



Inside IR

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Statistical tests show that the retention rate trend is flat.

Overall College Retention

In this issue of *Inside IR*, we focus on retention trends.

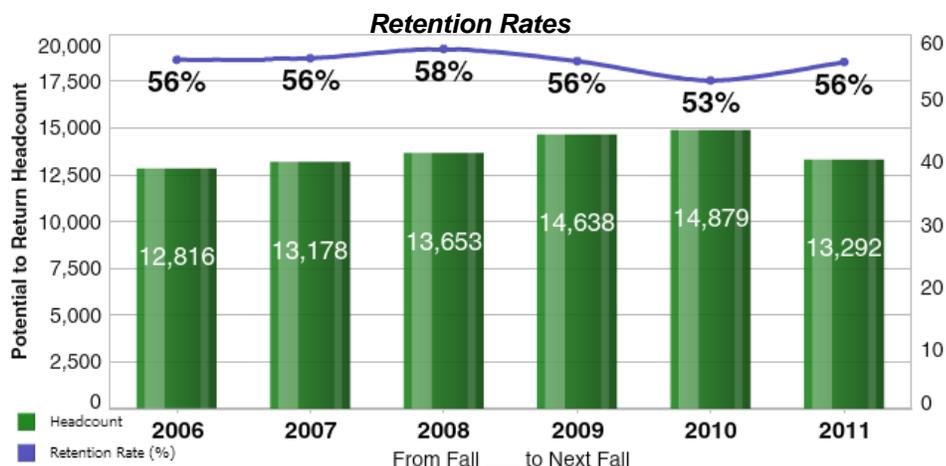
We define retention as being from fall-to-fall, and consider three numbers:

1. number of students who were matriculated at MCC in a given fall
2. number of those students who were still enrolled the next fall
3. number of students who graduated between the

first and second falls

We then calculate the "retention rate" as:

$$\#2 \div \text{the potential number of students who can return (i.e., \#1 - \#3)}$$



As shown above, from fall 2006 to 2007, 56% of students remained at MCC, which means that 44% didn't. This 44% attrition rate can be partitioned into students who trans-

ferred and students who just didn't return to MCC.

One thing to notice throughout this issue of *Inside IR* is that the retention rates dipped

from fall 2010 to 2011. This is because in fall 2011 MCC implemented a registration deadline. However, the retention rates returned to normal the following year.

Attrition Rates

| From Fall... to Fall... | # Matriculated First Fall† | Attrition Rates | | Retention Rate | Total |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|
| | | % Who Didn't Return | % Who Transferred | | |
| 2006 to 2007 | 12,816 | 34.5% | 9.6% | 55.9% | 100.0% |
| 2007 to 2008 | 13,178 | 34.0% | 9.9% | 56.1% | 100.0% |
| 2008 to 2009 | 13,653 | 31.8% | 10.6% | 57.7% | 100.1% |
| 2009 to 2010 | 14,638 | 34.1% | 10.3% | 55.7% | 100.1% |
| 2010 to 2011 | 14,879 | 37.3% | 10.2% | 52.6% | 100.1% |
| 2011 to 2012 | 13,292 | 34.4% | 10.1% | 55.5% | 100.0% |

†The potential number of students who could remain at MCC the following fall term

Retention by GPA Group

One variable that influences whether a student continues at MCC the following fall term is his/her GPA right before the second fall.

into three groups based on their GPA just prior to the second fall term, then compared their outcomes.

GPA of 2.0 or higher demonstrate much higher retention rates than their peers with a lower GPA. These differences are statistically significant.

We categorized students

As shown in the following table, the students with a

Statistical tests show that the retention rate trend is flat among students with a GPA of 0 or 2.0+. However, among students with a GPA between 0 and 2.0, the retention rate is decreasing.

Retention Rates by Earned GPA

| | | From Fall... to Fall... | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | 2006 to 2007 | 2007 to 2008 | 2008 to 2009 | 2009 to 2010 | 2010 to 2011 | 2011 to 2012 |
| GPA of 0 | Retention Rate | 10.3% | 9.6% | 10.0% | 9.7% | 7.3% | 10.9% |
| | N | 585 | 586 | 568 | 698 | 790 | 576 |
| GPA between 0 and 2.0 | Retention Rate | 38.7% | 38.1% | 37.3% | 36.3% | 30.3% | 33.5% |
| | N | 2,970 | 2,842 | 2,818 | 3,198 | 3,223 | 2,731 |
| GPA of 2.0 or higher | Retention Rate | 64.3% | 64.2% | 65.9% | 64.4% | 62.5% | 64.1% |
| | N | 9,261 | 9,750 | 10,267 | 10,742 | 10,866 | 9,985 |

Retention by Race/Ethnicity

The retention rates for all race/ethnicity groups have fluctuated since fall 2006.

Among American Indians and Pacific Islanders, the retention rates from fall 2010 to fall 2011 were among the highest. However, it's important to note that there are very few students from those groups enrolled in general.

Focusing on the 2011 to 2012 retention rates shown below, we found that Asian students had a higher retention rate than all other groups except for Pacific Islanders. This difference was statistically significant.

From fall 2010 to fall 2011, the retention rates of Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, Unknown, and Non-Resident Alien students dropped, but then increased.

Statistical tests show that the retention rate trend within all race/ethnicity groups is flat.

Retention Rates by Race/Ethnicity

| From Fall... to Fall... | | Asian | Black | Hispanic | American Indian | Non-Res. Alien | Pacific Islander | White | Unknown |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------|-------|----------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--------|---------|
| 2006 to 2007 | Retention Rate | 52.6% | 46.6% | 49.7% | 42.4% | 56.3% | 52.6% | 54.4% | 36.4% |
| | N | 483 | 2314 | 803 | 99 | 71 | 19 | 10,378 | 261 |
| 2007 to 2008 | Retention Rate | 59.1% | 47.2% | 50.1% | 51.0% | 64.9% | 33.3% | 54.4% | 37.4% |
| | N | 486 | 2458 | 835 | 98 | 57 | 15 | 10,382 | 457 |
| 2008 to 2009 | Retention Rate | 59.1% | 50.8% | 52.3% | 41.7% | 54.4% | 46.4% | 55.3% | 45.5% |
| | N | 518 | 2566 | 910 | 103 | 90 | 28 | 10,494 | 512 |
| 2009 to 2010 | Retention Rate | 62.5% | 48.1% | 49.2% | 52.5% | 57.1% | 53.0% | 53.8% | 49.1% |
| | N | 526 | 3048 | 970 | 101 | 84 | 26 | 10,786 | 566 |
| 2010 to 2011 | Retention Rate | 55.9% | 43.7% | 46.8% | 64.4% | 42.7% | 62.5% | 52.3% | 40.8% |
| | N | 544 | 3216 | 1187 | 73 | 82 | 24 | 10,543 | 76 |
| 2011 to 2012 | Retention Rate | 59.5% | 47.4% | 49.5% | 43.5% | 46.8% | 52.4% | 54.3% | 35.6% |
| | N | 494 | 2851 | 1189 | 62 | 79 | 21 | 9686 | 87 |

Retention by Educational Status

We categorize students into four types of educational status: First-Time, Transfer, Continuing, and Returning.

As shown in the following table, Transfers and Returning students appear to

have the lowest fall-to-fall retention rates. Likewise, First-Time and Continuing students appear to have the highest rates. Interestingly, these two groups make up 80% of MCC's enrollment.

When we focused on the

most recent data (i.e., the fall 2011 to 2012 column shown in the table), we found that first-time students' retention was higher than that of the three other groups. This difference was statistically significant.

First-Time Student: a student who has not been previously enrolled at any college or university since high school

Continuing Student: a student who was at MCC the previous term (either fall or spring)

Returning Student: a student who has been enrolled at MCC, but not in the previous term

Transfer Student: a student who is enrolled at MCC for the first time, but has attended another college or university previously

Statistical tests show that the retention rate trend within all educational status groups is flat.

Retention Rates by Educational Status

| Educational Status in First Fall Term | | Fall... to Fall... | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | 2006 to 2007 | 2007 to 2008 | 2008 to 2009 | 2009 to 2010 | 2010 to 2011 | 2011 to 2012 |
| First Time | Retention Rate | 60% | 59% | 62% | 60% | 54% | 59% |
| | N | 4578 | 4747 | 4891 | 5002 | 4960 | 4503 |
| Transfer | Retention Rate | 51% | 48% | 50% | 50% | 48% | 49% |
| | N | 960 | 983 | 1062 | 1190 | 1211 | 981 |
| Continuing | Retention Rate | 57% | 58% | 59% | 56% | 54% | 56% |
| | N | 6559 | 6543 | 6743 | 7189 | 7618 | 7188 |
| Returning | Retention Rate | 46% | 46% | 46% | 48% | 44% | 47% |
| | N | 2361 | 2515 | 2525 | 2726 | 2365 | 2222 |

Retention of First-Time MCC Students by High School Graduation Status & Timing

Retaining First-Time students is critical because they have the potential to become Continuing students.

We therefore explored differences in the retention rates of First-Time students in terms of their

high school graduation status and timing of MCC enrollment.

What we found was that, from fall 2011 to 2012, recent high school graduates and students who delayed entering MCC for three or more years had

similar retention rates (i.e., there wasn't a statistically significant difference).

Likewise, students who delayed entering MCC for less than three years and GED recipients had similar retention rates.

Statistical tests show that the retention rate trend within all HS graduation status groups is flat.

Retention Rates of First-Time Students in Terms of HS Grad Status & Timing

| High School Grad Status & Timing of MCC Enrollment | | From Fall... to Fall... | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | 2006 to 2007 | 2007 to 2008 | 2008 to 2009 | 2009 to 2010 | 2010 to 2011 | 2011 to 2012 |
| Recent (i.e., June) HS Graduates | Retention Rate | 65% | 64% | 66% | 64% | 58% | 63% |
| | N | 2935 | 3081 | 3377 | 3251 | 3338 | 3035 |
| HS Grads who Delayed Enrolling at MCC for 3+ Years | Retention Rate | 51% | 55% | 57% | 62% | 55% | 60% |
| | N | 5203 | 5445 | 5441 | 5997 | 6024 | 5637 |
| HS Grads who Delayed Enrolling at MCC for <3 Years | Retention Rate | 44% | 48% | 47% | 46% | 40% | 42% |
| | N | 3605 | 3749 | 3885 | 4222 | 4137 | 3663 |
| GED Recipients | Retention Rate | 42% | 39% | 46% | 43% | 44% | 41% |
| | N | 1410 | 1386 | 1429 | 1607 | 1652 | 1487 |

Retention by Sex

One variable that may influence retention rate is sex.

Female students, on average, are retained at 3.8

percentage points higher rate than male students. This difference in retention rates between the two sexes for each year is statistically significant.

This increased retention may also partially explain the higher enrollment numbers for females at MCC.

Statistical tests show that the retention rate trend for both sexes is flat.

Retention Rates by Sex

| | | From Fall... to Fall... | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | 2006 to 2007 | 2007 to 2008 | 2008 to 2009 | 2009 to 2010 | 2010 to 2011 | 2011 to 2012 |
| Males | Retention Rate | 53.4% | 54.3% | 55.9% | 54.1% | 50.5% | 53.2% |
| | N | 5,867 | 6,104 | 6,474 | 6,952 | 7,028 | 6,187 |
| Females | Retention Rate | 58.1% | 57.7% | 59.2% | 57.1% | 54.5% | 57.5% |
| | N | 6,949 | 7,074 | 7,179 | 7,686 | 7,851 | 7,105 |



For more information about the Institutional Research (IR) Office, you can visit our web pages on the MCC website or contact an IR staff member:

Angel E. Andreu, Director, 292-3031, aandreu@monroecc.edu

Amy Wright, Secretary, 292-3035, awright@monroecc.edu

Andrew Welsh, Specialist, 292-3034, awelsh4@monroecc.edu

Elina Belyablya, Specialist, 292-3033, ebelyablya@monroecc.edu

Mary Ann Matta DeMario, Specialist, 292-3032, mdemario1@monroecc.edu

There is a new link on the IR web pages: Student Consumer Information. Clicking on the link takes you to a page that shows student outcomes, health and safety data, the net price calculator, and other assessment information. Check it out!

The links to previous issues of *Inside IR* are on our homepage: <http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/research/>

www.monroecc.edu/depts/research/consumer.htm