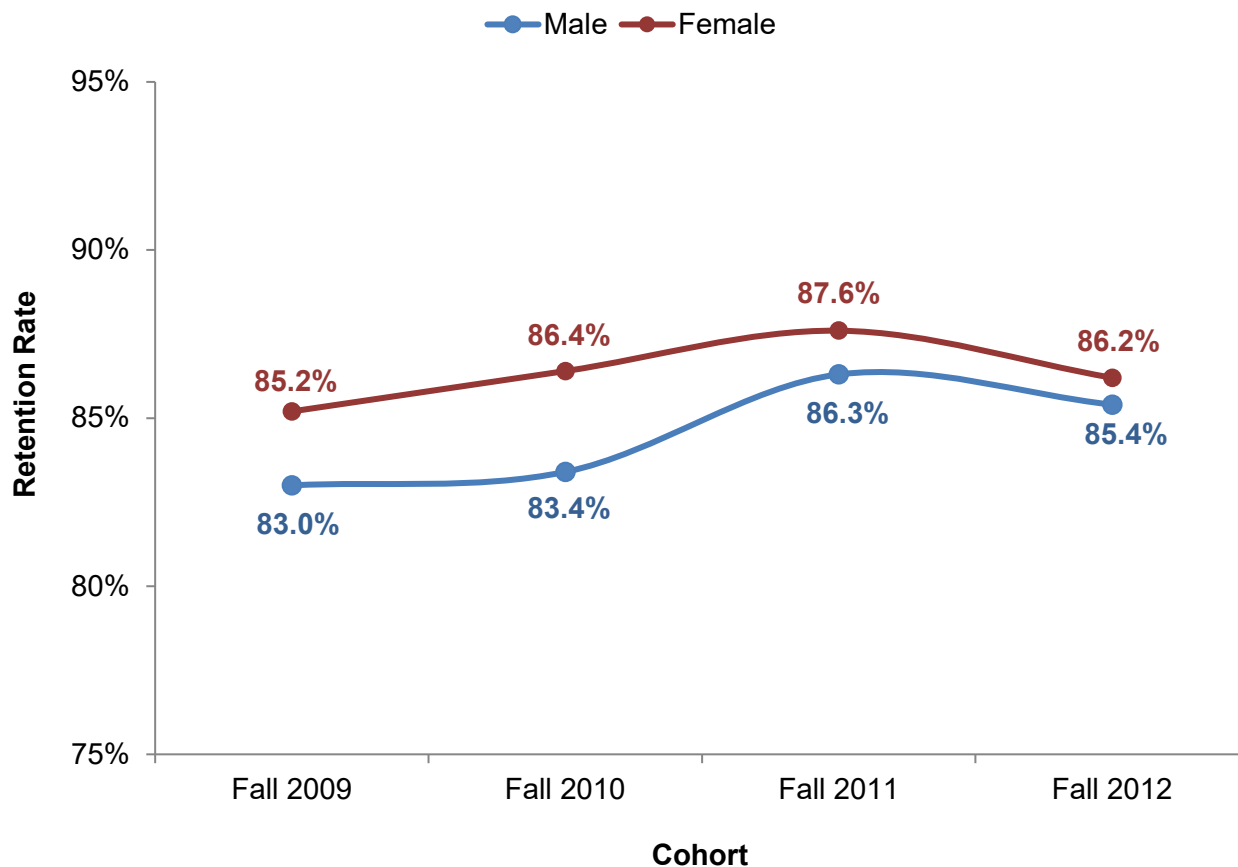
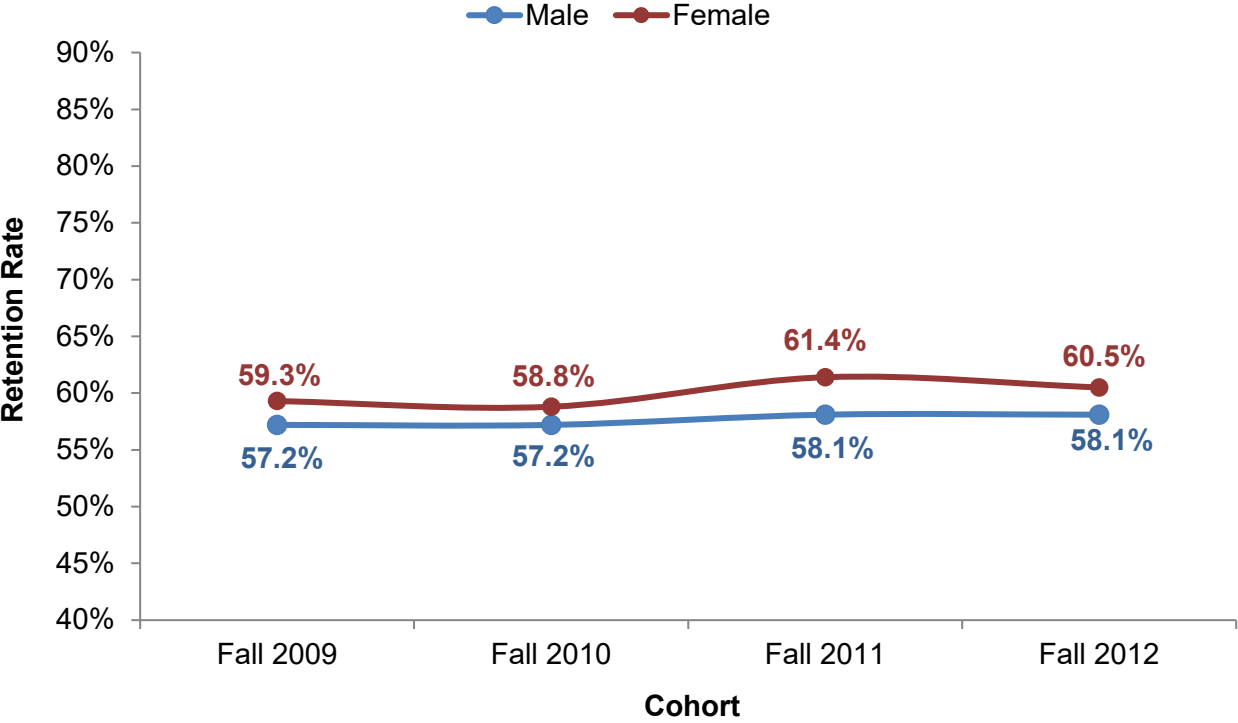


Figure 3. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time Students by Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts



Section 3. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Table 3 rates down the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of full- and part-time students by age. Retention varied considerably across age groups. In general, younger students (under 18 and ages 18 to 21) had higher retention rates than other age groups.

Table 3. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Status	Age	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
			#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	Under 18	96	71	74.0	85	72	84.7	90	82	91.1	92	84	91.3
	18-21	4,870	4,175	85.7	4,762	4,097	86.0	4,707	4,148	88.1	4,840	4,203	86.8
	22-24	431	335	77.7	403	325	80.7	438	372	84.9	462	385	83.3
	25-29	331	264	79.8	319	254	79.6	322	260	80.8	362	294	81.2
	30-44	281	215	76.5	254	197	77.6	266	208	78.2	319	246	77.1
	45 & Over	60	41	68.3	45	32	71.1	51	37	72.5	83	69	83.1
Part-Time	Under 18	683	535	78.3	657	529	80.5	759	649	85.5	911	777	85.3
	18-21	2,576	1,603	62.2	2,591	1,611	62.2	2,665	1,755	65.9	2,918	1,901	65.2
	22-24	731	365	49.9	749	383	51.1	806	379	47.0	817	369	45.2
	25-29	972	529	54.4	916	479	52.3	930	456	49.0	928	454	48.9
	30-44	1,199	638	53.2	1,197	625	52.2	1,221	636	52.1	1,178	596	50.6
	45 & Over	556	247	44.4	557	244	43.8	503	241	47.9	526	220	41.8

Figure 4 (next page) shows the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of full-time students by age. For students ages 18 to 21, the retention rate varied little from year to year, between 86 to 88 percent. The Fall-to-Spring retention rate of students under 18 increased with each cohort. Students ages 45 and older consistently had the lowest retention rates, ranging from 68 to 75 percent, with the notable exception of the Fall 2012 cohort, which had a retention rate of 83 percent.

Figure 4. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time Students by Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

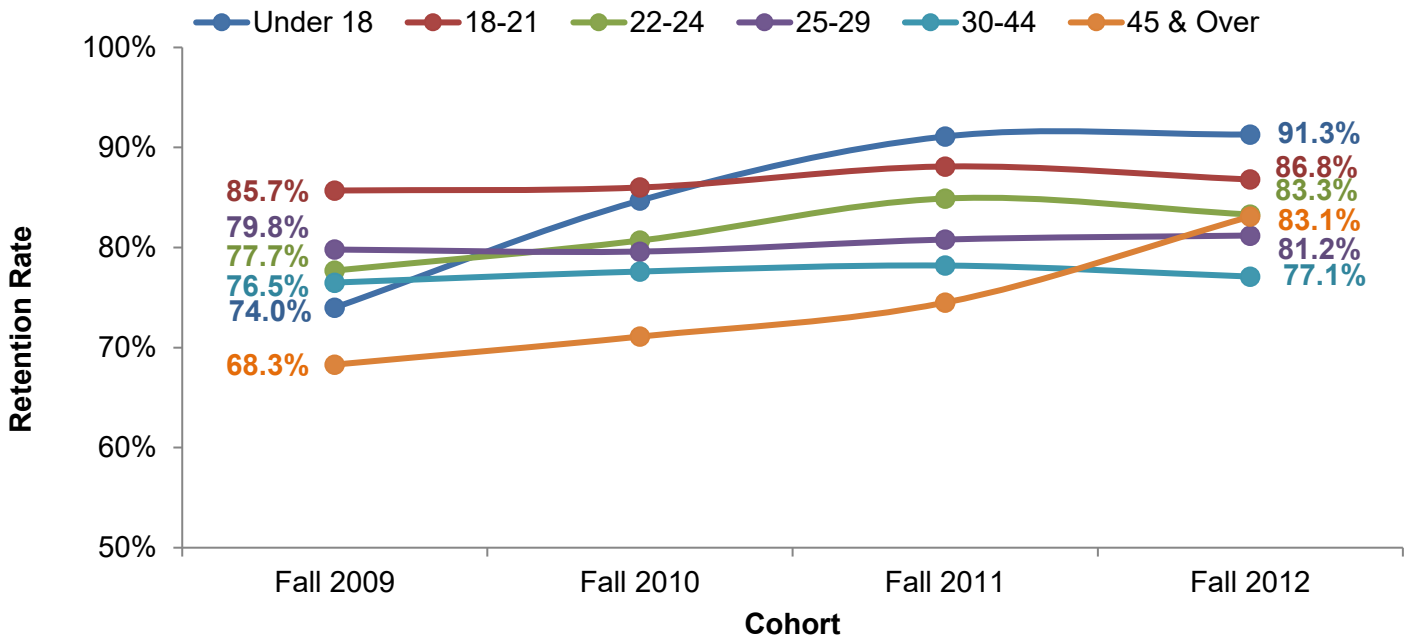
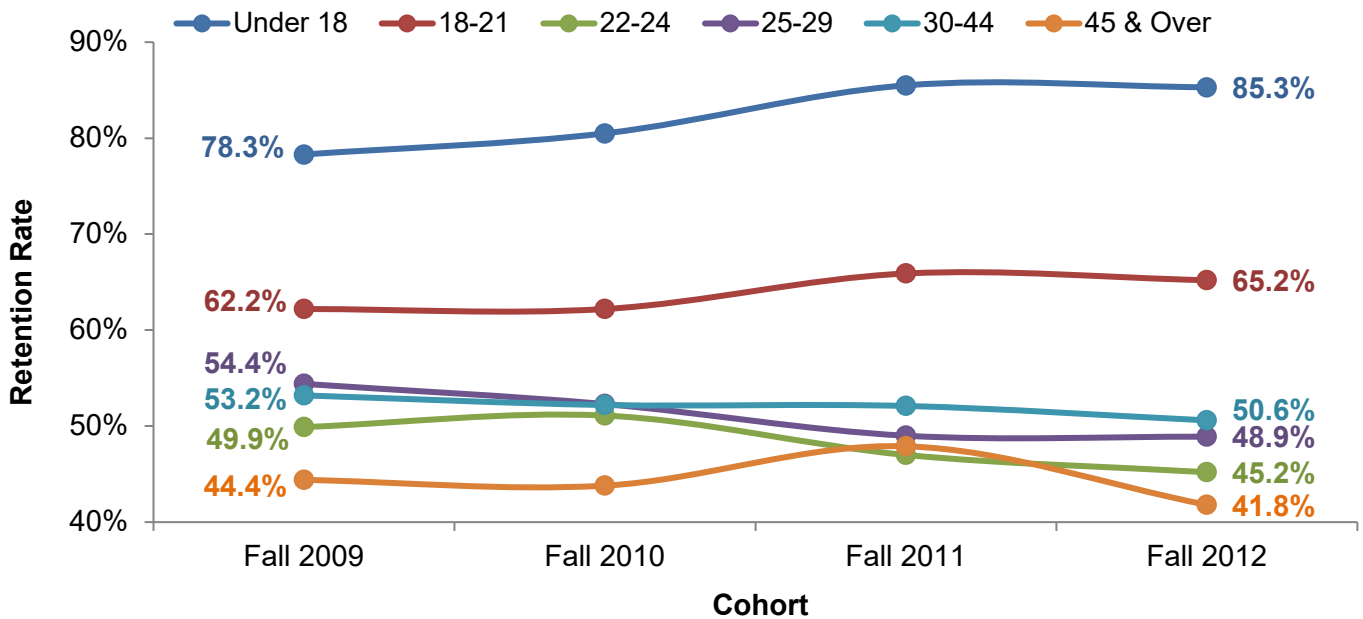


Figure 5 shows the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of four cohorts of part-time students. Students under 18 had the highest retention rates in each cohort of any age group, peaking at 86 percent for the Fall 2011 cohort.

Figure 5. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time Students by Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts



**Section 4. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Race/Ethnicity:
Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Table 4 shows the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of full- and part-time students by race/ethnicity. Among both full- and part-time students, most racial/ethnic groups showed little change in retention rate from cohort to cohort, with the exception of Native American students and Other students.

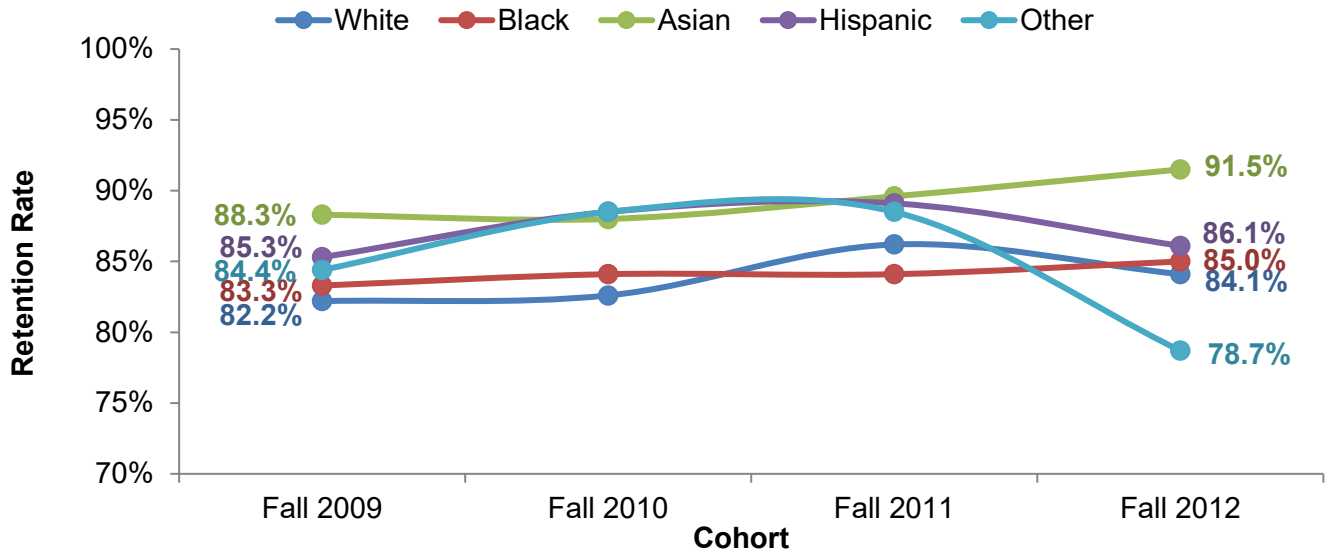
Table 4. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Status	Race/Ethnicity	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
			#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	White	2,628	2,161	82.2	2,921	2,414	82.6	2,762	2,382	86.2	2,919	2,454	84.1
	Black	967	805	83.3	897	754	84.1	1,045	879	84.1	1,152	979	85.0
	Asian	1,041	919	88.3	1,052	926	88.0	1,093	979	89.6	1,102	1,008	91.5
	Hispanic	970	827	85.3	774	685	88.5	870	775	89.1	882	759	86.1
	Native American*	28	22	78.6	15	13	86.7	17	15	88.2	9	7	77.8
	Other	435	367	84.4	209	185	88.5	87	77	88.5	94	74	78.7
Part-Time	White	3,440	1,965	57.1	3,788	2,139	56.5	3,891	2,240	57.6	4,158	2,409	57.9
	Black	1,157	667	57.7	1,130	684	60.5	1,164	726	62.4	1,344	798	59.4
	Asian	735	445	60.5	738	437	59.2	832	539	64.8	861	532	61.8
	Hispanic	901	546	60.6	767	458	59.7	828	520	62.8	774	491	63.4
	Native American*	30	16	53.3	21	13	61.9	24	11	45.8	18	12	66.7
	Other	454	278	61.2	223	140	62.8	145	80	55.2	123	75	61.0

*Sample size is too small to make accurate comparisons.

Figure 5 (next page) shows the retention rates of full-time students by race/ethnicity. Among full-time students, Asian and Hispanic students generally had the highest retention rate of any racial/ethnic group for these four cohorts (85 to 92 percent). White and Black students generally had the lowest retention rates (82 to 86 percent) within each cohort.

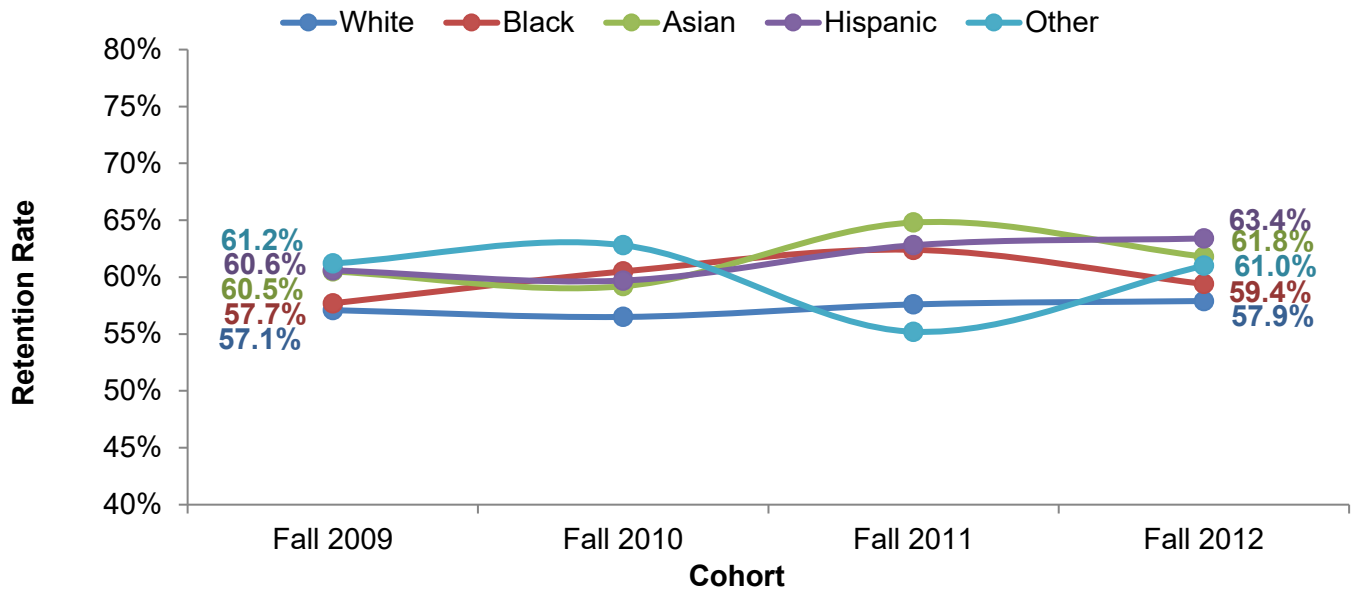
Figure 6. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts



Note: Sub-groups with small sample sizes are not displayed because they are too small to make accurate comparisons.

Figure 7 shows the retention rates of part-time students by race/ethnicity. Among the four largest categories of racial/ethnic groups, White part-time students tended to have lower retention rates than other racial/ethnic groups (57 to 58 percent). Asian and Hispanic students showed the highest retention rates (60 to 65 percent) within the cohorts with the exception of the Fall 2010 cohort. In the Fall 2011 cohort, the retention rate of Other students dropped from 63 to 55 percent, but rose back to 61 percent in the Fall 2012 cohort.

Figure 7. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts



Section 5. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Program Placement: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

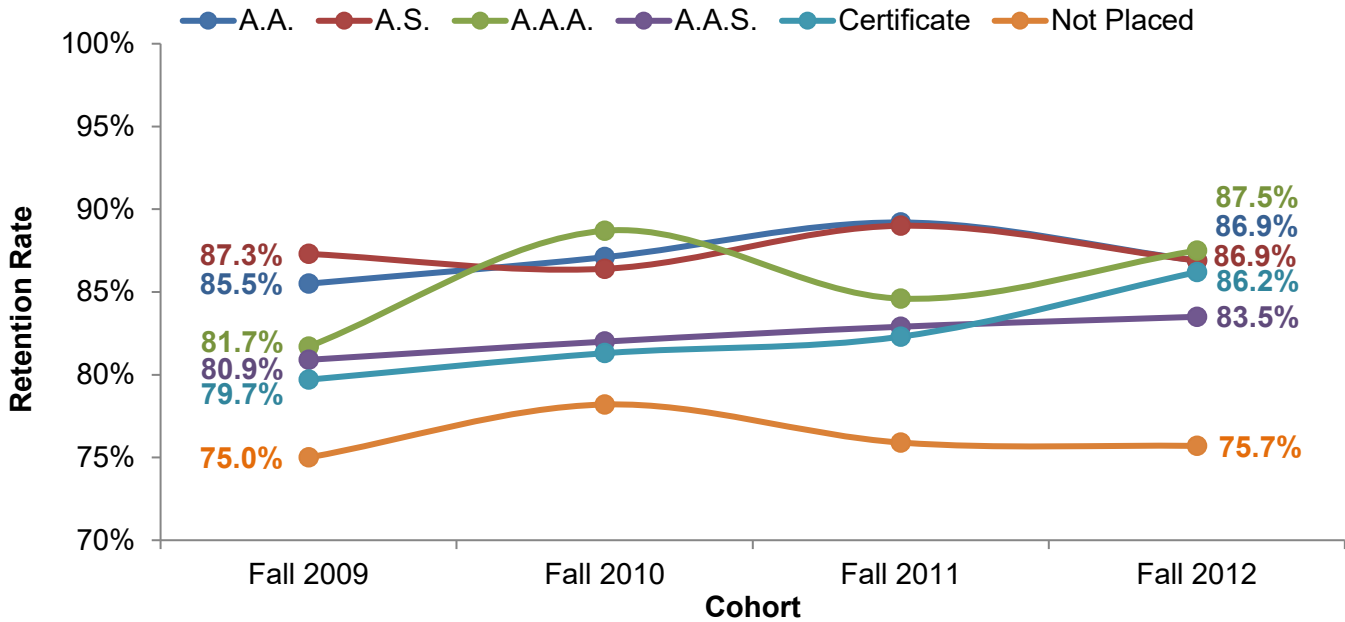
Table 5 shows Fall-to-Spring retention rates by enrollment status and program placement. Students not placed in a program had the lowest rates of retention among both full-time and part-time students. Retention rates were highest among students placed in A.A. or A.S. programs for both full- and part-time students.

Table 5. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status and Program Placement: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Status	Program Placement	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
			#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	A.A.	891	762	85.5	815	710	87.1	787	702	89.2	773	672	86.9
	A.S.	2,993	2,612	87.3	3,183	2,749	86.4	3,537	3,148	89.0	3,843	3,338	86.9
	A.A.A.	82	67	81.7	71	63	88.7	65	55	84.6	40	35	87.5
	A.A.S.	1,210	979	80.9	1,070	877	82.0	916	759	82.9	984	822	83.5
	Certificate	241	192	79.7	257	209	81.3	175	144	82.3	210	181	86.2
	Not Placed	652	489	75.0	472	369	78.2	394	299	75.9	308	233	75.7
Part-Time	A.A.	473	308	65.1	428	287	67.1	455	297	65.3	486	311	64.0
	A.S.	1,996	1,307	65.5	2,200	1,432	65.1	2,379	1,555	65.4	2,648	1,662	62.8
	A.A.A.	47	27	57.5	63	40	63.5	39	24	61.5	39	25	64.1
	A.A.S.	1,111	670	60.3	1,026	616	60.0	996	573	57.5	1,021	580	56.8
	Certificate	356	206	57.9	401	219	54.6	406	232	57.1	374	213	57.0
	Not Placed	2,734	1,399	51.2	2,549	1,277	50.1	2,609	1,435	55.0	2,710	1,526	56.3

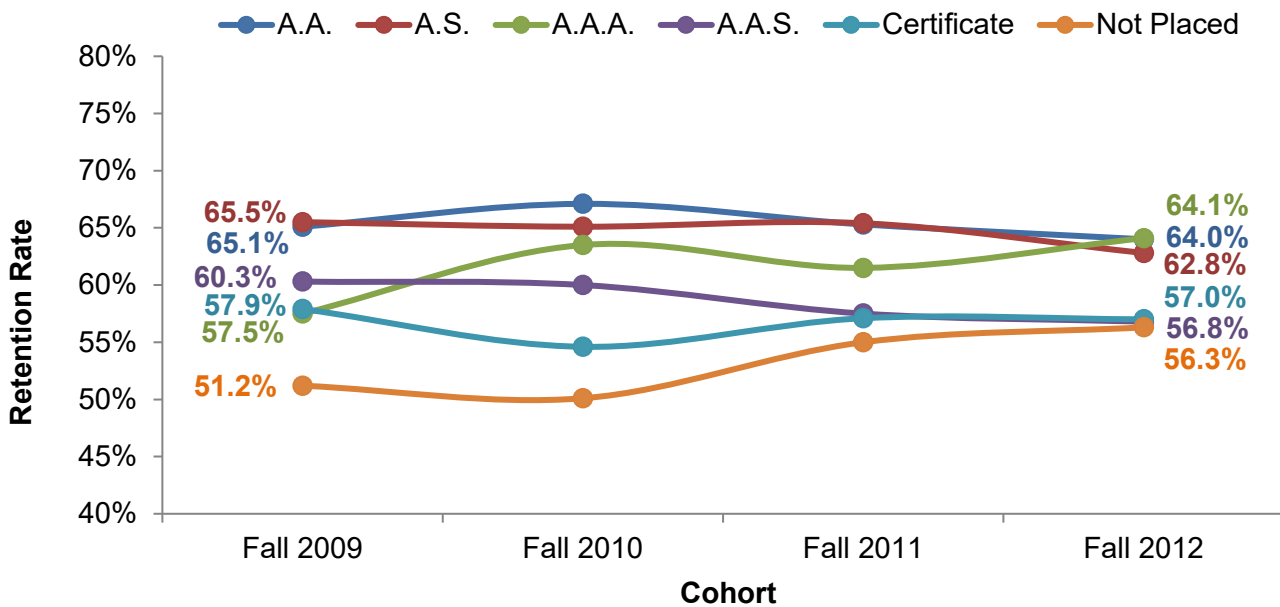
Figure 8 (next page) shows the retention rates of full-time students by program placement. From the Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 cohorts, the retention rate of full-time students increased gradually among students placed in A.A.S. programs and certificate programs, from 81 to 84 percent, and 80 to 86 percent, respectively. Retention of full-time students placed in A.A.A programs dropped 4 percentage points with the Fall 2011 cohort, and rose back to 88 percent with the Fall 2012 cohort.

Figure 8. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time Students by Program Placement: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts



Finally, Figure 9 shows the retention rates of part-time students by program placement. Part-time student retention rates remained relatively unchanged, with the exception of a 6 percentage point increase in the retention rate of part-time students placed in A.A.A. programs from the Fall 2010 cohort to the Fall 2011 cohort.

Figure 9. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time Students by Program Placement: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts



NOVA Mission and Strategic Goals: 2005 – 2015

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

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