

## Year to Year Persistence for First-time, Full-time Degree-seeking First-Year Students

**Question:** What is the rate at which first-year students who begin their study as first-time, full-time degree-seeking students return to higher education (or persist) the following year? Does this rate vary by sector or by institution?

**Why look at year to year persistence?** Many factors could determine whether a first-time, full-time degree-seeking student is still enrolled one year later. A full-time degree-seeking student may:

- Stop out of higher education due to economic reasons or family circumstances.
- Decide that his or her career interests are best met outside of higher education.
- Transfer to another institution.

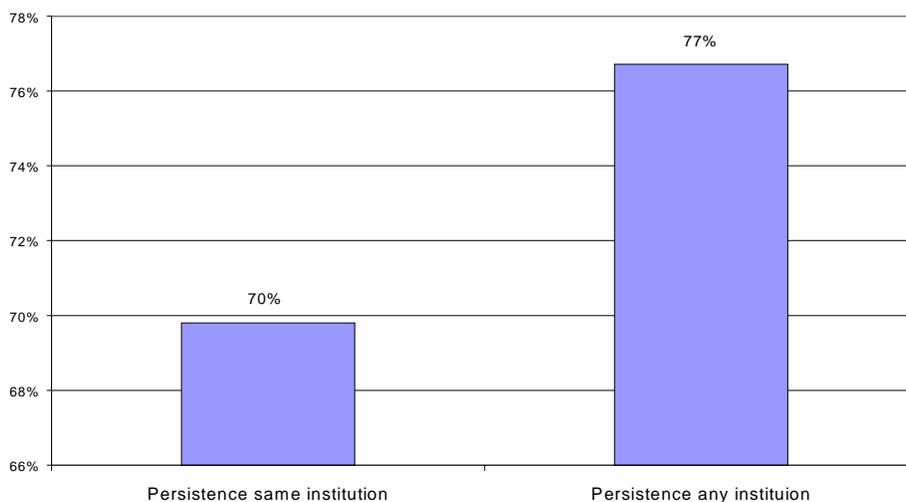
There are instances, however, when a student stops out or drops out of college for reasons that may have been within the control of the college. The first-year experience is, in part, a function of the services that a college or university is able to provide to first year students to help them be successful. Such services might include: tutoring services, mentoring services, assistance in scheduling classes, or a variety of other services. In the case of transfer, families may be quite comfortable with a decision to transfer to another institution, as long as the student is still pursuing a degree in higher education. Prospective students and their families may view year to year persistence for first-year students (either at the same institution or at any institution) as a measure of the likelihood that they will be able to complete college in a timely and successful manner.

**National Answers:** *National freshmen-to-sophomore persistence rates vary greatly by type of institution and by the admissions criteria used by institutions.*

- The freshmen-to-sophomore persistence rate, as reported to ACT for 1999 was:
  - 52.5% for state-supported two-year institutions.
  - 81.7% for selective four year institutions.
  - 54.3% for open admissions four year institutions.

**Statewide Answers:** *Full-time degree-seeking first-year student's persisted to a second-year of study at rates approximating the national average. A statewide persistence rate of seventy percent at the same institution and seventy-seven percent at any institution was recorded for 1998 to 1999 persistence. However, in state-supported two-year institutions, the freshman-to-sophomore persistence rate is approximately fifty-five percent. In selective four year institutions, the freshman-to-sophomore persistence rate is approximately seventy-one percent to ninety percent. In open admissions four year institutions, the freshmen-to-sophomore persistence rates exceed the national average, ranging from fifty-six percent to seventy-two percent.*

Statewide Persistence rates of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students  
Persisting 1998 to 1999



- Seventy percent of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students who began their study in 1998 were still enrolled at the same institution the following Autumn.
- Seventy-seven percent were enrolled at either the same institution or a different state-supported college or university the following Autumn.
  - **Note:** From a statewide perspective this seventy-seven percent persistence rate is noteworthy as it reflects the facts that Ohio campuses have been successful in their efforts to ensure that students wishing to transfer are able to do with ease.
- Many first year students do not enroll full-time (twelve or more hours) or are not defined by colleges or universities as degree-seeking. Sixty-three percent of first-time freshmen in 1998 were full-time degree seekers.

**Sector Answers: Persistence rates for full-time degree-seeking first-year students vary greatly by sector in Ohio, just as they do nationally.**

- The persistence rate for first-time, full-time degree-seeking students was the highest for students enrolled at university main campuses. Seventy-six percent persistence at the same institution and eighty-three percent at any college or university.
- University branch campuses recorded sixty percent persistence rates, and community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges recording fifty-four percent persistence at the same institution.
- Full-time, degree-seeking first-year students are a small proportion of all freshmen served by the community colleges (30%), state community colleges (30%), and technical colleges (41%).
  - Full-time, degree-seeking first-year students represent a majority of first-year students on the university main campuses (89%).

**1998 to 1999 Persistence for First-Time, Full-Time Degree-Seeking Students**

Sector	Persistence Rate - Same Institution	Statewide Persistence Rate - Any State-supported College or University	Percent of First-Year Students Who are Degree-Seeking and Full-Time
Community Colleges	55%	60%	30%
State Community Colleges	56%	61%	30%
Technical Colleges	54%	59%	41%
University Branch Campuses	60%	69%	63%
University Main Campuses	76%	83%	89%
Total	70%	77%	63%

**Campus Answers: Persistence rates for first-time, full-time degree-seeking students varied greatly by campus.**

- Statewide persistence rates for first-year students (the percentage of first year students who are enrolled somewhere in a state supported institution one year later) range from a high of seventy-one percent to a low of forty-three percent for the community colleges.
- Persistence rates for first year students for the state community colleges ranges from a high of seventy-two percent to a low of twenty-nine percent.
- The technical college statewide persistence rate ranges from a high of sixty-four percent to a low of fifty percent.
- The university branch campuses report a statewide persistence rate ranging from a high of eighty-one percent to a low of fifty-five percent.
- The university main campuses are reporting a high of ninety-three percent to a low of sixty percent for a statewide persistence rate.

## 1998 to 1999 Persistence for First-Time, Full-Time Degree-Seeking Students

### Community Colleges

Institution	Campus	Persistence Rate Same Institution	Persistence Rate Any State-supported College or University	Percent of First-Time First-Year Students Who are Degree-Seeking and Full-Time
Cuyahoga Community College	Eastern Campus	51%	53%	17%
	Metro Campus	43%	46%	31%
	Western Campus	60%	66%	23%
Jefferson Community College		56%	60%	39%
Lorain County Community College		55%	59%	23%
Lakeland Community College		63%	70%	32%
Rio Grande Community College		60%	71%	68%
Sinclair Community College		53%	55%	31%

### State Community Colleges

Clark State Community College		56%	61%	37%
Cincinnati State Technical & Community College		56%	63%	16%
Columbus State Community College		52%	56%	39%
Edison State Community College		58%	66%	25%
Northwest State Community College		57%	65%	49%
Owens State Community College	Findlay	55%	58%	25%
	Toledo	60%	64%	24%
Southern State Community College	Central	69%	71%	28%
	North	51%	59%	26%
	South	64%	72%	32%
Terra State Community College		53%	61%	23%
Washington State Community College		65%	68%	39%

### Technical Colleges

Belmont Technical College		50%	54%	39%
Central Ohio Technical College		57%	60%	32%
Hocking Technical College		54%	61%	52%
Lima Technical College		59%	64%	60%
Muskingum Area Technical College		50%	54%	37%
Marion Technical College		49%	52%	26%
North Central State College		49%	50%	28%
Stark State College of Technology		55%	62%	40%

**1998 to 1999 Persistence for First-Time, Full-Time Degree-Seeking Students (Continued)**  
**University Branch Campuses**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Campus</b>	<b>Persistence rate Same Institution</b>	<b>Persistence rate Any State- supported College or University</b>	<b>% of First Time First Year Students Who are Degree- Seeking and Full- Time</b>
University of Akron	Wayne Campus	61%	67%	28%
Bowling Green State University	Firelands Campus	62%	70%	43%
University of Cincinnati	Clermont Campus	59%	61%	53%
	Raymond Walters Campus	54%	59%	58%
Kent State University	Ashtabula Campus	59%	64%	49%
	East Liverpool Campus	56%	63%	69%
	Geauga Campus	63%	77%	39%
	Salem Campus	54%	57%	56%
	Stark Campus	57%	68%	64%
	Trumbull Campus	67%	72%	57%
	Tuscarawas Campus	68%	72%	66%
Miami University	Hamilton Campus	67%	72%	72%
	Middletown Campus	69%	75%	74%
The Ohio State University	Agricultural Technical Institute	59%	65%	97%
	Lima Campus	57%	73%	94%
	Marion Campus	61%	71%	92%
	Mansfield Campus	61%	73%	87%
	Newark Campus	61%	72%	92%
Ohio University	Chillicothe Campus	50%	59%	60%
	Eastern Campus	64%	81%	75%
	Lancaster Campus	61%	71%	70%
	Southern Campus	52%	55%	24%
	Zanesville Campus	55%	69%	73%
Wright State University	Lake Campus	65%	74%	69%

## 1998 to 1999 Persistence for First-Time, Full-Time Degree-Seeking Students (Continued)

### University Main Campuses

Campus Admissions Criteria	Institution	Persistence rate Same Institution	Persistence rate - Any State-supported College or University	Percent of First-Time First-Year Students Who are Degree-Seeking and Full-Time
Open	University of Akron	66%	72%	77%
Selective	Bowling Green State University	77%	88%	94%
Selective	University of Cincinnati	71%	78%	89%
Open	Cleveland State University	68%	77%	58%
Open	Central State University	58%	65%	99%
Selective	Kent State University	75%	83%	95%
Selective	Miami University	90%	93%	100%
Selective	The Ohio State University	83%	89%	99%
Selective	Ohio University	83%	92%	97%
Open	Shawnee State University	56%	60%	75%
Open	University of Toledo	69%	79%	84%
Open	Wright State University	72%	83%	94%
Open	Youngstown State University	67%	70%	88%