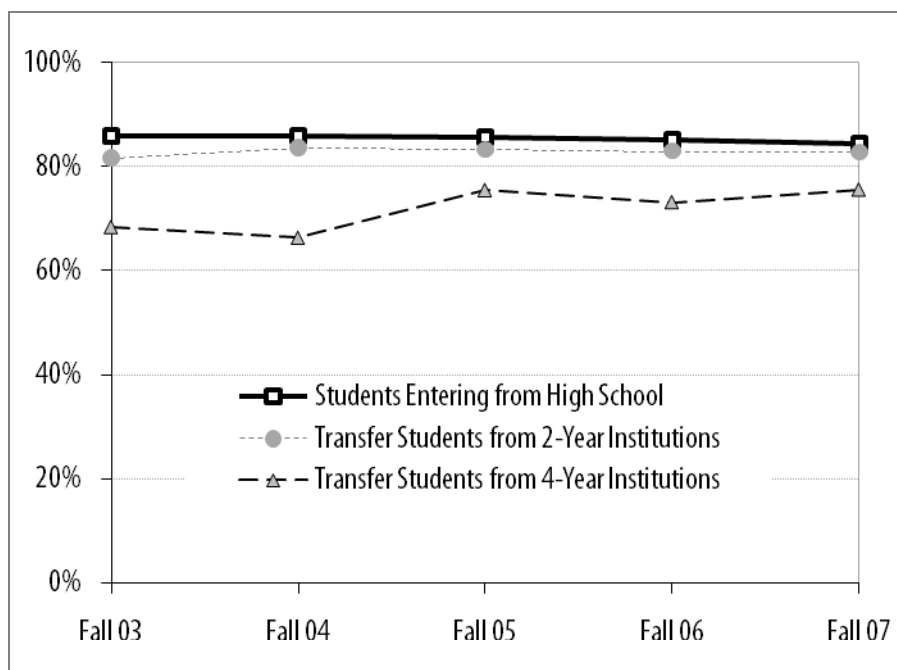


UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION

Retention within higher education institutions is an important barometer of steady progress towards a degree. While many students stay at one institution from initial enrollment to graduation, others attend multiple institutions; so what is needed are across-institution as well as within-institution retention data. In its current form, this Education Indicator measures first to second year retention within Washington public four-year higher education as a whole. Once data linkages are established with community and technical colleges, it will expand to become a global indicator of student retention within all sectors of public higher education in Washington.

FALL-TO-FALL RETENTION RATE FOR ENTERING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WASHINGTON PUBLIC 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS



RELATED DATA:

UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION*	Fall 2002	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
All Students	83.3%	82.9%	83.6%	84.1%	83.5%	83.0%
Students entering from high school	85.3%	85.9%	85.9%	85.8%	85.3%	84.5%
All transfer students	81.2%	79.1%	80.8%	82.0%	81.5%	81.5%
Students transferring from two-year institutions	83.9%	81.6%	83.7%	83.3%	83.0%	82.8%
Students transferring from four-year institutions	68.1%	68.4%	66.4%	75.5%	73.2%	75.6%

*Students still enrolled in a Washington public four-year institution one year after initial enrollment

DEFINITION:

The one-year within-system retention rate for undergraduates in the 4-year Washington public higher education system is the percent of under-graduate students who are still enrolled (either continuously or non-continuously) in a 4-year Washington public higher education institution during the fall term 1 year after an initial fall enrollment at the same or at another 4-year Washington public higher education institution.

DISCUSSION:

Over the last five years, within-institution retention rates (and, by extension, across-institution retention rates as well) for students enrolled in Washington public four-year higher education have exceeded the national average. One-year retention rates have been highest for full-time students (as compared to part-time students), for students entering from high school or transferring from community and technical colleges (as compared to students who transfer from independent or non-Washington four-year institutions), and for Asian students (as compared to students in all other race/ethnic groups).

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

**UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION RATES AND SIZE OF ORIGINAL COHORT BY RACE AND ETHNICITY
(Percent and number of students returning in subsequent fall)**

	Fall 2003		Fall 2004		Fall 2005		Fall 2006		Fall 2007	
All New Students	83%	21,470	83%	22,152	84%	21,708	84%	21,273	83%	22,783
American Indian or Alaska Native*	78%	375	84%	428	79%	349	85%	333	77%	427
Asian*	89%	2,197	89%	2,499	89%	2,189	89%	2,300	89%	2,648
Black/African-American*	83%	475	80%	634	83%	546	83%	528	81%	679
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander*	84%	99	80%	115	82%	97	92%	79	74%	137
White*	83%	14,697	83%	14,911	84%	14,916	84%	14,740	83%	15,331
Hispanic/Latino**	81%	939	83%	1,222	85%	1,044	86%	1,074	82%	938

*Figures include both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic students

**Hispanic/Latino students may be of any race

SOURCE: Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES)