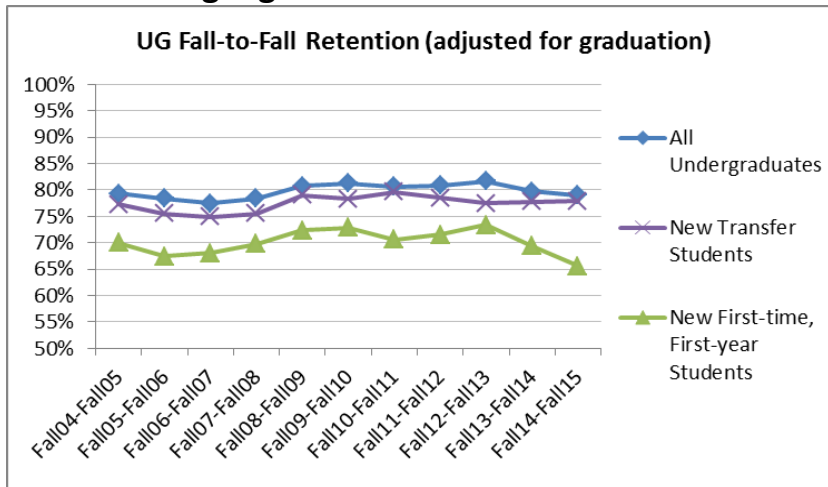


Retention Highlights: Fall 2014 to Fall 2015



Overall undergraduate fall-to-fall retention declined for the second year in a row to 79%.

Fall-to-fall retention of undergraduate students **improved** compared to the prior year for several categories of students:

- **Improvement in retention of undergraduate students of color at all locations.** For Olympia campus, this improvement was driven by improvement in retention of Latino and Asian students.
- For the 2nd year in a row, retention improved for students attending Tribal: Reservation-based programs
- New out-of-state transfer students were retained at 74%, which is the highest rate in at least a decade.
- There was also improvement in retention of continuing non-resident students.
- Both Veterans and Dependents of veterans who were receiving VA benefits had higher retention to Fall 2015.
- The 2014 entering Master of Public Administration cohorts saw improvement, with an overall program retention rate to the second year of 90%. The large general MPA cohort (N=63) saw a 94% retention compared to 84% in the prior year; and the Tribal Governance cohort (N=29) saw retention of 83%, up from 71% retention for their last entering cohort in Fall 2012.

The retention rate for essentially all other categories of students remained stable or declined from Fall 2014 to Fall 2015. What follows are a few highlights about **declines in retention rates** compared to the prior year:

- The retention rate for **new first-time, first-year students** dropped for the second year in a row, now 66%, which is our lowest rate in the past decade. Over the past two years retention of WA resident FTFY has fallen from 78% to 69%, and non-resident FTFY retention has dropped from 68% to 60%.
- Retention rates for Pell grant recipients, students below poverty, and low income continued to decline for the 2nd consecutive year, yet they continue to exceed the retention rates of those who are not in these socio-economic categories. However, one socio-economic subgroup showed a more substantial decline in retention to Fall 2015. Retention among the cluster of students who are above the federal poverty level, but still at or below 150% of federal poverty level dropped to 76% compared to 83% in the prior year.