

CHAPTER 3 – UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE RETENTION

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE RETENTION

3.0 Background

This chapter presents data showing retention and graduation rates of full-time students in credit programs at Manitoba's universities and colleges.

Universities and colleges do not have the capacity to track students who leave to attend another post-secondary institution. University data have been adjusted based on surveys to provide an estimate of the number of students transferring to another post-secondary institution. This analysis helps to report the most complete information regarding the success of students in the post-secondary system in Manitoba.

Universities' graduation and retention data included in the 2007 Compendium have been revised to reflect corrections in data received by universities, as well as to account for students changing program, and going from full- to part-time studies and vice versa. Readers of the 2007 Compendium who refer back to the 2006 edition will notice slight differences in the percentages reported in the universities tables.

3.1 University Retention

Table 3.1a shows graduation and retention rates for students who enter university as full-time students in programs that do not require previous post-secondary studies ("First Entry Programs").

The percent of students graduating from First Entry Programs after five years has remained decreased slightly from 51.6% for the 2000 cohort to 51.2% for the 2002 cohort. Attrition has decreased at the five-year mark, declining from 26.7% for the 2000 cohort to 24.9% for the 2002 cohort.¹ This appears to be the result of a greater percentage of students choosing to continue their studies rather than leave university.

Table 3.1b shows graduation and retention rates for students who enter a program that requires previous post-secondary study ("Second Entry Programs").

Similar to First Entry Programs, the percentage of students graduating from Second Entry Programs after five years decreased from 94.1% for the 2000 cohort to 92.3% for the 2002 cohort. The percentage of students withdrawing from Second Entry Programs over the three years has increased from 4.4% for the 2000 cohort to 5.6% for the 2002 cohort.

¹ A 'cohort' refers to those students who entered a program in a particular year. Thus, the 2000 cohort refers to those students who entered their program in 2000. Rates are calculated after the end of the first year, fifth year and seventh year of studies after entry into the program. Thus, the 2000 cohort is assessed in 2001 (end of first year), 2005 (end of fifth year), and 2007 (end of seventh year).

Table 3.1c shows graduation and retention rates for students in co-operative education programs. Co-operative education programs are tracked differently from First and Second Entry Programs, recognizing the fact that work placements require periods away from formal study, lengthening the duration of the program.

The percentage of students graduating from Co-operative Education Programs after six years decreased from 97.4% for the 1999 cohort to 93.5% for the 2000 cohort. The percentage of students withdrawing from Co-operative Education Programs has increase from no withdrawals for the 1999 cohort to 2.6% for the 2000 cohort.

When First and Second Entry programs are assessed together, the graduation rate for Manitoba universities has increased from 64.8% for the 2000 cohort, to 66.1% for the 2001 cohort, and decreased to 62.9% for the 2002 cohort.

Manitoba compares well to graduation rates elsewhere in Canada. Other research notes that overall, 58% of Canadian students graduated five years after entering their program. In the United States, however, only 50% of students graduate five years after starting university.²

² Gilbert, Sid. *Research Report # 1: Attrition in Canadian Universities*. Ottawa: Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education, 1991.

3.1a Undergraduate First Entry Program – All Universities*

Cohort Year No. Years of Study (calendar year)	Students Entering in 2000			Students Entering in 2001			Students Entering in 2002**		
	After 1 Year (2001)	After 5 Years (2005)	After 7 Years (2007)	After 1 Year (2002)	After 5 Years (2006)	After 7 Years (2008)	After 1 Year (2003)	After 5 Years (2007)	After 7 Years (2009)
% Graduated	0.1%	51.6%	61.5%	0.0%	53.8%	-	0.0%	51.2%	-
% Continuing	75.8%	10.9%	1.8%	76.2%	10.2%	-	76.9%	11.2%	-
% Transferred	6.1%	10.3%	9.6%	6.4%	10.0%	-	6.4%	10.8%	-
Success Rate	82.0%	72.8%	72.9%	82.7%	74.0%	-	83.3%	73.2%	-
% Attrition	17.4%	26.7%	26.2%	16.0%	24.1%	-	16.2%	24.9%	-
% Ineligible to Proceed	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	1.3%	1.9%	-	0.5%	1.9%	-
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-	100.0%	100.0%	-

* This table does not include students who switched from a first entry program (like University 1) to a "second entry program" such as medicine.

** In 2006/07, the University of Manitoba implemented a new Student Information System. The University of Manitoba was unable to provide information for the 2002 cohort. Therefore, historical data was used to determine the 2002 cohort for University of Manitoba.

3.1b Undergraduate Second Entry Program – All Universities*

Cohort Year No. Years of Study (calendar year)	Students Entering in 2000			Students Entering in 2001			Students Entering in 2002**		
	After 1 Year (2001)	After 5 Years (2005)	After 7 Years (2007)	After 1 Year (2002)	After 5 Years (2006)	After 7 Years (2008)	After 1 Year (2003)	After 5 Years (2007)	After 7 Years (2009)
% Graduated	0.0%	94.1%	95.4%	0.0%	94.3%	-	0.0%	92.3%	-
% Continuing	92.0%	0.5%	0.1%	93.5%	0.6%	-	90.9%	0.4%	-
% Transferred	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%	1.3%	1.0%	-	1.8%	1.5%	-
Success Rate	93.6%	95.6%	96.4%	94.8%	95.9%	-	92.7%	94.2%	-
% Attrition	6.4%	4.4%	3.6%	5.1%	4.0%	-	7.2%	5.6%	-
% Ineligible to Proceed	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	-	0.1%	0.2%	-
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-	100.0%	100.0%	-

* This table includes students entering a second program with a degree, or transferring in from another program within the same university to a program requiring prerequisite university studies. Students in co-operative education programs are not included.

** In 2006/07, the University of Manitoba implemented a new Student Information System. The University of Manitoba was unable to provide information for the 2002 cohort. Therefore, historical data was used to determine the 2002 cohort for University of Manitoba.

3.1c Co-operative Education Programs –University of Manitoba*

Cohort Year**	Entering in 1999			Entering in 2000		
	After 1 Year (2000)	After 6 Years (2005)	After 8 Years (2007)****	After 1 Year (2001)	After 6 Years (2006)	After 8 Years (2008)
% Graduated	0.0%	97.4%	-	0.0%	93.5%	-
% Continuing	100.0%	2.6%	-	100.0%	3.9%	-
% Transferred	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
Success Rate	100.0%	100.0%	-	100.0%	97.4%	-
% Attrition	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	2.6%	-
% Ineligible to Proceed	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
Total*****	100.0%	100.0%	-	100.0%	100.0%	-

* Only the University of Manitoba reports data for co-operative education programs.

** In 2006/07, the University of Manitoba implemented a new Student Information System. The University of Manitoba was unable to provide information for the 2000 cohort. Therefore, historical data was used to determine the 2000 cohort for University of Manitoba.

*** In recognition that co-operative education programs by definition require students to leave formal study for periods of work-placements, co-op students are tracked after 1 year, 6 years, and 8 years, as opposed to 1, 5, and 7 years after program entry for First and Second Entry Programs.

**** Insufficient historical information available to determine the results of the 1999 cohort after 8 years.

***** May not add due to rounding.

3.2 Colleges Graduation and Retention Rates

Table 3.2a shows that 66.0% of certificate students first entering college as full-time students in 2002 completed their program within two years. Only 1.4% of the original cohort was continuing a certificate program after four years.

Table 3.2b shows that 48.1% of full-time diploma students entering a program in 2002 completed their program within three years. After four years, 51.3% of students had graduated from their diploma program.

Manitoba college students entering their program in 2002 had a 71.5% success rate for certificate programs after two years and a 54.0% success rate for diploma program after three years.

When certificate and diploma programs are looked at together for the 2002 cohort, colleges in Manitoba enjoyed a 59.2% success rate after four years of study, with just over one-third (35.0%) of students leaving the program before graduation.

3.2a Certificate Programs – All Colleges

Cohort Year	2001				2002			
	After 1 Year (2002)	After 2 Years (2003)	After 3 Years (2004)	After 4 Years (2005)	After 1 Year (2003)	After 2 Years (2004)	After 3 Years (2005)	After 4 Years (2006)
% Graduated	39.6%	61.9%	63.2%	63.8%	47.4%	66.0%	67.6%	68.2%
% Continuing	36.9%	4.1%	2.1%	1.2%	31.6%	5.5%	2.4%	1.4%
Success Rate	76.5%	66.0%	65.3%	65.0%	79.0%	71.5%	70.0%	69.6%
% Attrition	16.7%	26.0%	26.6%	26.9%	14.5%	20.8%	22.3%	22.6%
% Other	6.8%	7.9%	8.0%	8.0%	6.5%	7.7%	7.7%	7.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

3.2b Diploma Programs – All Colleges

Cohort Year	2002			
	After 1 Year (2003)	After 2 Years (2004)	After 3 Years (2005)	After 4 Years (2006)
% Graduated	3.5%*	30.4%	48.1%	51.3%
% Continuing	69.7%	29.5%	5.9%	1.2%
Success Rate	73.2%	59.9%	54.0%	52.5%
% Attrition	26.2%	37.1%	41.1%	41.9%
% Other	0.6%	3.0%	4.9%	5.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Includes one-year diplomas and advanced diplomas