

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
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 F07)	Fall 2007 Cohort (returning F08)	Fall 2008 Cohort (returning F09)	Fall 2009 Cohort (returning F10)	Fall 2010 Cohort (returning F11)	Fall 2011 Cohort (returning F12)	DIFF 06 - 11
MSU Bozeman	Inst.	71%	71%	72%	74%	74%	74%	2.9%
	Sys.	76%	76%	76%	78%	77%	77%	1.6%
Gallatin College MSU	Inst.					61%	74%	
	Sys.					61%	74%	
MSU Billings	Inst.	63%	57%	59%	56%	56%	56%	-7.6%
	Sys.	70%	64%	66%	61%	63%	63%	-6.5%
City College at MSUB	Inst.	52%	47%	49%	55%	49%	51%	-0.3%
	Sys.	54%	49%	52%	56%	51%	52%	-1.4%
MSU Northern (bachelor's cohort)	Inst.	59%	65%	56%	57%	58%	58%	-0.9%
	Sys.	64%	68%	60%	62%	65%	61%	-3.0%
MSU Northern (assoc. cohort)	Inst.	59%	62%	67%	65%	58%	50%	-8.7%
	Sys.	62%	69%	70%	65%	63%	55%	-7.6%
Great Falls College	Inst.	43%	53%	59%	49%	49%	54%	10.6%
	Sys.	47%	59%	66%	54%	57%	62%	14.1%
UM Missoula	Inst.	74%	73%	75%	75%	75%	76%	2.0%
	Sys.	77%	76%	79%	77%	79%	78%	1.2%
Missoula College	Inst.	58%	63%	60%	54%	52%	52%	-5.7%
	Sys.	60%	66%	63%	56%	55%	55%	-4.7%
MT Tech	Inst.	71%	70%	74%	69%	70%	69%	-2.6%
	Sys.	79%	78%	82%	76%	78%	78%	-1.1%
Highlands College of MT	Inst.	46%	42%	53%	40%	48%	53%	7.1%
	Sys.	50%	42%	60%	45%	55%	55%	5.7%
UM Western (bachelor's cohort)	Inst.	65%	69%	75%	68%	70%	75%	9.3%
	Sys.	69%	71%	79%	76%	77%	83%	13.8%
UM-Western (assoc. cohort)	Inst.	50%	50%	62%	58%	60%	55%	5.3%
	Sys.	59%	57%	66%	62%	66%	60%	0.2%
Helena College UM	Inst.	47%	58%	56%	59%	61%	55%	8.2%
	Sys.	53%	60%	62%	64%	64%	59%	6.6%
Dawson CC ⁽²⁾	Inst.	55%	61%	62%	63%	61%	41%	-13.8%
	Sys.	NA	NA	NA	NA	65%	52%	
Flathead CC ⁽³⁾	Inst.	52%	51%	56%	52%	52%	56%	3.3%
	Sys.	61%	53%	63%	55%	56%	61%	-0.8%
Miles CC ⁽²⁾	Inst.	51%	76%	67%	60%	56%	59%	8.1%
	Sys.	NA	NA	NA	NA	59%	59%	
2-year Total (system-wide retention)		54.6%	57.6%	61.7%	56.8%	56.7%	56.6%	2.1%
4-year Total (system-wide retention)		75.4%	74.5%	76.1%	75.1%	76.2%	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 & 2011 MUS Data Warehouse

(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 six 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%; the MUS 4-year college aggregate system-wide retention rate is 76%.

- Fall 2011 cohort (high) - Institutional Rate: UM Missoula 76%, UM Western 75%, MSU Bozeman 74%
- Fall 2011 cohort (low) - Institutional Rate: MSU Billings 56%, MSU Northern 58%

At 2-year colleges throughout the region the average institutional retention rate is 57%; the MUS 2-year college aggregate system-wide retention rate is 57%.

- Fall 2011 cohort (high) - Institutional Rate: Gallatin College 74%
- Fall 2011 cohort (high/middle) - Miles 59%, Flathead 56%, Helena College 55%
- Fall 2011 cohort (low) - Institutional Rate: Dawson CC 41%

Campuses that experienced the most growth in retention (both inst. and system-wide) over the past 6 years are:

- Great Falls College: +10.6% institutional; +14.1% system-wide
- UM Western (bach. cohort): +9.3% institutional; +13.8% system-wide
- Helena College: +8.2% institutional; +6.6% system-wide
- Highlands College: +7.1% institutional; +5.7% system-wide

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 2011 cohort, campuses with the widest spread between institutional and system-wide rates (i.e. the highest transfer rates) are: Dawson CC (10.3%), MT Tech (8.9%), UM Western - bach. cohort (8.4%), MSU Billings (7.7%), and Great Falls College (7.5%)