

System & Campus Dashboard Indicators

Retention

1.1.2 Retention Rates

Percentage of First-time, Full-time Freshmen Returning for a Second Year of Enrollment in the MUS

Inst. = Institutional rate Sys. = System-wide rate ⁽¹⁾ (i.e. includes transfers)		Fall 2006 Cohort (returning Fall 07)	Fall 2007 Cohort (returning Fall 08)	Fall 2008 Cohort (returning Fall 09)	Fall 2009 Cohort (returning Fall 10)	Fall 2010 Cohort (returning Fall 11)	%Chg 06 - 10
MSU-Bozeman	Inst.	71%	71%	72%	74%	74%	2.7%
	Sys.	76%	76%	76%	78%	77%	1.5%
MSU-Billings	Inst.	63%	57%	59%	56%	56%	-7.4%
	Sys.	70%	64%	66%	61%	63%	-6.8%
MSU-Billings COT	Inst.	52%	47%	49%	55%	49%	-2.9%
	Sys.	54%	49%	52%	56%	51%	-3.2%
MSU-Northern (bachelor's cohort)	Inst.	59%	65%	56%	57%	58%	-1.4%
	Sys.	64%	68%	60%	62%	65%	1.0%
MSU-Northern (associate's cohort)	Inst.	59%	62%	67%	65%	58%	-1.1%
	Sys.	62%	69%	70%	65%	63%	0.9%
MSU-Great Falls COT	Inst.	43%	53%	59%	49%	49%	5.3%
	Sys.	47%	59%	66%	54%	57%	9.6%
UM-Missoula	Inst.	74%	73%	75%	75%	75%	1.4%
	Sys.	77%	76%	79%	77%	79%	1.8%
UM-Missoula COT	Inst.	58%	63%	60%	54%	52%	-6.1%
	Sys.	60%	66%	63%	56%	55%	-4.7%
MT Tech	Inst.	71%	70%	74%	69%	70%	-0.8%
	Sys.	79%	78%	82%	76%	78%	-0.6%
MT Tech COT	Inst.	46%	42%	53%	40%	48%	2.4%
	Sys.	50%	42%	60%	45%	55%	5.6%
UM-Western (bachelor's cohort)	Inst.	65%	69%	75%	68%	70%	4.5%
	Sys.	69%	71%	79%	76%	77%	8.1%
UM-Western (associate's cohort)	Inst.	50%	50%	62%	58%	60%	9.6%
	Sys.	59%	57%	66%	62%	66%	6.3%
UM Helena COT	Inst.	47%	58%	56%	59%	61%	13.7%
	Sys.	53%	60%	62%	64%	64%	11.8%
Dawson CC ⁽²⁾	Inst.	55%	61%	62%	63%	61%	5.5%
	Sys.	NA	NA	NA	NA	65%	
Flathead CC ⁽³⁾	Inst.	52%	51%	56%	52%	52%	-0.7%
	Sys.	61%	53%	63%	55%	56%	-5.4%
Miles CC ⁽²⁾	Inst.	51%	76%	67%	60%	56%	5.1%
	Sys.	NA	NA	NA	NA	59%	
2-year Total (w/o CC's) (system-wide retention)		54.6%	57.6%	61.7%	56.8%	56.7%	2.1%
4-year Total (system-wide retention)		75.4%	74.5%	76.1%	75.1%	76.2%	0.8%

source: MUS Data Warehouse

(1) system-wide rate: includes students that enter at one campus and return for a second year at that campus or any another MUS campus

(2) DCC & MCC data comes from IPEDS 2005 - 2009; 2010 MUS Data Warehouse (EOT data match)

(3) institutional rates provided by FVCC; system-wide rates derived from data match with MUS Data Warehouse

notes: A) students receiving 1-year Certificates within their first year are included in the numerator

B) embedded COT transfers to parent campuses are included in institutional retention rates (and vice versa, parent to COT)

Summary & Analysis

Over the past five years, aggregate system-wide retention rates in the MUS for both 2-year and 4-year sectors increased slightly.

At 4-year colleges throughout the region (i.e. WICHE peer states) the average institutional retention rate is 77%.

- For the Fall 2010 cohort, institutional retention rates in the MUS are as high as 74% and 75% at MSU-Bozeman and UM-Missoula respectively, and as low as 56% and 58% at MSU-Billings and MSU Northern.
- For the Fall 2010 cohort, four campuses recorded both institutional and system-wide retention rates of 70% and above: MSU-Bozeman, UM Missoula, MT Tech and UM Western.

At 2-year colleges throughout the region the average institutional retention rate is 58%.

- For the Fall 2010 cohort, institutional retention rates in the MUS are as high as 61% at UM Helena COT and Dawson CC respectively, and as low as 48% at MT Tech COT.
- For the Fall 2010 cohort, three campuses recorded both institutional and system-wide retention rates of 60% and above: UM Western (assoc), UM Helena COT, and Dawson CC.

Campuses that experienced the most growth in retention (both inst. and system-wide) over the past 5 years are:

- UM Helena COT: +13.7% institutional; +11.8% system-wide
- UM Western (assoc. cohort): +9.6% institutional; +6.3% system-wide
- MSU Great Falls COT: +5.3% institutional; +9.6% system-wide
- UM Western (bach. cohort): +4.5% institutional; +8.1% system-wide
- Dawson CC: +5.5% institutional

The comparison of institutional and system-wide rates (within an institution) allow for the calculation of 1-year transfer rates and the full picture of cohort retention within the MUS.

- For the Fall 2010 cohort, campuses with the widest spread between institutional and system-wide rates (i.e. the highest transfer rates) are MSU Great Falls COT (8.2%), MT Tech (7.6%), and UM Western - bach. cohort (7.5%)