

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

Inst. = Institutional rate
 Sys. = System-wide rate⁽¹⁾
 (i.e. includes transfers)

		Fall 2005 Cohort (returning Fall 06)	Fall 2006 Cohort (returning Fall 07)	Fall 2007 Cohort (returning Fall 08)	Fall 2008 Cohort (returning Fall 09)	Fall 2009 Cohort (returning Fall 10)	5 Year Trend
MSU-Bozeman	Inst.	71%	71%	71%	72%	74%	↑
	Sys.	75%	76%	76%	76%	78%	
MSU-Billings	Inst.	60%	63%	57%	59%	56%	↓
	Sys.	66%	70%	64%	66%	61%	
MSU-Billings COT	Inst.	48%	52%	47%	49%	55%	↑
	Sys.	52%	54%	49%	52%	56%	
MSU-Northern (bachelor's cohort)	Inst.	64%	59%	65%	56%	57%	↓
	Sys.	72%	64%	68%	60%	62%	
MSU-Northern (associate's cohort)	Inst.	56%	59%	62%	67%	65%	↑
	Sys.	61%	62%	69%	70%	65%	
MSU-Great Falls COT	Inst.	48%	43%	53%	59%	49%	↑
	Sys.	53%	47%	59%	66%	54%	
UM-Missoula	Inst.	74%	74%	73%	75%	75%	↑
	Sys.	77%	77%	76%	79%	77%	
UM-Missoula COT	Inst.	54%	58%	63%	60%	54%	→
	Sys.	55%	60%	66%	63%	56%	
MT Tech	Inst.	68%	71%	70%	74%	69%	↑
	Sys.	77%	79%	78%	82%	76%	
MT Tech COT	Inst.	45%	46%	42%	53%	40%	↓
	Sys.	49%	50%	42%	60%	45%	
UM-Western (bachelor's cohort)	Inst.	58%	65%	69%	75%	68%	↑
	Sys.	66%	69%	71%	79%	76%	
UM-Western (associate's cohort)	Inst.	60%	50%	50%	62%	58%	↓
	Sys.	67%	59%	57%	66%	62%	
UM Helena COT	Inst.	53%	47%	58%	56%	59%	↑
	Sys.	57%	53%	60%	62%	64%	
Dawson CC ⁽²⁾	Inst.	58%	55%	61%	62%	NA	↑
	Sys.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Flathead CC ⁽³⁾	Inst.	NA	52%	51%	56%	52%	→
	Sys.	NA	61%	53%	63%	55%	
Miles CC ⁽²⁾	Inst.	77%	51%	76%	67%	NA	↓
	Sys.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
2-year Total (w/o CC's) (system-wide retention)		54.6%	54.6%	57.6%	61.7%	56.8%	↑
4-year Total (system-wide retention)		74.6%	75.4%	74.5%	76.1%	75.1%	↑

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 (CC's not included)

(2) DCC & MCC data comes from IPEDS; future cohorts will be tracked using the 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 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 76%.

- For the Fall 2009 cohort, institutional retention rates in the MUS are as high as 74% at MSU-Bozeman and UM-Missoula, and as low as 56% at MSU-Billings.

At 2-year colleges throughout the region the average institutional retention rate is 60%.

- For the Fall 2009 cohort, institutional retention rates in the MUS are as high as 65% at MSU-Northern (assoc. cohort) and as low as 40% at MT Tech COT.
- Rates for the Fall 2008 cohort at Miles CC, Dawson CC, UM-Western (associate's cohort), and MSU-Northern (associate's cohort) are all above 60%.

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

- UM Western (bachelor's cohort): +9.6% institutional; +9.8% system-wide
- UM Helena COT: +6.3% institutional; +7.1% system-wide
- MSU Northern (associate's cohort): +8.8% institutional; +3.9% 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 2009 cohort, campuses with the widest spread between institutional and system-wide rates (i.e. the highest transfer rates) are UM Western (8.3%) and MT Tech (6.5%).