



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York

# **Retention and Graduation Rates**

**Entering Classes of  
1999 to 2013**

Prepared by the BSC Office of Institutional Research

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## Executive Summary

Retention and graduation rates in this report were calculated by tracking cohorts—classes of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen. The retention rate indicates the percentage of students in a cohort who returned to college for a second fall semester. The graduation rate reflects the percentage of students in a cohort who earned a bachelor's degree (or higher-level degree) within six years.

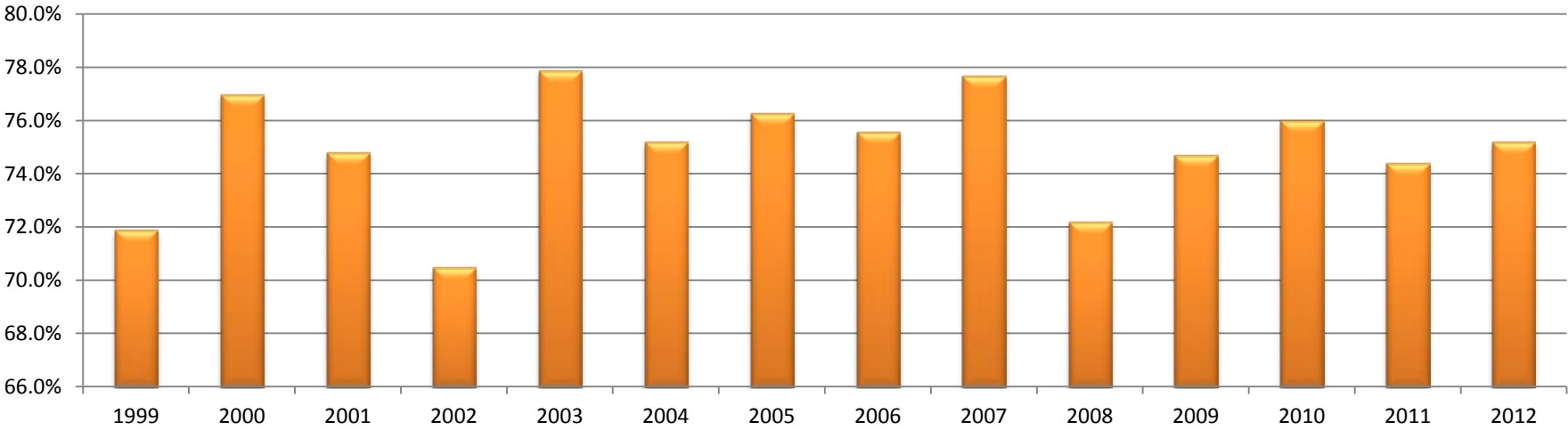
- The retention rate for the fall 2012 cohort increased to 75.2%, up 0.8 percentage-point from the previous year and is up 3.0% from fall 2008 cohort. The two-year retention rate decreased by 2.7 points from fall 2011 and 4.8 percentage points from 5 years ago (see Table 1).
- The six-year graduation rate for the fall 2007 cohort is 49.9%, up 1.8 percentage points from the previous cohort. This is the highest six-year graduation rate (see Table 1) to date.
- The One-year retention rates for women have generally averaged four to six points higher than rates for men over the past decade. Women's six-graduation rates have ranged from eight to eighteen points higher than men's rates (see Table 2 for 5-year snap-shots).
- The one-year retention rate for African American students for the fall 2012 cohort increased slightly to 79.6% from fall 2011 and was highest among all ethnic groups. The six-year graduation rate for African-American students decreased 10.5 percentage points to 45.1% compared to the fall 2006 six-year graduation rate. Asian students had the highest six-year graduation rate among the ethnic groups (see Table 2). The six-year graduation rate for Hispanic students increased 6.7 percentage points from the fall 2003 cohort to 51.0 percent. Hispanic students saw an increase of 12.9 percentage points from fall six-year graduation rate.
- The one-year retention rate for commuter students for the fall 2012 cohort is 2.1 percentage points lower than the rate for residential students. The six-year graduation rate for residential students for the fall 2007 cohort is 51.3 percent, a decrease of 2.5 percentage points. On the other hand, the six-year graduation rate for commuter students increased 5.2 percentage points to 48.2%. The graduation rate for residential students increased by 4.6 percentage points and commuters decreased by 2.9 percentage points compared to the fall 2003 cohort (see Table 2).

- About forty-one (41.4) percent of students who started at Buffalo State with a high school average below 85 graduated within six years; this is a decrease from last year's 43.2 percent. Fifty-five (55.1) percent of students who earned a high school average of 85 or above graduated during this time frame (see Table 3). Those who reported a high school average of 85 or above graduated at a higher rate within 4-years than those who reported an average below 85 (29.8% vs. 20.8%). Those with 85 or above are graduating at a 3 to 2 ratio within four-years.
- About forty-nine (48.6) percent of students who enrolled at Buffalo State with a reported SAT Composite score (verbal and math) of 1000 or above graduated within six-years; fifty-one (50.5) percent of students with a reported SAT Composite range score of 999 or below (see table 4) graduated within six-years.
- One-year retention rates within students' initially declared schools and college ranged from 71.5% in the School of Natural and Social Sciences to 89.7% in the School of Education (see Table 7). Six-year graduation rates ranged from 44.3% in the School of Profession to 69.7% in the School of Education (see Table 5).
- Among departments with 20 or more first-time full-time students, one-year retention rates within students' initially declared department ranged from 61.9% in Social Work to 90.0% percent in Music (see figure 7). Six-year graduation rates within students' initially declared department ranged from 32.8% in Criminal Justice to 74.1% in Exceptional Education (see figure 8).

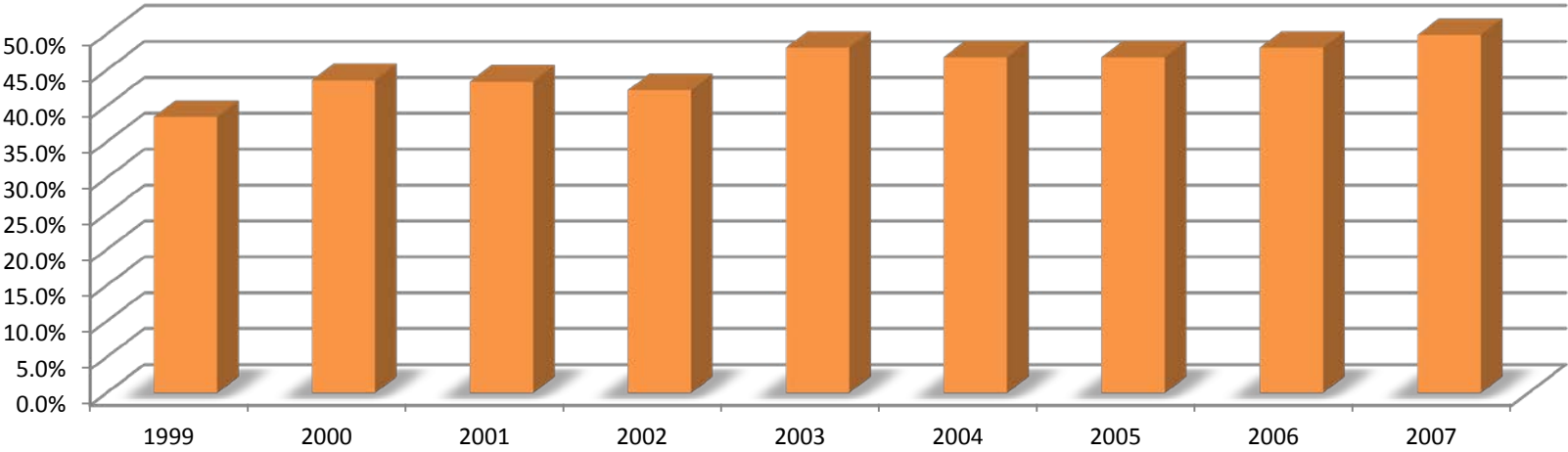
**Table 1: Trends in Retention and Graduation Rates of Full-time Students at Buffalo State**

First-Year Student Cohort		Retention Rates			Cumulative Graduation Rates		
Year	N	First Fall to Spring	First Fall to Second Fall	First Fall to Third Fall	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
1999	1192	87.5%	71.9%	58.3%	14.9%	33.1%	38.5%
2000	1278	90.4%	77.0%	62.0%	14.3%	36.2%	43.6%
2001	1327	90.8%	74.8%	58.2%	14.5%	36.9%	43.4%
2002	1297	89.5%	70.5%	57.9%	15.7%	39.2%	42.2%
2003	1346	91.2%	77.9%	63.7%	20.7%	42.3%	48.1%
2004	1314	90.7%	75.2%	62.4%	21.8%	40.0%	46.8%
2005	1180	91.2%	76.3%	62.5%	22.8%	42.5%	46.8%
2006	1400	90.4%	75.6%	63.1%	22.3%	44.1%	48.1%
2007	1390	90.9%	77.7%	64.2%	24.8%	46.1%	49.9%
2008	1507	87.4%	72.2%	57.3%	22.6%	40.2%	
2009	1517	89.4%	74.7%	62.8%	24.9%		
2010	1467	91.2%	76.0%	62.1%			
2011	1404	90.1%	74.4%	59.4%			
2012	1338	91.4%	75.2%				
2013	1320	90.4%					

**Figure 1: First-Year Retention Rates at Buffalo State**



**Figure 2: Six-Year Graduation Rates at Buffalo State**



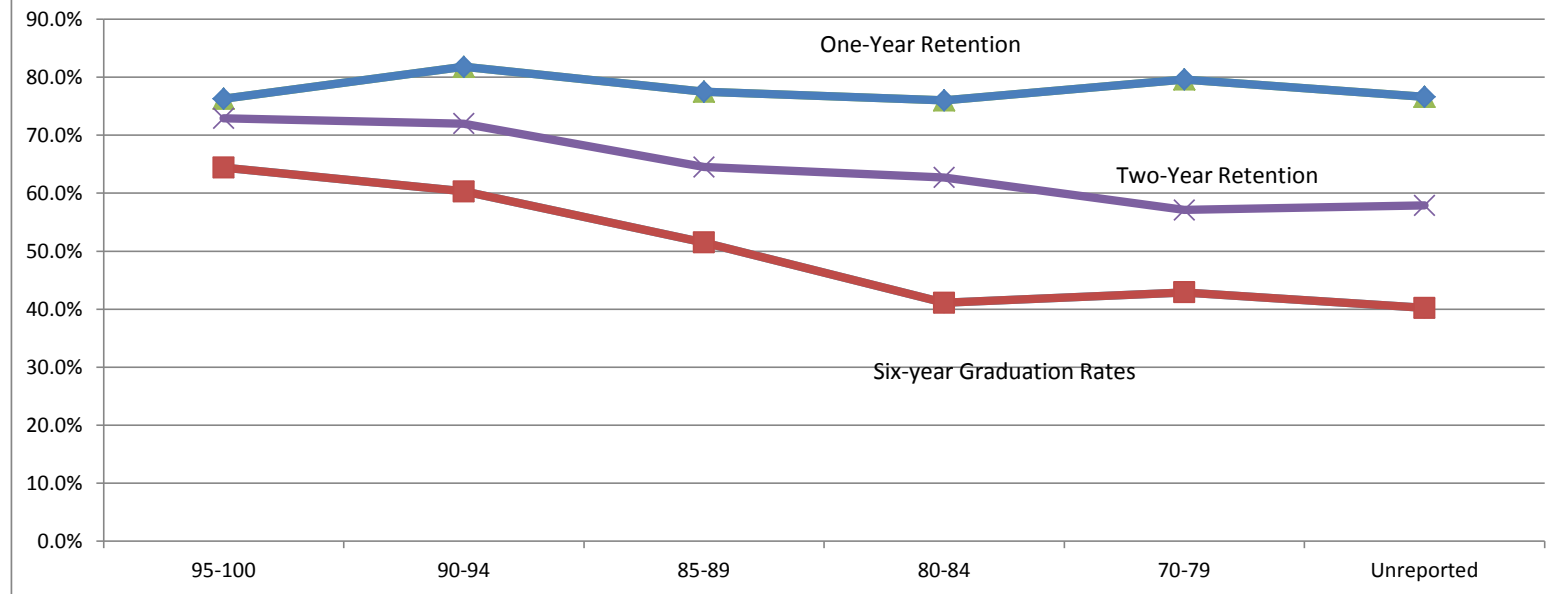
**Table 2: Retention and Graduation Rates of Selected Student Groups at Buffalo State College**

Student Group	1-Yr Retention Rate Cohort		2-Yr Retention Rate Cohort		6-Yr Graduation Rate Cohort	
	Fall 2007	Fall 2012	Fall 2007	Fall 2011	Fall 2003	Fall 2007
Female	79.4	77.0	68.4	61.9	53.2	56.0
Male	75.1	72.8	57.9	56.0	38.8	40.7
White	76.4	74.8	63.3	59.7	48.3	51.7
African-Amer.	83.0	79.6	68.1	63.0	44.0	45.1
Hispanic	82.4	76.1	67.6	53.8	44.3	51.0
Asian	75.0	63.3	56.0	31.0	44.4	56.0
Others	74.3	66.7	62.8	66.7	28.6	46.6
Commuters	74.3	73.9	60.7	59.6	51.1	48.2
Residential Students	80.7	76.0	67.2	59.2	46.7	51.3
All Students	77.7	75.2	64.2	59.4	48.0	49.9

**Table 3: Retention and Graduation Rates by High School Average Ranges  
Fall 2007 Cohort**

HS AVE	Student Headcount	First Fall to Second Fall	First Fall to Third Fall	Cumulative Graduation Rates		
				4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
95-100	59	76.3%	72.9%	47.5%	62.7%	64.4%
90-94	214	81.8%	72.0%	34.1%	57.0%	60.3%
85-89	462	77.5%	64.5%	25.5%	47.4%	51.5%
80-84	450	76.0%	62.7%	20.7%	40.7%	41.1%
70-79	98	79.6%	57.1%	21.4%	40.8%	42.9%
Unreported	107	76.6%	57.9%	17.8%	37.4%	40.2%

**Figure 3: One-year Retention and Six-year Graduation Rates  
by HS Average, Fall 2007 cohort**

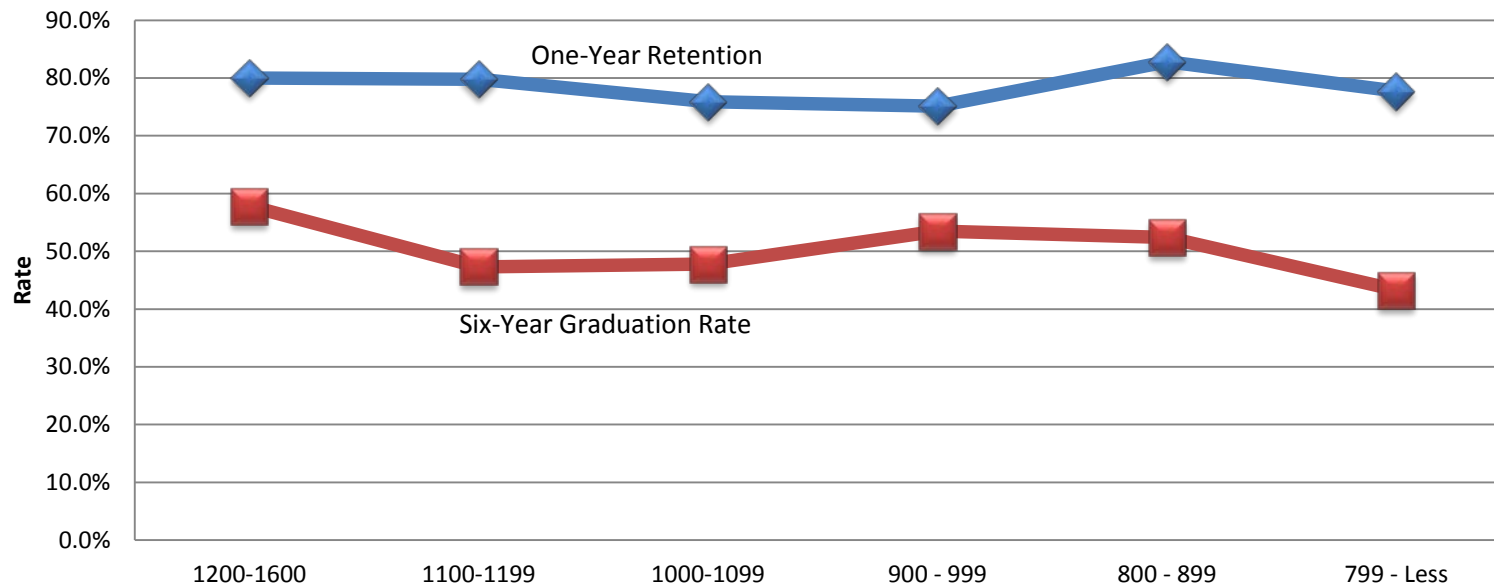




**Table 4: Retention and Graduation Rates by SAT Score Ranges  
Fall 2007 Cohort**

SAT Ranges	Student Headcount	First Fall to Second Fall	Cumulative Graduation Rates		
			4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
1200-1600	45	80.0%	28.9%	44.4%	57.8%
1100-1199	129	79.8%	28.7%	46.5%	47.3%
1000-1099	316	75.9%	25.0%	43.4%	47.8%
900 - 999	417	75.1%	24.9%	50.6%	53.5%
800 - 899	250	82.8%	26.4%	47.2%	52.4%
799 - Less	233	77.7%	22.7%	40.8%	43.3%

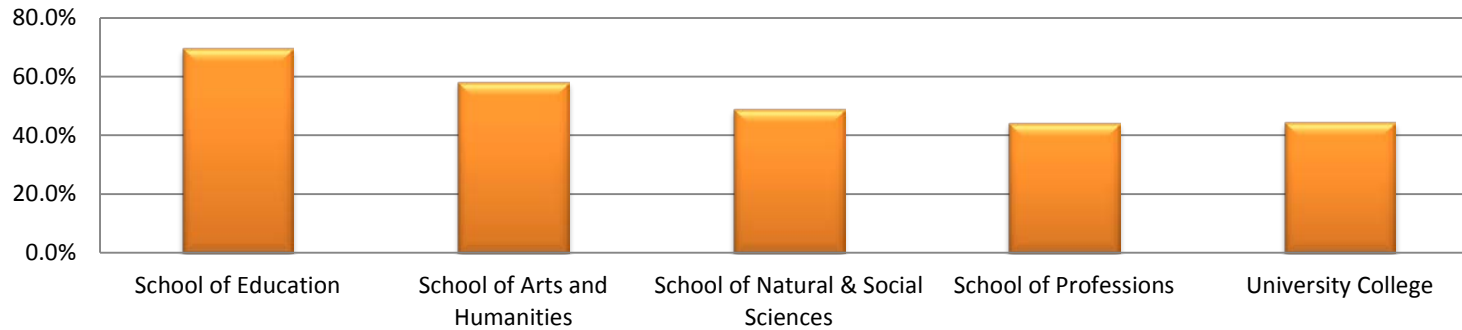
**Figure 4: One-Year Retention and Six-Year Graduation Rate by SAT Score Ranges  
Fall 2007**



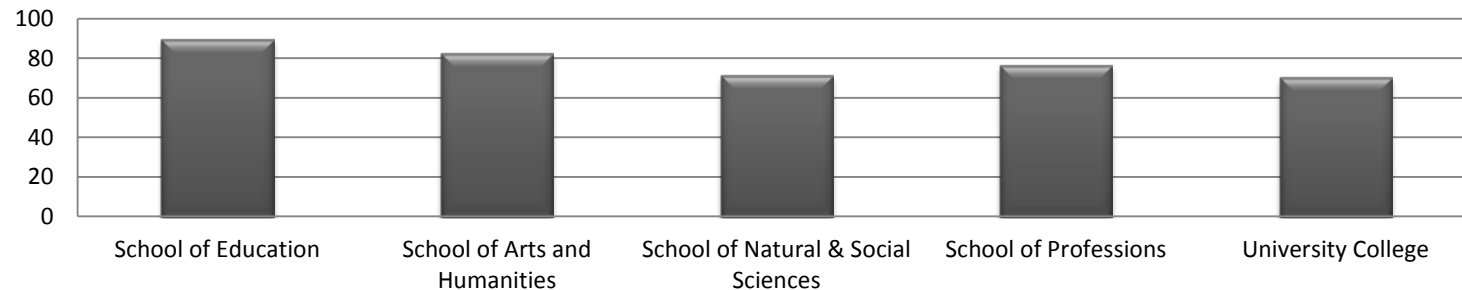
**Table 5: Retention Rates and Six-Year Graduation Rates by Initially Declared Schools and College  
Fall 2007 Cohort**

Schools and College	Student Headcount	Cumulative Graduation Rates		
		4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
School of Education	33	33.3%	63.6%	69.7%
School of Arts and Humanities	218	30.7%	55.5%	58.3%
School of Natural & Social Sciences	281	22.8%	45.6%	49.1%
School of Professions	361	24.4%	41.0%	44.3%
University College	359	22.8%	41.2%	44.4%

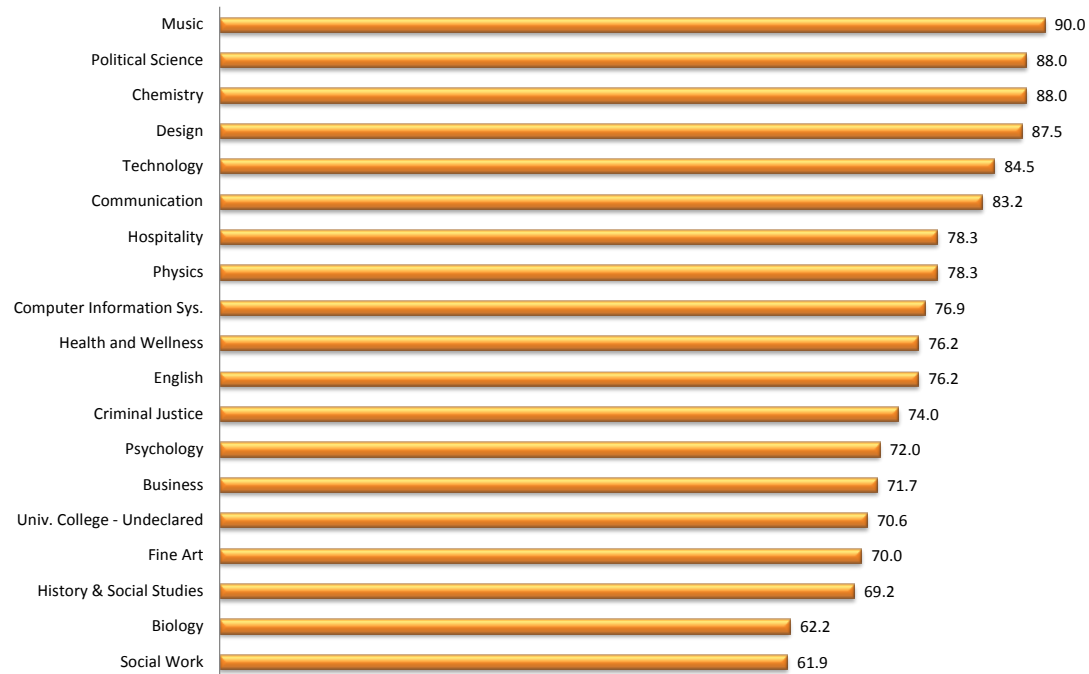
**Figure 5: Six-year Graduation Rates by Initially Declared School and College  
Fall 2007 Cohort**



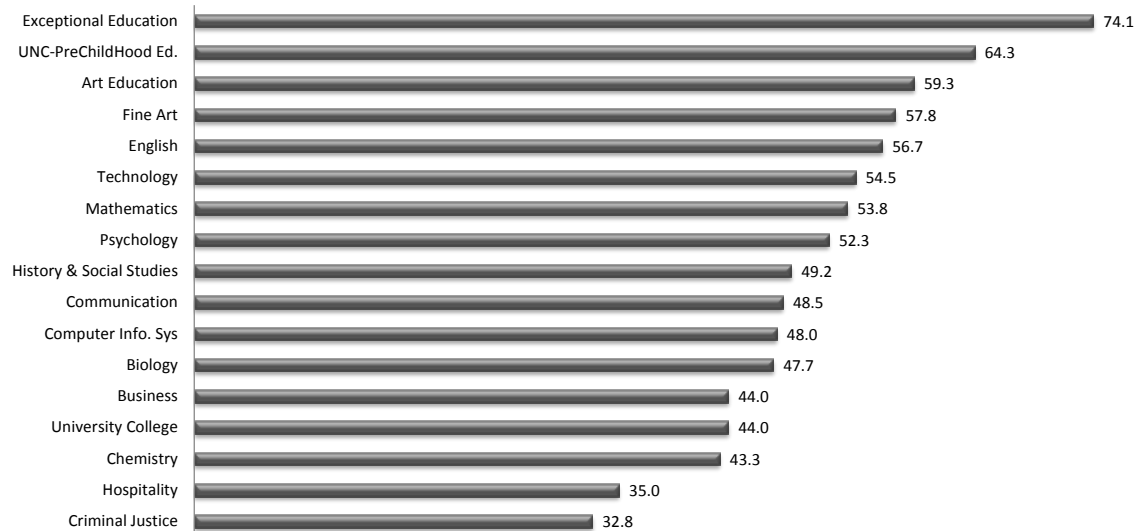
**Figure 6: One-Year Retention Rates by Initially Declared Schools and College  
Fall 2012 Cohort**



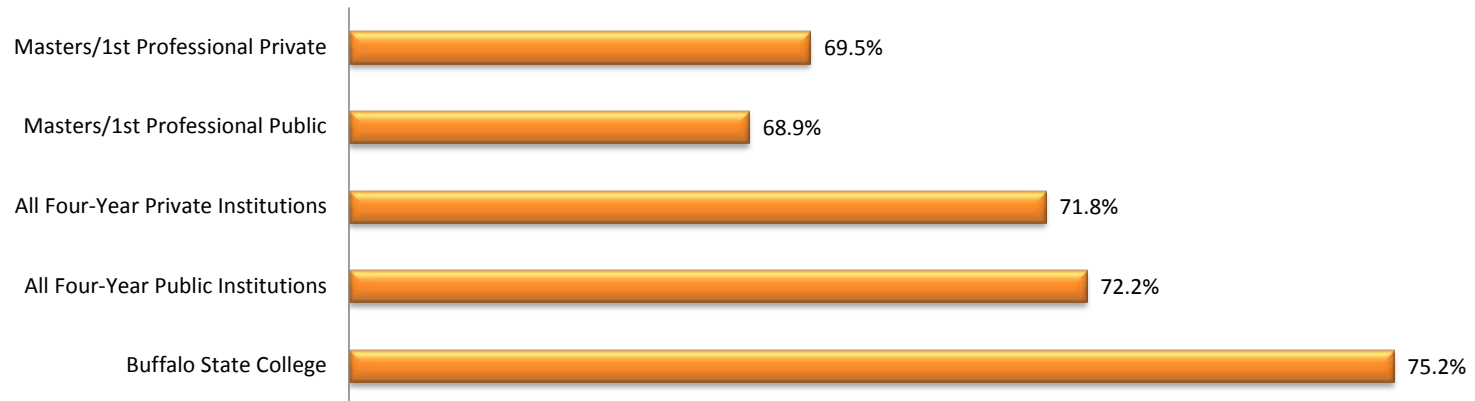
**Figure 7: Retention Rates by Initially Declared Department with 20 or more First-time  
Fall 2012**



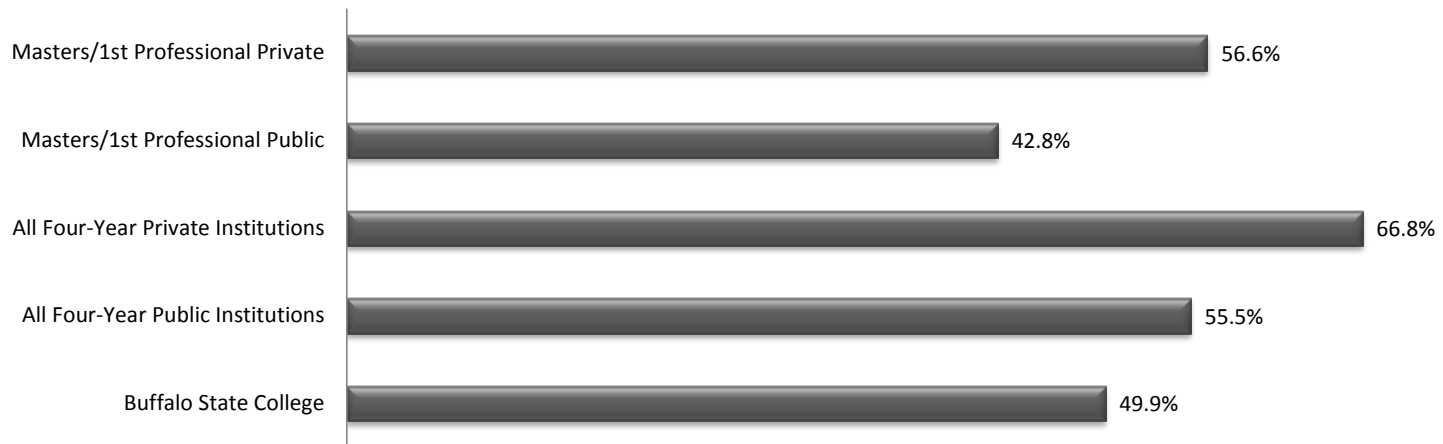
**Figure 8: Six-year Graduation Rates by Initially Declared Department with 20 or more first-time  
Fall 2007**



**Figure 9: National Collegiate Retention Rate by Selected Four-Year Institutional Type  
First Fall to Second Fall**

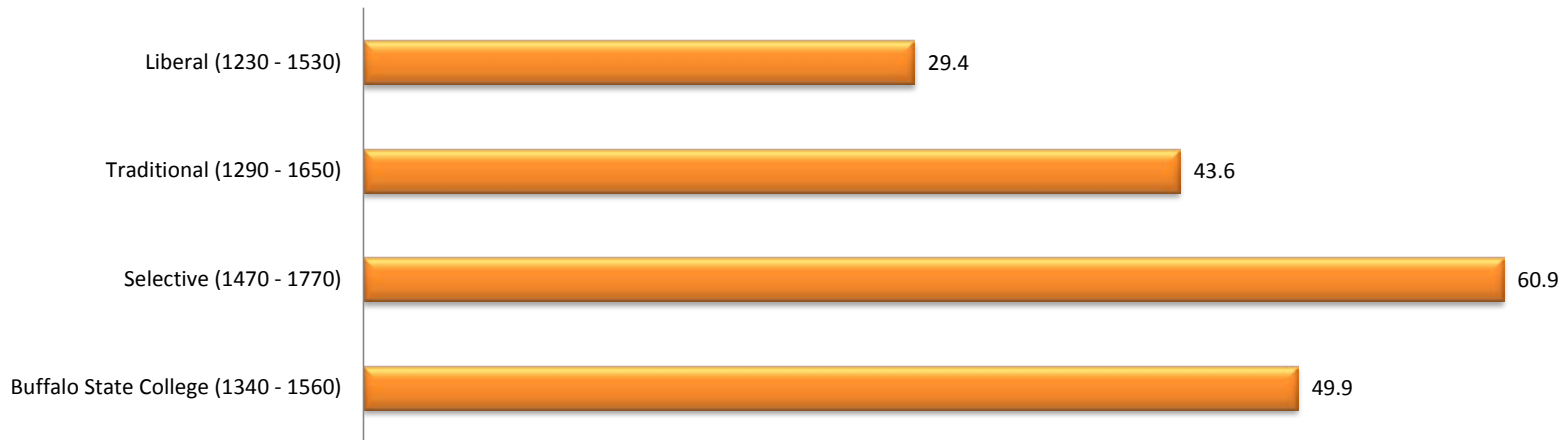


**Figure 10: National Collegiate Persistence to Degree Rates by Selected Four-Year Institutional Type  
within 6-Years of Entering the Institution**

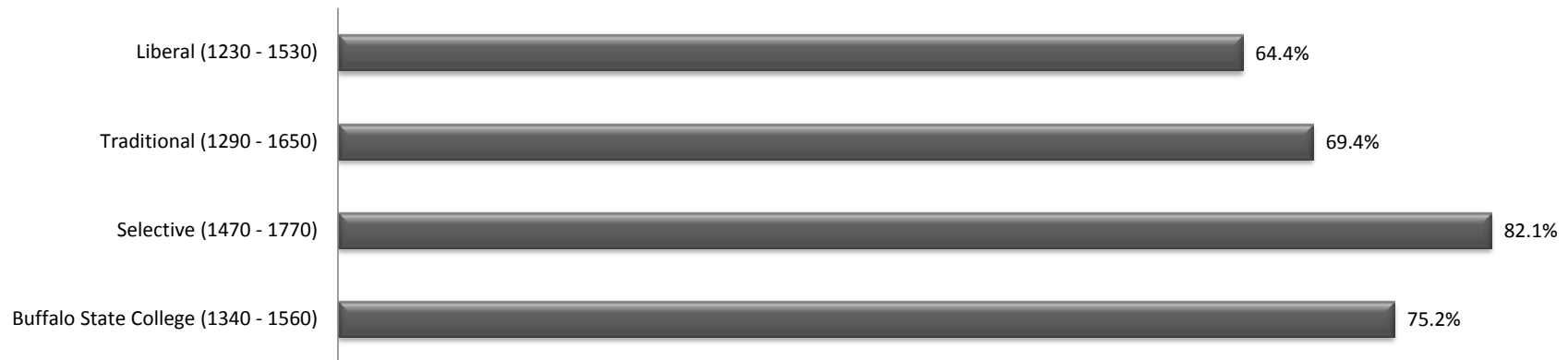


\*Source: ACT Institutional Data Profile, 2013

**Figure 11: Six-Year Graduation Rates for Four-Year Public Institutions Offering Bachelor's and Master's Only by Level of Selectivity (SAT Middle 50 Percent)**



**Figure 12: Retention Rates for Four-Year Public Institutions Offering Bachelor's and Master's Only by Level of Selectivity (SAT Middle 50 Percent)**



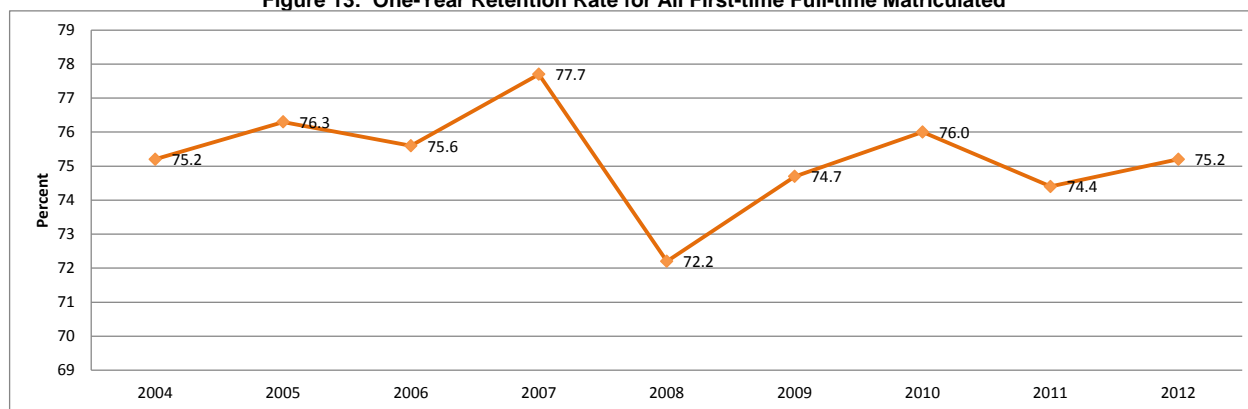
**Highly Selective:** Admitted from 10% of H.S. Class; **Selective:** Top 25% of H.S. Class; **Traditional:** Top 50% of H.S. Class; **Liberal:** from the Bottom 50% of H.S. Class  
 SAT Middle 50 percent is based on combined SAT verbal, math, and writing scores

\*Source: ACT Institutional Data Profile, 2013

**Table 6: Trends in Retention and Graduation Rates of Full-time, First-time EOP Students at Buffalo State**

First-Year EOP Student Cohort		Retention Rates			Cumulative Graduation Rates		
Year	N	First Fall to Spring	First Fall to Second Fall	First Fall to Third Fall	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
1999	223	84.3%	70.4%	55.6%	9.0%	24.7%	28.7%
2000	184	91.3%	79.3%	66.8%	11.4%	31.5%	38.0%
2001	196	92.3%	74.5%	58.2%	8.7%	31.6%	38.8%
2002	137	83.2%	56.9%	43.1%	8.8%	27.0%	30.7%
2003	201	92.5%	80.1%	60.2%	18.4%	34.8%	43.3%
2004	201	92.0%	78.6%	65.2%	10.4%	29.9%	42.8%
2005	252	92.5%	81.0%	62.7%	12.7%	32.5%	36.5%
2006	195	93.8%	83.1%	73.8%	27.7%	47.7%	52.3%
2007	204	95.6%	82.8%	70.6%	23.5%	50.0%	47.5%
2008	203	87.7%	76.4%	62.1%	21.7%	39.9%	
2009	172	91.9%	80.2%	67.4%	24.4%		
2010	132	93.2%	81.1%	69.0%			
2011	134	95.5%	83.6%	67.2%			
2012	148	97.3%	78.4%				
2013	160	96.9%					

**Figure 13: One-Year Retention Rate for All First-time Full-time Matriculated**



**Table 7: Trends in One-Year Retention Rates for First-Time, Full-Time Matriculated by Student Type**

Student Type	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
All First-time	75.2	74.4	76.0	74.7	72.2	77.7	75.6	76.3	75.2	77.9
Commuters	73.9	75.4	76.0	75.4	71.5	76.6	70.1	76.5	76.7	78.2
Residential	76.0	73.5	76.0	74.1	72.9	78.5	81.7	76.1	73.9	77.5
School of Education	89.7	81.8	71.4	73.5	87.1	84.8	84.8	81.3	83.7	
School of Arts and Humanities	82.4	75.9	78.5	77.8	76.0	85.6	77.6	79.3	74.7	
School of Natural & Social Sciences	71.5	74.9	78.7	74.8	70.0	78.3	73.8	77.1	71.1	
School of the Professions	76.6	75.6	74.7	74.7	72.7	75.9	76.6	74.6	77.0	
University College	70.6	69.5	73.4	72.5	69.8	74.4	74.3	74.4	75.8	
E.O.P.*	78.6	83.6	81.1	80.2	76.4	82.8	83.1	80.9	78.5	80.1
S.T.A.R.*						78.0	79.4	75.9	75.0	75.3
SSSP*	81.8	82.1	75.0	70.8	87.5	79.2	77.8	86.4	76.9	64.3
Special Consideration	70.0	69.2	70.2	66.7	73.1	78.0				
Female	77	76.2	77.4	76.6	73.8	79.4	77.6	76.7	77.5	79.1
Male	72.8	71.7	74.0	71.8	69.7	75.1	72.4	75.6	71.5	75.8
All College Honors	84.7	83.7	87.3	88.9	76.5	79.5	79.5	95.7	95.6	100.0
High School GPA										
95-100	84.1	90.0	86.3	84.2	85.1	80.1	87.1	92.9	88.0	85.7
90-94	81.1	82.1	85.8	85.1	75.7	79.6	79.9	80.5	81.5	83.4
85-89	77.4	72.9	76.7	74.9	74.6	77.9	76.3	78.4	80.7	83.2
80-84	69.7	74.1	71.2	71.1	68.4	76.2	73.6	71.7	70.1	74.7
79-70	75.5	67.3	69.3	66.4	70.2	79.5	79.5	77.5	73.4	76.1
Unreported	73.3	66.7	78.6	62.8	58.6	76.6	73.1	71.6	65.3	69.4
Ethnicity										
African-American	79.6	79.5	81.0	88.9	73.1	83.0	82.8	78.9	78.7	82.6
Asian	63.3	52.4	73.7	80.6	65.7	75.0	70.6	75.0	69.7	77.8
Caucasian	74.8	73.0	74.9	75.7	72.4	76.3	74.0	75.5	75.0	76.0
Hispanic	76.1	76.5	74.2	77.1	75.7	82.4	78.3	80.8	71.2	76.3
Multi Race	70.5	70.3								
Native American**	100.0	100.0	68.4	73.8	33.3	50.0	100.0	57.1	25.0	85.7
Pacific Islanders		50.0								
Undisclosed	50.0	87.5	82.5	71.4	72.2	75.3	72.2	75.2	76.3	83.4
International	50.0	81.8	73.7	75.5	53.8					

\* subset of University College

\*\* Native Amer. Cohort is less than 10