

## How Do First-Time, Full-Time, Degree-Seeking Students Fare at Hudson County Community College?

Among the measures colleges and universities use to assess student progress are retention, graduation, transfer and success rates. To do this, these institutions track their first-time, full-time students by cohorts – specific groups of students established for tracking purposes. Cohorts are based on the Fall semester in which a first-time, full-time, degree-seeking student begins their degree or certificate program at the College.

### FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME RETENTION

The first-time, full-time Fall-to-Spring retention rates at the College have consistently been over 74% for the Fall 2013 to Fall 2016 cohorts. This means that at least 74% of the first-time, full-time students who started in Fall re-enrolled for classes the following Spring semester. Additionally, in the past five years, the Fall-to-Fall retention rate has been over 50% – at least half of the students were still taking classes one year after first starting studies at HCCC.

**Figure 4-1. 5-Year Comparison: First-Time, Full-Time Fall Freshman Retention\*, 2012-2016**

Enrolled Initial Fall Cohort	Full-Time First-Time, Degree-Seeking Students				
	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016
	2,114	2,106	1,987	1,896	1,611
<b>1 Semester (Fall to Spring)</b>					
# Enrolled	1,537	1,574	1,489	1,423	1,200
% Enrolled	72.71%	74.74%	74.94%	75.05%	74.49%
<b>2 Semesters (1 Year)</b>					
# Enrolled	1,094	1,182	1,118	1,057	928
% Enrolled	51.75%	56.13%	56.27%	55.75%	57.60%
<b>3 Semesters</b>					
# Enrolled	850	985	884	878	
% Enrolled	40.21%	46.77%	44.49%	46.31%	
<b>4 Semesters (2 Year)</b>					
# Enrolled	699	791	688	721	
% Enrolled	40.21%	46.77%	44.49%	46.31%	
<b>5 Semesters</b>					
# Enrolled	545	590	558		
% Enrolled	25.78%	28.02%	28.08%		
<b>6 Semesters (3 Year)</b>					
# Enrolled	358	365	378		
% Enrolled	16.93%	17.33%	19.02%		

Source: Hudson 10<sup>th</sup> Day Data

**FIRST-TIME, PART-TIME RETENTION**

Even though colleges focus mainly on first-time, full-time retention rates, Hudson County Community College also tracks retention rates for its first-time, part-time students since at least 40% of our students have taken classes part-time over the past five years.

For first-time, part-time students in the Fall 2012 to Fall 2016 cohorts, at least 54% of our students re-enrolled the Spring semester following their first Fall term at HCCC. At least 38% of HCCC students returned the following Fall after their first semester at the College.

**Figure 4-2. 5-Year Comparison: First-Time, Part-Time Fall Freshman Retention\*, 2012-2016**

Enrolled Initial Fall Cohort	Part-Time First-Time, Degree-Seeking Students				
	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016
	467	476	432	387	387
<b>1 Semester (Fall to Spring)</b>					
# Enrolled	264	270	244	218	209
% Enrolled	56.53%	56.72%	56.48%	56.33%	54.01%
<b>2 Semesters (1 Year)</b>					
# Enrolled	187	203	171	148	161
% Enrolled	40.04%	42.65%	39.58%	38.24%	41.60%
<b>3 Semesters</b>					
# Enrolled	148	155	125	108	
% Enrolled	31.69%	32.56%	28.94%	27.91%	
<b>4 Semesters (2 Year)</b>					
# Enrolled	113	129	97	100	
% Enrolled	24.20%	27.10%	22.45%	25.84%	
<b>5 Semesters</b>					
# Enrolled	104	106	91		
% Enrolled	22.27%	22.27%	21.06%		
<b>6 Semesters (3 Year)</b>					
# Enrolled	66	77	69		
% Enrolled	14.13%	16.18%	15.97%		

Source: Hudson 10<sup>th</sup> Day Data

## GRADUATION, TRANSFER, AND OVERALL SUCCESS RATES

Three other measures used to assess student progress are graduation, transfer, and overall success rates.

Here's how these rates are determined:

- Graduation rates represent the percentages calculated by the number of first-time, full-time students who are awarded a degree or certificate within three years of their first term divided by their initial Fall cohort's total number of students.
- Transfer rates are the percentages calculated by the number of first-time, full-time students who have transferred to a four-year institution within three years of their first Fall term at HCCC divided by their initial Fall cohort's total number of students.
- Overall success rates are the percentages calculated by adding a Fall cohort's graduation and transfer rates.

To provide some context for the rates in the table below, HCCC students entering the College often need to take remediation or ESL courses before moving onto college-level academic programs. This is a challenge that institutions serving urban areas often encounter. While preparatory courses are necessary and beneficial for students' long-term academic success, remedial and prep courses cause students to take longer in completing their programs, and impacts the College's graduation, transfer, and overall success rate calculations.

**Figure 4-3. Graduation, Transfer\*, and Success Rates: Cohort Comparison, Fall 2010-Fall 2014**

	Initial Fall Cohort	3-Year Graduation		Transfer		Overall Success	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fall 2010	2,636	235	9%	351	13%	586	22%
Fall 2011	2,130	185	9%	292	14%	477	23%
Fall 2012	2,114	211	10%	161	8%	372	18%
Fall 2013	2,106	201	10%	168	8%	369	18%
Fall 2014	1,987	199	10%	240	12%	439	22%

Source: Graduation Survey

\* Transfer students did not graduate at HCCC, but transferred to another institution before August 31<sup>st</sup> (e.g. For the Fall 2010 Cohort, students who transferred before August 31, 2013)