



IRIM RESEARCH EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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National Analysis for Students' Persistence Research Executive Summary

The *Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE)* has published the 2015-16 CSRDE Retention and Graduation Report. The purpose of this report is to provide a general overview of both the trends and detailed findings within post-secondary retention and graduation. The Report uses data from the 335 institutions that participated in this survey in order to track the year-to-year retention and graduation rates of the first-time, full-time, baccalaureate degree-seeking freshman cohorts, who entered higher education between 2005 and 2014. Highlights #1 through #6 below provide comparisons between national and EMU averages, while #7 summarizes the differences between EMU's peer institutions and EMU itself:

1. Almost twice as many student departures occurred during the second semester (spring) as during the first semester (fall). For cohort 2014, approximately 6% of these students from the reporting institutions left the universities before the spring semester. An additional 10.6% of these students left between the spring of the first year and the beginning of the second fall semester. For EMU, 9.3% students left the university before the first spring semester and another 16.1% left between the end of that spring semester and the beginning of the second fall semester.
2. Almost as many students left either during the second academic year or in subsequent semesters as those who departed throughout the first year. On average from 2005-2014, 17.7% of first-time freshman from all participating institutions did not re-enroll for the fall of their second year (sophomore year). An additional 16.9% departed the institution without graduating within the second and third years. For EMU, 26.4% of first-time freshman did not re-enroll for the fall of their second year (sophomore year). An additional 19.0% departed the institution without graduating during the second and third years.

3. *Underrepresented minority (URM)* students had lower first-year retention rates than their non-URM peers. The retention rates for the Hispanic and Black cohorts increased from 2005-2014; however, the rates for the cohort of American Indian students decreased, despite fluctuations during that period. EMU had a similar pattern except the retention rates for the Black cohort remained steady from 2005-2014.
4. Female students continued at a slightly higher retention rate than males. The female and male first-year retention rates were similar during the Fall 2005 through Fall 2014. Females continued to have higher retention rates overall. The average difference between the male and female rates was 1.75 percentage points over the 10 year period. EMU demonstrates a similar pattern. The average difference between the male and female rates was 2.55 percentage points over the 10 year period, with females having a higher retention rate.
5. More first-time, full-time female students graduated within 6 years compared to their male counterparts. Because there are higher enrollments of female students than male students, this means that there were actually more female graduates as well. The graduation rate gap between male and female graduates shrank from 10.6 percentage points for those who graduated in 4 years to 5.5 percentage points for those graduating in 6 years. At EMU, the rate gap between male and female graduates grew from 6.6 percentage points for those who graduated in 4 years to 7.9 percentage points for those graduating in 6 years.
6. Graduation rates were consistently lower for URM students than for non-URM students. Looking at the graduation rates for the cohorts of 2005 through 2011, one finds that the average four-year and six-year graduation rates of URM students were consistently lower than those of other students. The Asian cohorts graduated within six years at a higher rate than the other cohorts of students. EMU had a similar pattern; however, non-resident alien cohorts graduated within six years at a higher rate than the other cohorts of students.

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7. When it comes to comparison with peer institutions in the Report, EMU was grouped within master's program public institutions (N=113). The 2005-2014 cohorts averaged 76.9% of first-time freshman re-enrollment for the fall of their second year and 65.7% re-enrollment for the fall of their third year. At EMU, 73.6% of first-time freshman re-enrolled for the fall of their second year and 60.7% re-enrolled for the fall of their third year. Put differently, the average attrition rate at EMU for the first year was 26.4% and 12.9% for the second year.

EMU's six-year graduation rate had a larger gap when compared to national average than its retention rate. For example, EMU had 40.1% of the 2009 FTIAC cohort graduate within 6 years while peer institutions had 50.1%.

