



# RESEARCH BRIEF

## OIR

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### Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status

This Research Brief presents the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of four cohorts of first-time to NOVA students (Fall 2009 through Fall 2012) by enrollment status (either full-time or part-time) and demographics.

Overall results reveal that the Fall-to-Spring retention rate of full-time students was higher than part-time students. Regardless of full- or part-time status, female students returned to NOVA the following Spring at a higher rate than male students, and younger students (ages 21 and under) showed higher retention rates compared to other age groups. Among full-time students, Asian and Hispanic students showed the higher retention rates as compared to other racial/ethnic groups. Among part-time students, Asian and Hispanic students also showed the higher retention rates in three of the four cohorts of part-time students; however, Black part-time students in one cohort returned at the highest rate.

Table 1 below and Figure 1 (next page) present the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of first-time to NOVA students by full-/part-time status. All cohorts of full-time students returned at a higher rate (between 84 and 87 percent) compared to the cohorts of part-time students (58 to 60 percent). The Fall-to-Spring retention rates for all first-time to NOVA students ranged from 71 to 72 percent.

**Table 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Status	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	6,069	5,101	84.1	5,868	4,977	84.8	5,874	5,107	86.9	6,158	5,281	85.8
Part-Time	6,717	3,917	58.3	6,667	3,871	58.1	6,884	4,116	59.8	7,278	4,317	59.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,786</b>	<b>9,018</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>12,535</b>	<b>8,848</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>12,758</b>	<b>9,223</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>13,436</b>	<b>9,598</b>	<b>71.4</b>

**Figure 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-time to NOVA Students by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

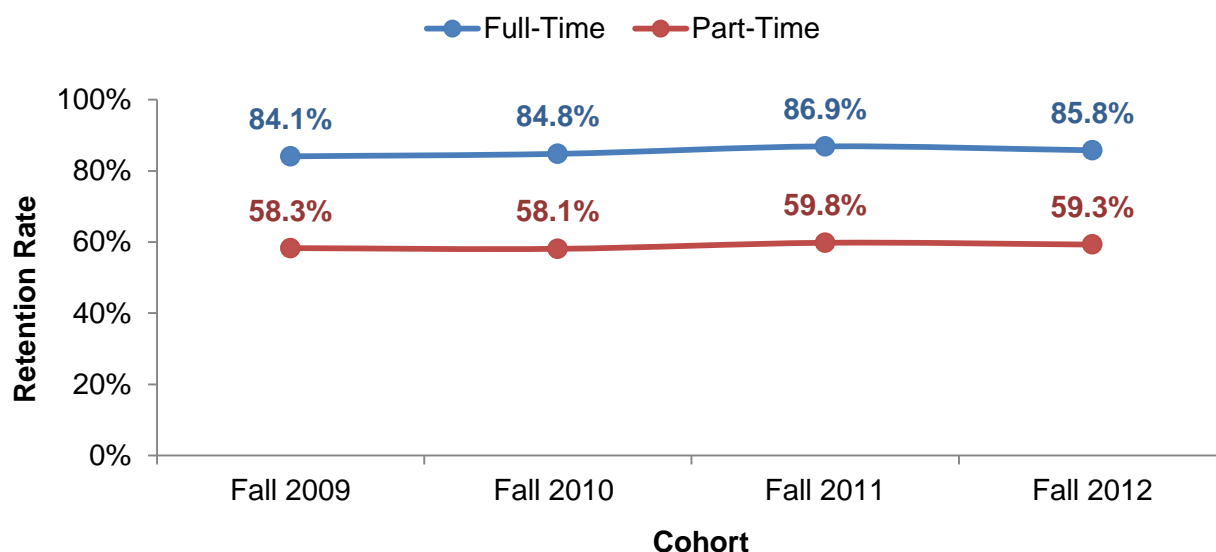


Table 2 displays the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of full-time, first-time to NOVA students by gender. Within each cohort, full-time female students returned to the College the following Spring at a higher rate (85 to 88 percent) than full-time male students (83 to 86 percent), although the gap narrowed between these groups from the Fall 2010 cohort through the Fall 2012 cohort.

**Table 2. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Gender	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Male	3,143	2,607	83.0	3,083	2,572	83.4	3,125	2,698	86.3	3,244	2,770	85.4
Female	2,926	2,494	85.2	2,785	2,405	86.4	2,749	2,409	87.6	2,914	2,511	86.2

Table 3 shows the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of part-time, first-time to NOVA students by gender. Among part-time students, female students returned to the College the following Spring at a higher rate (59 to 61 percent) compared to male students (57 to 58 percent).

**Table 3. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Gender: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Gender	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Male	3,171	1,814	57.2	3,144	1,798	57.2	3,307	1,921	58.1	3,495	2,029	58.1
Female	3,546	2,103	59.3	3,523	2,073	58.8	3,577	2,195	61.4	3,783	2,288	60.5

Table 4 presents the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of full-time, first-time to NOVA students by age. Generally, younger full-time students showed the highest retention rates among the age groups. For the Fall 2009 and Fall 2010 cohorts, full-time students ages 18 to 21 had the highest retention rates (86 percent). For the Fall 2011 and Fall 2012 cohorts, students under 18 returned at the highest rate the following Spring (91 percent).

**Table 4. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Age	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Under 18	96	71	74.0	85	72	84.7	90	82	91.1	92	84	91.3
18-21	4,870	4,175	85.7	4,762	4,097	86.0	4,707	4,148	88.1	4,840	4,203	86.8
22-24	431	335	77.7	403	325	80.7	438	372	84.9	462	385	83.3
25-29	331	264	79.8	319	254	79.6	322	260	80.8	362	294	81.2
30-44	281	215	76.5	254	197	77.6	266	208	78.2	319	246	77.1
45 & Over	60	41	68.3	45	32	71.1	51	37	72.5	83	69	83.1

Table 5 displays the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of part-time, first-time to NOVA students by age. For all cohorts of part-time students, those ages 21 and under returned at the highest rate, with 78 to 86 percent of students under 18, and 62 to 66 percent of students ages 18 to 21, returning in the Spring.

**Table 5. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Age: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Age	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Under 18	683	535	78.3	657	529	80.5	759	649	85.5	911	777	85.3
18-21	2,576	1,603	62.2	2,591	1,611	62.2	2,665	1,755	65.9	2,918	1,901	65.2
22-24	731	365	49.9	749	383	51.1	806	379	47.0	817	369	45.2
25-29	972	529	54.4	916	479	52.3	930	456	49.0	928	454	48.9
30-44	1,199	638	53.2	1,197	625	52.2	1,221	636	52.1	1,178	596	50.6
45 & Over	556	247	44.4	557	244	43.8	503	241	47.9	526	220	41.8

Table 6 shows retention rates for full-time, first-time to NOVA students by race/ethnicity. Among the four largest categories of racial/ethnic groups, Asian and Hispanic students showed the highest retention rates (85 to 92 percent) and White and Black students showed the lowest retention rates (82 to 86 percent) within each cohort.

**Table 6. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Full-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Race/ Ethnicity	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
White	2,628	2,161	82.2	2,921	2,414	82.6	2,762	2,382	86.2	2,919	2,454	84.1
Black	967	805	83.3	897	754	84.1	1,045	879	84.1	1,152	979	85.0
Asian	1,041	919	88.3	1,052	926	88.0	1,093	979	89.6	1,102	1,008	91.5
Hispanic	970	827	85.3	774	685	88.5	870	775	89.1	882	759	86.1
Native American*	28	22	78.6	15	13	86.7	17	15	88.2	9	7	77.8
Other	435	367	84.4	209	185	88.5	87	77	88.5	94	74	78.7

\*Sample size is too small to make accurate comparisons.

Table 7 presents retention rates for part-time, first-time to NOVA students by race/ethnicity. Once again, among the four largest categories of racial/ethnic groups, Asian and Hispanic students showed the highest retention rates (60 to 65 percent) within the cohorts with the exception of the Fall 2010 cohort in which Black students returned at the highest rate (61 percent). For these four cohorts of part-time students, White students showed the lowest retention rates (57 to 58 percent) among the four largest racial/ethnic groups.

**Table 7. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of Part-Time First-time to NOVA Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Race/ Ethnicity	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
White	3,440	1,965	57.1	3,788	2,139	56.5	3,891	2,240	57.6	4,158	2,409	57.9
Black	1,157	667	57.7	1,130	684	60.5	1,164	726	62.4	1,344	798	59.4
Asian	735	445	60.5	738	437	59.2	832	539	64.8	861	532	61.8
Hispanic	901	546	60.6	767	458	59.7	828	520	62.8	774	491	63.4
Native American	30	16	53.3	21	13	61.9	24	11	45.8	18	12	66.7
Other	454	278	61.2	223	140	62.8	145	80	55.2	123	75	61.0