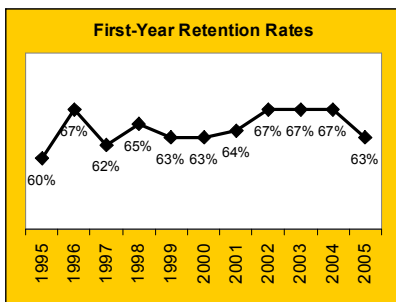


## Hold On! Freshman Retention 2005 to 2006

Last year, we reported a first-year student retention rate of 67% that was inching towards our peer benchmark of 72%. This year, our retention rate fell to 63%. This is the first decline in the past 7 years and the largest since the 5-point drop between 1996 and 1997.

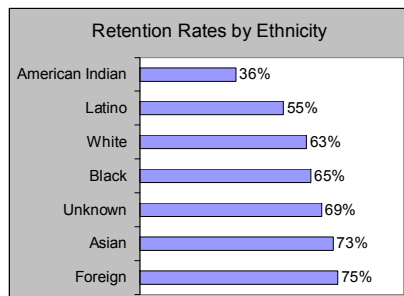


**First-Year Seminar.** As in years past, students who pass the First-Year Seminar (ID 101) are more likely to be retained (66%) than students who do not pass and/or enroll (59%).

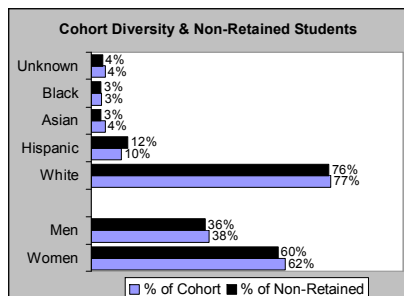
**Residency.** The 2005 cohort is the first cohort in which students living off-campus had a higher retention rate (64%) than students living in campus housing (61%).

**Ethnicity.** Retention rates are lowest among American Indian and Latino students. Black, Asian, Foreign, and other students who

did not report their ethnicity all have a retention rate that is higher than the cohort in general.



Whereas retention rates differ across ethnic groups, the gender and minority distribution among the non-retained students is very similar to the cohort in general.



**Transfers.** Nearly one quarter of the cohort (22%) transferred to another institution; among the transfers, 77 or 20% went to community colleges. Pikes Peak Community College is at the top of the list, followed by CSU, CU-Boulder, UCDHSC, and UNC. The transfer rate is similar to what students indicated on the first-year survey: 7% planned to transfer after 1 year and 12% after 2 years, for a total of 19%.

**Course Loads.** The cohort's average course load in their first

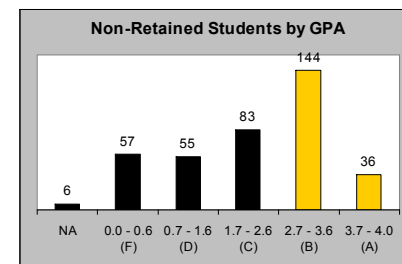
semester at UCCS was 14 credit hours per student. Only 7% of the first-year students were enrolled part-time. Among full-time students, the retention rate is highest among students taking 16 credit hours.

Credits	Students	Retained
12	183	56%
13	171	61%
14	199	67%
15	241	66%
16	124	73%
17	31	63%
18	10	60%

**Colleges and Majors.** Among the 10 most popular majors for this cohort, four programs had a retention rate of 63% or more and only 1 program (Biology) reached the 72% benchmark. LAS Undecided continues to be the most popular major in the cohort as well as among the non-retained students.

Major	N	Retained
LAS undecided	172	59%
NUR pre/prep	117	69%
BUS pre/prep	85	47%
Biology	70	76%
Psychology	57	60%
English	50	66%
Marketing	48	65%
EAS undecided	30	60%
Communication	28	61%
History	28	57%

**Grades.** We expect poor performers to be likely to leave, but we are losing a lot of students in good academic standing, too: 22% of non-retained students had a C average, but 47% had an A or B average in their first semester.



**Admissions Scores.** As expected, retained students have higher admissions scores than non-retained students, but these differences are minimal (average ACT, SAT, Index, and High School GPA).

Avg Score	Left	Retained
ACT	22.8	23.2
SAT	1083	1090
Index	105	110
HS GPA	3.23	3.42

**First Generation.** Based on our first-year student survey, 41% of respondents (N = 641) indicated they are first-generation students. This status appears to have a positive impact on minority student retention and a negative impact on White students.

