



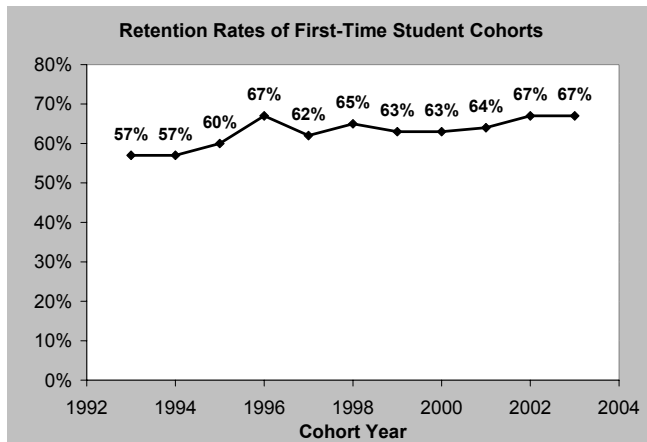
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

2003 First-Time Student Retention Rates Research Brief No. 12

Overview

Every Summer and Fall, a new cohort of first-time students (freshman) enrolls at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Most of these students enroll for a second year of study, but some do not. Thus, one measure of both student and institutional efforts is the retention rate—the percentage of students within a first-time cohort who enroll the following year.

Between 1993 and 2004, the retention of first-time students increased by 10 percentage points. The highest retention rate (67%) has occurred 3 times in 1996, 2002, and 2003. The graph below illustrates the retention rates over time.

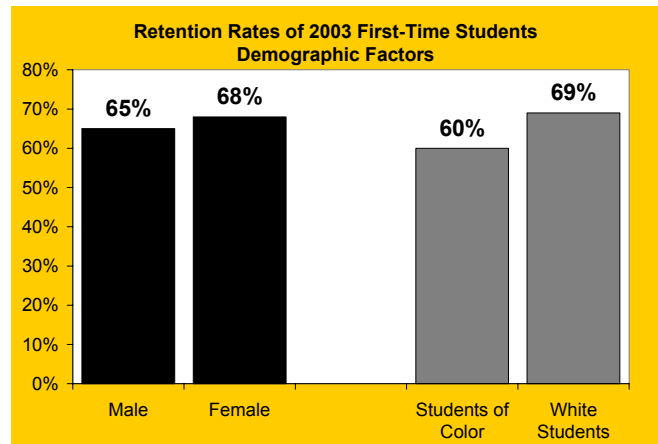


Most Recent Cohort of First-Time Students

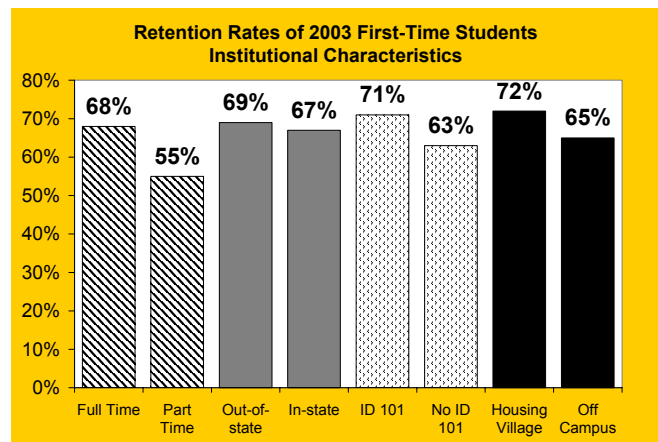
Retention rates among the 2003 first-time cohort vary by college. The College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences accounts for 2/3 of the retained freshman but has the lowest retention rate (65%). The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has the highest retention rate, closely followed by the College of Business.

Retention Rates of the 2003 Cohort of First-Year Students by College	
	% Retained
Nursing	78%
Business	76%
Engineering	66%
Letters, Arts, & Sciences	65%
Declared Major	67%
Undeclared Major	60%

Retention rates also differ by gender and ethnicity. Not only are there more women than men students, but women are also more likely to be retained than men. According to ethnicity, retention is greater among white students than students of color.



The graph below shows that retention varies by full-time status, tuition/residency type, whether students enrolled in the Freshman Seminar (ID 101), and if they lived in the Housing Village.



The retention of first-time students does not reflect whether they advanced to the *sophomore* class in their second year. Of retained students in the 2003 first-time cohort, 41% remained at the freshman level and 59% advanced to the sophomore level or higher.