

## 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 75.3%, up 0.9 percentage-point from the previous year and is up 3.1% from fall 2008 cohort. The two-year retention rate decreased by 2.6 points from fall 2011 and 4.5 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).