

**Summary of Retention, Transfer, and Graduation Data  
for General College Students**

To understand recent trends in retention, transfer, and graduation among General College students, data were pulled from the University of Minnesota Retention Data Base and the **1990 Student Retention Summary**, an annual compilation of statistics generated by Dr. Ron Matross and Mr. Steve Des Jardines in Data and Reporting Services. Additionally, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) provided us with rates of transfer of GC students to other postsecondary institutions in the state by accessing their annual enrollment data base.

The attached tables profile the retention and graduation (baccalaureate level) of all new high school students in GC cohorts in the past eight years (the statistics for advanced standing students are not included). They show the retention after one and two years of all students (p. 1), and of students of different ethnic backgrounds after one, two, and three years (pp. 2-4). Cumulative graduation rates (six years after matriculation) are given for all groups combined, as well as for separate ethnic groups (p. 5). Enrollment in other University units (Twin Cities Campus) after one, two, and three years are provided (pp. 1-5), as are cumulative within-University transfer rates for the past eight cohorts (p. 6). Finally, cumulative transfer rates outside the University are provided for the 1986, 1987, and 1988 cohorts (p. 7).

**Primary Findings**

- \* In looking at the one- and two-year retention rates for all GC students over the past eight years (see p. 1), it appears that retention has remained fairly consistent. Not much change in the percentages of returning and nonenrolled students is seen, despite the significant changes in College mission and curriculum that occurred in 1986-88. As the figures illustrate, about one-third of the cohorts fail to return to the University one year after matriculation; less than 10% are enrolled elsewhere within the University, and the rest remain enrolled in General College. Two years after matriculation, about one-half of the students fail to enroll in the University; between 14% and 18% are registering in another unit on campus, and the rest remain enrolled in General College. (Note: these "enrollment in other units" figures vary from ORE's "one-year transfer" estimates published previously because ORE's data are cumulative--they include students who transfer but do not enroll that particular fall quarter--and they include advanced standing students as well.)

- \* Retention rate varies across ethnic groups (see pp. 2-4.) The rates have been fairly steady over the last eight years for the larger groups, such as the Caucasians (N = approximately 650), but show great discrepancies for the smaller groups, such as the Chicano/Hispanics (N = approximately 24). The highest retention rates during this time period were achieved by Asian students, the lowest rates by American Indian students. For example, after one year, only about 20% of the Asians have left the University, compared to about 55% - 60% of the American Indians.
  
- \* Graduation rates after six years (see p. 5) are roughly 11% for all groups combined. The percent of students graduating with a baccalaureate degree varies across the ethnic groups. Highest graduation rates during this time period were achieved by Asian students, the lowest rates by American Indian students. For example, 32% of Asian students from the class of 1982 had graduated as of 1990; 20% of those from the 1983 cohort and 19% of those from the 1984 cohort had graduated. No American Indian student who entered General College during those three years has since graduated with a baccalaureate degree.
  
- \* Cumulative transfer rates within the University appear to reach their highest level (30%) after about three years (see p. 6). Even the earliest cohorts studied (i.e., 1982 and 1983) had cumulative transfer rates (as of 1990) of 32% and 33%, respectively. One positive finding is the relatively strong within-University transfer rate of students in our 1988 cohort. After only two years, 29% of the new high school students in this cohort have transferred. Perhaps this indicates some impact of the Base Curriculum, which was implemented in the College in 1988.
  
- \* A second positive finding is the surprisingly high rate of transfer of students outside of the University to other postsecondary systems in the state (see p. 7). As many as 24% of the students from the 1986 cohort, for example, have since enrolled in other institutions. This means that, combined with the 28% who transferred within the University, over half the students from 1986 have found ways to continue their education, whether at General College, some other unit on the Twin Cities campus, or in other schools. Considering the challenges facing these students, this figure is encouraging.

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### Retention of General College Students\* in the Last Eight Years

#### One Year After Entry by Cohort (Year of Matriculation)

Fall Enrollment Status	1982 (N=977)	1983 (N=946)	1984 (N=1031)	1985 (N=1001)	1986 (N=847)	1987 (N=888)	1988 (N=933)	1989 (N=850)
Percent of students who registered in GC	55	56	63	60	61	58	60	62
Percent of students who registered in other U of M Units	8	7	6	3	5	5	3	4
Percent of students who were not enrolled	37	37	32	37	34	38	36	34

#### Two Years After Entry by Cohort (Year of Matriculation)

Fall Enrollment Status	1982 (N=977)	1983 (N=946)	1984 (N=1031)	1985 (N=1001)	1986 (N=847)	1987 (N=888)	1988 (N=933)
Percent of students who registered in GC	29	31	31	29	33	25	26
Percent of students who registered in other U of M units	17	17	16	14	14	15	18
Percent of students who were not enrolled	54	52	53	57	54	59	56

\* Students counted were New High School (NHS) students only; New Advanced Standing (NAS) students were not included.  
 Source: 1990 Student Retention Summary. R. P. Matross, S. L. Des Jardines, Data and Reporting Services 12/20/90.

**Retention of General College Students**  
 One Year After Entry: by Ethnic Group and Cohort (Year of Matriculation)

<b>Fall Enrollment Status</b>	<b>1982</b> (N=977)	<b>1983</b> (N=946)	<b>1984</b> (N=1031)	<b>1985</b> (N=1001)	<b>1986</b> (N=847)	<b>1987</b> (N=888)	<b>1988</b> (N=933)	<b>1989</b> (N=850)
<b>Percent of students who registered in GC</b>								
Caucasian	57	58	64	60	62	58	65	64
Asian American	64	74	80	79	61	74	72	75
Chicano/Hispanic	63	50	55	57	60	17	36	67
American Indian	46	36	38	44	48	46	33	46
African American	53	64	65	48	67	61	44	53
<b>Percent of students who registered in other U of M units</b>								
Caucasian	8	8	6	3	5	5	3	5
Asian American	17	11	8	5	12	5	3	6
Chicano/Hispanic	4	11	7	4	13	0	7	0
American Indian	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
African American	3	3	0	3	2	3	3	2
<b>Percent of students who were not enrolled</b>								
Caucasian	35	35	30	36	33	37	32	31
Asian American	18	15	13	16	27	21	24	19
Chicano/Hispanic	33	39	38	39	27	83	57	33
American Indian	55	64	59	56	52	54	67	55
African American	44	33	35	49	31	36	53	45

**Retention of General College Students**  
Two Years After Entry: by Ethnic Group and Cohort (Year of Matriculation)

<b>Fall Enrollment Status</b>	<b>1982</b> (N=977)	<b>1983</b> (N=946)	<b>1984</b> (N=1031)	<b>1985</b> (N=1001)	<b>1986</b> (N=847)	<b>1987</b> (N=888)	<b>1988</b> (N=933)
<b>Percent of students who registered in GC</b>							
Caucasian	33	34	34	30	34	26	27
Asian American	19	29	24	29	24	35	31
Chicano/Hispanic	33	32	24	35	33	4	25
American Indian	27	14	15	24	32	25	17
African American	30	41	34	17	31	23	23
<b>Percent of students who registered in other U of M units</b>							
Caucasian	15	18	15	13	13	17	20
Asian American	51	43	39	29	30	22	31
Chicano/Hispanic	11	14	17	13	13	9	11
American Indian	0	0	3	4	4	0	6
African American	4	6	7	7	9	10	9
<b>Percent of students who were not enrolled</b>							
Caucasian	51	49	51	57	53	57	53
Asian American	30	28	38	42	46	43	38
Chicano/Hispanic	56	54	59	52	53	87	64
American Indian	73	86	82	72	64	75	78
African American	65	53	59	77	60	67	69

### Retention of General College Students

Three Years After Entry: by Ethnic Group and Cohort (Year of Matriculation)

<u>Fall Enrollment Status</u>	<u>1982</u> (N=977)	<u>1983</u> (N=946)	<u>1984</u> (N=1031)	<u>1985</u> (N=1001)	<u>1986</u> (N=847)	<u>1987</u> (N=888)
Percent of students who registered in GC						
Caucasian	18	15	15	12	12	11
Asian American	5	5	3	13	6	8
Chicano/Hispanic	7	29	10	26	0	0
American Indian	18	4	0	12	4	4
African American	12	17	10	8	9	6
Percent of students who registered in other U of M units						
Caucasian	20	22	20	16	20	24
Asian American	51	54	46	29	38	34
Chicano/Hispanic	15	11	28	13	13	13
American Indian	0	4	9	12	12	8
African American	11	15	22	12	16	21
Percent of students who were not enrolled						
Caucasian	63	63	65	73	68	65
Asian American	43	42	51	56	56	58
Chicano/Hispanic	78	61	62	61	87	87
American Indian	82	93	91	76	84	88
African American	77	68	68	81	75	73

**Cumulative Graduation Rates of General College Students  
Six Years After Entry**

By Ethnic Group and Cohort (Year of Matriculation)

Groups	1982	1983	1984
	(N=977)	(N=946)	(N=1031)
	<u>N</u> %	<u>N</u> %	<u>N</u> %
Caucasian	81 (13)	76 (12)	81 (11)
Asian American	33 (32)	17 (20)	18 (19)
Chicano/Hispanic	1 (4)	2 (7)	3 (10)
American Indian	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
African American	4 (4)	3 (4)	5 (5)
International	0 (0)	2 (18)	3 (30)
Ethnicity not identified	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (4)
All groups combined	119 (12)	100 (11)	112 (11)

**Cumulative Transfer Rates of General College Students  
Within the Twin Cities University of Minnesota Campus**

<b>Year of Entry</b>	<b>Number of Students in Cohort</b>	<b>Number and Percent of Students Who Transferred</b>
Fall, 1982	977	308 (32%)
Fall, 1983	946	315 (33%)
Fall, 1984	1032	347 (34%)
Fall, 1985	1001	280 (28%)
Fall, 1986	846	251 (28%)
Fall, 1987	888	256 (30%)
Fall, 1988	932	180 (29%)
Fall, 1989	850	34 (04%)

Figures are based on New High School students (NHS) who enrolled in day school any term after entry in a unit other than General College. In most cases, this would indicate a transfer to a four-year degree granting unit, but the figures do include people who transferred to a two-year unit (i.e., Waseca) or who registered in another unit as Adult Specials or as Summer Only students. Registrations in other units that were completely cancelled were not counted. Transfers occurred any time between the term immediately following entry into GC and 11/15/90.

*Source: Extract file from the Retention Reporting Data Base (created 11/15/90) by J. Kellogg. Data and Reporting Services.*



**Transfer Rates of General College Students  
to Postsecondary Campuses Outside of the Twin Cities, U. of M. Campus**

Postsecondary System	Cohort							
	1986 (N=911)		1987 (N=941)		1988 (N=981)		Row Total	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Community College	85	(09)	68	(07)	38	(04)	191	(44)
Private College	29	(03)	19	(02)	2	(00)	50	(12)
Private Vocational	34	(04)	25	(03)	6	(01)	65	(15)
State University	34	(04)	23	(02)	10	(01)	67	(15)
Technical College	30	(03)	16	(02)	7	(01)	53	(12)
UM, Non-TC Campus	5	(01)	1	(00)	4	(00)	10	(02)
<b>Total Transfer Rate for Cohort</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>(07)</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>(100)</b>

Source: Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB); A. Djurovich, 12/18/90.

Figures are based on New High School students (NHS) who began in General College fall of 1986, 1987, or 1988. Transfer to another postsecondary system is recorded by HECB through an annual reporting mechanism in which institutions report student enrollment. Because this reporting is done only for fall admits, these figures underestimate the total number of transfers outside of General College (i.e., winter and spring transfers are not included). Multiple transfers by single individuals are not included in this table.