

Report on the Retention of the Fall 2009 First-Time Full-Time Freshman Cohort to Fall 2010

The fall 2009 first-time full-time freshmen (FT/FT) cohort retention rate of 75% was the second highest in our history. The fall 2008 cohort had the highest retention to the second year rate of any cohort in UMass Boston history. Its return rate of 77.2% was about 2.5% better than that of the 2007 cohort, the previous highest. Details of the retention of the 2009 cohort by gender and by race/ethnicity are presented in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Fall 2009 Cohort Retention to the Second Year

Group	Number Enrolled 2009	Number Returning 2010	Retention Rate	Change from 2008
Women	544	409	75.2%	-1.1%
Men	392	293	74.7%	-3.8%
Native Am - Alaskan	3	3	100.0%	20.0%
Asian/Pac Islander	144	122	84.7%	3.1%
Black NH	112	90	80.4%	-6.6%
Cape Verdean	11	9	81.8%	-11.0%
Hispanic/Latino	124	97	78.2%	2.2%
International	29	24	82.8%	-7.4%
Unknown - Did Not Wish to Report	82	63	76.8%	-7.8%
White NH	431	294	68.2%	-2.2%
Total	936	702	75.0%	-2.2%

The retention rates by gender and by race/ethnicity were similar to 2008. Men had roughly the same retention rate as women in both 2008 and 2009 after years of trailing them significantly. Asians, Black non-Hispanics, Cape Verdeans, and International students all had rates above 80% in both years. White non-Hispanics continued to have the lowest retention rate among the racial/ethnic groups and actually fell below 70% for the first time since 2005. Hispanics had the second lowest rate among the larger racial/ethnic groups at 78.2% but were still 10% higher than White non-Hispanics.

Most of the fall in the retention rate is because an additional group of incoming first time full time students was included as part of the official cohort when they had not been previously. In fall 2007 and fall 2008, a number of other new first time students were brought into UMass Boston, but as Transitions Program certificate seeking students rather than as members of the degree seeking cohort. Therefore, they were not included as part of the FT/FT cohort in those years, and were not included in the calculations for

our official retention rate. This changed in the fall of 2009 when we included the 62 first time full time Transitions students as part of the cohort. Including them had an adverse impact on our retention rate because of the 62 Transitions students entering as FT/FT in fall 2009, only 31 (50%) returned for the second year. This rate is similar to the rates for the Transitions certificate students in 2007 and 2008 when 51% and 30% respectively returned for the second year.

Without the Transitions students, our retention rate would have still dropped slightly from the 2008 rate of 77.2% rate to 76.8%. The Integrated Postsecondary Data System (IPEDS) reports the percentage as rounded to the nearest whole percentage point, so 2008 and 2009 would both have appeared in IPEDS reports as 77%. The details for the 2009 cohort by gender and by race/ethnicity with the differences from 2008 to the 2009 cohort appear in Table 2, below.

Table 2: Fall 2009 Cohort Retention to the Second Year without Transitions

Group	Number Enrolled 2009	Number Returning 2010	Retention Rate	Change from 2008
Women	519	398	76.7%	0.4%
Men	355	273	76.9%	-1.6%
Native Am - Alaskan	2	2	100.0%	20.0%
Asian/Pac Islander	139	119	85.6%	3.9%
Black NH	107	89	83.2%	-3.7%
Cape Verdean	10	9	90.0%	-2.9%
Hispanic/Latino	118	93	78.8%	2.8%
International	28	23	82.1%	-8.1%
Unknown - Did Not Wish to Report	73	56	76.7%	-7.9%
White NH	397	280	70.5%	0.1%
Total	874	671	76.8%	-0.4%

A six-year graduation report for the 2004 cohort will be forthcoming in November after all of the August degrees have been entered, but it appears that it will be the highest graduation rate in UMass Boston history at around 40%.