

# Fall-to-Fall 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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## **NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND ASSESSMENT**

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# **Fall-to-Fall 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-Fall retention rates of first-time to NOVA students by full-time or part-time status and demographics for the Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 cohorts.

The following is a summary of the data:

- The data in this Report reveal that although the retention rate of full-time students was consistently higher than that of part-time students, overall demographic trends were similar for both groups.
- Retention rates tended to be lower for male students than female students, regardless of full- or part-time status.
- Younger students (ages 21 and under) generally returned to NOVA in the Fall at higher rates than other age groups for both full- and part-time students.
- Among racial/ethnic groups, Asian and Hispanic students had the highest retention rates in each cohort for both full- and part-time students.
- Students not placed in a degree or certificate program had the lowest retention rates and students placed in A.A. or A.S. degree programs the highest, regardless of full- or part-time status.

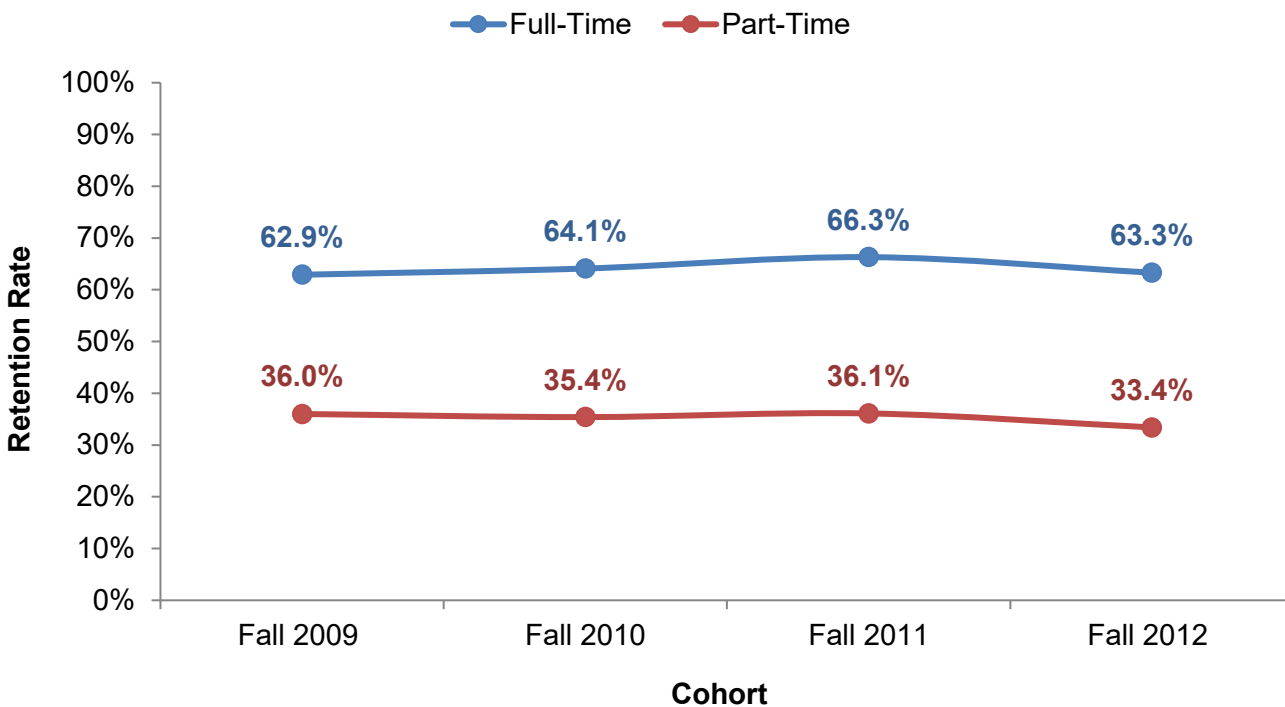
**Section 1. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status:  
Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Table 1 and Figure 1 present the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of first-time to NOVA full- and part-time students for the Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 cohorts. With a few notable exceptions, the retention rates changed little from year to year for both full- and part-time students, with 63 to 64 percent of full-time and 33 to 36 percent of part-time students returning each year.

**Table 1. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates 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	3,820	62.9	5,868	3,762	64.1	5,874	3,893	66.3	6,158	3,898	63.3
Part-Time	6,717	2,415	36.0	6,667	2,359	35.4	6,884	2,484	36.1	7,278	2,427	33.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,786</b>	<b>6,235</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>12,535</b>	<b>6,121</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>12,758</b>	<b>6,377</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>13,436</b>	<b>6,325</b>	<b>47.1</b>

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



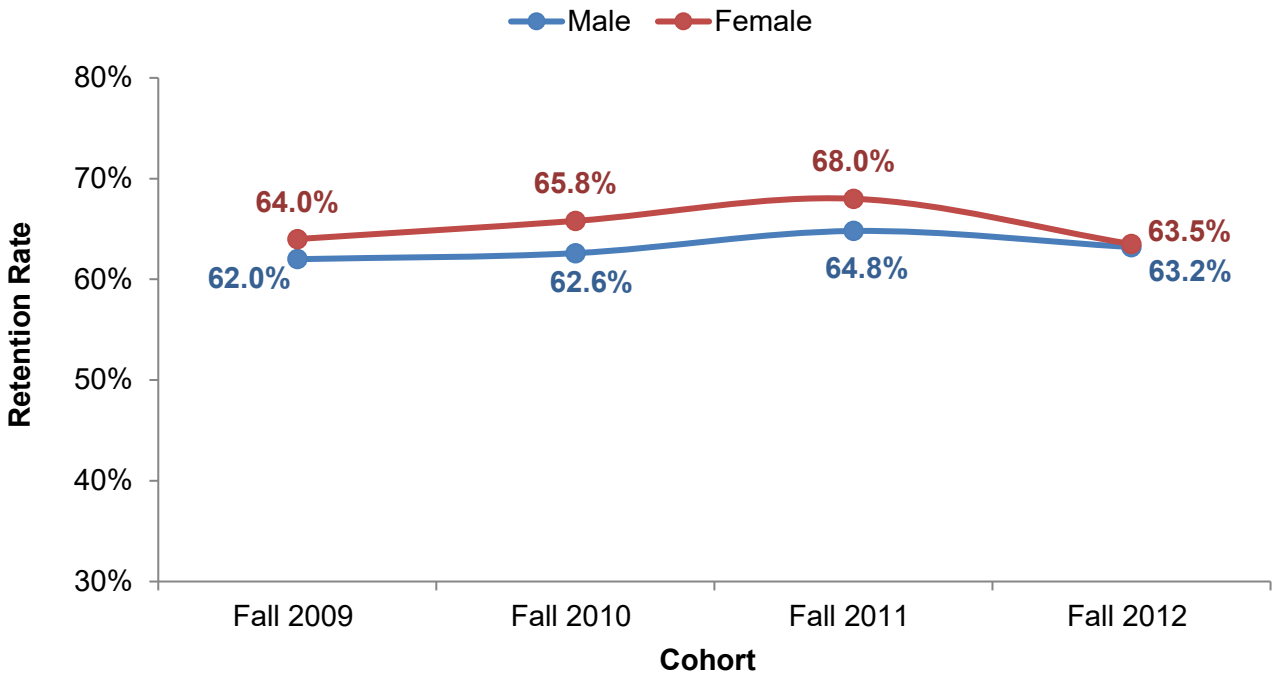
**Section 2. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status and Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Table 2, Figure 2, and Figure 3 (see next page for Figure 3) show the differences in Fall-to-Fall retention rates by gender for first-time to NOVA full- and part-time students. Overall, the differences in retention rates between male and female students were small, although female students generally had higher retention rates than male students, regardless of enrollment status.

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

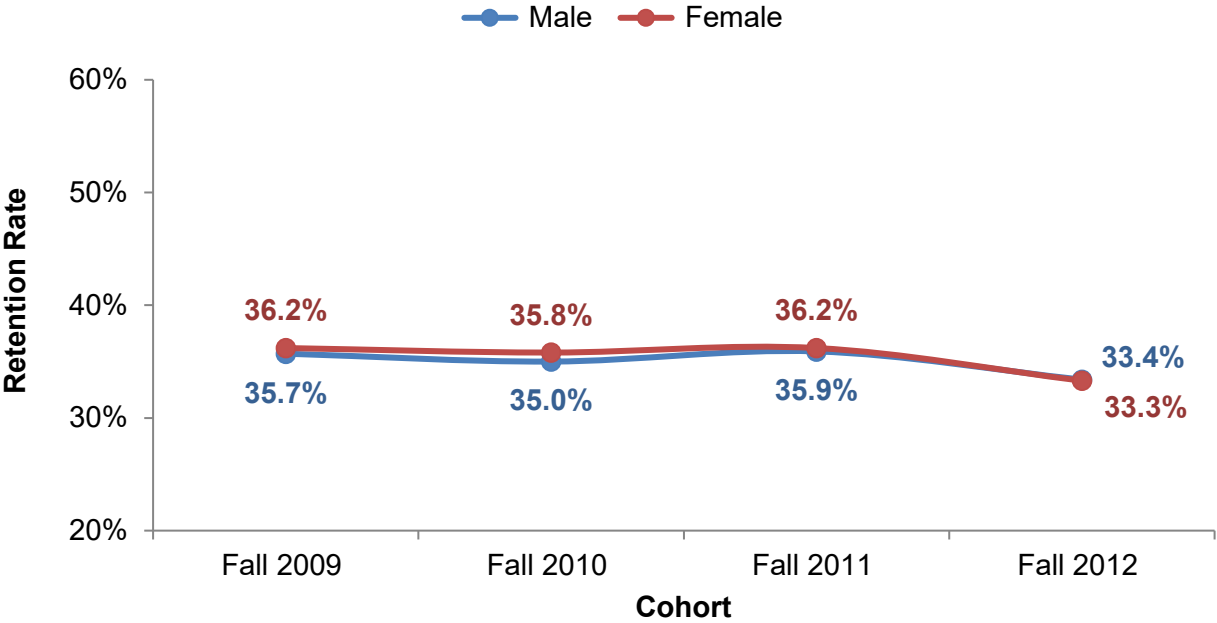
Status	Gender	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
			#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	Male	3,143	1,947	62.0	3,083	1,930	62.6	3,125	2,024	64.8	3,244	2,049	63.2
	Female	2,926	1,873	64.0	2,785	1,832	65.8	2,749	1,869	68.0	2,914	1,849	63.5
Part-Time	Male	3,171	1,133	35.7	3,144	1,099	35.0	3,307	1,188	35.9	3,495	1,166	33.4
	Female	3,546	1,282	36.2	3,523	1,260	35.8	3,577	1,296	36.2	3,783	1,261	33.3

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





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



**Section 3. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status and Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

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

**Table 3. Fall-to-Fall 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	52	54.2	85	57	67.1	90	67	74.4	92	62	67.4
	18-21	4,870	3,200	65.7	4,762	3,160	66.4	4,707	3,251	69.1	4,840	3,212	66.4
	22-24	431	210	48.7	403	227	56.3	438	237	54.1	462	251	54.3
	25-29	331	188	56.8	319	165	51.7	322	165	51.2	362	199	55.0
	30-44	281	143	50.9	254	136	53.5	266	149	56.0	319	128	40.1
	45 & Over	60	27	45.0	45	17	37.8	51	24	47.1	83	46	55.4
Part-Time	Under 18	683	242	35.4	657	210	32.0	759	253	33.3	911	237	26.0
	18-21	2,576	1,114	43.3	2,591	1,135	43.8	2,665	1,211	45.4	2,918	1,269	43.5
	22-24	731	202	27.6	749	223	29.8	806	233	28.9	817	206	25.2
	25-29	972	320	32.9	916	277	30.2	930	277	29.8	928	249	26.8
	30-44	1,199	383	31.9	1,197	380	31.7	1,221	370	30.3	1,178	342	29.0
	45 & Over	556	154	27.7	557	134	24.1	503	140	27.8	526	124	23.6

Figure 4 (next page) shows the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of full-time students by age. Full-time students under 18 had the highest retention rate of any age group for three consecutive years, peaking at 74 percent in Fall 2011. Students ages 45 and older generally had the lowest retention rates, ranging from 38 to 55 percent, except for the Fall 2012 cohort, when the retention rate of students ages 30 to 44 dropped sharply to 40 percent, the lowest of any age group in that cohort and a 16 percentage point decrease from the previous cohort.

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

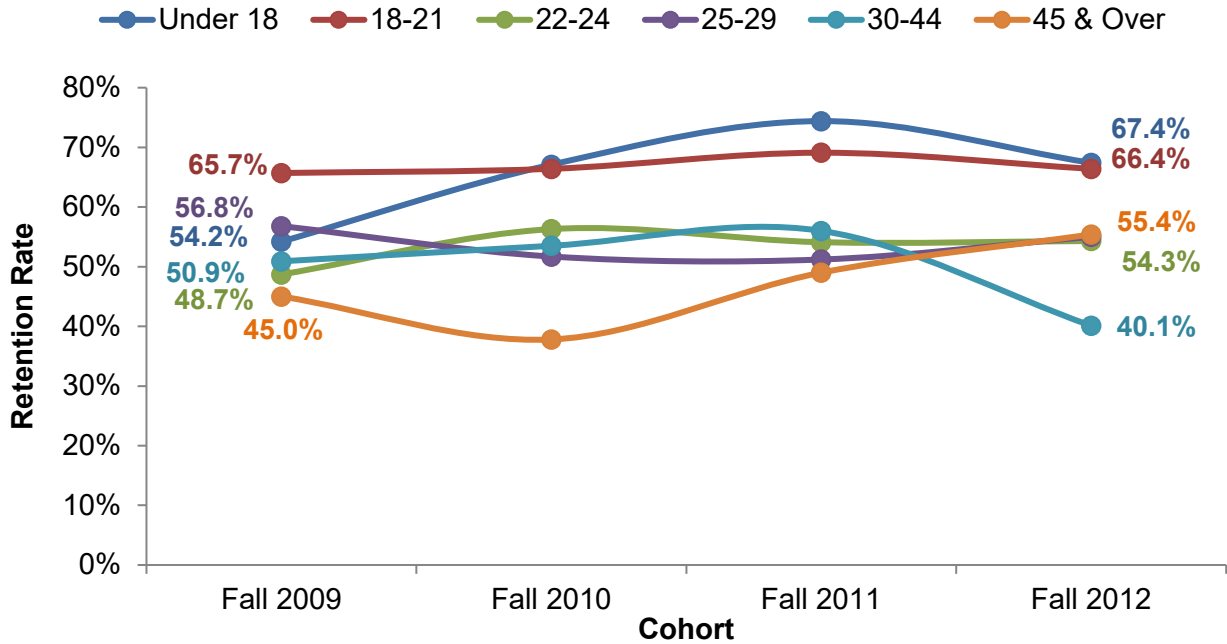
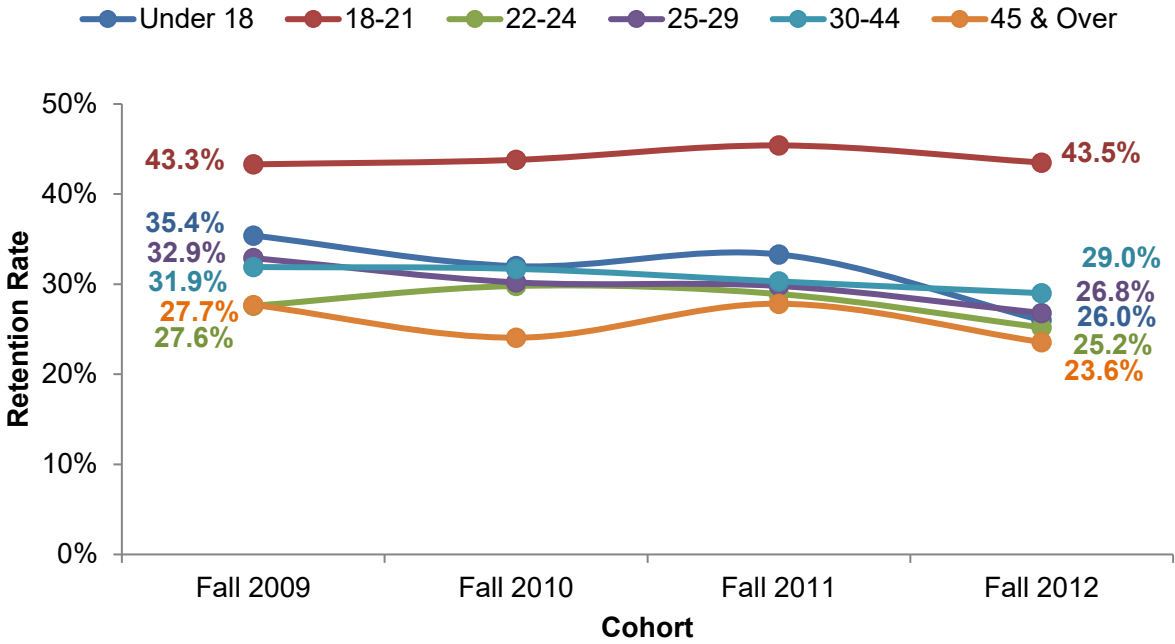


Figure 5 shows the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of part-time students by age. As with full-time students, students ages 45 and older typically had the lowest retention rates. Students ages 18 to 21 had the highest retention rates of any age group, ranging from 43 to 45 percent returning each Fall.

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



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

Table 4 shows the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of first time to NOVA full- and part-time students by race/ethnicity. Among both full- and part-time students, most racial/ethnic groups showed little change in retention rates from year to year, with the exception of Other students. This group saw significant drops and increases in retention over the four cohorts.

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

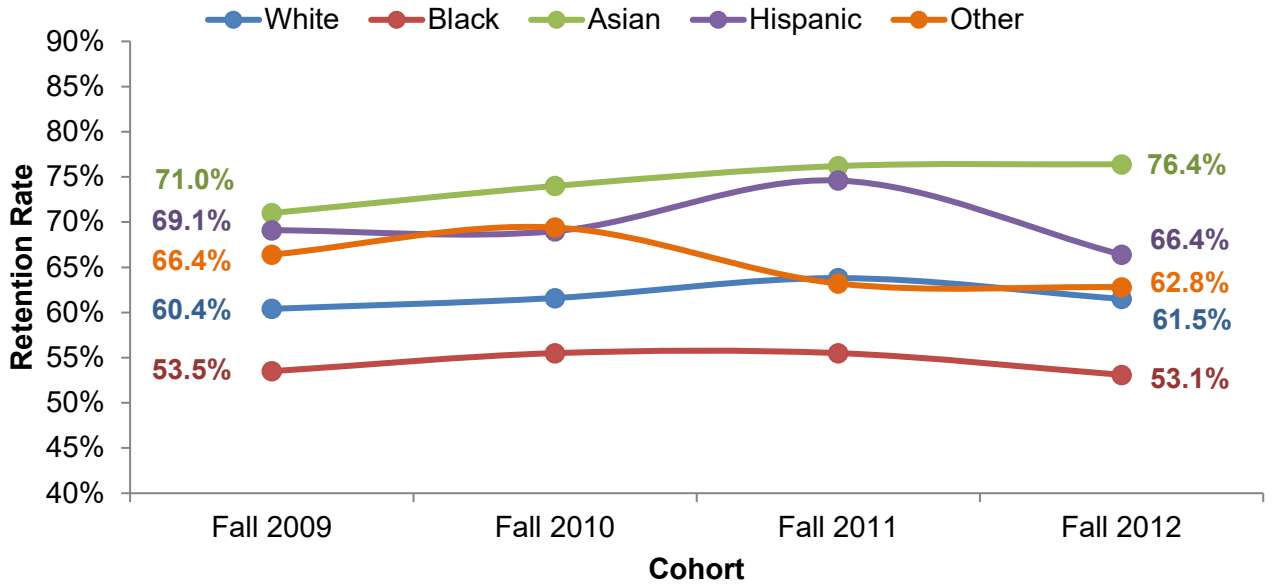
Status	Race/ Ethnicity	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
			#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	White	2,628	1,588	60.4	2,921	1,800	61.6	2,762	1,763	63.8	2,919	1,794	61.5
	Black	967	517	53.5	897	498	55.5	1,045	580	55.5	1,152	612	53.1
	Asian	1,041	739	71.0	1,052	778	74.0	1,093	833	76.2	1,102	842	76.4
	Hispanic	970	670	69.1	774	534	69.0	870	649	74.6	882	586	66.4
	Native American*	28	17	60.7	15	7	46.7	17	13	76.5	9	5	55.6
	Other	435	289	66.4	209	145	69.4	87	55	63.2	94	59	62.8
Part-Time	White	3,440	1,160	33.7	3,788	1,219	32.2	3,891	1,297	33.3	4,158	1,318	31.7
	Black	1,157	375	32.4	1,130	425	37.6	1,164	424	36.4	1,344	400	29.8
	Asian	735	325	44.2	738	297	40.2	832	370	44.5	861	334	38.8
	Hispanic	901	371	41.2	767	323	42.1	828	345	41.7	774	325	42.0
	Native American	30	8	26.7	21	8	38.1	24	7	29.2	18	5	27.8
	Other	454	176	38.8	223	87	39.0	145	41	28.3	123	45	36.6

\*Sample size is too small to make accurate comparisons.

Figure 6 (next page) shows the retention rates of full-time students by race/ethnicity. Among full-time students, Asian students generally had the highest retention rates of any racial/ethnic group for each cohort (71 to 76 percent). Black students generally had the lowest retention rates (ranging from 53 to 56 percent), with the exception of the Fall 2010 cohort.



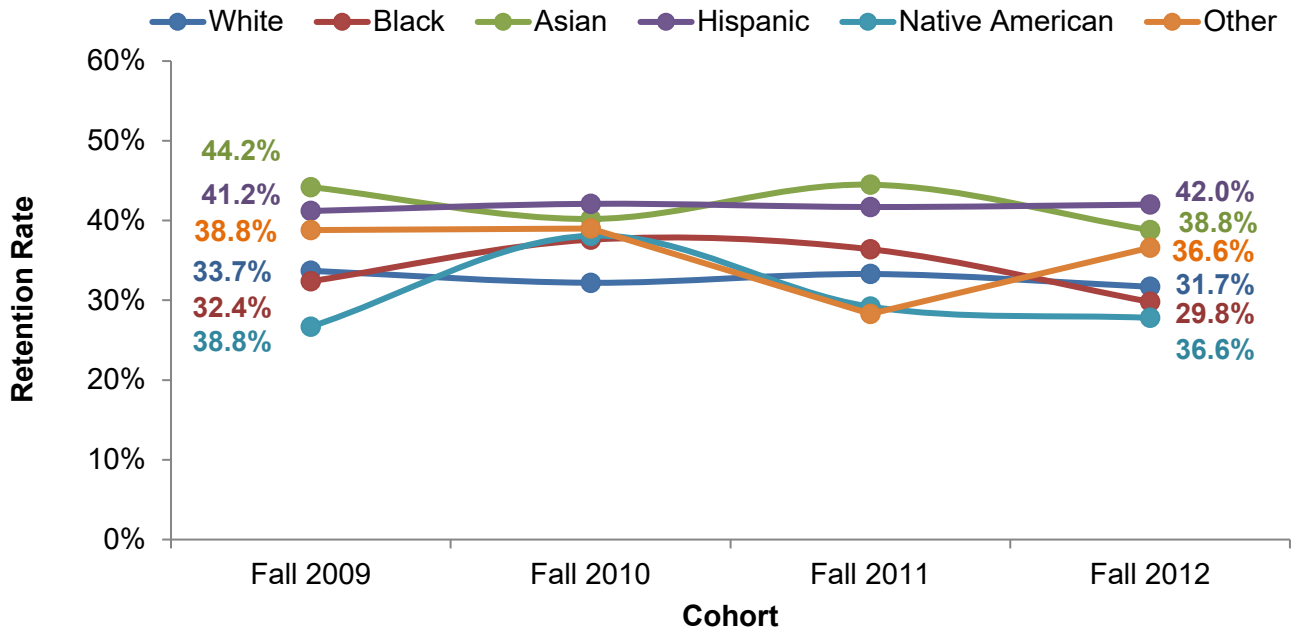
**Figure 6. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of Full-Time Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**



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. Asian and Hispanic part-time students tended to have higher retention rates than other racial/ethnic groups. In the Fall 2011 cohort, the retention rate of Other students dropped from 39 to 28 percent, but rose back to 37 percent for the Fall 2012 cohort.

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



**Section 5. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status and Program Placement: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

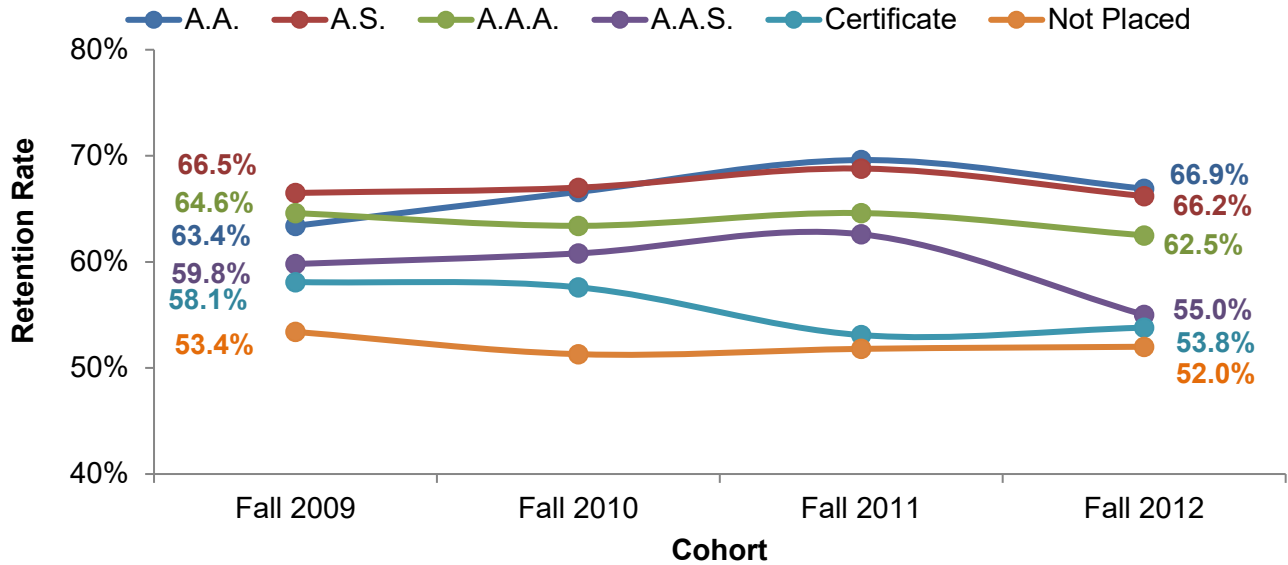
Table 5 shows Fall-to-Fall retention rates of first-time to NOVA students by full- and part-time status and program placement. Students not placed in degree or certificate programs had the lowest rates of retention among both full-time and part-time students. Retention rates were highest among students enrolled in A.A. and A.S. degree programs.

**Table 5. Fall-to-Fall 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	565	63.4	815	543	66.6	787	548	69.6	773	517	66.9
	A.S.	2,993	1,990	66.5	3,183	2,134	67.0	3,537	2,433	68.8	3,843	2,542	66.2
	A.A.A.	82	53	64.6	71	45	63.4	65	42	64.6	40	25	62.5
	A.A.S.	1,210	724	59.8	1,070	650	60.8	916	573	62.6	984	541	55.0
	Certificate	241	140	58.1	257	148	57.6	175	93	53.1	210	113	53.8
	Not Placed	652	348	53.4	472	242	51.3	394	204	51.8	308	160	52.0
Part-Time	A.A.	473	224	47.4	428	192	44.9	455	212	46.6	486	206	42.4
	A.S.	1,996	937	46.9	2,200	999	45.4	2,379	1,142	48.0	2,648	1,138	43.0
	A.A.A.	47	18	38.3	63	25	39.7	39	13	33.3	39	15	38.5
	A.A.S.	1,111	496	44.6	1,026	416	40.6	996	388	39.0	1,021	373	36.5
	Certificate	356	126	35.4	401	139	34.7	406	143	35.2	374	134	35.8
	Not Placed	2,734	614	22.5	2,549	588	23.1	2,609	586	22.5	2,710	561	20.7

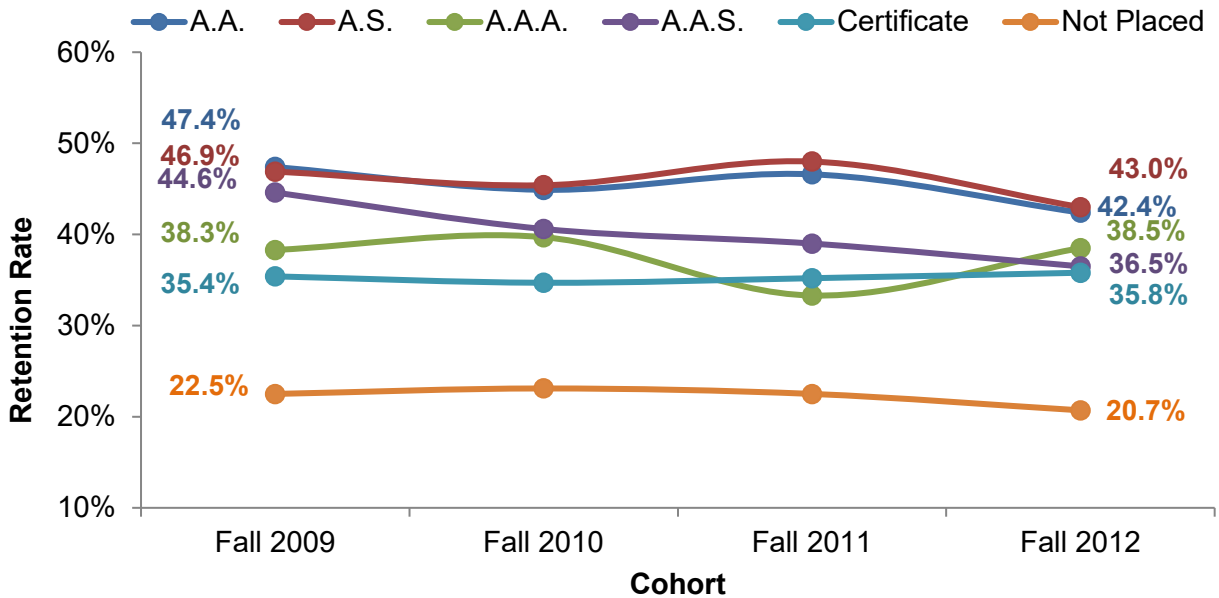
Figure 8 (next page) shows the retention rates of full-time students by program placement. In Fall 2011, the retention rate of full-time students enrolled in certificate programs dropped 5 percentage points from the previous cohort, and remained at that level in the following cohort. Retention of full-time students enrolled in A.A.S. degree programs dropped eight percentage points from the Fall 2012 cohort to the Fall 2013 cohort.

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



Finally, Figure 9 shows the retention rates of part-time students by program placement. Part-time students' retention rates remained relatively unchanged, with the exception of a seven percentage point drop in the retention rate of part-time A.A.A. students in the Fall 2011 cohort.

**Figure 9. Fall-to-Fall 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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