



National Student Clearinghouse™
Research Center™

Institutional Persistence and Retention Report

Fall 2017 to 2022 Entering Cohorts

TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

School and Branch Code: 009910-00

Current Institutional Sector Designation:

Two-Year Public

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE RESEARCH CENTER

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About Your Institution's Persistence and Retention Report

The purpose of this report is to provide you with a view of student retention and persistence rates for your institution. This report is exclusively for your institution's use. The Clearinghouse will not publish or distribute your institution's results.

Data Source

The data for this report were drawn from the Clearinghouse's national coverage of enrollment and awarded education credentials to explore the year-to-year persistence and retention rates of cohorts of first-time-in-college students who started in the fall terms of 2017 to 2022.

The student outcomes captured in this report are based on student-level data representing an unduplicated headcount of students across all institutions, a feature of the Clearinghouse data sets that distinguishes them from many other data sources, including the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), that may not accurately capture the complexity of postsecondary pathways because they are not structured to identify multiple enrollments by individual students. The capability of StudentTracker to link enrollment records across institutions nationally allows researchers to follow students longitudinally as they move from institution to institution, producing a fuller picture of college persistence and completion.

The Definitions and Methodology section at the end addresses cohort selection and terminology. Additional questions or feedback can be sent to nscresearch@studentclearinghouse.org.

National Benchmarks

If you would like to see the latest Persistence and Retention snapshot, published by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, please visit: [NSC Research Center reports](#)

Recent Reporting Changes

Institution Sectors

Beginning with the fall 2017 entering cohort, this report defines institution sectors based on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education (CCIHE). CCIHE largely follow IPEDS sectors. Where there are differences, however, CCIHE designations are preferred. These differences affect PABs (see below) as well as a handful of institutions (33 in 2021) considered four-year schools by IPEDS but two-year schools under CCIHE. Most institutions in the latter case (30) are public institutions.

This report introduces a new institution sector category: primarily associate degree granting baccalaureate institutions (PABs). PABs are baccalaureate degree granting institutions that educate students and award credentials largely at the sub-baccalaureate level. We identify PABs using the CCIHE. These institutions carry

either CCIHE codes of either 14 (Associate Dominant) or 23 (Mixed Baccalaureate/Associate). In general, institutions with a 14 designation award 90% or more of degrees at the associate level while those with a 23 designation award 51% to 90% of degrees at this level.

The national benchmark provided in this report reflects your institution's current sector classification (four year public, four year private nonprofit, four year private for-profit, two year, and PAB). As institutional sectors may change year over year, your historical data may be contained within a different sector classification than what is returned in this report.

Age Missing

A small number of students whose age is missing in Clearinghouse data (about 0.1 to 0.2 of each entering cohort, nationally) has been included in all years in this report for the first time and may increase student counts in historical data.

Updates to Race and Ethnicity Reporting

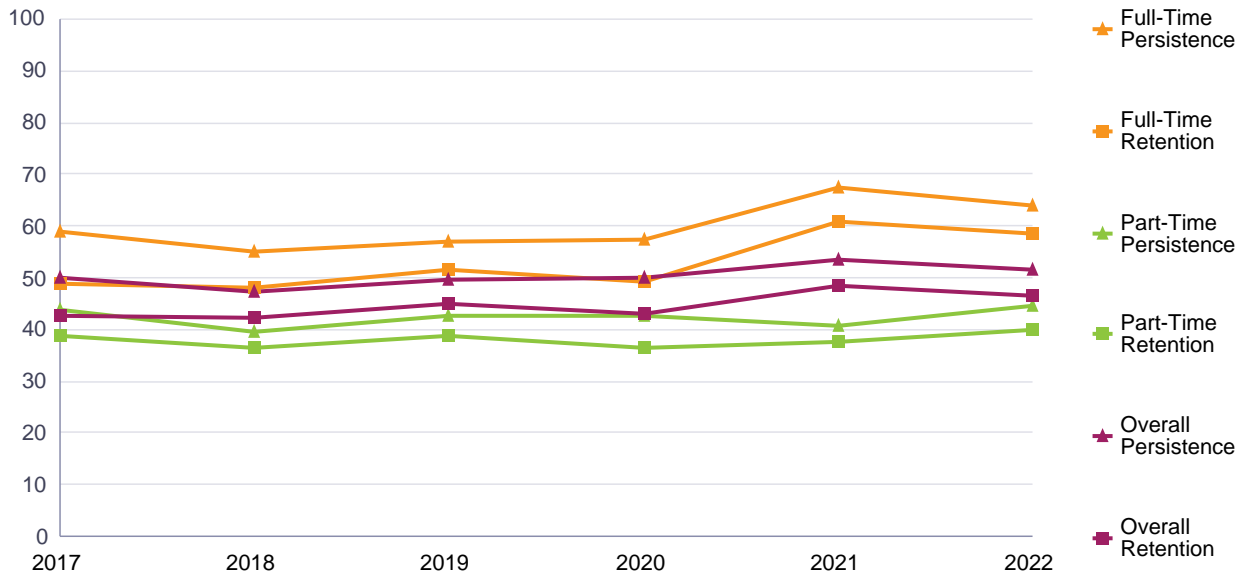
Previously, a small number of students whose only race/ethnicity designation is "Asian/Pacific Islander" (a legacy designation combining Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) were included in the count for Asian students. We now classify these students' race as "Unknown/Missing" beginning with the fall 2021 cohort to better reflect our uncertainty around this race/ethnicity category. Users are advised to interpret changes in the Asian student population from the fall 2020 to fall 2021 entering cohorts with caution.

Title IV, Degree-Granting Institutions

Beginning with the fall 2021 cohort, national level institution sector benchmarks are limited to Title IV, degree-granting institutions.

BY STARTING ENROLLMENT INTENSITY

TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

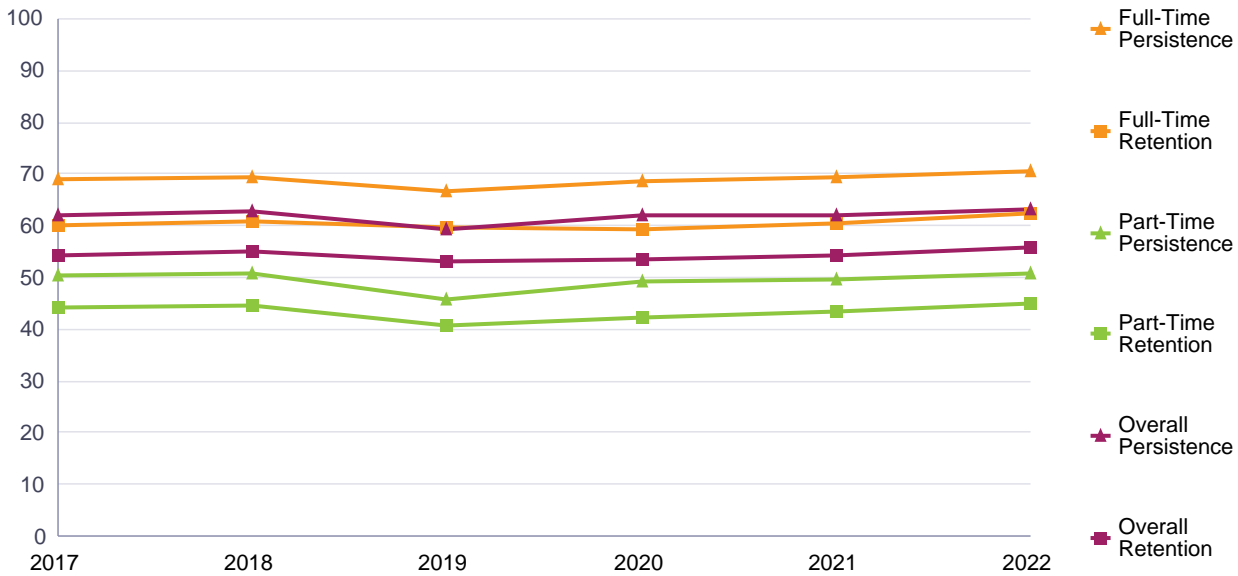


| Beginning Enrollment Intensity | | Fall 2017 Entering Cohort | Fall 2018 Entering Cohort | Fall 2019 Entering Cohort | Fall 2020 Entering Cohort | Fall 2021 Entering Cohort | Fall 2022 Entering Cohort |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Overall | Retained Count | 165 | 142 | 158 | 139 | 139 | 166 |
| | Retention Rate | 42.75% | 42.26% | 44.89% | 42.90% | 48.43% | 46.50% |
| | Persisted Count | 193 | 159 | 174 | 162 | 153 | 184 |
| | Persistence Rate | 50.00% | 47.32% | 49.43% | 50.00% | 53.31% | 51.54% |
| | Total Students | 386 | 336 | 352 | 324 | 287 | 357 |
| Full-Time | Retained Count | 77 | 81 | 86 | 79 | 82 | 75 |
| | Retention Rate | 48.73% | 47.93% | 51.50% | 49.38% | 60.74% | 58.59% |
| | Persisted Count | 93 | 93 | 95 | 92 | 91 | 82 |
| | Persistence Rate | 58.86% | 55.03% | 56.89% | 57.50% | 67.41% | 64.06% |
| | Total Students | 158 | 169 | 167 | 160 | 135 | 128 |
| Part-Time | Retained Count | 88 | 61 | 72 | 60 | 57 | 91 |
| | Retention Rate | 38.60% | 36.53% | 38.92% | 36.59% | 37.50% | 39.74% |
| | Persisted Count | 100 | 66 | 79 | 70 | 62 | 102 |
| | Persistence Rate | 43.86% | 39.52% | 42.70% | 42.68% | 40.79% | 44.54% |
| | Total Students | 228 | 167 | 185 | 164 | 152 | 229 |

See Starting Enrollment Intensity in Definitions and Methodology on page 12.

BY STARTING ENROLLMENT INTENSITY

National Results for Two-Year Public Institutions

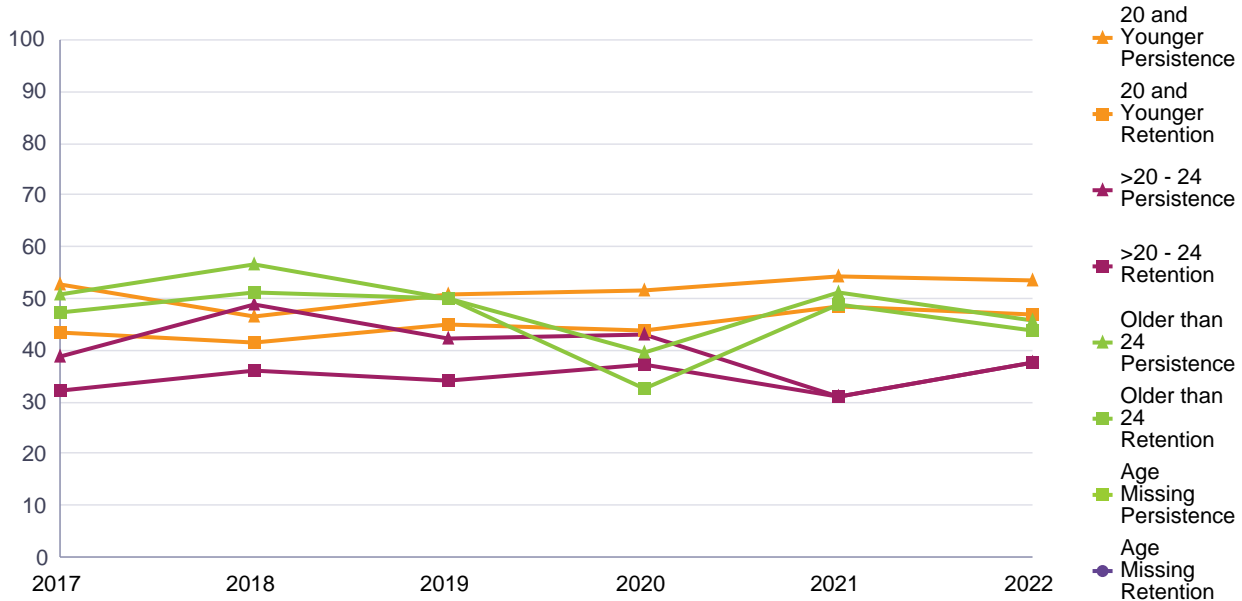


| Beginning Enrollment Intensity | | Fall 2017 Entering Cohort | Fall 2018 Entering Cohort | Fall 2019 Entering Cohort | Fall 2020 Entering Cohort | Fall 2021 Entering Cohort | Fall 2022 Entering Cohort |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Overall | Retained Count | 497,310 | 466,500 | 446,300 | 382,461 | 393,723 | 414,623 |
| | Retention Rate | 54.32% | 55.01% | 52.93% | 53.65% | 54.18% | 55.85% |
| | Persisted Count | 569,062 | 531,666 | 500,235 | 442,393 | 450,851 | 468,605 |
| | Persistence Rate | 62.16% | 62.69% | 59.33% | 62.05% | 62.04% | 63.12% |
| | Total Students | 915,497 | 848,024 | 843,201 | 712,915 | 726,688 | 742,364 |
| Full-Time | Retained Count | 346,699 | 329,675 | 325,336 | 279,773 | 275,789 | 290,387 |
| | Retention Rate | 60.21% | 60.93% | 59.61% | 59.48% | 60.60% | 62.52% |
| | Persisted Count | 397,374 | 376,142 | 363,774 | 322,703 | 315,275 | 327,192 |
| | Persistence Rate | 69.00% | 69.52% | 66.65% | 68.60% | 69.28% | 70.44% |
| | Total Students | 575,863 | 541,076 | 545,762 | 470,395 | 455,071 | 464,471 |
| Part-Time | Retained Count | 150,608 | 136,821 | 120,962 | 102,682 | 113,057 | 119,716 |
| | Retention Rate | 44.35% | 44.59% | 40.68% | 42.35% | 43.60% | 44.87% |
| | Persisted Count | 171,685 | 155,520 | 136,458 | 119,684 | 128,989 | 135,517 |
| | Persistence Rate | 50.56% | 50.68% | 45.89% | 49.36% | 49.74% | 50.79% |
| | Total Students | 339,560 | 306,865 | 297,362 | 242,451 | 259,329 | 266,799 |

See Starting Enrollment Intensity in Definitions and Methodology on page 12.

BY AGE

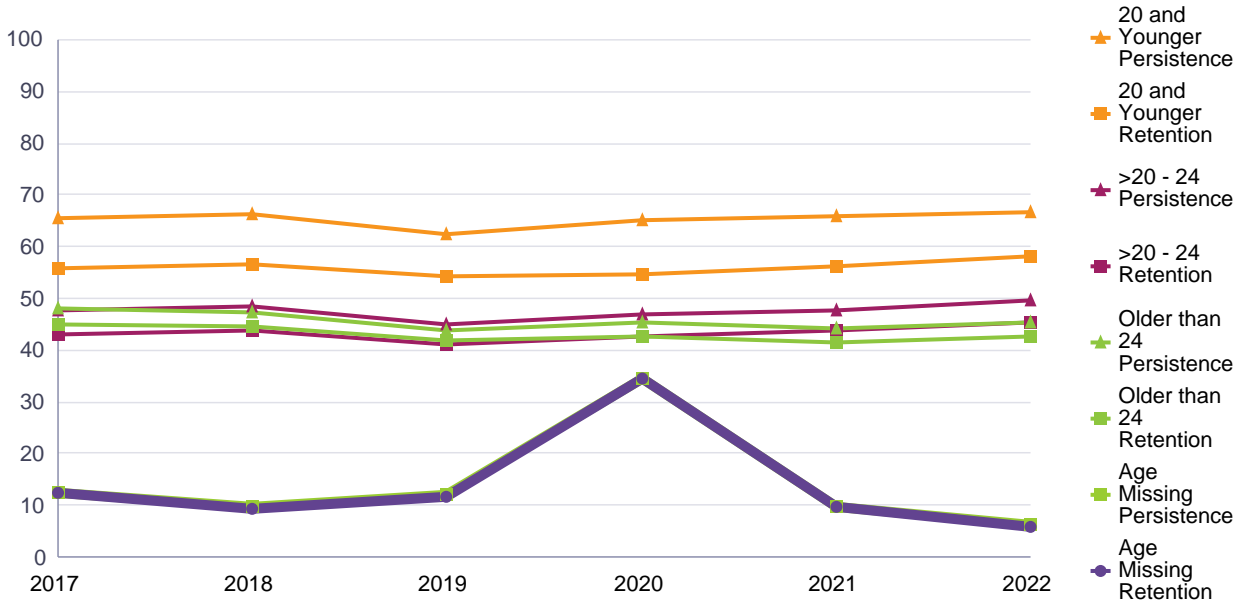
TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY



| Age at College Entry | | Fall 2017 Entering Cohort | Fall 2018 Entering Cohort | Fall 2019 Entering Cohort | Fall 2020 Entering Cohort | Fall 2021 Entering Cohort | Fall 2022 Entering Cohort |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 20 and Younger | Retained Count | 119 | 111 | 126 | 112 | 113 | 131 |
| | Retention Rate | 43.59% | 41.57% | 44.84% | 43.92% | 48.29% | 46.95% |
| | Persisted Count | 144 | 124 | 143 | 131 | 127 | 149 |
| | Persistence Rate | 52.75% | 46.44% | 50.89% | 51.37% | 54.27% | 53.41% |
| | Total Students | 273 | 267 | 281 | 255 | 234 | 279 |
| >20 - 24 | Retained Count | 20 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 15 |
| | Retention Rate | 32.26% | 35.90% | 34.21% | 37.14% | 31.03% | 37.50% |
| | Persisted Count | 24 | 19 | 16 | 15 | 9 | 15 |
| | Persistence Rate | 38.71% | 48.72% | 42.11% | 42.86% | 31.03% | 37.50% |
| | Total Students | 62 | 39 | 38 | 35 | 29 | 40 |
| Older than 24 | Retained Count | 26 | 20 | 21 | 14 | 19 | 21 |
| | Retention Rate | 47.27% | 51.28% | 50.00% | 32.56% | 48.72% | 43.75% |
| | Persisted Count | 28 | 22 | 21 | 17 | 20 | 22 |
| | Persistence Rate | 50.91% | 56.41% | 50.00% | 39.53% | 51.28% | 45.83% |
| | Total Students | 55 | 39 | 42 | 43 | 39 | 48 |
| Age Missing | Retained Count | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| | Retention Rate | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| | Persisted Count | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| | Persistence Rate | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| | Total Students | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

BY AGE

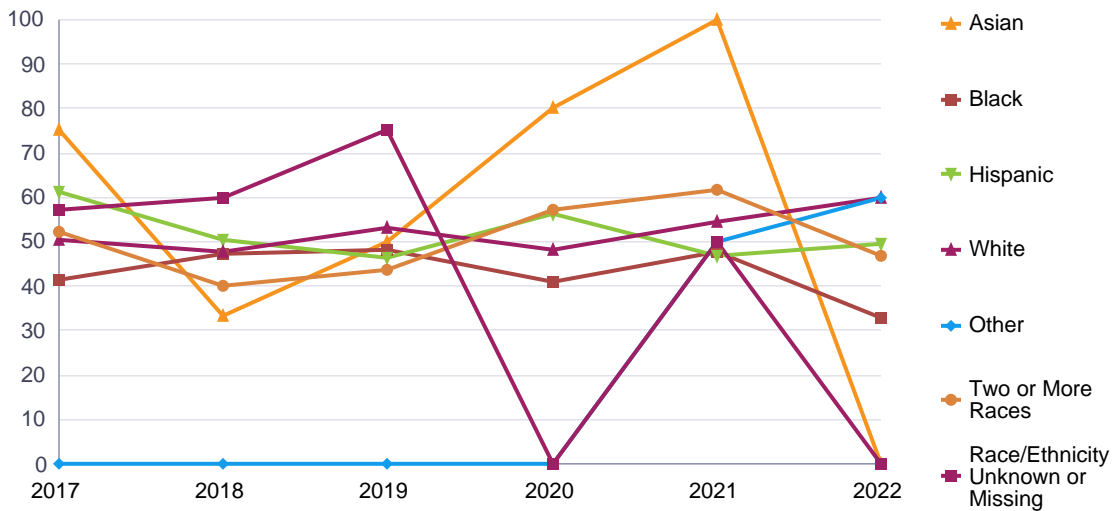
National Results for Two-Year Public Institutions



| Age at College Entry | | Fall 2017 Entering Cohort | Fall 2018 Entering Cohort | Fall 2019 Entering Cohort | Fall 2020 Entering Cohort | Fall 2021 Entering Cohort | Fall 2022 Entering Cohort |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 20 and Younger | Retained Count | 420,005 | 394,521 | 379,615 | 336,539 | 334,044 | 352,999 |
| | Retention Rate | 55.82% | 56.43% | 54.46% | 54.65% | 56.38% | 57.95% |
| | Persisted Count | 493,080 | 462,883 | 436,056 | 400,354 | 391,358 | 406,723 |
| | Persistence Rate | 65.53% | 66.20% | 62.55% | 65.02% | 66.06% | 66.77% |
| | Total Students | 752,463 | 699,186 | 697,090 | 615,769 | 592,461 | 609,175 |
| >20 - 24 | Retained Count | 37,644 | 33,358 | 29,982 | 23,063 | 25,668 | 28,102 |
| | Retention Rate | 43.03% | 43.98% | 41.20% | 42.67% | 43.93% | 45.51% |
| | Persisted Count | 41,762 | 36,708 | 32,603 | 25,317 | 27,949 | 30,567 |
| | Persistence Rate | 47.74% | 48.40% | 44.80% | 46.84% | 47.83% | 49.51% |
| | Total Students | 87,486 | 75,842 | 72,767 | 54,045 | 58,435 | 61,744 |
| Older than 24 | Retained Count | 64,162 | 58,513 | 51,394 | 37,887 | 42,105 | 41,972 |
| | Retention Rate | 45.03% | 44.64% | 41.72% | 42.63% | 41.50% | 42.78% |
| | Persisted Count | 68,514 | 62,071 | 54,191 | 40,460 | 44,697 | 44,484 |
| | Persistence Rate | 48.09% | 47.35% | 43.99% | 45.52% | 44.05% | 45.34% |
| | Total Students | 142,478 | 131,089 | 123,184 | 88,875 | 101,464 | 98,113 |
| Age Missing | Retained Count | 109 | 64 | 83 | 221 | 63 | 47 |
| | Retention Rate | 12.51% | 9.48% | 11.59% | 34.32% | 9.56% | 6.00% |
| | Persisted Count | 109 | 65 | 85 | 221 | 63 | 48 |
| | Persistence Rate | 12.51% | 9.63% | 11.87% | 34.32% | 9.56% | 6.13% |
| | Total Students | 871 | 675 | 716 | 644 | 659 | 783 |

PERSISTENCE: BY RACE/ETHNICITY

TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

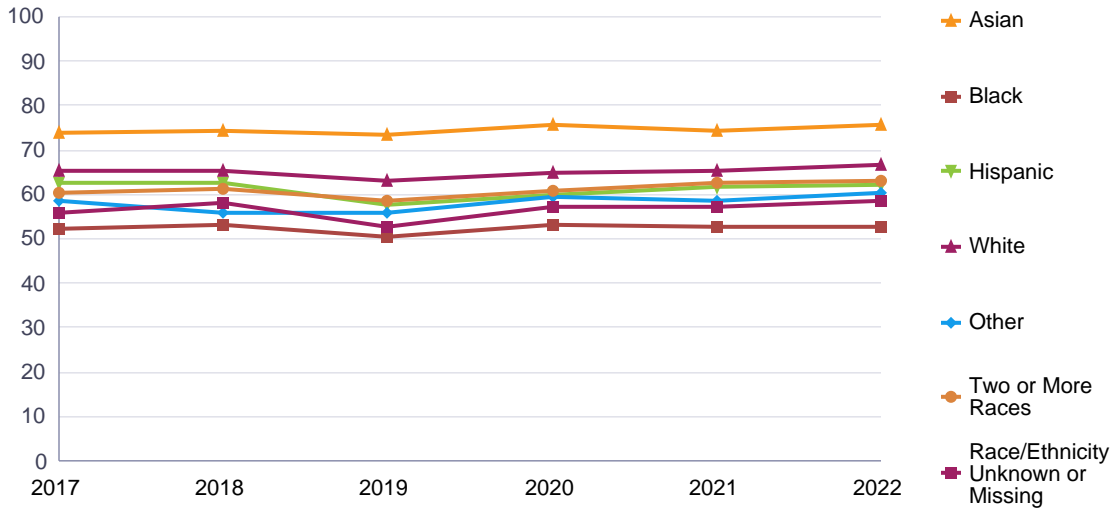


| Race/Ethnicity | | Fall 2017 Entering Cohort | Fall 2018 Entering Cohort | Fall 2019 Entering Cohort | Fall 2020 Entering Cohort | Fall 2021 Entering Cohort | Fall 2022 Entering Cohort |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Asian | Persisted Count | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| | Persistence Rate | 75.0% | 33.3% | 50.0% | 80.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% |
| | Total Students | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Black | Persisted Count | 52 | 34 | 41 | 31 | 39 | 22 |
| | Persistence Rate | 41.6% | 47.2% | 48.2% | 40.8% | 47.6% | 32.8% |
| | Total Students | 125 | 72 | 85 | 76 | 82 | 67 |
| Hispanic | Persisted Count | 47 | 37 | 44 | 46 | 32 | 62 |
| | Persistence Rate | 61.0% | 50.7% | 46.3% | 56.1% | 47.1% | 49.6% |
| | Total Students | 77 | 73 | 95 | 82 | 68 | 125 |
| White | Persisted Count | 79 | 82 | 83 | 74 | 72 | 91 |
| | Persistence Rate | 50.6% | 48.0% | 53.2% | 48.1% | 54.6% | 59.9% |
| | Total Students | 156 | 171 | 156 | 154 | 132 | 152 |
| Other | Persisted Count | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | Persistence Rate | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 50.0% | 60.0% |
| | Total Students | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Two or More Races | Persisted Count | 11 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| | Persistence Rate | 52.4% | 40.0% | 43.8% | 57.1% | 61.5% | 47.1% |
| | Total Students | 21 | 20 | 16 | 14 | 13 | 17 |
| Race/Ethnicity Unknown or Missing | Persisted Count | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Persistence Rate | 57.1% | 60.0% | 75.0% | 0.0% | 50.0% | 0.0% |
| | Total Students | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

See Race/Ethnicity in Definitions and Methodology on page 12.

PERSISTENCE: BY RACE/ETHNICITY

National Results for Two-Year Public Institutions

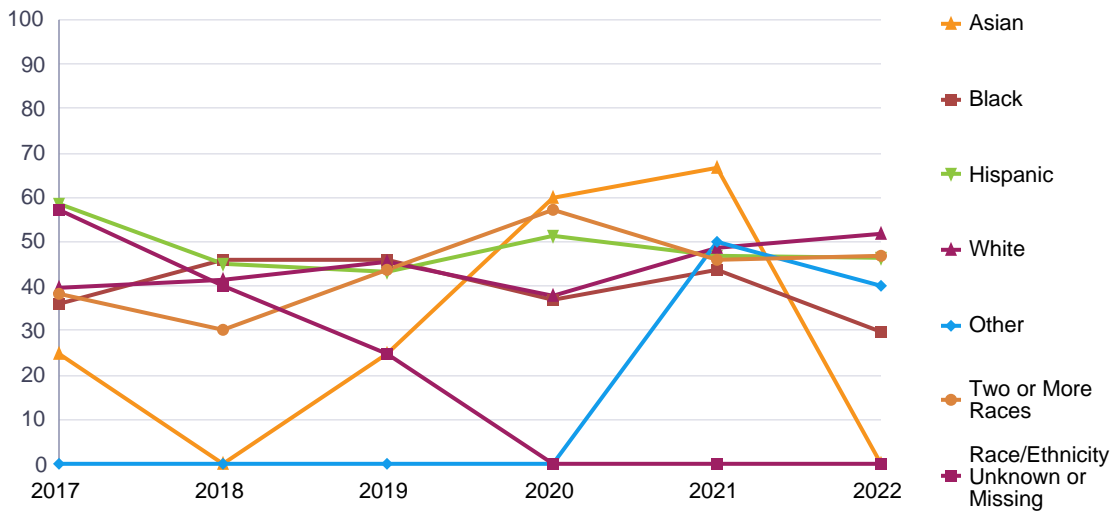


| Race/Ethnicity | | Fall 2017 Entering Cohort | Fall 2018 Entering Cohort | Fall 2019 Entering Cohort | Fall 2020 Entering Cohort | Fall 2021 Entering Cohort | Fall 2022 Entering Cohort |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Asian | Persisted Count | 29,864 | 27,161 | 26,392 | 23,878 | 21,740 | 23,142 |
| | Persistence Rate | 74.1% | 74.4% | 73.3% | 75.5% | 74.4% | 75.6% |
| | Total Students | 40,310 | 36,505 | 36,000 | 31,612 | 29,227 | 30,633 |
| Black | Persisted Count | 57,981 | 53,778 | 49,593 | 43,783 | 41,929 | 43,578 |
| | Persistence Rate | 52.2% | 53.0% | 50.5% | 53.3% | 52.7% | 52.7% |
| | Total Students | 111,029 | 101,562 | 98,183 | 82,090 | 79,494 | 82,630 |
| Hispanic | Persisted Count | 130,559 | 119,550 | 117,116 | 100,440 | 101,859 | 114,255 |
| | Persistence Rate | 62.5% | 62.5% | 57.8% | 60.1% | 61.5% | 62.2% |
| | Total Students | 208,784 | 191,324 | 202,475 | 167,187 | 165,642 | 183,731 |
| White | Persisted Count | 240,433 | 218,742 | 208,584 | 194,226 | 189,199 | 186,035 |
| | Persistence Rate | 65.2% | 65.5% | 63.0% | 64.9% | 65.2% | 66.4% |
| | Total Students | 368,542 | 334,205 | 331,036 | 299,390 | 290,403 | 280,025 |
| Other | Persisted Count | 10,153 | 7,182 | 6,549 | 5,678 | 6,208 | 6,912 |
| | Persistence Rate | 58.6% | 55.8% | 55.7% | 59.4% | 58.4% | 60.4% |
| | Total Students | 17,315 | 12,870 | 11,766 | 9,562 | 10,627 | 11,450 |
| Two or More Races | Persisted Count | 21,906 | 20,236 | 19,610 | 19,074 | 19,815 | 21,914 |
| | Persistence Rate | 60.5% | 61.4% | 58.6% | 60.7% | 62.4% | 63.1% |
| | Total Students | 36,222 | 32,982 | 33,482 | 31,451 | 31,762 | 34,708 |
| Race/Ethnicity Unknown or Missing | Persisted Count | 112,569 | 115,078 | 95,091 | 79,273 | 83,317 | 85,986 |
| | Persistence Rate | 56.0% | 58.3% | 52.6% | 57.4% | 57.1% | 58.6% |
| | Total Students | 201,096 | 197,344 | 180,815 | 138,041 | 145,864 | 146,638 |

See Race/Ethnicity in Definitions and Methodology on page 12.

RETENTION: BY RACE/ETHNICITY

TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

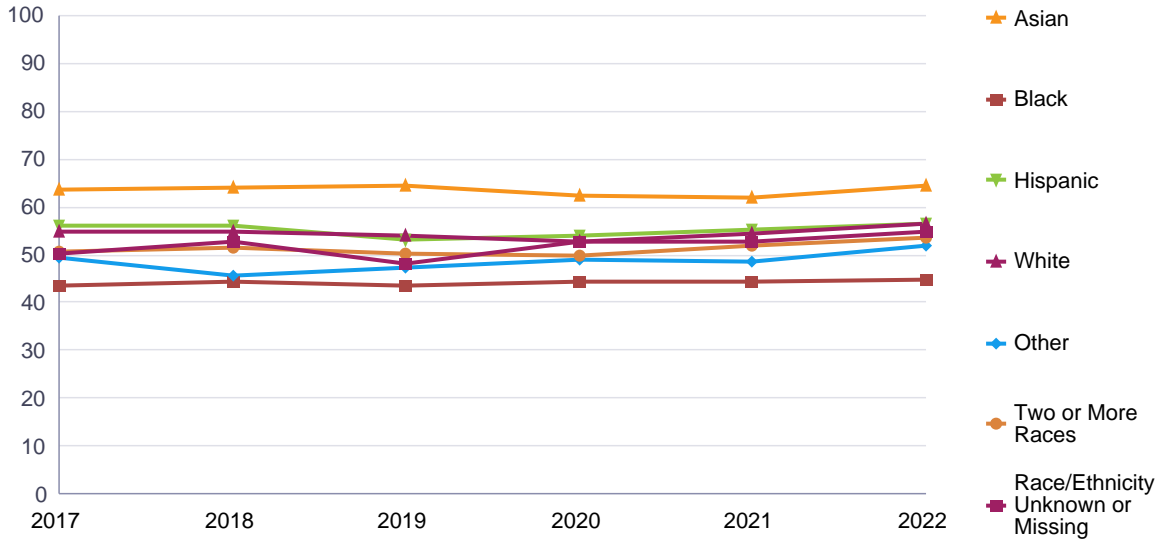


| Race/Ethnicity | | Fall 2017 Entering Cohort | Fall 2018 Entering Cohort | Fall 2019 Entering Cohort | Fall 2020 Entering Cohort | Fall 2021 Entering Cohort | Fall 2022 Entering Cohort |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Asian | Retained Count | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| | Retention Rate | 25.0% | 0.0% | 25.0% | 60.0% | 66.7% | 0.0% |
| | Total Students | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Black | Retained Count | 45 | 33 | 39 | 28 | 36 | 20 |
| | Retention Rate | 36.0% | 45.8% | 45.9% | 36.8% | 43.9% | 29.9% |
| | Total Students | 125 | 72 | 85 | 76 | 82 | 67 |
| Hispanic | Retained Count | 45 | 33 | 41 | 42 | 32 | 58 |
| | Retention Rate | 58.4% | 45.2% | 43.2% | 51.2% | 47.1% | 46.4% |
| | Total Students | 77 | 73 | 95 | 82 | 68 | 125 |
| White | Retained Count | 62 | 71 | 71 | 58 | 64 | 79 |
| | Retention Rate | 39.7% | 41.5% | 45.5% | 37.7% | 48.5% | 52.0% |
| | Total Students | 156 | 171 | 156 | 154 | 132 | 152 |
| Other | Retained Count | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | Retention Rate | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 50.0% | 40.0% |
| | Total Students | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Two or More Races | Retained Count | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 8 |
| | Retention Rate | 38.1% | 30.0% | 43.8% | 57.1% | 46.2% | 47.1% |
| | Total Students | 21 | 20 | 16 | 14 | 13 | 17 |
| Race/Ethnicity Unknown or Missing | Retained Count | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Retention Rate | 57.1% | 40.0% | 25.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | Total Students | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

See Race/Ethnicity in Definitions and Methodology on page 12.

RETENTION: BY RACE/ETHNICITY

National Results for Two-Year Public Institutions



| Race/Ethnicity | | Fall 2017 Entering Cohort | Fall 2018 Entering Cohort | Fall 2019 Entering Cohort | Fall 2020 Entering Cohort | Fall 2021 Entering Cohort | Fall 2022 Entering Cohort |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Asian | Retained Count | 25,676 | 23,392 | 23,138 | 19,682 | 18,152 | 19,715 |
| | Retention Rate | 63.7% | 64.1% | 64.3% | 62.3% | 62.1% | 64.4% |
| | Total Students | 40,310 | 36,505 | 36,000 | 31,612 | 29,227 | 30,633 |
| Black | Retained Count | 48,292 | 44,867 | 42,929 | 36,423 | 35,229 | 37,056 |
| | Retention Rate | 43.5% | 44.2% | 43.7% | 44.4% | 44.3% | 44.9% |
| | Total Students | 111,029 | 101,562 | 98,183 | 82,090 | 79,494 | 82,630 |
| Hispanic | Retained Count | 116,868 | 107,369 | 107,263 | 90,025 | 91,539 | 103,426 |
| | Retention Rate | 56.0% | 56.1% | 53.0% | 53.9% | 55.3% | 56.3% |
| | Total Students | 208,784 | 191,324 | 202,475 | 167,187 | 165,642 | 183,731 |
| White | Retained Count | 202,745 | 183,680 | 178,655 | 158,284 | 158,426 | 158,178 |
| | Retention Rate | 55.0% | 55.0% | 54.0% | 52.9% | 54.6% | 56.5% |
| | Total Students | 368,542 | 334,205 | 331,036 | 299,390 | 290,403 | 280,025 |
| Other | Retained Count | 8,569 | 5,848 | 5,562 | 4,671 | 5,168 | 5,933 |
| | Retention Rate | 49.5% | 45.4% | 47.3% | 48.9% | 48.6% | 51.8% |
| | Total Students | 17,315 | 12,870 | 11,766 | 9,562 | 10,627 | 11,450 |
| Two or More Races | Retained Count | 18,381 | 17,007 | 16,784 | 15,596 | 16,510 | 18,560 |
| | Retention Rate | 50.8% | 51.6% | 50.1% | 49.6% | 52.0% | 53.5% |
| | Total Students | 36,222 | 32,982 | 33,482 | 31,451 | 31,762 | 34,708 |
| Race/Ethnicity Unknown or Missing | Retained Count | 101,389 | 104,293 | 86,743 | 73,029 | 76,856 | 80,252 |
| | Retention Rate | 50.4% | 52.9% | 48.0% | 52.9% | 52.7% | 54.7% |
| | Total Students | 201,096 | 197,344 | 180,815 | 138,041 | 145,864 | 146,638 |

See Race/Ethnicity in Definitions and Methodology on page 12.

Definitions and Methodology

Fall Enrollment

A student is counted as having been enrolled in the fall if they were enrolled for any length of time in a term that began between August 1 and October 31, inclusive.

Retention

Defined in this report as continued enrollment (or degree completion) within the same higher education institution in the fall semesters of a student's first and second year.

Persistence

Defined in this report as continued enrollment (or degree completion) at any higher education institution - including one different from the institution of initial enrollment - in the fall semesters of a student's first and second year.

Starting Enrollment Intensity

A student is classified as having started college in a full-time or part-time status based on their earliest reported enrollment intensity within the entering fall term. The part-time group comprises three-quarter-time, half-time and less-than-half-time students. Students enrolled in a non-credential program or whose program level (certificate, associate, or bachelor's degrees) was unreported are not included in the full-time and part-time categories. Therefore, the sum of full-time and part-time students may not match the overall cohort count. Non-credential programs include preparatory coursework, teacher certification, or other non-credit career and technical education (CTE) programs that may lead to an industry certification if the student takes the certification exam. Program Unknown reflects students with an unreported program level. The circumstances behind the lack of program information are institution-specific and can range from first-time students who are required to be undeclared until they declare a specific major, to non-degree students.

First-Time Status

This report uses historical Clearinghouse enrollment and degree data to confirm that students included in the study (1) showed no previous college enrollment in the four years prior to the entering cohort year and (2) had not previously completed a college degree. In order to reliably identify students with prior enrollments, this report is limited to institutions that began submitting enrollment data to the Clearinghouse for terms beginning on or before June 1st of the year that is four years before the earliest eligible cohort.

Degree-Seeking Status

The retention rates reported by IPEDS are limited to degree-seeking students. This report differs in that it includes all entering students, including non-degree-seeking students, for the 2014 cohort. Beginning with the 2015 cohort, non-degree-seeking students were reported in a separate category and are not included in this report.

Former Dual Enrollment Students

The cohorts used in this study include former dual enrollment students: first-time college students who had taken college courses prior to graduating from high school. Students were identified as former dual enrollment students if they were under 18 years of age during any enrollments that occurred prior to the cohort year.

Race/Ethnicity

The race/ethnicity categories included in this report are White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Asian, Hispanic, Two or More Races, Other Races (includes non-resident alien, American Indian/Alaskan native, Pacific Islander, native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander) and Unknown.

In the graphs, every race/ethnicity category is represented although the marker for every category may not be visually distinguishable. This is because, in some cases, the values for 2 race/ethnicity categories are almost identical and their markers are the same shape. In these situations, one marker may be hidden behind another. This gives the appearance of a missing race/ethnicity category in the graph.