

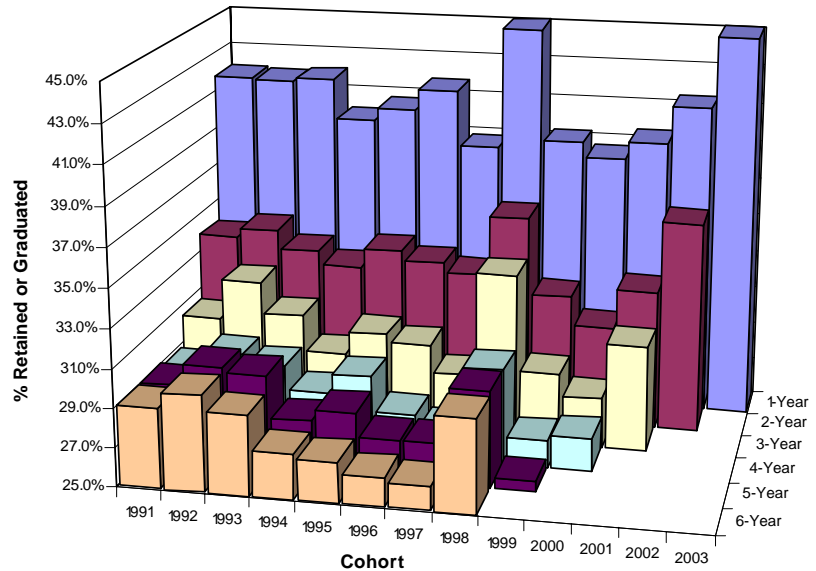
Trends in Persistence of Readmitted Students, 1991 - 2003

Updated by Carole Anderson

Trends in Persistence and Graduation:

- Year-to-year variations in the rates are sometimes considerable, and may conceal general trends over time.
- The five-year persistence rate for readmitted students has increased significantly since the 1985 cohort, from 27.4% to 29.6%.
- Persistence rates after six years also increased significantly, from 26.2% to 29.6%.
- The percentage of students who graduate within five years after readmission has increased from 17.3% to 19.6%.
- The six-year graduation rate has also increased significantly, from 19.5% to 22.3%.

Standardized Persistence Rates by Readmission Cohort



Change in Cohort Composition:

- Between 1985 and 1997, there was an increase in the number of freshmen and seniors relative to total cohort size.
- The proportion of the cohorts comprised of non-degree students decreased.

The Fine Print: This factsheet reports changes over time in persistence statistics for undergraduate students returning the University of Memphis after not enrolling for at least one spring or fall term. Students are examined in cohorts determined by the first term in which they

returned to the U. of M., and only those who were readmitted in the fall term are considered. A student who dropped out and returned more than once might be counted in more than one readmission cohort. Each student's enrollment is followed for six years (or given year the most recent year available) after any readmission term. A student who enrolled for classes in the fall term of a given year is said to have been retained for that year. Graduation rates shown are cumulative. The term "persistence" is used here to refer to combined retention and graduation. The significance of trends is evaluated using simple linear regression.

Standardization of Rates: Students can be readmitted to the U. of M. at different levels, and persistence varies according to the level at which the student returned. For example, readmitted non-degree students typically have lower retention rates than students who return to degree programs. As a result, if all other factors are equal, a cohort that consists of lots of non-degree students will have lower persistence rates than a cohort with fewer undeclared majors. To control for the effects of different cohort compositions, rates reported here have been standardized (by applying the class-specific rates for each cohort to the class distribution of the 1990 cohort of readmitted students.) As a result, the rates in this report should not be taken at face value, but the relationships among the rates over the years are a more accurate reflection of actual trends in retention than would be expressed using crude rates.

Cohort	Standardized Graduation and Persistence Rates for Readmitted Students: 1991 - 2003											
	Graduation						Combined Retention and Graduation					
	Years since Readmission											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
1991	2.0%	5.5%	11.1%	15.7%	20.7%	22.0%	41.8%	34.0%	30.5%	28.8%	29.1%	29.1%
1992	1.4%	6.0%	11.8%	18.0%	20.7%	22.6%	41.7%	34.5%	32.6%	29.8%	30.2%	29.9%
1993	1.6%	5.7%	13.7%	17.6%	20.0%	22.6%	41.9%	33.5%	30.9%	29.3%	30.0%	29.1%
1994	1.9%	7.4%	10.7%	14.8%	18.4%	21.0%	39.8%	32.7%	29.0%	28.1%	27.8%	27.3%
1995	3.1%	5.6%	11.0%	15.3%	18.5%	20.9%	40.4%	33.7%	30.3%	29.1%	28.4%	27.1%
1996	1.1%	4.5%	10.8%	15.2%	17.7%	19.9%	41.6%	33.2%	29.8%	27.2%	27.1%	26.5%
1997	1.4%	4.9%	10.3%	15.0%	18.2%	19.8%	38.7%	32.7%	28.4%	26.6%	27.1%	26.3%
1998	1.6%	5.9%	11.2%	16.8%	20.9%	22.9%	45.1%	35.8%	33.8%	29.9%	30.0%	29.8%
1999	1.7%	5.2%	11.2%	15.5%	17.5%		39.2%	31.8%	28.7%	26.4%	25.6%	
2000	1.7%	4.6%	9.0%	13.1%			38.4%	30.2%	27.6%	26.7%		
2001	1.4%	5.4%	9.3%				39.3%	32.3%	30.5%			
2002	1.5%	5.1%					41.3%	36.0%				
2003	1.5%						46.9%					
Total	1.7%	5.5%	11.0%	15.8%	19.3%	21.5%	41.2%	33.4%	30.3%	28.3%	28.5%	28.2%

* Standardized rates should be used only for comparison between cohorts.