



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

Retention and Graduation Rates

**Entering Transfer Classes of
2002 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 new full-time, degree-seeking transfers. The retention rates reflect persistence into the following fall semester as well as graduation within one year. The graduation rate reflects the percentage of students in a cohort who earned a bachelor's degree (or higher-level degree) within two, three, four, or five years.

- The one-year retention rate for the 2012 cohort increased to 77.1%, up slightly from the previous fall (see Table 1).
- The Five-year graduation rate for the 2008 cohort decreased to 58.1% from 61.7 percent. The three-year graduation rate increased by 3.3 percentage points to 46.0 percent (see Table 1).
- Retention rates for women are slightly higher than rates for men over the past nine cohorts. Women's five-year graduation rates are slightly higher for the fall 2008 cohort, compared to the past nine cohorts where women graduation rates were significantly higher than men (see Table 2 for 5-year snapshots).
- The one-year retention rate for African American students in the 2012 cohort decreased from 88.2 percent to 77.5 percent from fall 2008. This decrease was consistent among all race and ethnic groups from fall 2008 to fall 2012 and fall 2011 to fall 2012. The five-year graduation rate for African American students increased by 4.1 percentage points from last year but continued to significantly lag behind comparable rate for Caucasian students for the past two-cohorts (fall 2007 46.8% vs. 62.5%, fall 2008 50.9% vs 61.5%). This downward trend in five-year graduation was consistent for Caucasian and Hispanic students for the five-year snapshot (see Table 2) and last year.
- The one-year retention rate for residential students in the 2012 cohort was higher than the rate for commuter students. The one-year retention for residential students decreased 6.3 percentage points from last year and increased 4.9 percentage points from five years ago (Table 2). The five-year graduation rate for residential students is 51.5% and is lower when compared to 60.5% for commuters. The five-year graduation rate for residential students decreased by 6.8 percentage points from fall 2004 and 11.4 percentage points from last year's five-year graduation rate. For comparable cohorts, the five-year graduation rates for commuters decreased by less than two percentage points (see Table 2).

- Among our top feeders for the fall 2008 cohort, Niagara Community College had the highest one-year retention (83.3%) and Monroe Community College had the highest graduation (76.9%) rate, an increase of three percentage points from last year. Erie Community College students, our top enrollment feeder, graduated at a rate of 55.3 percent within five-years, nearly 3 points below the rate for new transfers and Jamestown Community College students graduated 25 percentage points below the rate for new transfers. (see figure 8).
- New transfers with junior status are retained (80.1%) and graduated (66.4%) at a higher rate than those with lower entry status (73.6%, 51.6%) (see Table 2).
- One-year retention rate within students' initially declared schools and college ranged from 73.1% in the School of Arts and Humanities to 81.4% in the School of Professions (see Figure 3). Five-year graduation rates ranged from 25.0% in University College to 70.0% in the School of Education (see Table 3).
- Among departments with enrollment of 20 or more new transfers, one-year retention rate within students' initially declared department ranged from 64.7% in Fine Arts to 88.5% percent in Technology (see Figure 4). Five-year graduation rates within students' initially declared department ranged from 25.0% in University College to 81.1% percent in Computer and Information Systems (see Figure 6).

Table 1: Trends in Retention and Graduation Rates of New FT Matriculated Transfers at Buffalo State

New Transfer Student Cohort		Retention Rates		Cumulative Graduation Rates				
Year	N	First Fall to Spring	First Fall to Second Fall	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
2002	867	91.3%	76.4%	21.4%	42.3%	55.8%	59.3%	61.2%
2003	817	91.2%	80.2%	17.3%	40.1%	55.9%	60.6%	64.9%
2004	829	89.7%	79.4%	16.3%	42.7%	57.1%	61.8%	62.6%
2005	891	89.1%	78.1%	18.6%	43.9%	56.7%	61.6%	62.6%
2006	946	87.6%	75.4%	18.8%	39.9%	55.6%	59.7%	60.9%
2007	978	89.5%	78.5%	20.2%	46.8%	59.4%	61.8%	63.8%
2008	1000	88.9%	78.8%	18.3%	41.7%	55.4%	58.1%	
2009	1190	87.3%	77.3%	19.2%	42.7%	54.2%		
2010	1136	90.0%	78.3%	20.2%	46.0%			
2011	1088	89.6%	77.6%	18.1%				
2012	1089	89.3%	77.1%					
2013	975	88.8%						

Figure 1: New Transfer 1-Year Retention Rates at Buffalo State

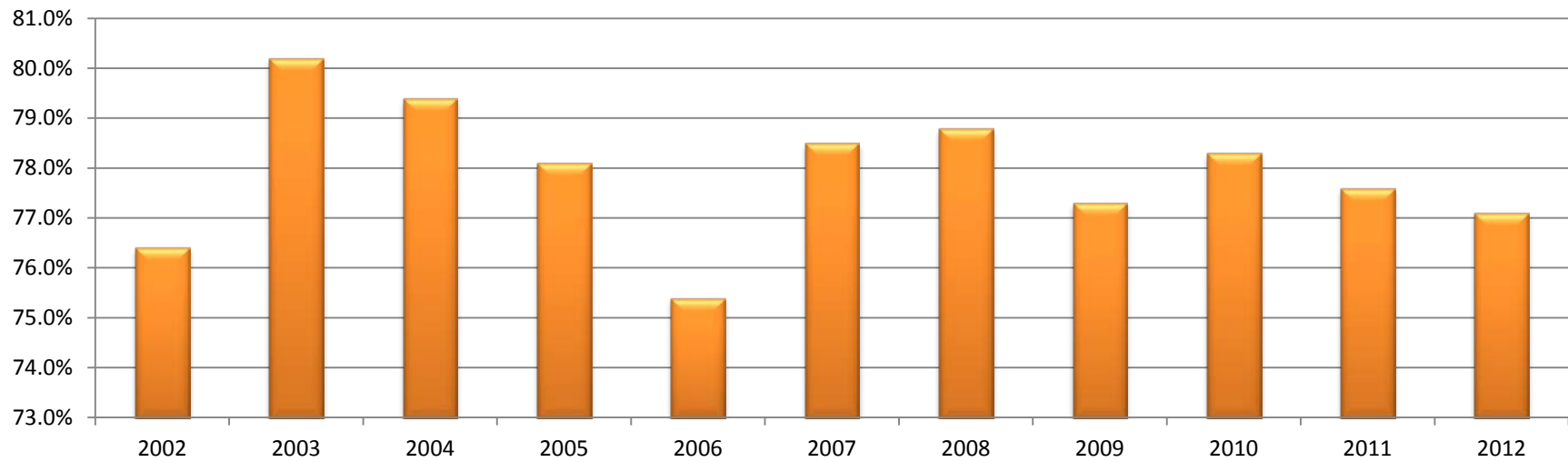


Figure 2: 5-Year New Transfer Graduation Rates at Buffalo State

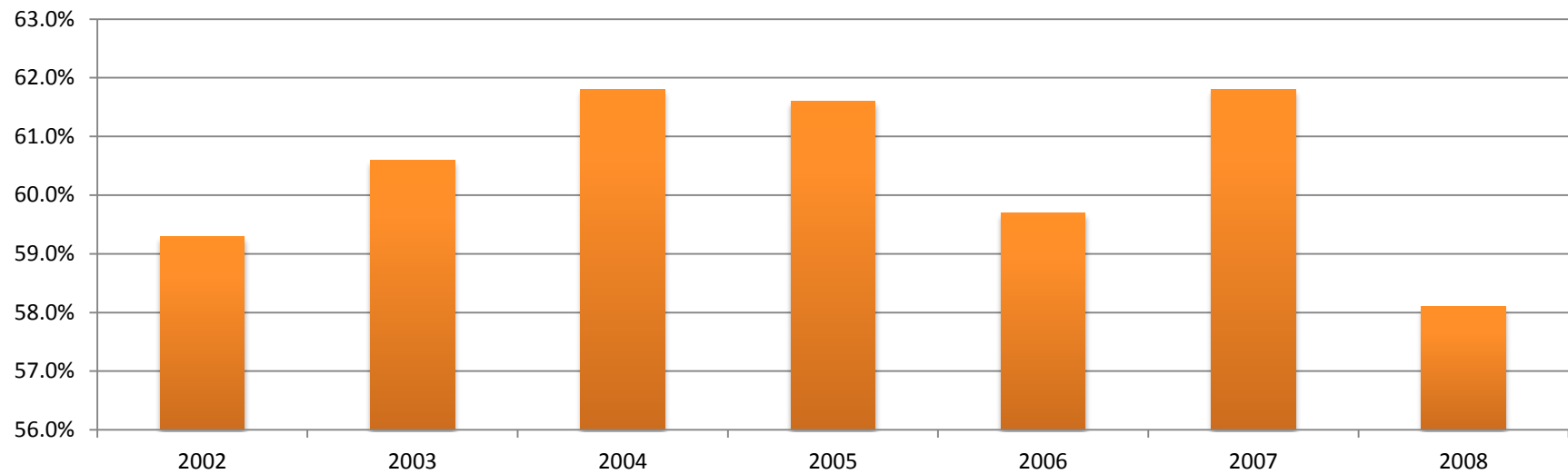


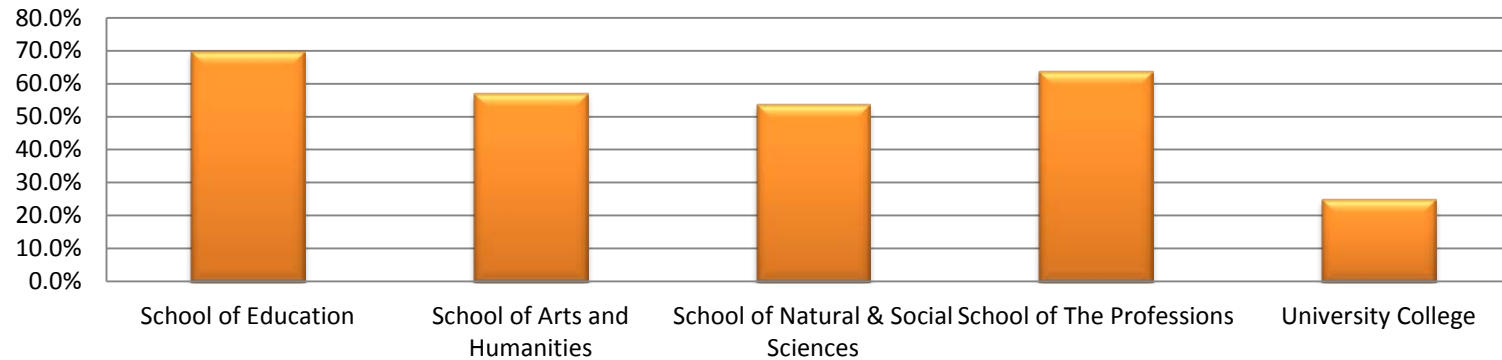
Table 2: Retention and Graduation Rates of Selected Student Groups at Buffalo State College

Student Group	1-Yr Retention Rate Cohort		2-Yr Graduation Rate Cohort		5-Yr Graduation Rate Cohort	
	Fall 2008	Fall 2012	Fall 2007	Fall 2011	Fall 2004	Fall 2008
Female	77.1	77.3	19.1	20.1	64.4	58.7
Male	79.5	76.8	21.8	15.5	58.9	57.3
White	79.0	77.1	20.2	19.7	63.7	61.5
African-Amer.	88.2	77.5	14.4	12.0	58.0	50.9
Hispanic	62.8	61.3	18.8	5.2	45.8	44.2
Asian	81.8	80.0	36.8	30.0	66.7	81.8
Upper Level (60 Credits or More)	81.1	80.1	31.8	30.2	68.1	66.4
Lower Level (59 Credits or Less)	74.7	73.6	11.7	6.7	56.2	51.6
Commuters	79.8	76.9	21.4	20.3	62.2	60.5
Residential Students	72.8	77.7	15.3	11.5	58.2	51.4
EOP	75.6	82.3	18.2	10.6	61.1	46.3
Erie Community College	77.0	74.8	23.3	16.6	60.1	55.3
Niagara Community College	78.3	83.3	19.6	27.1	69.4	61.7
Genessee Community College	71.4	72.7	27.6	41.4	69.4	57.1
Buffalo University	72.2	79.4	23.8	35.3	60.0	61.1
Jamestown Community College	66.7	60.0	15.4	7.1	37.5	33.3
Monroe Community College	92.3	79.5	21.7	12.9	48.7	76.9
All New Transfer Students	78.0	77.1	20.2	18.1	61.9	58.1

**Table 3: Two to Five-Year Graduation Rates by Initially Declared Schools and College
Fall 2008 Cohort**

Schools and College	Student Headcount	Cumulative Graduation Rates			
		2-Years	3-Years	4-years	5-Years
School of Education	120	10.8%	46.7%	66.7%	70.0%
School of Arts and Humanities	229	16.2%	36.2%	53.7%	57.2%
School of Natural & Social Sciences	266	15.8%	39.5%	51.9%	53.8%
School of <i>The Professions</i>	325	27.7%	51.7%	61.8%	64.0%
University College	60	1.7%	8.3%	20.0%	25.0%

**Figure 3: Five-year Transfer Graduation Rates by Initially Declared School and College,
Fall 2008 Cohort**



**Figure 4: One-Year Transfer Retention Rates by Initially Declared Schools and College,
Fall 2012 Cohort**

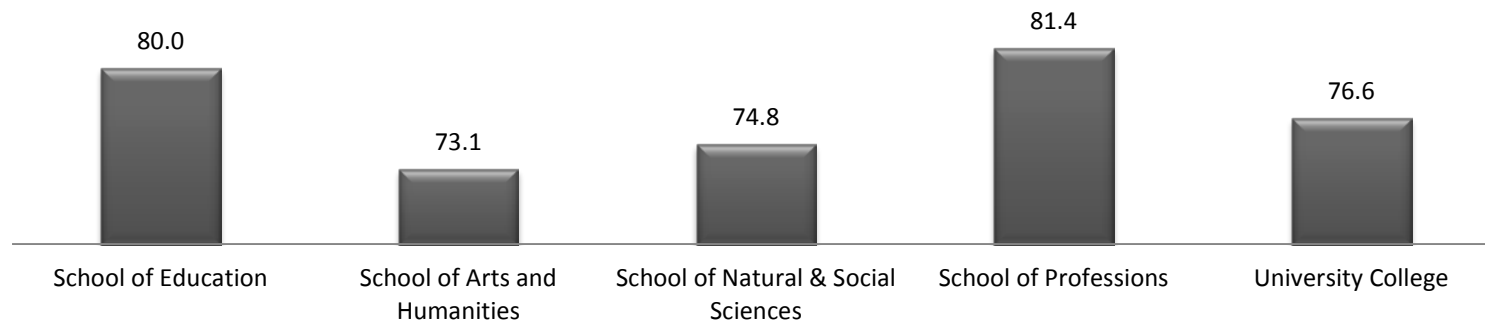


Figure 5: Retention rates by Initially Declared Department with more than 20 New Transfers, Fall 2012

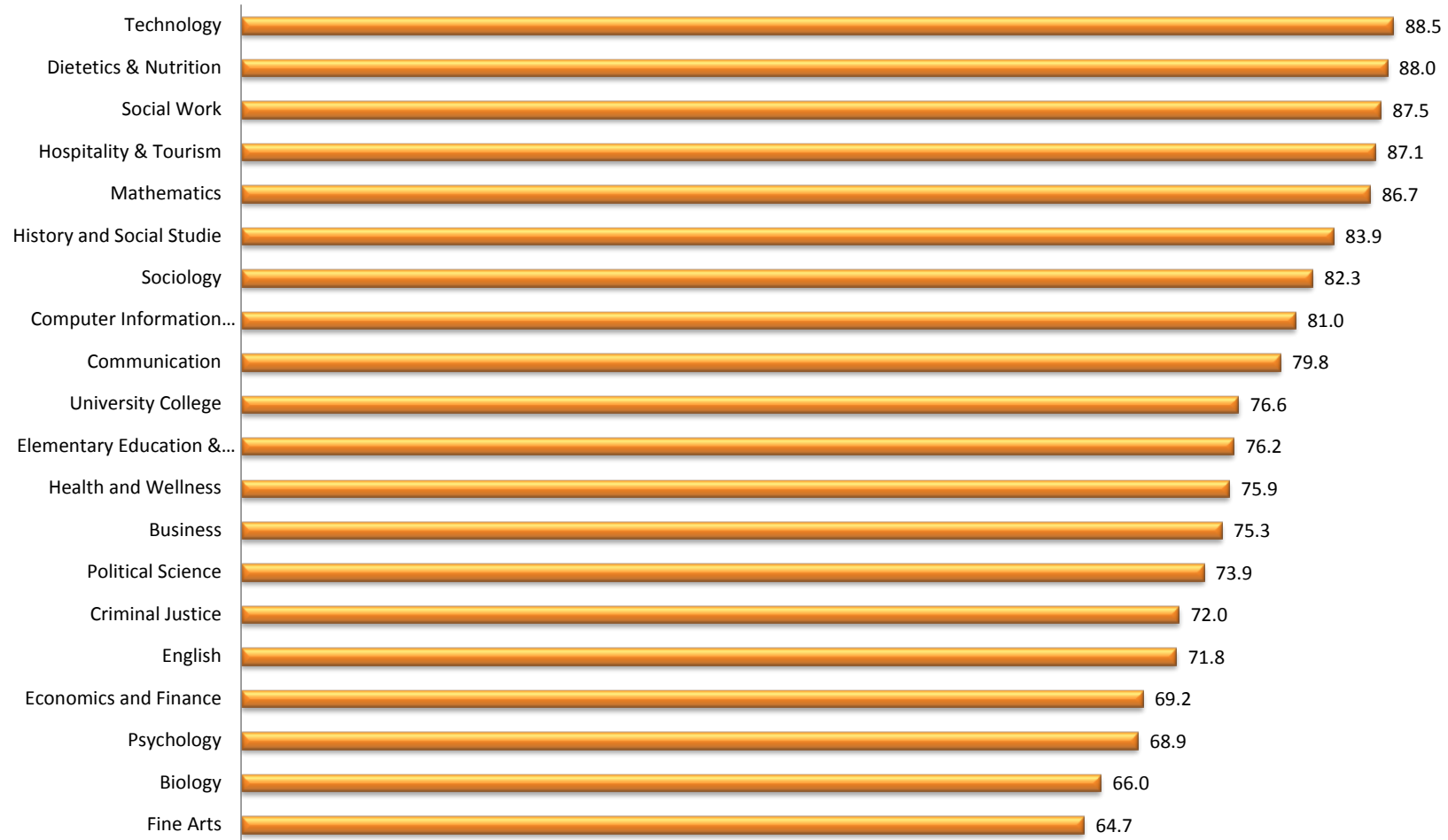


Figure 6: Five-year Graduation Rates by Initially Declared Department with more than 20 New Transfers, Fall 2008

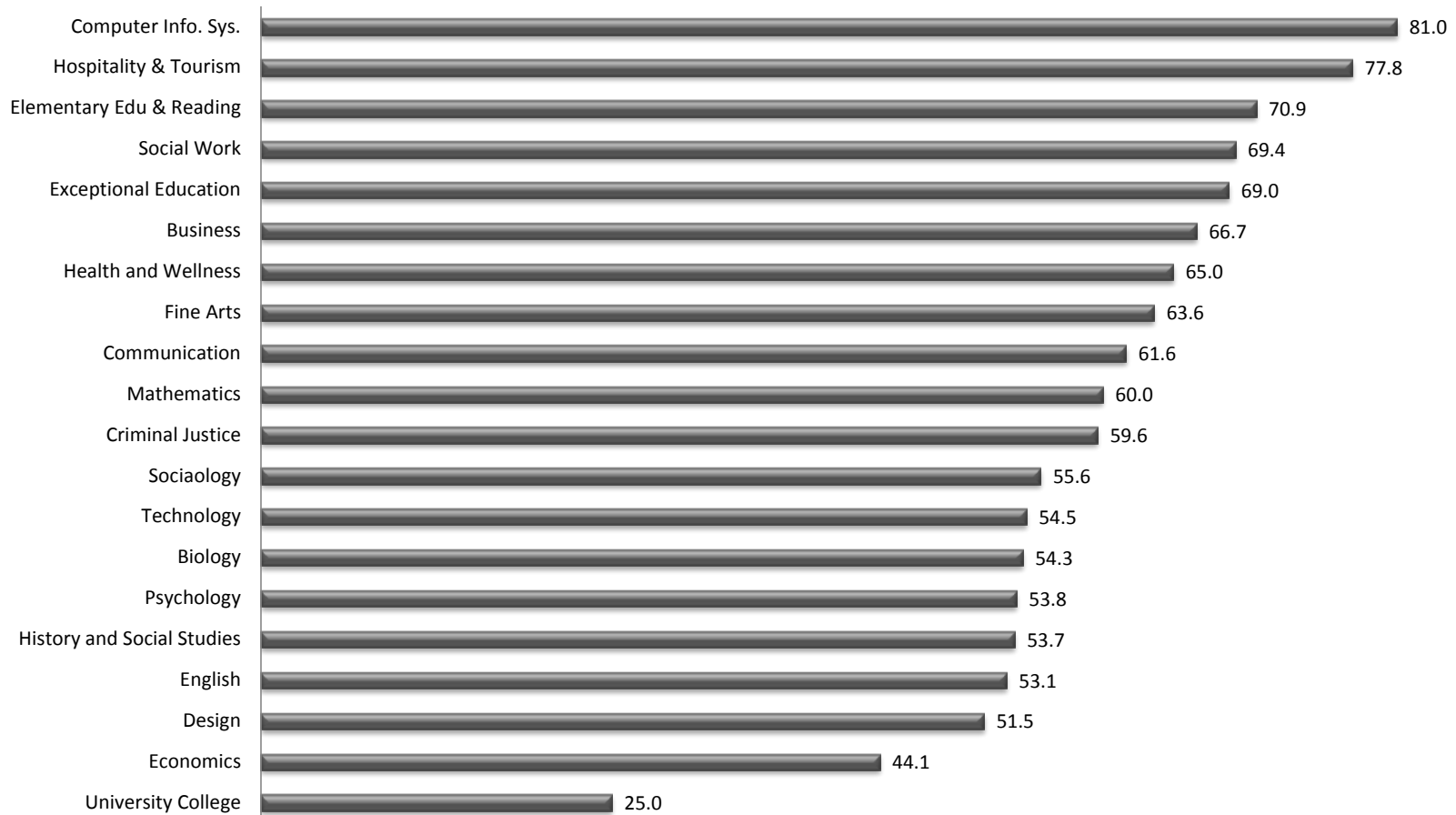


Figure 7: Top Feeder's Enrollment by Institutions, Fall 2008

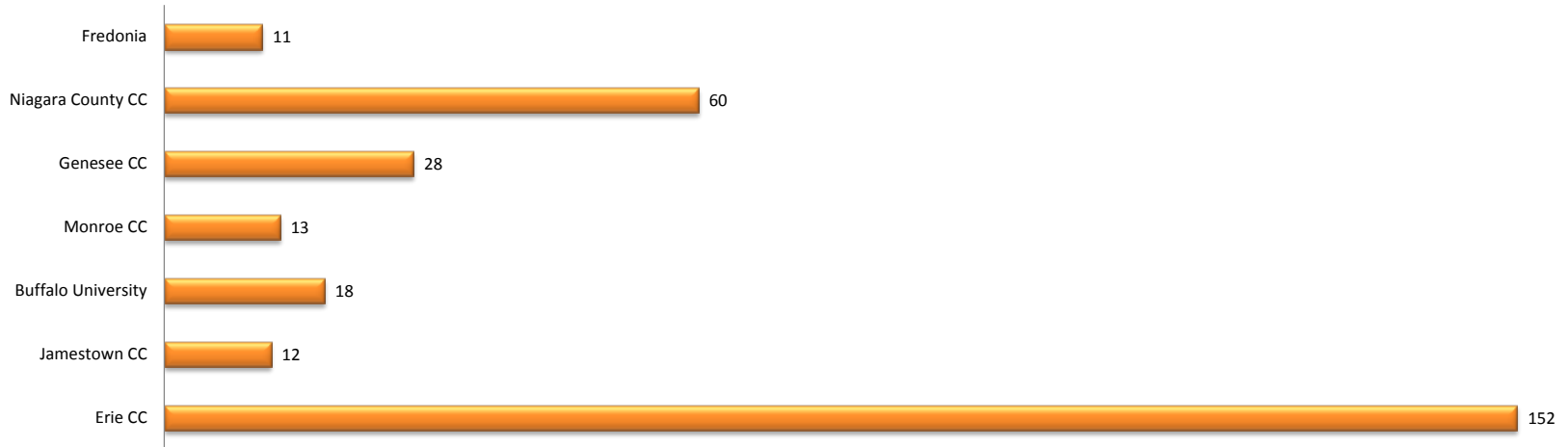
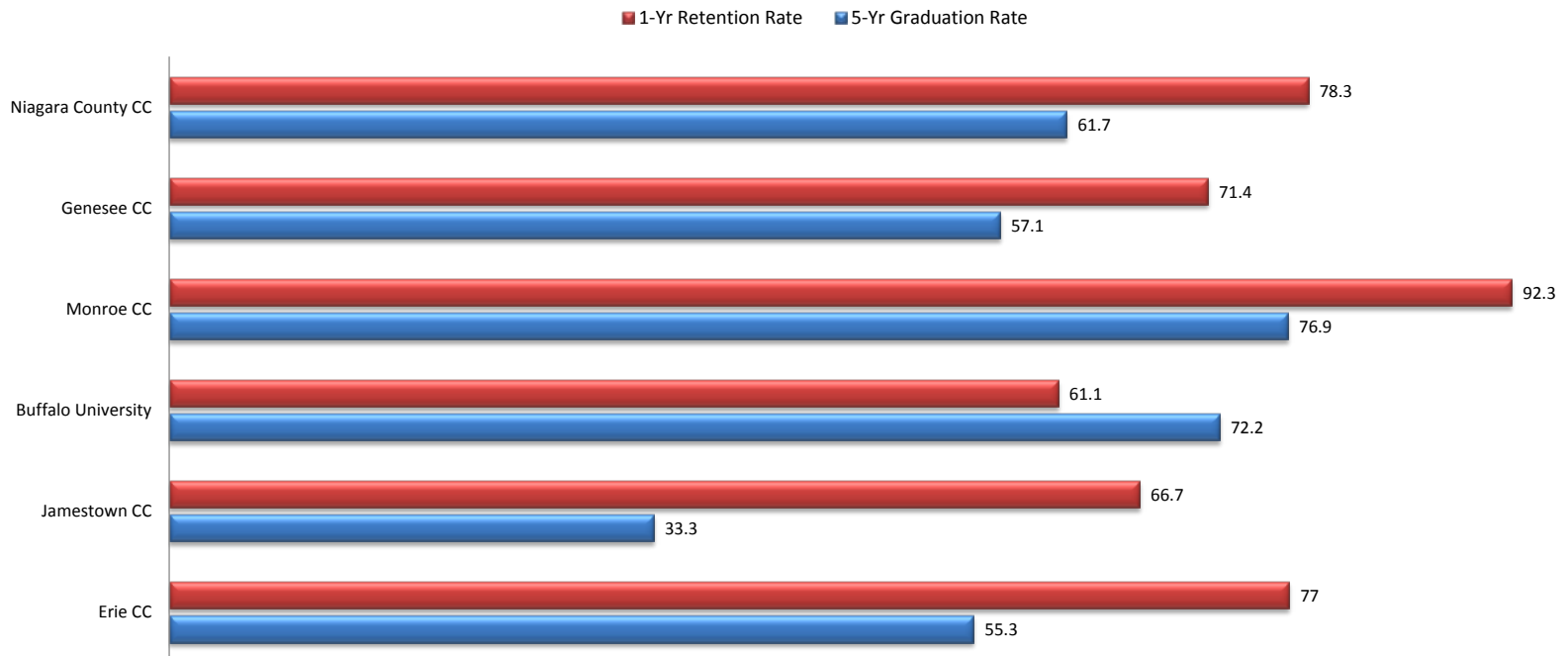


Figure 8: Top Feeder's Retention and Graduation Rates (%), Fall 2008



**Table 4: Retention and graduation rates by initially declared departments
Fall 2008 Cohort**

Department	2008 Cohort	Retention 1-Year	Cumulative Graduation Rates within			
			2-Year	3-Year	4-Year	5-Year
All New Matriculated Transfers	1000	78.0	18.3	41.7	55.4	58.1
Anthropology	8	75.0	0.0	37.5	62.5	62.5
Art Education	15	53.3	20.0	46.7	46.7	46.7
Biology	35	82.9	11.4	34.3	51.4	54.3
Business	81	84.0	27.2	50.6	60.5	66.7
Chemistry	8	75.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	62.5
Computer and Informations Systems	21	95.2	38.1	76.2	81.0	81.0
Communication	73	86.3	21.9	46.6	60.3	61.6
Criminal Justice	52	69.2	28.8	50.0	59.6	59.6
Design	33	78.8	3.0	21.2	45.5	51.5
Economics and Finance	34	76.5	14.7	35.3	44.1	44.1
Educational Foundations	5	60.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	60.0
Elementary Education	86	84.9	12.8	48.8	67.4	70.9
English	32	81.3	15.6	18.8	53.1	53.1
Exceptional Education	29	79.3	0.0	41.4	69.0	69.0
Fine Arts	33	84.8	18.2	30.3	51.5	63.6
Geography and Planning	17	82.4	11.8	41.2	47.1	47.1
GES	9	88.9	11.1	44.4	55.6	55.6
Health and Wellness	20	90.0	35.0	55.0	65.0	65.0
History and Social Studies	54	70.4	13.0	33.3	51.9	53.7
Hospitality and Tourism	27	88.9	44.4	70.4	77.8	77.8
Mathematics	20	75.0	5.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Modern Classical and Languages	12	83.3	8.3	41.7	58.3	58.3
Music	8	87.5	12.5	62.5	75.0	75.0
Dietetics	18	77.8	0.0	16.7	50.0	50.0
Philosophy and Humanities	18	88.9	22.2	44.4	44.4	50.0
Physics	2	50.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
Political Science	9	77.8	44.4	66.7	66.7	66.7
Psychology	52	73.1	15.4	42.3	53.8	53.8
Speech-Language-Pathology	15	73.3	33.3	46.7	53.3	53.3
Sociology	27	81.5	33.3	44.4	55.6	55.6
Social Work	36	80.6	44.4	61.1	66.7	69.4
Technology	55	81.8	9.1	41.8	52.7	54.5
Theater	5	80.0	0.0	20.0	40.0	40.0
University College	60	43.3	1.7	8.3	20.0	25.0