



TRUTH. TRAINING. TRANSFORMATION.

2026 Retention-Graduation Outcomes Report

Fall 2018 – Fall 2025

Cohort sizes and Rate Counts

Prepared by: Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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1. Why this report?

The College of Biblical Studies releases this transparency report on retention and graduation to show how each entering class fares over an eight-year span. The report follows the IPEDS graduation measures, which track completion within 100%, 150% and 200% of normal time to a degree (four, six and eight years for a bachelor's degree), and applies the IPEDS allowable exclusions for students who died or left to serve on an official church mission. Because CBS cohorts are small, every rate is reported with its cohort size and the number of students it represents: in a cohort of 15 full-time, first-time students, each student moves the rate by almost 7 percentage points.

The rates are drawn from student records in Populi and reported as “n of N (%)”: the students who met the outcome, the cohort they came from, and the percentage. The report follows each entering fall cohort from 2018 through 2025 for up to eight years and breaks the results out by entry status (first-time vs. transfer-in), enrollment intensity (full-time vs. part-time), program, campus and student characteristics.

2. Key findings

- **Cohort size.** Populi records 1,227 undergraduate fall entrants from 2018 to 2025. 349 did not enroll in any course in their entry term, leaving an adjusted cohort of 876 students across eight cohorts (76 to 136 students per cohort). Published rates should cite these cohort sizes.
- **Retention.** Fall-to-fall retention across all eight cohorts is 50% (434 of 876). It ranges from 41% (Fall 2024: 37 of 90) to 66% (Fall 2019: 86 of 130); the most recent cohort, Fall 2025, retained 50 of 88 (57%).
- **Graduation.** 21% of students in the 2018–2022 cohorts earned an award within four years (119 of 565); 32% of the 2018–2020 cohorts did so within six years (111 of 342). The only cohort with an eight-year result, Fall 2018, stands at 36% (27 of 76).
- **First-time vs. transfer.** Transfer-in students graduate at higher rates: 47% within six years (74 of 159) against 38% for first-time students (18 of 48). Retention is similar (55% vs. 54%). Students who were neither first-time nor coded as transfers, mainly readmits and returning adults, retain at only 27% (45 of 165).
- **Full-time vs. part-time.** Enrollment intensity shows the widest gap: full-time entrants retain at 62% (210 of 337) against 42% (217 of 515) for part-time entrants, and complete within four years at roughly twice the rate (33% vs. 16%). Part-time entrants make up most of the pooled cohort.
- **The IPEDS cohort is very small.** Only 95 full-time, first-time students entered in eight years. Their six-year rate rests on 21 students (7 completed). Any rate for this group must be published with its N.
- **Program.** Accelerated (AD) degree-completion students retain at 75% (97 of 130), compared with 45% (337 of 746) in traditional programs. No certificate-seeking student in these cohorts has yet earned an award (0 of 40 (0%)).

- **Unknown outcomes.** 334 of 876 students (38%) left with no exit reason recorded. That limits any explanation of attrition and is the most important data fix (Section 13).
- **Benchmarks.** Against 19 faith-related peer colleges in CBS's IPEDS Data Feedback Report, CBS trails on full-time, first-time retention and graduation but matches peers for part-time students. The rates CBS reported to IPEDS differ sharply from Populi records and need reconciling (Section 11).

3. Data and definitions

- **Source.** A new Populi Data Slicer report, “2026 Retention-Graduation Outcomes Report,” was built from the existing annual “Fall Graduation-Retention” reports and saved for reuse. It selects every student whose undergraduate program entrance term (any program instance) falls between FA-18-CBS and FA-25-CBS and returns 55 columns: entry term, first-time and transfer flags, credits attempted in each fall, enrollment in every fall and spring term through Fall 2026, all degrees with conferral dates, exit date and reason, campus, gender, race/ethnicity and age.
- **Cohort.** Students who entered an undergraduate program in a fall term and enrolled in at least one course that term. Entrants with no enrollment in their entry term are reported but excluded. IPEDS-allowable exclusions (death; official church mission) are removed from every denominator. The workbook can switch to academic-year cohorts that add spring and summer entrants (Controls sheet).
- **Entry status.** First-time = no prior postsecondary attendance, per the Populi first-time flag. Transfer-in = entered with transfer status. Other non-first-time = prior college but not coded as transfer (readmits, returning students).
- **Enrollment intensity.** Credits attempted in the entry fall: 12 or more is full-time; 1–11 is part-time.
- **Retention.** Enrolled in the fall one year after entry, or had already earned an award.
- **Completion within 4, 6 and 8 years.** First undergraduate award (certificate, associate or bachelor's) conferred on or after entry and by August 31 of year 4, 6 or 8, following the IPEDS Outcome Measures convention. A cohort is counted only once its window has fully elapsed, so pooled rates for different windows rest on different cohorts and are not nested.
- **Small cells.** Where a group has fewer than 10 students, the rate is withheld and only the cohort size is shown (“N=7 †”). The threshold is set on the workbook's Controls sheet.

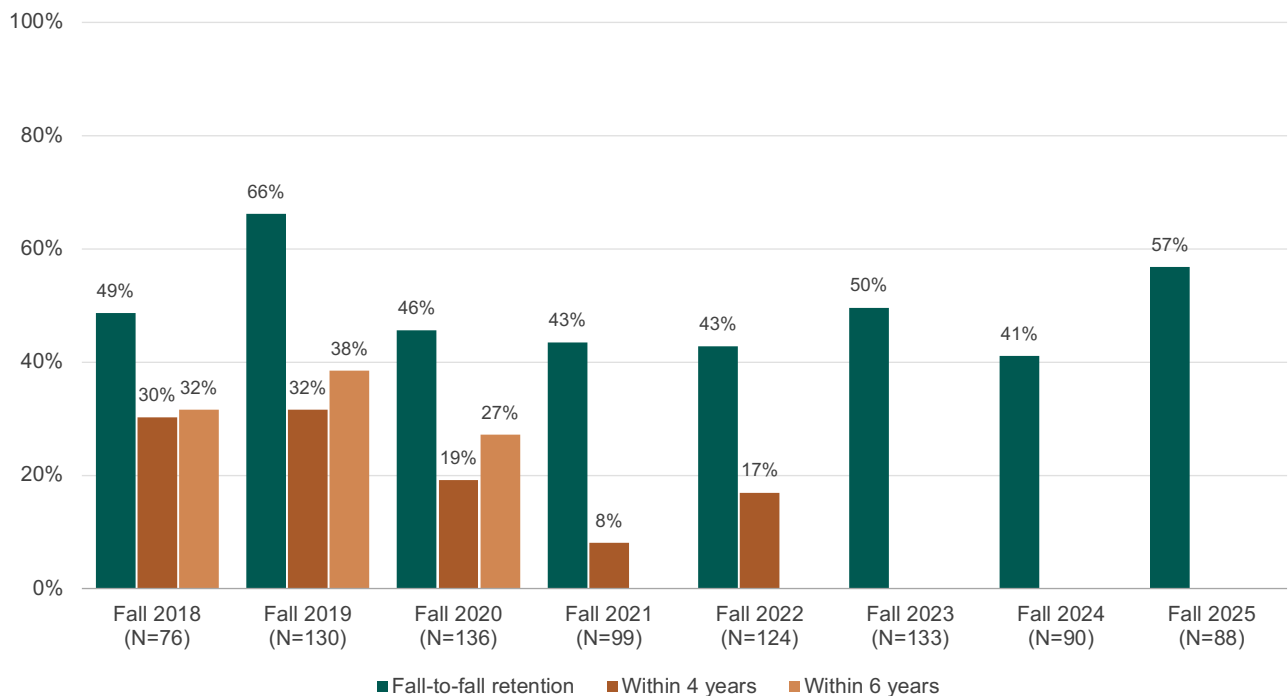
4. Cohort overview

Table 1 sets out each fall cohort from entry through its latest measurable outcome. The adjusted cohort column is the denominator for every rate in the row. Entry-term no-shows are heaviest in Fall 2018 (84 of 160) and Fall 2020 (94 of 230); the registrar should confirm these are admitted students who never attended.

Table 1. Cohort overview: size, retention and completion

Cohort	Entrants recorded	Did not enroll in entry term	Adjusted cohort (N)	Fall-to-fall retention	Completed within 4 years	Completed within 6 years	Completed within 8 years	Completed to date
Fall 2018	160	84	76	37 of 76 (49%)	23 of 76 (30%)	24 of 76 (32%)	27 of 76 (36%)	27 of 76 (36%)
Fall 2019	177	46	130	86 of 130 (66%)	41 of 130 (32%)	50 of 130 (38%)	Not yet measurable	53 of 130 (41%)
Fall 2020	230	94	136	62 of 136 (46%)	26 of 136 (19%)	37 of 136 (27%)	Not yet measurable	37 of 136 (27%)
Fall 2021	99	0	99	43 of 99 (43%)	8 of 99 (8%)	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	10 of 99 (10%)
Fall 2022	126	2	124	53 of 124 (43%)	21 of 124 (17%)	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	21 of 124 (17%)
Fall 2023	187	54	133	66 of 133 (50%)	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	11 of 133 (8%)
Fall 2024	125	35	90	37 of 90 (41%)	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	12 of 90 (13%)
Fall 2025	123	34	88	50 of 88 (57%)	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	2 of 88 (2%)
All cohorts (eligible cohorts pooled)	1227	349	876	434 of 876 (50%)	119 of 565 (21%)	111 of 342 (32%)	27 of 76 (36%)	173 of 876 (20%)

Cells read “n of N (%)”. Pooled rows include only cohorts whose window has fully elapsed, so each column has its own denominator. Adjusted cohort excludes students who never enrolled in their entry term and IPEDS-allowable exclusions.

Figure 1. Retention and completion rates by entering cohort

Source: Chart Data sheet, range CD_C1, linked from the workbook.

5. First-time and transfer students

Tables 2–4 split each cohort by entry status. Transfer-in students are the largest group in seven of the eight cohorts and complete at the highest rates, likely because they arrive with credit already earned. First-time cohorts are small: 5 to 46 students a year, so their year-to-year rates are volatile (for example, 4 of 16 (25%) for Fall 2024). Combined across cohorts, first-time students complete within four years at 17% (20 of 118) against 27% (81 of 295) for transfers.

Table 2. Fall-to-fall retention by entry status

Cohort	First-time	Transfer-in	Other non-first-time (readmit/returning)	All entrants
Fall 2018	N=5 †	22 of 23 (96%)	11 of 48 (23%)	37 of 76 (49%)
Fall 2019	19 of 28 (68%)	52 of 66 (79%)	15 of 36 (42%)	86 of 130 (66%)
Fall 2020	9 of 15 (60%)	40 of 70 (57%)	13 of 51 (25%)	62 of 136 (46%)
Fall 2021	16 of 24 (67%)	27 of 67 (40%)	N=8 †	43 of 99 (43%)
Fall 2022	20 of 46 (43%)	31 of 69 (45%)	N=9 †	53 of 124 (43%)
Fall 2023	24 of 43 (56%)	39 of 85 (46%)	N=5 †	66 of 133 (50%)
Fall 2024	4 of 16 (25%)	32 of 68 (47%)	N=6 †	37 of 90 (41%)
Fall 2025	16 of 32 (50%)	34 of 54 (63%)	N=2 †	50 of 88 (57%)
All cohorts (pooled)	112 of 209 (54%)	277 of 502 (55%)	45 of 165 (27%)	434 of 876 (50%)

First-time = no prior postsecondary attendance. Transfer-in = entered with transfer status. Other non-first-time = prior college but not coded as transfer (readmits, returning students).

Table 3. Completion within 4 years by entry status

Cohort	First-time	Transfer-in	Other non-first-time (readmit/returning)	All entrants
Fall 2018	N=5 †	14 of 23 (61%)	7 of 48 (15%)	23 of 76 (30%)
Fall 2019	7 of 28 (25%)	27 of 66 (41%)	7 of 36 (19%)	41 of 130 (32%)
Fall 2020	2 of 15 (13%)	20 of 70 (29%)	4 of 51 (8%)	26 of 136 (19%)
Fall 2021	3 of 24 (13%)	5 of 67 (7%)	N=8 †	8 of 99 (8%)
Fall 2022	6 of 46 (13%)	15 of 69 (22%)	N=9 †	21 of 124 (17%)
Fall 2023	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
Fall 2024	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
Fall 2025	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
All cohorts (pooled)	20 of 118 (17%)	81 of 295 (27%)	18 of 152 (12%)	119 of 565 (21%)

First-time = no prior postsecondary attendance. Transfer-in = entered with transfer status. Other non-first-time = prior college but not coded as transfer (readmits, returning students).

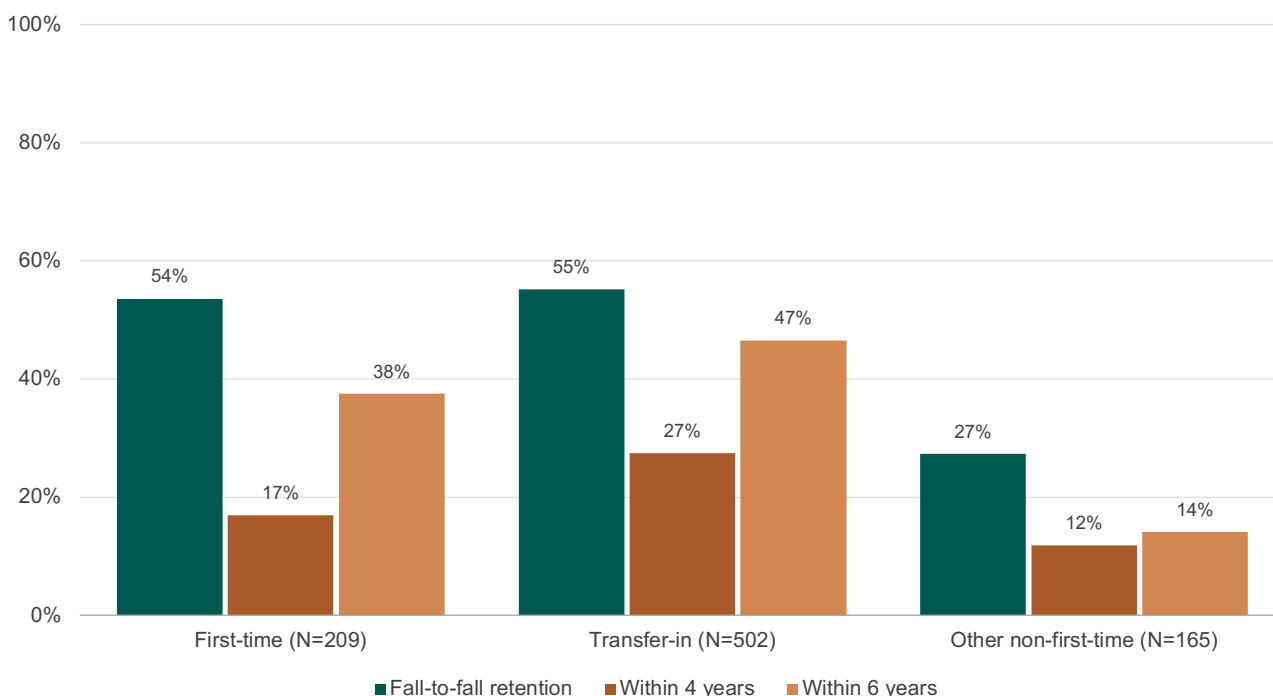
Table 4. Completion within 6 years by entry status

Cohort	First-time	Transfer-in	Other non-first-time (readmit/returning)	All entrants
Fall 2018	N=5 †	15 of 23 (65%)	7 of 48 (15%)	24 of 76 (32%)
Fall 2019	12 of 28 (43%)	31 of 66 (47%)	7 of 36 (19%)	50 of 130 (38%)
Fall 2020	4 of 15 (27%)	28 of 70 (40%)	5 of 51 (10%)	37 of 136 (27%)
Fall 2021	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
Fall 2022	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
Fall 2023	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable

Cohort	First-time	Transfer-in	Other non-first-time (readmit/returning)	All entrants
Fall 2024	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
Fall 2025	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
All cohorts (pooled)	18 of 48 (38%)	74 of 159 (47%)	19 of 135 (14%)	111 of 342 (32%)

First-time = no prior postsecondary attendance. Transfer-in = entered with transfer status. Other non-first-time = prior college but not coded as transfer (readmits, returning students).

Figure 2. First-time vs. transfer-in and other entrants (cohorts pooled)



Source: Chart Data sheet, range CD_C2, linked from the workbook.

6. Full-time and part-time students

Full-time entrants retain better than part-time entrants in every cohort. Pooled, the gap is 20 percentage points in retention (62% vs. 42%) and 17 points in four-year completion. Part-time students are 515 of the 876 entrants, so their outcomes drive the institutional rate.

Table 5. Fall-to-fall retention by enrollment intensity in the entry term

Cohort	Full-time (12+ credits)	Part-time (<12 credits)	Intensity unknown	All entrants
Fall 2018	10 of 15 (67%)	25 of 56 (45%)	N=5 †	37 of 76 (49%)
Fall 2019	49 of 58 (84%)	37 of 72 (51%)	–	86 of 130 (66%)
Fall 2020	18 of 32 (56%)	41 of 91 (45%)	3 of 13 (23%)	62 of 136 (46%)
Fall 2021	15 of 25 (60%)	28 of 73 (38%)	N=1 †	43 of 99 (43%)
Fall 2022	25 of 45 (56%)	28 of 78 (36%)	N=1 †	53 of 124 (43%)
Fall 2023	41 of 68 (60%)	24 of 63 (38%)	N=2 †	66 of 133 (50%)
Fall 2024	22 of 49 (45%)	14 of 39 (36%)	N=2 †	37 of 90 (41%)
Fall 2025	30 of 45 (67%)	20 of 43 (47%)	–	50 of 88 (57%)
All cohorts (pooled)	210 of 337 (62%)	217 of 515 (42%)	7 of 24 (29%)	434 of 876 (50%)

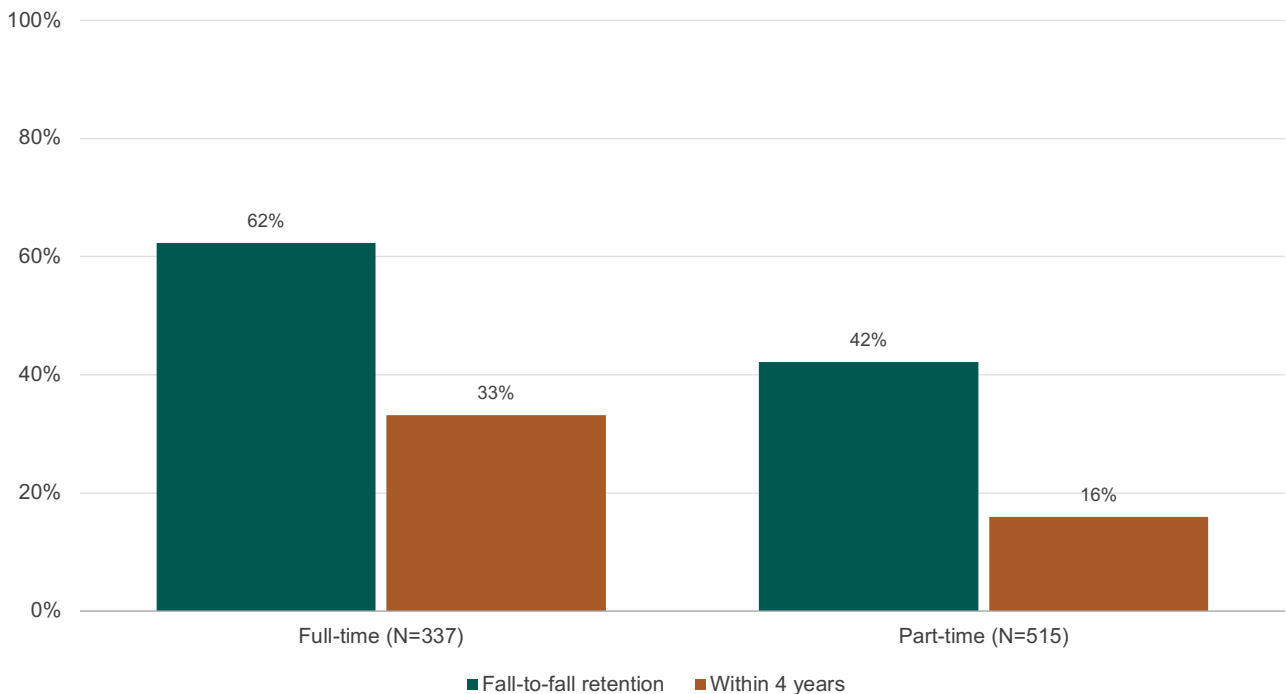
Intensity = credits attempted in the entry fall term. Unknown = enrolled in courses but 0 credits recorded, or spring/summer entrant.

Table 6. Completion within 4 years by enrollment intensity

Cohort	Full-time (12+ credits)	Part-time (<12 credits)	Intensity unknown	All entrants
Fall 2018	7 of 15 (47%)	14 of 56 (25%)	N=5 †	23 of 76 (30%)
Fall 2019	26 of 58 (45%)	15 of 72 (21%)	–	41 of 130 (32%)
Fall 2020	9 of 32 (28%)	17 of 91 (19%)	0 of 13 (0%)	26 of 136 (19%)
Fall 2021	7 of 25 (28%)	1 of 73 (1%)	N=1 †	8 of 99 (8%)
Fall 2022	9 of 45 (20%)	12 of 78 (15%)	N=1 †	21 of 124 (17%)
Fall 2023	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
Fall 2024	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
Fall 2025	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable	Not yet measurable
All cohorts (pooled)	58 of 175 (33%)	59 of 370 (16%)	2 of 20 (10%)	119 of 565 (21%)

Intensity = credits attempted in the entry fall term. Unknown = enrolled in courses but 0 credits recorded, or spring/summer entrant.

Figure 3. Full-time vs. part-time entrants (cohorts pooled)



Source: Chart Data sheet, range CD_C3, linked from the workbook.

7. Eight-year outcomes by entering-student group

Table 7 arranges the cohorts in the four IPEDS Outcome Measures groups (first-time or not, crossed with full-time or part-time) and reports awards at 4, 6 and 8 years. This is the format the College would use to report an eight-year graduation rate externally. Each window counts only the cohorts it has fully elapsed for, so with 2026 data the eight-year column reflects the Fall 2018 cohort alone.

Table 7. Eight-year outcomes by entering-student group (IPEDS Outcome Measures structure, cohorts pooled)

Entering-student group	Adjusted cohort (N, all cohorts)	Fall-to-fall retention	Award within 4 years	Award within 6 years	Award within 8 years	Award to date
Full-time, first-time	95	55 of 95 (58%)	8 of 45 (18%)	7 of 21 (33%)	N=3 †	11 of 95 (12%)
Part-time, first-time	108	55 of 108 (51%)	12 of 69 (17%)	11 of 24 (46%)	N=2 †	20 of 108 (19%)
Full-time, non-first-time (transfer-in & other)	242	155 of 242 (64%)	50 of 130 (38%)	39 of 84 (46%)	6 of 12 (50%)	73 of 242 (30%)
Part-time, non-first-time (transfer-in & other)	407	162 of 407 (40%)	47 of 301 (16%)	52 of 195 (27%)	16 of 54 (30%)	66 of 407 (16%)
Intensity unknown (any entry status)	24	7 of 24 (29%)	2 of 20 (10%)	2 of 18 (11%)	N=5 †	3 of 24 (13%)
All entrants	876	434 of 876 (50%)	119 of 565 (21%)	111 of 342 (32%)	27 of 76 (36%)	173 of 876 (20%)

Mirrors the IPEDS Outcome Measures groups (first-time vs. non-first-time × full-time vs. part-time). Status at Aug 31 of year 4, 6 and 8 after entry; only cohorts whose window has elapsed are counted.

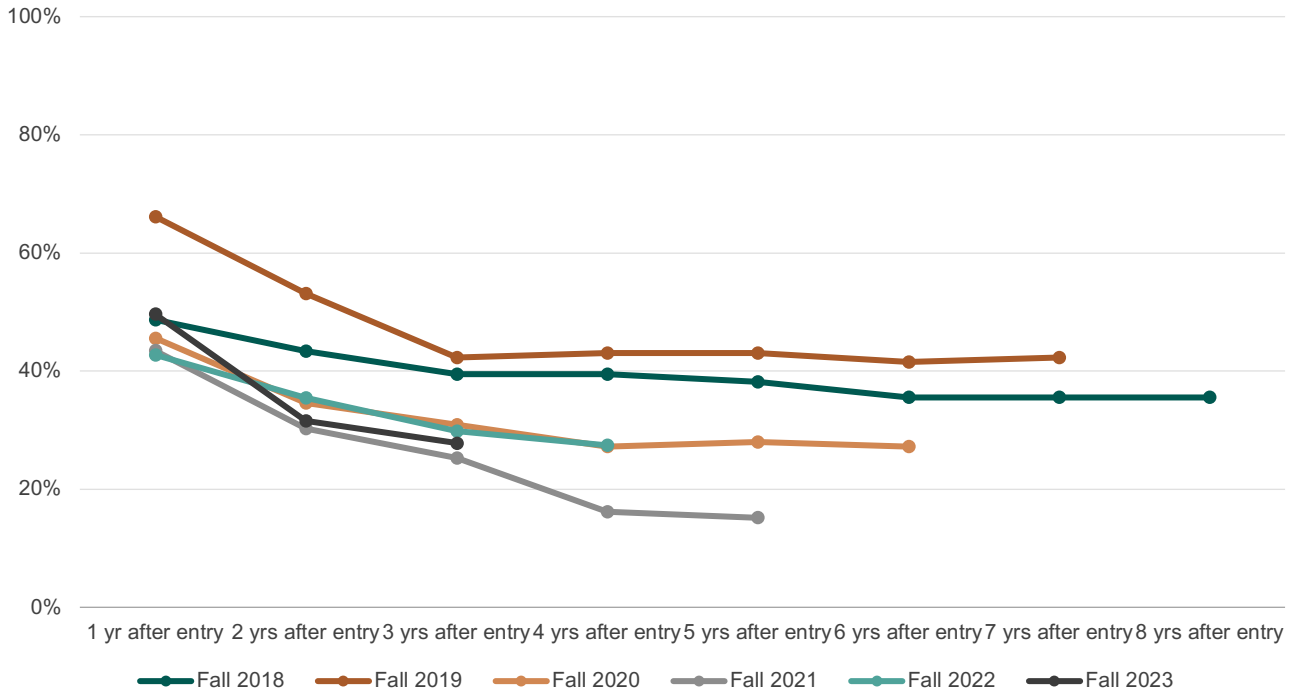
8. Year-by-year persistence

Table 9 and Figure 4 follow each cohort fall by fall, counting students who were enrolled or had already graduated. The greatest loss comes before the first fall after entry: cohorts lose between a third and three-fifths of their students in that first year. Losses slow after the third fall in most cohorts, by which point remaining students are mostly near completion.

Table 9. Year-by-year persistence: share of the cohort enrolled or already graduated each fall

Cohort	N	1 yr after entry	2 yrs after entry	3 yrs after entry	4 yrs after entry	5 yrs after entry	6 yrs after entry	7 yrs after entry	8 yrs after entry
Fall 2018	76	49%	43%	39%	39%	38%	36%	36%	36%
Fall 2019	130	66%	53%	42%	43%	43%	42%	42%	
Fall 2020	136	46%	35%	31%	27%	28%	27%		
Fall 2021	99	43%	30%	25%	16%	15%			
Fall 2022	124	43%	35%	30%	27%				
Fall 2023	133	50%	32%	28%					
Fall 2024	90	41%	36%						
Fall 2025	88	57%							

Each column is the fall that many years after the entry fall; “1 yr after entry” equals fall-to-fall retention. Blank = that fall has not yet occurred. † = N below threshold.

Figure 4. Persistence: share enrolled or already graduated each fall after entry

Source: Chart Data sheet, range CD_C4, linked from the workbook.

9. Results by program and student characteristics

Table 8 pools all eight cohorts and breaks results out by award level, program, program format, campus, gender, race/ethnicity and age at entry. Pooling keeps most groups above the small-cell threshold; rates for smaller groups are withheld. Program comes from Populi degree records; where the program name was never recorded, the student is grouped by award level only.

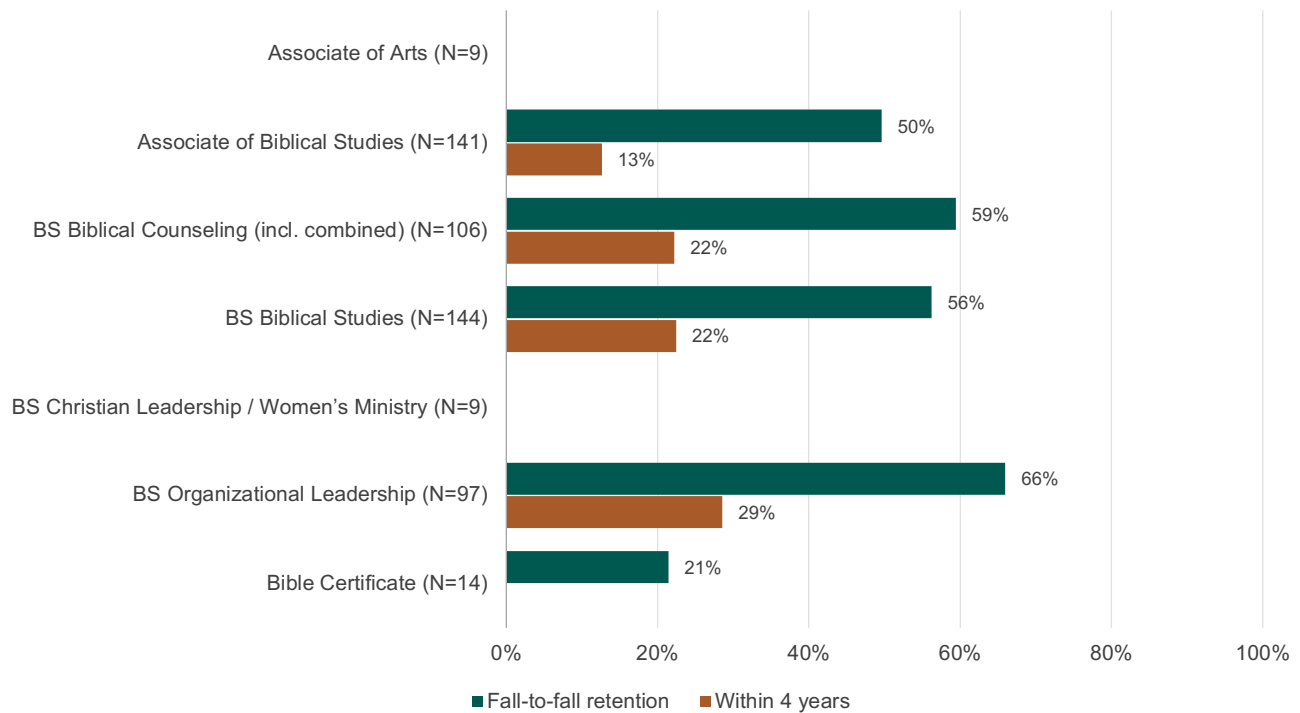
Table 8. Retention and completion disaggregated by program and student characteristics (cohorts pooled)

Group	Adjusted cohort (N)	Fall-to-fall retention	Completed within 4 years	Completed within 6 years	Completed to date
Award level pursued					
Associate's	231	97 of 231 (42%)	22 of 162 (14%)	22 of 88 (25%)	27 of 231 (12%)
Bachelor's	604	328 of 604 (54%)	97 of 368 (26%)	89 of 231 (39%)	146 of 604 (24%)
Certificate	40	9 of 40 (23%)	0 of 34 (0%)	0 of 22 (0%)	0 of 40 (0%)
Undeclared / non-degree	1	N=1 †	N=1 †	N=1 †	N=1 †
Program					
Associate of Arts	9	N=9 †	N=9 †	N=8 †	N=9 †
Associate of Biblical Studies	141	70 of 141 (50%)	13 of 103 (13%)	15 of 72 (21%)	16 of 141 (11%)
BS Biblical Counseling (incl. combined)	106	63 of 106 (59%)	18 of 81 (22%)	19 of 59 (32%)	24 of 106 (23%)
BS Biblical Studies	144	81 of 144 (56%)	24 of 107 (22%)	25 of 82 (30%)	28 of 144 (19%)
BS Christian Leadership / Women's Ministry	9	N=9 †	N=7 †	N=4 †	N=9 †
BS Organizational Leadership	97	64 of 97 (66%)	14 of 49 (29%)	14 of 33 (42%)	17 of 97 (18%)
Bible Certificate	14	3 of 14 (21%)	0 of 12 (0%)	N=7 †	0 of 14 (0%)
Associate's – program not recorded	81	24 of 81 (30%)	8 of 50 (16%)	N=8 †	9 of 81 (11%)
Bachelor's – program not recorded	248	117 of 248 (47%)	38 of 124 (31%)	30 of 53 (57%)	73 of 248 (29%)
Certificate – program not recorded	26	6 of 26 (23%)	0 of 22 (0%)	0 of 15 (0%)	0 of 26 (0%)
Undeclared / non-degree	1	N=1 †	N=1 †	N=1 †	N=1 †
Program format					
Accelerated (AD)	130	97 of 130 (75%)	22 of 57 (39%)	18 of 38 (47%)	27 of 130 (21%)
Traditional	746	337 of 746 (45%)	97 of 508 (19%)	93 of 304 (31%)	146 of 746 (20%)
Campus					
Fort Wayne	14	13 of 14 (93%)	7 of 14 (50%)	7 of 14 (50%)	7 of 14 (50%)
Houston	417	213 of 417 (51%)	54 of 256 (21%)	52 of 154 (34%)	81 of 417 (19%)
Indianapolis	125	71 of 125 (57%)	33 of 96 (34%)	30 of 73 (41%)	40 of 125 (32%)
Online only	249	125 of 249 (50%)	16 of 130 (12%)	13 of 32 (41%)	36 of 249 (14%)
Not recorded	71	12 of 71 (17%)	9 of 69 (13%)	9 of 69 (13%)	9 of 71 (13%)
Gender					
Female	325	159 of 325 (49%)	48 of 210 (23%)	49 of 132 (37%)	68 of 325 (21%)
Male	551	275 of 551 (50%)	71 of 355 (20%)	62 of 210 (30%)	105 of 551 (19%)
Race/ethnicity					
Asian	45	26 of 45 (58%)	10 of 34 (29%)	11 of 27 (41%)	13 of 45 (29%)
Black or African American	355	187 of 355 (53%)	45 of 212 (21%)	49 of 120 (41%)	76 of 355 (21%)
Hispanic	204	103 of 204 (50%)	25 of 138 (18%)	16 of 65 (25%)	36 of 204 (18%)
Other races (AI/AN, NH/PI, Two or more)	21	10 of 21 (48%)	0 of 10 (0%)	N=4 †	1 of 21 (5%)
U.S. Nonresident	34	19 of 34 (56%)	N=9 †	–	4 of 34 (12%)
White	139	73 of 139 (53%)	26 of 90 (29%)	24 of 55 (44%)	32 of 139 (23%)
Race/ethnicity unknown	78	16 of 78 (21%)	11 of 72 (15%)	10 of 71 (14%)	11 of 78 (14%)

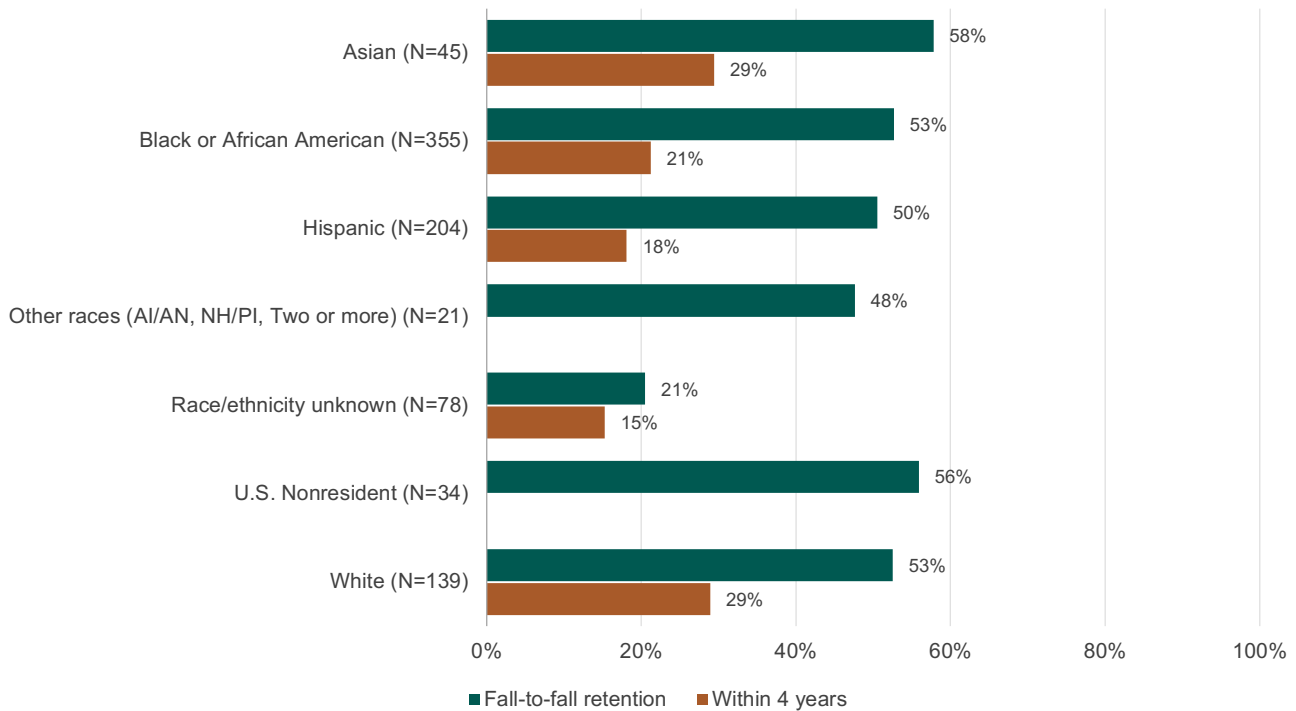
Group	Adjusted cohort (N)	Fall-to-fall retention	Completed within 4 years	Completed within 6 years	Completed to date
Age at entry					
Under 25	258	128 of 258 (50%)	24 of 134 (18%)	24 of 72 (33%)	36 of 258 (14%)
25–34	209	97 of 209 (46%)	23 of 148 (16%)	25 of 91 (27%)	31 of 209 (15%)
35–49	259	125 of 259 (48%)	40 of 178 (22%)	35 of 103 (34%)	63 of 259 (24%)
50 and over	150	84 of 150 (56%)	32 of 105 (30%)	27 of 76 (36%)	43 of 150 (29%)

Program = highest award level the student pursued (from Populi degree records). Campus is the student's campus of record, not necessarily at entry. Age at entry is estimated from current age.

Figure 5. Retention and 4-year completion by program (cohorts pooled)



Source: Chart Data sheet, range CD_C5, linked from the workbook.

Figure 6. Retention and 4-year completion by race/ethnicity (cohorts pooled)

Source: Chart Data sheet, range CD_C6, linked from the workbook.

10. Where each cohort stands today?

Table 10 places every student in one status as of Fall 2026. Across all cohorts, 173 (20%) have completed an award and 114 (13%) are still enrolled. The largest group, 334 (38%), left with no exit reason recorded.

Table 10. Where each cohort stands today (status as of Fall 2026)

Cohort	N	Completed an award	Still enrolled (Fall 2026)	Left – transfer to other program	Left – planned return	Left – other recorded reason	Left – reason unknown
Fall 2018	76	27 (36%)	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)	11 (14%)	35 (46%)
Fall 2019	130	53 (41%)	2 (2%)	3 (2%)	4 (3%)	10 (8%)	58 (45%)
Fall 2020	136	37 (27%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	21 (15%)	6 (4%)	70 (51%)
Fall 2021	99	10 (10%)	5 (5%)	2 (2%)	3 (3%)	26 (26%)	53 (54%)
Fall 2022	124	21 (17%)	13 (10%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	26 (21%)	63 (51%)
Fall 2023	133	11 (8%)	26 (20%)	6 (5%)	1 (1%)	48 (36%)	41 (31%)
Fall 2024	90	12 (13%)	20 (22%)	7 (8%)	1 (1%)	47 (52%)	3 (3%)
Fall 2025	88	2 (2%)	48 (55%)	7 (8%)	0 (0%)	20 (23%)	11 (13%)
All cohorts	876	173 (20%)	114 (13%)	30 (3%)	31 (4%)	194 (22%)	334 (38%)

Counts, with share of the adjusted cohort. Exit categories come from the Populi exit reason; “reason unknown” includes students with no exit reason recorded.

11. Benchmarks: peer colleges and national norms

National averages are dominated by selective, full-time, residential institutions, so they set an unrealistic bar for a Bible college whose students are mostly part-time adults. The fairer comparison is the custom peer group in CBS's IPEDS Data Feedback Report: 19 faith-related colleges, including Beulah Heights University, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Dallas Christian College, Nazarene Bible College, Lancaster Bible College and Ozark Christian College.

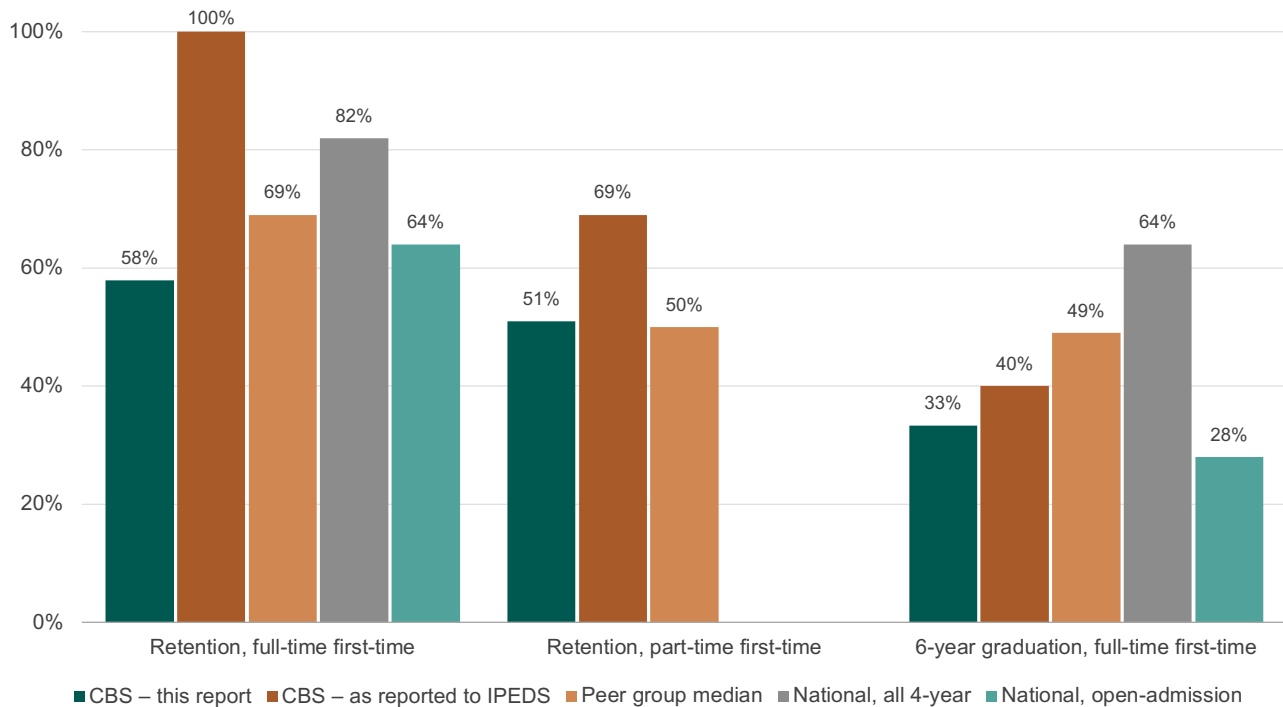
Table 11 sets CBS's results from this report beside the figures CBS reported to IPEDS, the peer median, and national norms; Table 12 gives the peer comparison for every Outcome Measures group.

- **Retention.** Full-time, first-time retention in this report is 58% (55 of 95), 11 points below the peer median of 69% and 6 points below the national open-admission figure of 64%. Part-time, first-time retention (51% (55 of 108)) is level with the peer median of 50%.
- **Graduation.** The six-year rate for full-time, first-time students (33% (7 of 21)) sits between the national open-admission rate (28%) and the peer median (49%), and well below the all-institution average (64%). With only 21 students, one graduate moves the rate by about 5 points.
- **Transfer and returning students.** At eight years, full-time non-first-time students in this report reached 6 of 12 (50%) against a peer median of 55% Pell / 61% non-Pell; part-time non-first-time students reached 16 of 54 (30%) against 25% Pell / 33% non-Pell. The part-time group, CBS's largest, is in line with peers.

Table 11. CBS outcomes against peer and national benchmarks

Measure	CBS – this report (fall cohorts 2018–25, n of N)	CBS – as reported to IPEDS	Peer group median (19 faith- related colleges)	National, all 4- year	National, open- admission 4-year
Retention, full-time first-time	55 of 95 (58%)	100%	69%	82%	64%
Retention, part-time first-time	55 of 108 (51%)	69%	50%	–	–
Graduation within 6 years (150%), full-time first-time	7 of 21 (33%)	40%	49%	64%	28%
Award within 8 years, full-time first-time	N=3 †	83% Pell / 0% non- Pell	44% Pell / 54% non-Pell	61%	–
Award within 8 years, part-time first-time	N=2 †	6% Pell / 20% non- Pell	10% Pell / 20% non-Pell	22%	–
Award within 8 years, full-time non-first-time	6 of 12 (50%)	18% Pell / 0% non- Pell	55% Pell / 61% non-Pell	61%	–
Award within 8 years, part-time non-first-time	16 of 54 (30%)	15% Pell / 0% non- Pell	25% Pell / 33% non-Pell	38%	–

Cohorts differ by column: this report pools fall 2018–2025 entrants; IPEDS and peer figures use Fall 2023 (retention), 2018 (150% graduation) and 2016–17 (8-year awards); national figures use fall 2019 (retention), fall 2014 (graduation) and 2014–15 (8-year awards). National graduation counts bachelor's degrees only; all other rates count any award. Open-admission retention is for private nonprofit institutions. Sources: Benchmarks sheet.

Figure 7. CBS retention and graduation against peer and national benchmarks

Source: Chart Data sheet, range CD_C7, linked from the workbook.

Table 12. Outcome Measures from the IPEDS Data Feedback Report: CBS vs. peer median (2016–17 entering cohort)

Entering group – Pell status	CBS 4 yrs	CBS 6 yrs	CBS 8 yrs	Peer 4 yrs	Peer 6 yrs	Peer 8 yrs	Gap at 8 yrs (pts)
Full-time, first-time – Pell	33%	83%	83%	33%	43%	44%	+39
Full-time, first-time – Non-Pell	0%	0%	0%	44%	54%	54%	-54
Part-time, first-time – Pell	0%	0%	6%	0%	7%	10%	-4
Part-time, first-time – Non-Pell	0%	0%	20%	3%	4%	20%	0
Full-time, non-first-time – Pell	9%	9%	18%	50%	54%	55%	-37
Full-time, non-first-time – Non-Pell	0%	0%	0%	55%	61%	61%	-61
Part-time, non-first-time – Pell	2%	2%	15%	18%	25%	25%	-10
Part-time, non-first-time – Non-Pell	0%	0%	0%	27%	33%	33%	-33

Share of each entering group receiving any award at CBS within 4, 6 and 8 years. Source: IPEDS Data Feedback Report 2025, Figures 19–22. The report does not show CBS group sizes; several CBS cells are 0%, which usually signals a very small group.

12. Published rates

Published rates are as follows:

- Fall-to-fall retention, Fall 2024 entering cohort: 41% (37 of 90 students).
- Six-year graduation rate, Fall 2020 entering cohort: 27% (37 of 136 students).
- Eight-year graduation rate, Fall 2018 entering cohort: 36% (27 of 76 students).

A short note under the table should define the cohort (Fall entrants who enrolled in their first term), name the exclusions, and say that rates for groups under 10 students are not shown.

Lead with the all-entrants rate, and show the first-time and transfer rates alongside it. First-time students alone are too few to stand as the College's headline figure.

13. Data quality and limitations

- 349 recorded fall entrants have no enrollment in their entry term. IPEDS excludes them as no-shows, but the count is unusually high for Fall 2018 and Fall 2020 and should be confirmed by the registrar.
- Exit reason is "Unknown" or blank for 334 students who are no longer enrolled. Until those records are closed out, we cannot explain attrition by cause.
- Seven entrants have exit reason "Graduated" but no conferral date on any degree, so they are not counted as completers. Posting their conferral dates would raise completion rates slightly. This is due to the system migration from Anthology to Sonis SIS.
- Completion is based on degree conferral dates in Populi. Awards conferred before a student's entry term are ignored.
- The program name is missing for 355 of the 876 fall entrants; for them, we use the degree-level field instead. Campus reflects the current campus of record, not necessarily the campus at entry. This is due to system migration issues.
- Fall 2023 is a Populi superterm (FA-23-CBS) with Houston, Indianapolis and Online subterms.
- Rates in this report supersede the September 16, 2026 draft dashboard, which inferred completion from exit codes rather than conferral dates and counted entrants who never enrolled.

14. Action Steps to Initiate

The findings point to nine actions, summarized in Table 13. Leads are suggested and should be confirmed by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Table 13. Action steps to initiate

#	Action	What to do	Evidence in this report	Suggested lead
1	Reconcile the IPEDS submissions	Compare the Graduation Rates and Outcome Measures cohorts CBS reported to IPEDS with Populi records, correct the cohort definitions, and document the method before the 2026–27 Winter collection.	IPEDS shows 100% full-time retention and 0% award rates for most non-Pell groups (Tables 11 and 12).	Institutional Effectiveness, with the Registrar
2	Publish rates with their cohort sizes	Update the College's retention and graduation page in the Section 12 format, with "n of N" beside every rate and a link to this report.	Every rate in this report carries its cohort size; published rates should do the same.	Institutional Effectiveness, with Marketing
3	Close out unknown exit reasons	Record an exit reason for each student who left without one, starting with the Fall 2021 to Fall 2024 cohorts, and require an exit reason at every withdrawal.	334 of 876 students (38%) left with no exit reason (Table 10).	Registrar and Student Success
4	Confirm entry-term no-shows	Review fall entrants with no enrollment in their entry term, beginning with Fall 2018 and Fall 2020, and flag admitted students who never attended the same way in Populi.	349 of 1,227 fall entrants, including 84 in Fall 2018 and 94 in Fall 2020 (Table 1).	Registrar, with Admissions

#	Action	What to do	Evidence in this report	Suggested lead
5	Repair data lost in the system migration	Post the missing conferral dates and restore the missing program names.	7 graduates lack a conferral date; 355 of 876 entrants lack a program name (Section 13).	Registrar
6	Raise first-year retention for full-time, first-time students	Set a retention target and focus first-year advising and early alerts on the first fall-to-fall transition, where most students are lost.	58% (55 of 95) against a peer median of 69% (Table 11).	Academic Affairs and Student Success
7	Support part-time and returning students	Review advising, course scheduling and pacing for part-time, readmitted and returning students.	Part-time 42% (217 of 515) vs. full-time 62% (210 of 337); readmitted and returning 27% (45 of 165) (Tables 2 and 5).	Student Success
8	Measure transfer-out	Identify students who continued at other institutions, for example through the National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker service, and report a transfer-out rate.	CBS reports no transfer-out rate; the peer median is 23% (Benchmarks sheet).	Institutional Effectiveness
9	Refresh the report every year	Each fall after census, re-export the saved Populi report, update the workbook and refresh the links in this document.	Adds one entering cohort a year to the eight-year trend.	Institutional Effectiveness