**Retention/Graduation Rates of Fall 2013 Entering Transfer Students**

In fall 2013, 1,719 new transfer students matriculated at UMass Boston. Thirty-four of these students had enough credits that they were able to graduate before the beginning of the fall 2014 semester. Therefore, this report uses a graduated or returned rate rather than a simple retention rate in order to present a more accurate picture. Overall, 1,348 of the students graduated by or returned for fall 2014 for a rate of 78.4%. This was about 2 percentage points higher than the 2012 cohort which had a rate of 76.3%. The 2013 cohort was 109 students smaller than the 2012 cohort which had 1,828 entrants.

The students entered with varying numbers of transfer credits. We assigned the students to one of four levels based on the numbers of credits they had listed in the fall 2013 enrollment files created after add/drop was completed. We set fewer than 30 credits as 1st Year, 30 to fewer than 60 as 2nd Year, 60 to fewer than 90 as 3rd year, and 90 or more as 4th Year. However, we lack some confidence in the accuracy of the numbers of transfer credits listed in the files. Transcripts may not have been fully evaluated by early in the semester or the students may have submitted transcripts from additional schools that they had not submitted before admission. At any rate, the graduation/retention rates for the various transfer levels as documented in the fall 2013 enrollment file are presented in Table 1 below. The differences between the groups are not statistically significant.

**Table 1:** **Graduated or Returned Rates by Transfer Level**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Transfer Level** | **Entered** | **Grad. or Returned** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| 1st Year | 335 | 250 | 74.6% |
| 2nd Year | 707 | 556 | 78.6% |
| 3rd Year | 557 | 446 | 80.1% |
| 4th Year | 120 | 96 | 80.0% |
| **Total** | **1,719** | **1,348** | **78.4%** |

**Demographics**

As with our freshmen and as observed with fall 2012 transfers , among U.S. residents, immigrants were significantly more likely to return than those born in the U.S. by 83.3% to 77.5%.

Although there were some observable differences in the graduated/returned rates among racial/ethnic groups, none of the differences were statistically significant. Table 2 displays the values for each group. Native Americans and Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders are not reported because of small N-size.

**Table 2: Graduated or Returned Rates by Racial/Ethnic Group**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Entered Fall 2013** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2014** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| Asian | 155 | 128 | 82.6% |
| Black/African American | 281 | 226 | 80.4% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 216 | 170 | 78.7% |
| Non Resident Alien | 71 | 54 | 76.1% |
| Not Specified | 163 | 120 | 73.6% |
| Two or more races | 54 | 36 | 66.7% |
| White | 777 | 612 | 78.8% |
| **Total** | **1,719** | **1,348** | **78.4%** |

At about 3.3 percentage points, the differences by gender for the overall group were not significant. Women graduated or returned at 79.7% compared to 76.4% for men.

Differences by gender within racial/ethnic group were not statistically significant for men. For women, only 67% of those who did not self-identify graduated or returned, and less than 60% of the women who self-identified with two or more races graduated or returned. The rate for those selecting two or more races was significantly lower than the rates for the other groups.

Nineteen students did not report gender. Of those students, 89.5% graduated or returned for fall 2014. Table 3 presents the details for men and women. The racial/ethnic groups for the students who did not report a gender are too small to report.

**Table 3: Graduated or Returned Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Men** |  |  |  |
| **Group** | **Entered Fall 2013** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2014** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| Asian | 76 | 60 | 79.0% |
| Black/African American | 102 | 81 | 79.4% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 81 | 63 | 77.8% |
| Non Resident Alien | 39 | 28 | 71.8% |
| Not Specified | 69 | 55 | 79.7% |
| Two or more races | 22 | 17 | 77.3% |
| White | 317 | 235 | 74.1% |
| **Men Total** | **707** | **540** | **76.4%** |

Continued

**Table 3: Graduated or Returned Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity** (continued)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Women** |  |  |  |
| **Group** | **Entered Fall 2013** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2014** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| Asian | 77 | 66 | 85.7% |
| Black/African American | 175 | 142 | 81.1% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 133 | 105 | 78.9% |
| Non Resident Alien | 30 | 24 | 80.0% |
| Not Specified | 88 | 59 | 67.0% |
| Two or more races | 32 | 19 | 59.4% |
| White | 457 | 375 | 82.1% |
| **Total** | **993** | **791** | **79.7%** |

**Academic Factors**

Transfer GPA was significantly and positively related to graduation/retention. However, the effect was not particularly strong. For example, students entering with a 3.5 or better GPA graduated/returned at a rate of 84.7% rate compared to 83.1% for those with a transfer GPA of less than 2.5. Overall, those who graduated/returned had transfer GPAs less than 0.1 points higher than those who did not.

A total of 575 transfers submitted SAT scores. Those who submitted SATs averaged about 45 transfer credits compared to 55 credits for those who did not submit SAT scores. Those who submitted SAT scores were significantly more likely to return than those who did not at 83.1% compared to 76.0% for those who did not. For students who submitted SAT scores, neither Verbal nor Math scores were significantly related to graduation or returning.

The number of credits at matriculation was positively and significantly related to return/graduation with those returning/graduating averaging 52.5 credits compared to 49.1 credits for those who would not graduate or return.

The number of credits attempted in the first semester was significantly and positively related to graduation/retention. Using the full time mark of 12 credits, students who were full-time graduated/returned at a rate of 82.5% compared to 67.8% for part-time. Those who attempted 15 or more credits in the first semester did even better with a graduated/returned rate of 85.3%.

**Previous School Attended**

The information about the previous schools attended is set at the time we create the admissions file after add/drop. Students are able to submit additional information after that time. The new information can include requests for additional coursework to be considered for transfer credits or even complete transcripts from previously unlisted schools. Therefore, it is likely that some of this information is inaccurate.

A total of 1,005 transfers had a two-year school listed as their most recent school prior to matriculation at UMass Boston. Of the 1,005, 780 had either graduated by or returned for fall 2014 for a graduated or returned rate of 77.6%. The numbers of students entering and graduating or returning and the rates are listed in Table 4 for each two-year school sending at least 10 transfers.

**Table 4: Graduated or Returned Rates for Transfers from Two-Year Schools**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Two-Year School Name** | **Entered Fall 2013** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2014** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| Bay State College | 11 | 10 | 90.9% |
| Cape Cod Community College | 20 | 18 | 90.0% |
| Northern Essex Community | 25 | 21 | 84.0% |
| Quincy College | 109 | 91 | 83.5% |
| Middlesex Community College | 55 | 45 | 81.8% |
| Massachusetts Bay Community | 62 | 50 | 80.6% |
| Bunker Hill Community | 284 | 228 | 80.3% |
| Quinsigamond Community | 14 | 11 | 78.6% |
| Roxbury Community College | 73 | 57 | 78.1% |
| North Shore Community | 50 | 39 | 78.0% |
| Comm. College of Rhode Island | 14 | 10 | 71.4% |
| Massasoit Community College | 97 | 66 | 68.0% |
| Bristol Community College | 21 | 14 | 66.7% |
| Fisher College | 11 | 6 | 54.5% |

A total of 630 transfers had a four-year school listed as their most recent prior to matriculation as UMass Boston. Students who most recently attended UMass Boston as non-degree students are listed as transfers from UMass Boston. Of the 630, 502 had either graduated by or returned for fall 2014 for a graduated or returned rate of 79.7%. The numbers of students entering and graduating/returning and the rates are listed in Table 5 for each four-year school sending at least 10 transfers.

The difference in rates between two and four-year schools was not statistically significant. Another 82 transfers were from foreign schools or had an unknown school type.

**Table 5: Graduated or Returned Rates for Transfers from Four-Year Schools**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Four-Year School Name** | **Entered Fall 2013** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2014** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| Regis College | 12 | 12 | 100.0% |
| Fitchburg State University | 10 | 10 | 100.0% |
| Northeastern University | 21 | 20 | 95.2% |
| Suffolk University | 16 | 15 | 93.8% |
| Bridgewater State University | 19 | 17 | 89.5% |
| UMass Dartmouth | 37 | 32 | 86.5% |
| UMass Amherst | 34 | 28 | 82.4% |
| UMass Boston | 55 | 45 | 81.8% |
| Massachusetts Coll. of Pharmacy | 11 | 9 | 81.8% |
| Salem State University | 21 | 17 | 81.0% |
| Framingham State University | 12 | 9 | 75.0% |
| UMass Lowell | 21 | 15 | 71.4% |
| Curry College | 13 | 9 | 69.2% |
| Lasell College | 15 | 5 | 33.3% |

**Entry College**

There were no statistically significant differences in graduated/returned rates between the UMass Boston entry colleges. The rates are reported in Table 6. An additional breakout is included for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences’ Nursing and Exercise and Health Sciences programs. Within CNHS, students entering a nursing program were significantly more likely to graduate/return than those entering Exercise & Health Sciences at 84.8% compared to 69.9%

**Table 6: Graduated or Returned Rates by Entry College**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **College** | **Entered Fall 2013** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2014** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| CEHD | 55 | 45 | 81.8% |
| CNHS | 337 | 269 | 79.8% |
| CPCSU | 46 | 38 | 82.6% |
| CSM-U | 383 | 291 | 76.0% |
| LA-U | 664 | 520 | 78.3% |
| MGT-U | 234 | 185 | 79.1% |
| **Total** | **1,719** | **1,348** | **78.4%** |

Continued

**Table 6: Graduated or Returned Rates by Entry College** (continued)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Within CNHS** | **Entered Fall 2013** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2014** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| EHS | 113 | 79 | 69.9% |
| NUR | 224 | 190 | 84.8% |

**Graduation/Return Rates by Admissions Major**

Among admissions majors with at least 10 incoming transfer students, Sociology (BA) with 26 students had the highest graduated/returned rate of 100%, while Computer Science (BS) with 45 incoming students had the lowest rate at 60%. Table 7 presents the rates for all majors including Undecided within each college.

**Table 7: Graduated or Returned Rates by Admissions Major**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Admissions Major** | **Entered Fall 2012** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2013** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| Accelerated Nursing (BS) | 28 | 27 | 96.4% |
| Africana Studies (BA) | 3 | 1 | 33.3% |
| American Studies (BA) | 2 | 2 | 100.0% |
| Anthropology (BA) | 9 | 6 | 66.7% |
| Anthropology-History (BA) | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Art (BA) | 10 | 8 | 80.0% |
| Asian Studies (BA) | 7 | 5 | 71.4% |
| Biochemistry (BS) | 23 | 14 | 60.9% |
| Biology (BS) | 134 | 106 | 79.1% |
| Chemistry (BS) | 17 | 16 | 94.1% |
| Classical Languages (BA) | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Classical Studies (BA) | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Communications (BA) | 59 | 48 | 81.4% |
| Community Studies (BA | 5 | 4 | 80.0% |
| Computer Science (BA) | 5 | 3 | 60.0% |
| Computer Science (BS) | 45 | 27 | 60.0% |
| Criminal Justice (BA) | 109 | 92 | 84.4% |
| Early Ed. & Care Inclusion | 55 | 45 | 81.8% |
| Economics (BA) | 52 | 41 | 78.8% |
| Electrical Engineering (BS) | 6 | 6 | 100.0% |
| Engineering (Major) | 2 | 1 | 50.0% |
| Engineering Physics (BS) | 3 | 2 | 66.7% |

Continued

**Table 7: Graduated or Returned Rates by Admissions Major** (continued)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Admissions Major** | **Entered Fall 2012** | **Grad. or Returned Fall 2013** | **Grad/Return Rate** |
| English (BA) | 32 | 28 | 87.5% |
| Environmental Science BA) | 9 | 6 | 66.7% |
| Environmental Science (BS) | 15 | 10 | 66.7% |
| Ethical, Soc, Pol.Phil. (BA) | 2 | 1 | 50.0% |
| Exercise & Health Sciences (BS) | 113 | 79 | 69.9% |
| French (BA) | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |
| History (BA) | 30 | 25 | 83.3% |
| Human Services (BA) | 41 | 34 | 82.9% |
| Information Technology (BS) | 53 | 43 | 81.1% |
| Italian (BA) | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |
| Management (BS) | 209 | 165 | 78.9% |
| Mathematics (BA) | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Mathematics (BS) | 14 | 12 | 85.7% |
| Music (BA) | 9 | 8 | 88.9% |
| Nursing (BS) | 69 | 66 | 95.7% |
| Nursing for RN's (BS) | 127 | 97 | 76.4% |
| Philosophy (BA) | 7 | 3 | 42.9% |
| Physics (BA) | 3 | 2 | 66.7% |
| Physics (BS) | 7 | 4 | 57.1% |
| Political Science (BA) | 25 | 19 | 76.0% |
| Psychology (BA) | 95 | 78 | 82.1% |
| Psychology (BS) | 33 | 24 | 72.7% |
| Psychology/Sociology (BA) | 34 | 25 | 73.5% |
| Sociology (BA) | 26 | 26 | 100.0% |
| Spanish (BA) | 6 | 2 | 33.3% |
| Theatre Arts (BA) | 9 | 5 | 55.6% |
| Undecided - Liberal Arts | 98 | 69 | 70.4% |
| Undecided - Science & Math | 71 | 59 | 83.1% |
| Women's Studies (BA) | 2 | 2 | 100.0% |
| **Total** | **1,719** | **1,348** | **78.4%** |

Overall, fall 2013 transfer student graduation/retention to the second year showed a small improvement over the rate for the 2012 cohort at 78.4% compared to 76.3%. The rate for the 2011 cohort had been 76.2%.

The 79.7% retention rate for first-time full-time freshman was a 2.2 percentage point improvement over that of the fall 2012 cohort. We hope that this improvement is an ongoing trend.

Our next report will be for persistence to the third year of the 2012 cohorts of first-time full-time freshmen and of transfers.