



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

Retention and Graduation Rates

**Entering Classes of
1999 to 2012**

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 2011 cohort decreased to 74.4%, down 1.6 percentage-points from the previous year and is up 2.2% from fall 2008 cohort (see Table 1).
- The six-year graduation rate for the fall 2006 cohort is 48.1%, up 1.3 percentage points from the previous cohort (see Table 1).
- Retention rates for women have generally averaged one to six points higher than rates for men over the past decade. Women's graduation rates have ranged from seven 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 2011 cohort decreased 1.6 percentage points to 79.5% and was higher than the rate for White students (79.5% vs. 73.0%). The six-year graduation rate for African-American students increased 17.9 percentage points to 55.6% compared to the fall 2002 cohort. For the first-time African-American students are graduating at a higher rate than Caucasian students (55.6% vs. 49.5%; see Table 2). The six-year graduation rate for Hispanic students increased 6.1 percentage points from the fall 2002 cohort to 38.1 percent from the fall 2006 cohort. This is also an increase of 2.5 percentage points from the fall 2005 cohort.
- The one-year retention rate for commuter students for the fall 2011 cohort is 1.9 percentage points higher than the rate for residential students. The six-year graduation rate for residential students for the fall 2006 cohort is to 53.8 percent, an increase of 1.1 percentage points. On the other hand, the six-year graduation rate for commuter students remained flat at 43.0%. The graduation rate for residential students increased by 5.1 percentage points and commuters increased by 4.2 percentage points compared to the fall 2002 cohort (see Table 2).

- About forty-three (43.2) percent of students who started at Buffalo State with a high school average below 85 graduated within six years; this is an increase from last year's 38.8 percent. fifty-three (52.6) 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 about the same rate within 4-years to those who reported an average below 85 (23.2% vs. 21.1%), this is a significant change from previous cohorts where those with 85 and above were graduating at 2 to 1 ratio with four-years.
- About forty-nine (48.7) 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; forty-eight (47.5) percent of students with a reported SAT Composite range score of 999 or below (see table 4).
- One-year retention rates within students' initially declared schools and college ranged from 71.4% in the School of Education to 78.7% in the School of Natural and Social Sciences (see Figure 6). Six-year graduation rates ranged from 38.7% in the School of Education to 55.6% in the School of Arts and Humanities (see Table 5).
- Among departments with 19 or more first-time full-time students, one-year retention rates within students' initially declared department ranged from 60.5% in English to 92.0% percent in Elementary Ed. And Reading (see figure 7). Six-year graduation rates within students' initially declared department ranged from 33.3% in Biology to 60.5% percent in Art 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%	
2008	1507	87.4%	72.2%	57.3%	22.6%		
2009	1517	89.4%	74.7%	62.8%			
2010	1467	91.2%	76.0%	62.1%			
2011	1404	90.1%	74.4%				
2012	1338	91.4%					

Figure 1: First-Year Retention Rates at Buffalo State

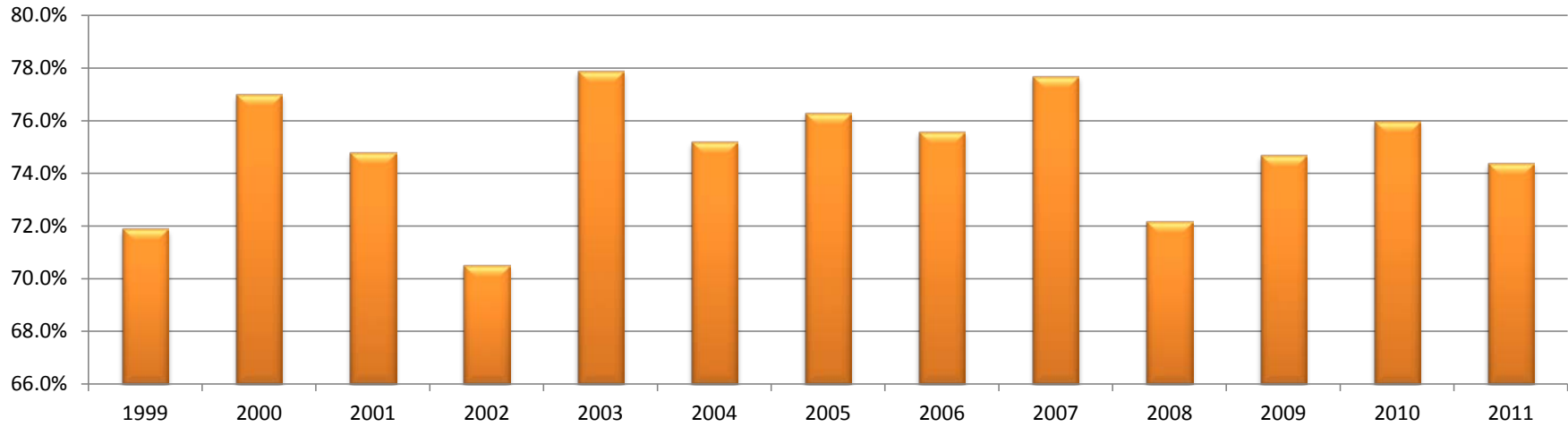


Figure 2: Six-Year Graduation Rates at Buffalo State

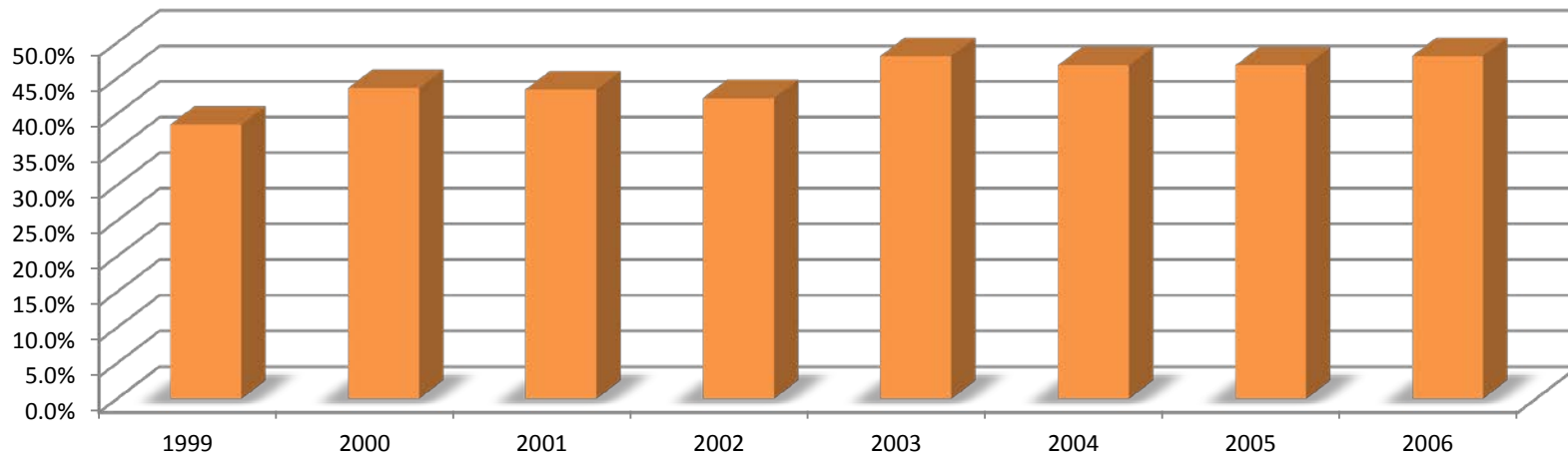


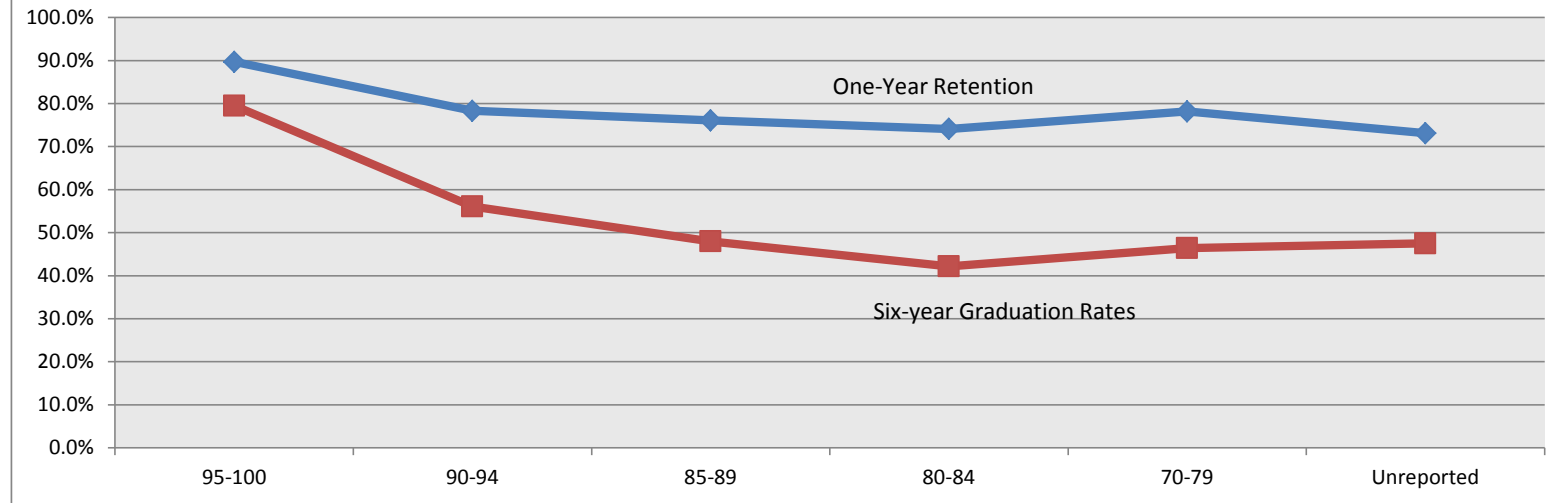
Table 2: Retention and Graduation Rates of Selected Student Groups at Buffalo State College

Student Group	1-Yr Retention Rate Cohort		2-Yr Retention Rate Cohort		6-Yr Graduation Rate Cohort	
	Fall 2006	Fall 2011	Fall 2006	Fall 2010	2002	Fall 2006
Female	77.6	76.2	65.3	65.5	45.0	52.5
Male	72.4	71.7	59.8	57.7	37.6	41.3
White	74.0	73.0	62.1	60.4	43.2	49.5
African-Amer.	82.4	79.5	74.9	69.1	37.7	55.6
Hispanic	77.4	76.5	59.5	61.7	31.8	38.1
Asian	72.2	52.3	47.2	56.6	23.3	25.0
Others	73.8	78.6	57.6	64.4	40.4	39.8
Commuters	70.1	75.4	56.9	63.1	38.8	43.0
Residential Students	81.7	73.5	70.2	61.2	48.7	53.8
All Students	75.6	74.4	63.1	62.1	42.2	48.1

**Table 3: Retention and Graduation Rates by High School Average Ranges
Fall 2006 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	39	89.7%	89.7%	43.6%	79.5%	79.5%
90-94	157	78.3%	66.2%	22.3%	52.2%	56.1%
85-89	348	76.1%	64.4%	21.3%	43.4%	48.0%
80-84	344	74.1%	59.0%	20.3%	38.1%	42.2%
70-79	110	78.2%	68.2%	23.6%	44.5%	46.4%
Unreported	402	73.1%	60.4%	15.6%	32.7%	47.5%

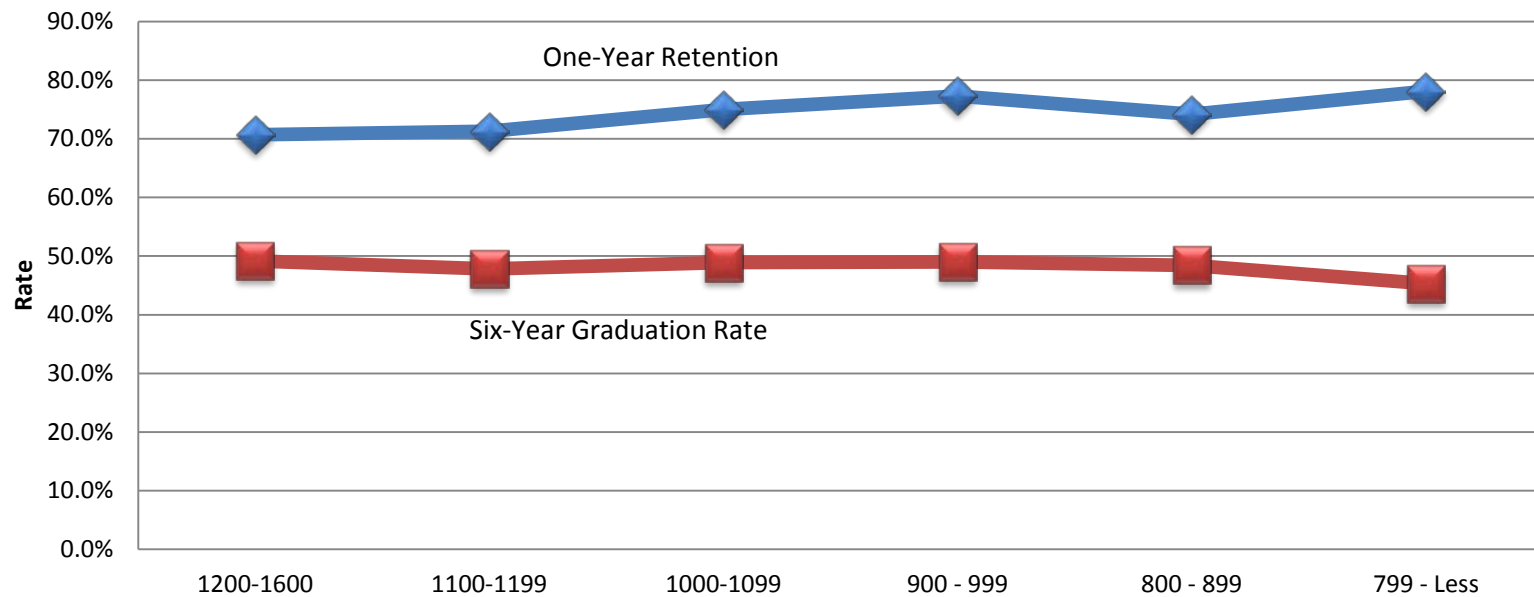
**Figure 3: One-year Retention and Six-year Graduation Rates
by HS Average, Fall 2006 cohort**



**Table 4: Retention and Graduation Rates by SAT Score Ranges
Fall 2006 Cohort**

SAT Ranges	Student Headcount	First Fall to Second Fall	Cumulative Graduation Rates		
			4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
1200-1600	58	70.7%	24.1%	48.3%	49.2%
1100-1199	136	71.3%	17.6%	45.6%	47.8%
1000-1099	280	75.0%	21.4%	43.2%	48.9%
900 - 999	392	77.3%	21.9%	44.4%	49.0%
800 - 899	256	74.2%	23.8%	45.7%	48.4%
799 - Less	278	78.1%	24.1%	41.4%	45.3%

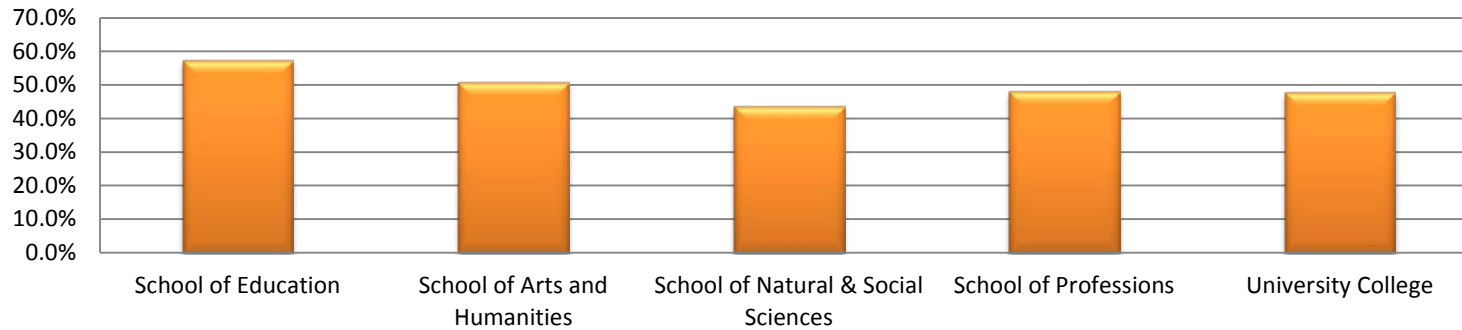
**Figure 4: One-Year Retention and Six-Year Graduation Rate by SAT Score Ranges
Fall 2006**



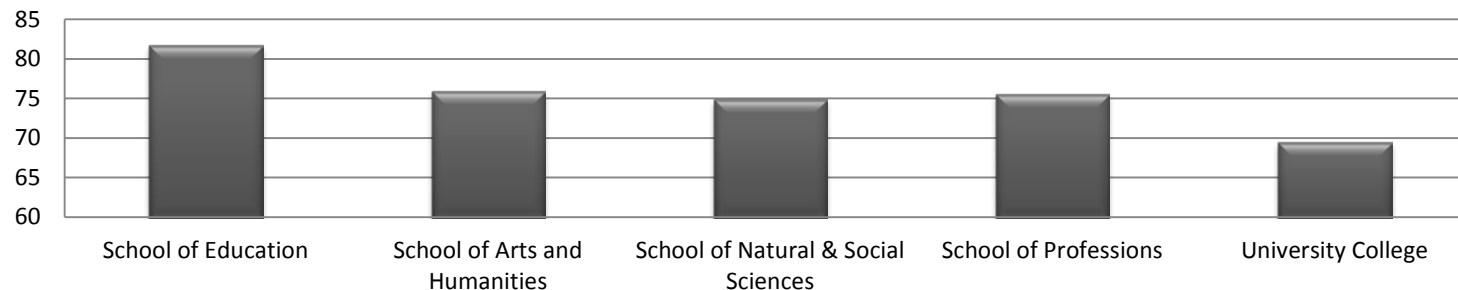
**Table 5: Retention Rates and Six-Year Graduation Rates by Initially Declared Schools and College
Fall 2006 Cohort**

Schools and College	Student Headcount	Cumulative Graduation Rates		
		4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
School of Education	33	15.2%	54.5%	57.6%
School of Arts and Humanities	272	22.8%	46.7%	51.1%
School of Natural & Social Sciences	263	22.8%	41.4%	43.7%
School of Professions	303	25.4%	43.2%	48.2%
University College	529	20.4%	43.9%	48.0%

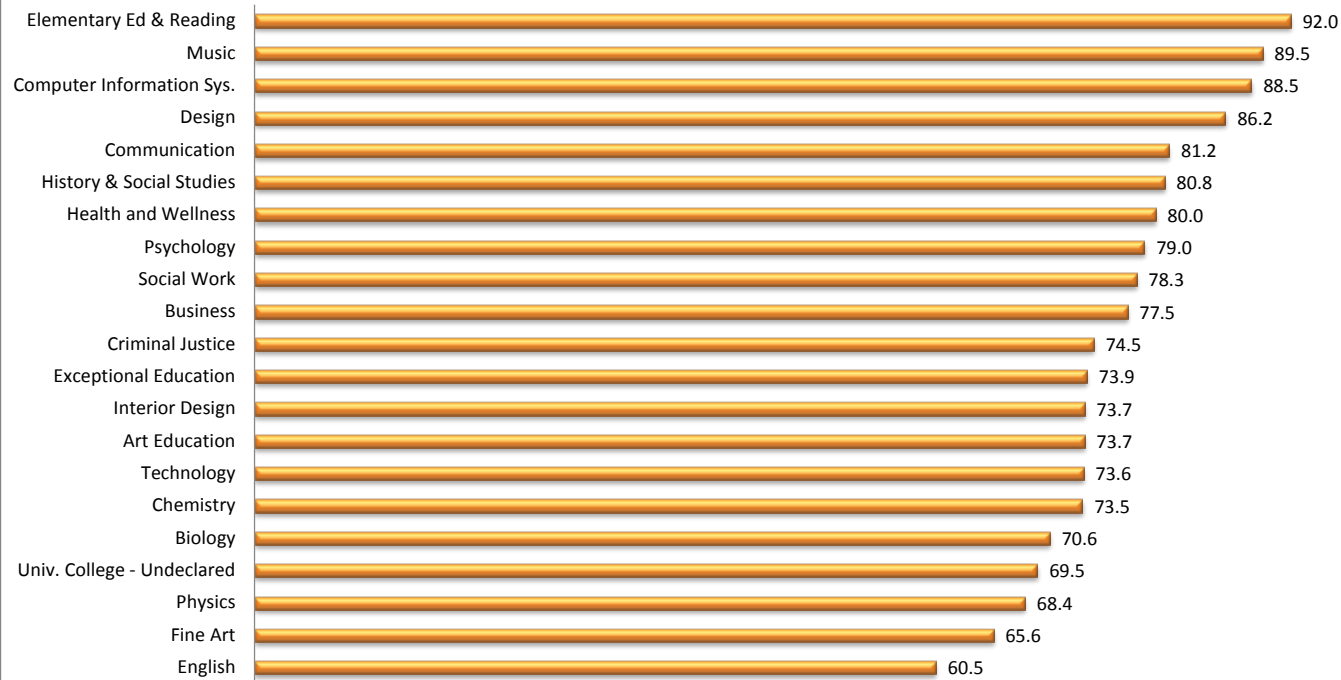
**Figure 5: Six-year Graduation Rates by Initially Declared School and College
Fall 2006 Cohort**



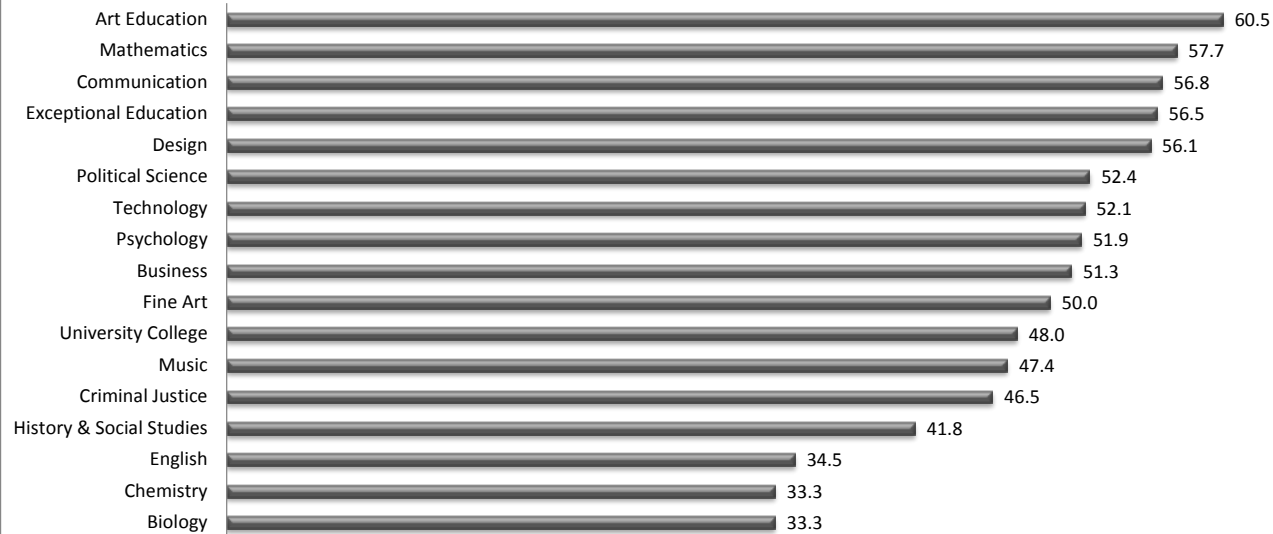
**Figure 6: One-Year Retention Rates by Initially Declared Schools and College
Fall 2011 Cohort**



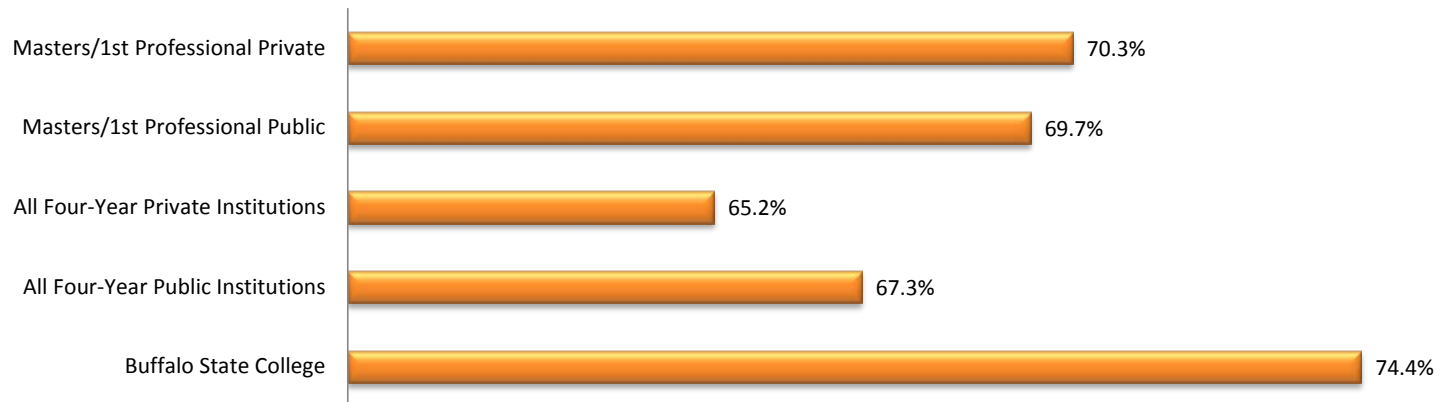
**Figure 7: Retention Rates by Initially Declared Department with 19 or more First-time
Fall 2011**



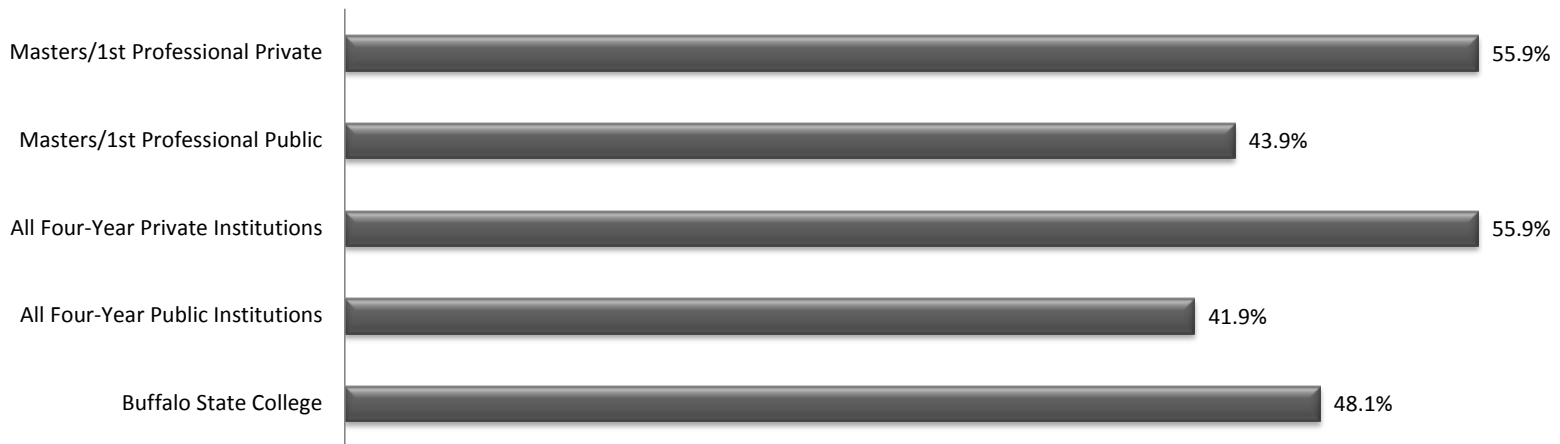
**Figure 8: Six-year Graduation Rates by Initially Declared Department with 19 or more first-time
Fall 2006**



**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

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)

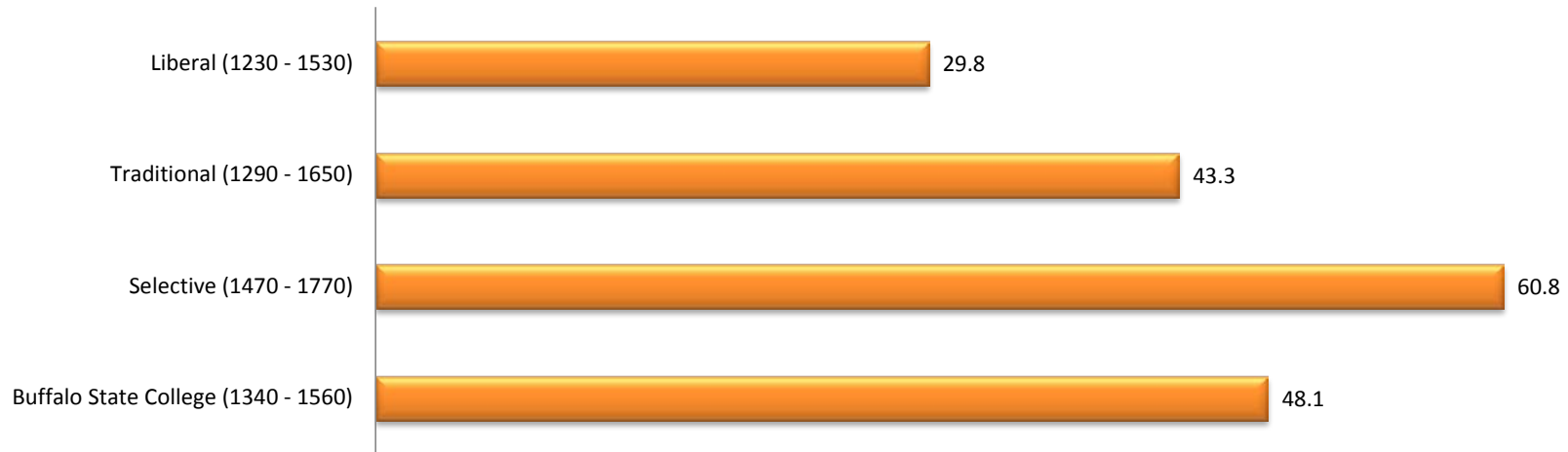
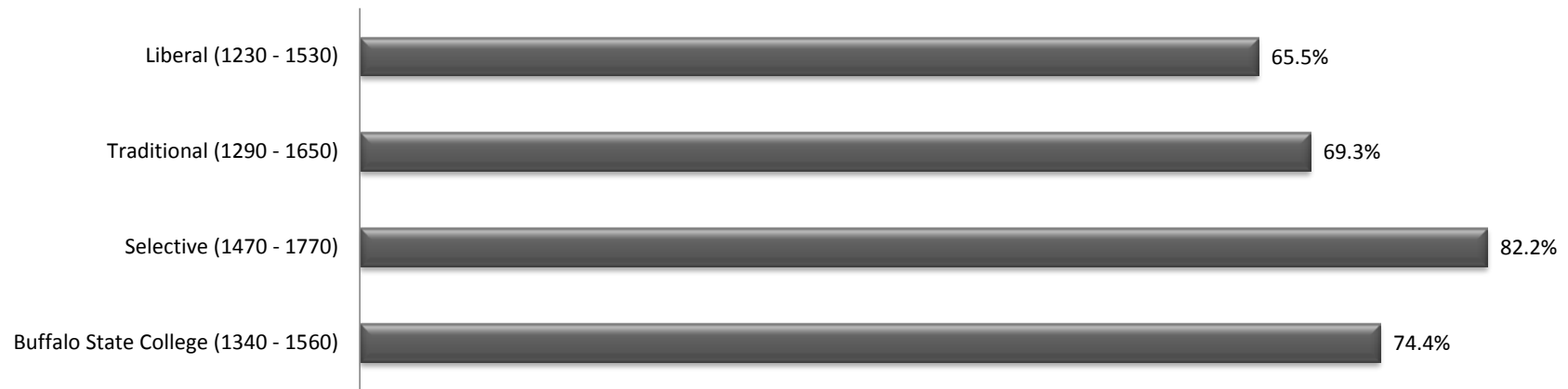


Figure 12: Retention Rates for Four-Year Public Institutions Offering Bachelor's and Master's Only by Level of Selectivity (SAT Middle 50 Percent)



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

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%	
2008	203	87.7%	76.4%	62.1%	21.7%		
2009	172	91.9%	80.2%	67.4%			
2010	132	93.2%	81.1%	69.0%			
2011	134	95.5%	83.6%				
2012	148	97.3%					

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

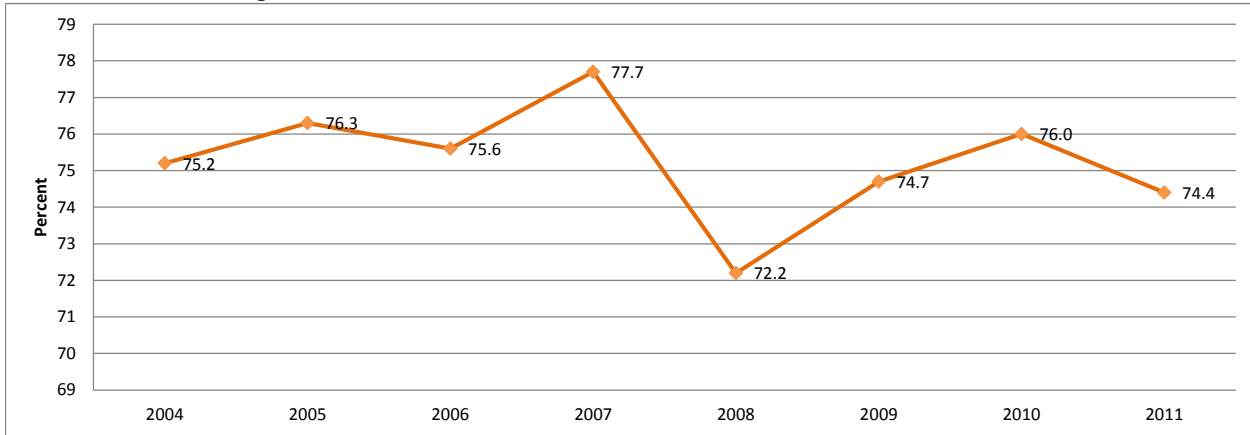


Table 7: Trends in One-Year Retention Rates for First-Time, Full-Time Matriculated by Student Type

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

* EOP, SSSP is a subset of University College

*** Native American cohort is less than 10