



RESEARCH BRIEF

OIR

Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Initiatives

No. 18-14

September 2014

Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status

This Research Brief presents the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of four cohorts of first-time to NOVA students (Fall 2009 through Fall 2012) by enrollment status (either full-time or part-time) and demographics.

Overall results show that full-time students returned to NOVA the following Fall at a higher rate than part-time students. When broken down by enrollment status and gender, female full-time students showed higher retention rates than male full-time students across cohorts. While among part-time students, female and male students had similar retention rates. In contrast, overall trends for full-time and part-time students were similar when broken down by age and race/ethnicity. For instance, younger students (ages 21 and under) generally had higher retention rates than other age groups, regardless of full-time or part-time status. Furthermore, among the racial/ethnic groups, Asian and Hispanic students showed the highest retention rates regardless of full-time or part-time status.

Table 1 (below) and Figure 1 (next page) present the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of first-time to NOVA students by full-time and part-time status. For all cohorts, full-time students returned at a higher rate (ranging from 63 to 66 percent) compared to part-time students (ranging from 33 to 36 percent). The retention rates for all first-time to NOVA students ranged from 47 to 50 percent.

Table 1. Fall-to-Fall 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	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
Total	12,786	6,235	48.8	12,535	6,121	48.8	12,758	6,377	50.0	13,436	6,325	47.1

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

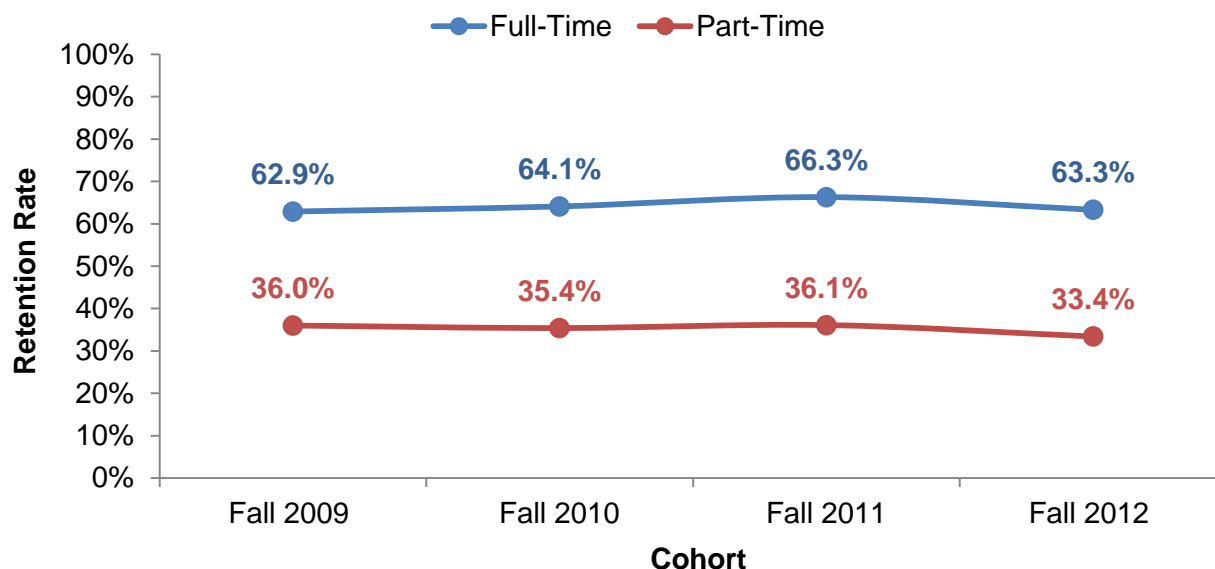


Table 2 displays the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of full-time, first-time to NOVA students by gender. Among each cohort, female students returned to NOVA the following Fall at a higher rate (64 to 68 percent) than full-time male students (62 to 65 percent).

Table 2. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of Full-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Gender	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
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

Table 3 shows the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of part-time, first-time students by gender. Within each cohort of part-time students, both male and female students returned to NOVA the following Fall at roughly the same rate (ranging from 33 to 36 percent).

Table 3. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of Part-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Gender	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
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

Table 4 presents the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of full-time, first-time to NOVA students by age group. The two youngest groups of students, those under 18 as well as students age 18 to 21, showed the highest retention rates (ranging from 66 to 74 percent) in all cohorts. Students ages 45 and over had the lowest retention rates in all but one cohort.

**Table 4. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of Full-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Age:
Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Age	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
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

Table 5 displays the Fall-to-Fall retention rates of part-time, first-time students by age. In all cohorts, students ages 18 to 21 returned at the highest rate (ranging from 43 to 45 percent). As with full-time students, part-time students ages 45 and over had the lowest retention rates in all but one cohort.

**Table 5. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of Part-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Age:
Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Age	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
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

Table 6 shows retention rates for full-time, first-time students by race/ethnicity. Among the four largest categories of racial/ethnic groups, Asian students showed the highest retention rates (71 to 76 percent) and Black students showed the lowest retention rates (53 to 56 percent) within each cohort.

Table 6. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of Full-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Race/ Ethnicity	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
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

*Sample size is too small to make accurate comparisons.

Table 7 presents retention rates for part-time students by race/ethnicity. Patterns among part-time students were not as consistent as those seen among the cohorts of full-time students. Asian part-time students in the Fall 2009 and Fall 2011 cohorts showed the highest retention rates (44 and 45 percent, respectively), while Hispanic part-time students in the Fall 2010 and Fall 2012 cohorts had the highest rates (42 percent). Similarly, the lowest retention rates for the four cohorts occurred among two groups: Black part-time students had the lowest rates in the Fall 2009 and Fall 2012 cohorts (32 and 30 percent, respectively) while White part-time students had the lowest rates in the Fall 2010 and Fall 2011 cohorts (32 and 33 percent, respectively).

Table 7. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of Part-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Race/ Ethnicity	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
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