

Retention Rates
Basic Tables
Fall 2019 to Fall 2020

September 16, 2020

Wartburg College
Office of Enrollment Management

This report summarizes the retention of full-time 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year students from the 2019-20 year to Fall, 2020. The retention base consisted of 1114 students enrolled full time in Fall 2019, Winter 2020, or both. All full-time students from the 2019-20 year who were expected to return in Fall 2020 were included in the base. **Excluded from the base** were the following: (a) 4Y students in 2019-20 who did not graduate; however students with 4Y status who, based on their cohort designation or expected graduation date, would be expected to return in 2020-21 were included in the base; (b) exited students on military service or church mission leave; (c) deceased or disabled students; and (d) those who left on schedule for a cooperative degree program, or graduated, unless the student graduated in fewer than eight terms. A student was counted as returned if he or she was enrolled either part-time or full-time in Fall 2020.

Table 1. Overall Retention Rate Summary and Rates by Gender and Year in School

		Fall 2020	Fall 2019	Fall 2018	Fall 2017	Fall 2016	Fall 2015	Fall 2014	Fall 2013	Fall 2012	Fall 2011	Fall 2010	Fall 2009
COUNTS:	Returned	1009	1054	964	1002	955	1085	1106	1160	1142	1192	1175	1176
	Base	1152	1210	1128	1140	1103	1250	1300	1321	1342	1353	1372	1356
(1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Yr) Total Retention		87.6%	87.1%	85.5%	87.9%	86.6%	86.8%	85.1%	87.8%	85.1%	88.1%	85.6%	86.7%
By Gender:													
	Men	85.8%	85.3%	83.9%	86.5%	86.3%	83.3%	84.1%	85.8%	83.3%	85.9%	82.2%	85.2%
	Women	89.0%	88.7%	86.9%	89.2%	86.9%	90.2%	85.9%	89.7%	86.7%	90.1%	88.8%	88.1%
By Class¹:													
	1 st Year	80.2%	75.3%	79.0%	78.2%	78.7%	75.9%	71.7%	77.8%	73.3%	78.5%	75.4%	80.2%
	2 nd Year	87.2%	89.0%	84.5%	89.9%	86.2%	88.2%	87.6%	90.0%	89.8%	91.5%	89.0%	86.8%
	3 rd Year	94.7%	97.9%	93.9%	95.9%	94.2%	97.7%	96.7%	97.6%	94.9%	95.8%	94.3%	94.8%
By Class¹ and Gender:													
	1 st Year Men	80.7%	72.9%	75.1%	76.2%	79.0%	70.0%	71.4%	75.2%	73.0%	75.0%	71.4%	79.8%
	1 st Year Women	79.8%	77.5%	82.6%	79.9%	78.4%	82.4%	71.9%	80.7%	73.7%	81.9%	79.4%	80.6%
	2 nd Year Men	84.3%	87.2%	87.3%	88.7%	84.9%	84.9%	86.0%	88.8%	86.6%	89.5%	86.0%	82.1%
	2 nd Year Women	89.6%	90.6%	82.1%	91.1%	87.6%	89.4%	89.2%	91.0%	92.5%	93.3%	91.6%	90.9%
	3 rd Year Men	93.5%	98.0%	90.6%	95.4%	95.2%	96.5%	97.2%	96.8%	93.0%	95.5%	92.2%	95.3%
	3 rd Year Women	95.6%	97.7%	96.8%	96.7%	93.3%	98.7%	96.3%	98.2%	96.5%	96.1%	96.0%	94.2%

¹ Class denotes classification status in the base year, AY 2019-20. Students are classified as 1st year, 2nd year, or 3rd year based upon their cumulative credits earned at the start of the base year. Some students do not advance their classification even though they have been enrolled continuously; others achieve advanced standing through testing, summer enrollment, or overloads.

Table 2. Cohort Tracking of Persistence Rates for New Full-Time First-Year Students (through 6-yr grad rates).

Fall Entry	Cohort Size	Return 2 nd yr.	Return 3 rd yr.	Return 4 th yr.	Graduates			
					3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years
1979	315	235 (75%)	200 (63%)	181 (57%)		143 (45%)	171 (54%)	
1980	320	240 (75%)	205 (64%)	189 (59%)		156 (49%)	177 (55%)	
1981	283	212 (75%)	169 (60%)	161 (57%)		121 (43%)	150 (53%)	
1982	310	245 (79%)	203 (65%)	192 (62%)		152 (49%)	176 (57%)	
1983	338	242 (72%)	198 (59%)	194 (57%)		165 (49%)	187 (55%)	190 (56%)
1984	373	293 (79%)	250 (67%)	234 (63%)		204 (55%)	232 (62%)	235 (63%)
1985	363	282 (78%)	254 (70%)	241 (66%)		197 (54%)	230 (63%)	232 (64%)
1986	335	253 (76%)	221 (66%)	211 (63%)		173 (52%)	204 (61%)	211 (63%)
1987	307	244 (80%)	219 (71%)	206 (67%)		180 (59%)	201 (66%)	205 (67%)
1988	344	257 (75%)	226 (66%)	216 (63%)		170 (49%)	201 (58%)	207 (60%)
1989	390	294 (75%)	265 (68%)	250 (64%)		216 (55%)	247 (63%)	249 (64%)
1990	370	262 (71%)	223 (60%)	201 (54%)		182 (49%)	200 (54%)	204 (55%)
1991	381	298 (78%)	257 (68%)	233 (61%)		206 (54%)	231 (61%)	234 (61%)
1992	375	287 (77%)	252 (67%)	233 (62%)		199 (53%)	231 (62%)	233 (62%)
1993	345	277 (80%)	240 (70%)	233 (68%)		204 (59%)	226 (66%)	227 (66%)
1994	316	279 (88%)	243 (77%)	230 (73%)		212 (67%)	232 (73%)	232 (73%)
1995	358	295 (82%)	268 (75%)	253 (71%)		231 (65%)	252 (70%)	255 (71%)
1996	406	327 (81%)	297 (73%)	291 (72%)		263 (65%)	286 (70%)	287 (71%)
1997	383	324 (85%)	284 (74%)	272 (71%)		256 (67%)	272 (71%)	274 (72%)
1998	406	314 (77%)	281 (69%)	264 (65%)		237 (58%)	257 (63%)	259 (64%)
1999	411	328 (80%)	293 (71%)	276 (67%)		255 (62%)	277 (67%)	278 (68%)
2000	491	370 (75%)	331 (67%)	307 (63%)		282 (57%)	311 (63%)	314 (64%)
2001	461	355 (77%)	347 (75%)	322 (70%)		280 (61%)	308 (67%)	310 (67%)
2002	511	396 (77%)	345 (68%)	326 (64%)		296 (58%)	321 (63%)	322 (63%)
2003	503	405 (81%)	368 (73%)	352 (70%)		306 (61%)	318 (63%)	324 (64%)
2004	498	381 (77%)	333 (67%)	320 (64%)		287 (58%)	309 (62%)	315 (63%)
2005	518	379 (73%)	339 (65%)	333 (64%)		307 (59%)	325 (63%)	327 (63%)
2006	504	407 (81%)	348 (69%)	332 (66%)		300 (60%)	327 (65%)	329 (65%)
2007	545	412 (76%)	362 (66%)	340 (62%)		320 (59%)	339 (62%)	340 (62%)
2008	514	419 (82%)	373 (73%)	356 (69%)	6 (1%)	331 (64%)	357 (70%)	363 (71%)
2009	480	378 (79%)	345 (72%)	334 (70%)	12 (3%)	313 (65%)	330 (69%)	332 (69%)
2010	484	390 (81%)	349 (72%)	328 (68%)	8 (2%)	317 (66%)	332 (69%)	334 (69%)
2011	510	385 (76%)	347 (68%)	341 (67%)	11 (2%)	303 (60%)	330 (65%)	334 (65%)
2012 ^a	483	390 (81%)	340 (70%)	332 (69%)	7 (1%)	302 (63%)	321 (67%)	325 (67%)
2013 ^a	451	334 (74%)	296 (66%)	288 (64%)	11 (2%)	261 (58%)	278 (62%)	279 (62%)
2014	464	369 (80%)	328 (71%)	322 (69%)	8 (2%)	300 (65%)	317 (68%)	317 (68%)
2015 ^a	366	291 (80%)	270 (74%)	258 (71%)	13 (4%)	231 (64%)	253 (70%)	
2016 ^a	445	349 (79%)	308 (70%)	304 (69%)	2 (<1%)	275 (62%)		
2017 ^a	451	355 (79%)	321 (72%)	301 (67%)	5 (<1%)			
2018 ^a	469	365 (78%)	327 (70%)					
2019	397	327 (83%)						
2020	469							

^a In this Fall 2020 retention report, the base count for these cohorts is adjusted for: (a) armed forces leave, (b) church mission leave, and (c) non-graduating deceased students. Adjusted base counts for Fall 2020 are: 2015- 364; 2016- 442; 2017- 449; 2018- 466; 2019- 395.

Note: Students who started in a cohort and continue to be enrolled as either part-time or full-time students are included in these persistence counts. Students who graduated in less than 4 years are included as “returning” in the 4-year persistence counts.

Table 3. Retention Rates by General Categories of Diversity and Class

	Fall 2020 Counts ¹	Fall 2020	Fall 2019	Fall 2018	Fall 2017	Fall 2016	Fall 2015	Fall 2014	Fall 2013	Fall 2012	Fall 2011	Fall 2010
White American	788/899	87.7	88.4	87.6	89.5	88.2	90.5	89.3	90.8	87.2	90.9	85.6
1Y	222/278	79.9	78.0	82.2	80.7	81.0	82.2	79.4	82.4	76.5	81.6	79.2
2Y	243/280	86.8	89.2	86.0	90.0	87.5	90.5	88.9	92.6	90.1	92.6	90.2
3Y	281/294	95.6	98.0	94.9	96.7	94.7	98.1	97.8	97.7	95.6	98.6	95.1
American Diversity²	130/154	84.4	76.7	75.0	79.1	80.9	72.8	65.6	76.6	71.0	73.5	68.0
1Y	40/53	75.5	56.7	66.2	64.9	77.8	61.8	47.2	65.2	57.3	69.6	53.3
2Y	40/45	88.9	83.1	81.1	87.2	79.6	76.2	80.0	77.8	83.6	82.5	80.0
3Y	44/50	88.0	95.6	83.3	95.7	86.5	93.9	86.2	97.1	88.0	73.5	85.0
Ethnicity Not Given	11/13	84.6	94.1	82.5	84.2	78.7	86.7	91.7	100.0	87.5	60.0	80.8
1Y	2/4	50	66.7	57.1	66.7	72.4	66.7	100	100	100	50.0	74.1
2Y	3/3	100	100	62.5	90.9	88.9	100	100	100	100	75.0	100
3Y	5/5	100	100	95.5	80.0	88.9	100	66.7	100	84.2	50.0	76.9
International	80/86	93.0	92.6	85.9	90.5	84.7	76.2	76.3	76.0	84.9	84.1	82.3
1Y	28/29	96.6	86.5	81.6	86.4	69.0	61.0	64.6	63.9	74.1	71.9	73.5
2Y	27/31	87.1	96.8	82.8	92.3	84.2	84.4	83.8	84.2	100	92.3	81.5
3Y	25/26	96.2	100	96.0	96.0	100	96.2	97.0	95.5	100	91.7	100

¹ Starting in Fall 2011, ethnic codes use the new IPEDS ethnic classifications which may alter category counts somewhat.

² Includes all American ethnic categories: Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, Multiracial, and Pacific Islander.

Table 4. Retention by Intercollegiate Athletic Participation¹ and by Gender & Class

	Fall 2020	Fall 2019*	Fall 2018	Fall 2017	Fall 2016	Fall 2015		Fall '20 Counts	Fall 2020	Fall 2019*	Fall 2018	Fall 2017	Fall 2016	Fall 2015	
Non-Athletes	86.1	88.1	82.6	84.8	83.1	85.1	Female	1 Y Non-Athletes	109/137	79.6	77.3	78.3	75.7	72.5	77.7
Athletes	89.9	85.7	90.5	92.8	91.6	89.3		1 Y Athletes	45/56	80.4	77.9	96.4	94.0	87.7	92.0
								2 Y Non-Athletes	119/136	87.5	89.9	80.3	88.0	83.0	90.9
								2 Y Athletes	54/57	94.7	92.1	87.5	96.6	97.0	91.1
Male Non-Athletes	82.6	87.2	79.3	82.5	81.7	80.2		3 Y Non-Athletes	141/150	94.0	97.1	97.3	96.2	92.6	97.7
Male Athletes	88.6	83.8	88.8	90.3	90.6	85.9		3 Y Athletes	55/55	100	100	95.6	100	95.7	100
							Females Total		561/630	89.0	88.7	86.9	89.2	86.9	90.2
Female Non-Athletes	87.9	88.6	84.7	86.2	83.9	88.1	Male	1 Y Non-Athletes	55/72	76.4	76.9	71.6	73.7	72.8	65.1
								1 Y Athletes	83/99	83.8	70.4	79.6	78.7	85.2	74.0
								2 Y Non-Athletes	58/74	78.4	87.0	81.0	81.6	78.9	85.9
								2 Y Athletes	82/92	89.1	87.5	93.7	95.2	89.7	87.8
Female Athletes	92.0	88.9	93.4	97.0	93.2	95.5		3 Y Non-Athletes	80/87	92.0	97.3	86.6	92.6	93.1	92.7
								3 Y Athletes	79/83	95.2	98.6	94.4	97.1	97.5	99.0
							Males Total		448/522	85.8	85.3	83.9	86.5	86.3	83.3

¹ A student was counted as an athlete if he or she was on the roster for an intercollegiate sport at the time that athletic eligibility was determined. 3Y includes both 3Y-4Y and retained 4Ys.

*There is reason to believe that the athletic roster data for 2018-2019 were flawed. Therefore, the retention calculations may not be accurate.

Table 5. Summary of Exit Reasons for Fall Non-returning Students

Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Exit Reason
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	Academic Advising
15	5	5	5	9	6	6	Academic Performance
0	1	2	1	0	0	0	Academic Dismissal
4	2	10	3	7	3	7	Academic program (dissatisfaction)
4	5	10	8	5	16	10	Athletics (dissatisfaction and/or injury)
						6	COVID-19*
4	3	3	4	0	0	3	Administrative withdrawal; enrollment management
2	1	1	1	1	0	0	Faculty
14	15	7	5	7	11	1	Administrative withdrawal; finances
0	2	1	0	0	0	0	Too close to home
27	10	10	13	8	13	13	Too far from home
34	22	15	10	6	15	18	Financial
3	6	5	8	3	2	5	Fit
4	7	8	17	10	16	10	Health
10	11	6	6	15	10	23	Leave of Absence
							COVID-19 (8)
							Financial (5)
							Health (4)
							Athletic Eligibility (2)*
							Left for job in field (2)
							Too far from home (1)
							Fit (1)
						1	Left for job in field
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Too liberal
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Too homogenous
10	18	10	6	21	10	13	Major not available
15	11	13	9	14	11	5	Personal
6	4	6	8	14	10	5	Residential Life
10	12	11	13	7	5	8	Too small
1	1	1	0	2	1	3	Student Life Suspension
28	23	16	21	31	25	6	Academic Suspension
0	2	1	0	0	0	0	Transfer
						1	Unclear career goals*
2	3	7	0	1	0	0	Unknown
194	165	148	138	163	155	143	TOTAL

*Added in 2020

Table 6. Retention of In-State vs. Out-of-State Students (Includes International Students)

	Fall 2020 Counts	Fall 2020	Fall 2019	Fall 2018	Fall 2017
In-State	638/734	86.9%	87.6%	87.1%	87.9%
Out-of-State	295/338	87.3%	86.3%	82.8%	87.9%