

A key metric tracked by the US Department of Education on the College Scorecard is the retention of first-time, full-time students, returning in fall semester of the following year. UA tracks this and reports outcomes for each university and at the system level. University level retention considers students who re-enroll for credit at the same university the following fall, and system level retention considers students who re-enroll for credit at any university in the system the following fall. System-wide and university specific data are reported in UA in Review (Table 2.01).

Another metric reported in the College Scorecard is the 150 percent graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshmen. This represents the proportion of incoming students who earn a bachelor's degree in 6 years or an associate degree in 3 years, i.e. 150 percent of the minimum length of time required to complete the degree. University graduation rates consider students in the entering cohort who graduate from the same university they start at, and UA system level graduation rates consider students who graduate from any university in the system. This information is reported for each university and at the system-level in UA in Review (Table 2.02).

Each measure excludes individuals transferring to UAA, UAF or UAS from outside the UA system, as well as first-time freshman that start out attending part-time.

## Retention Rates

In the last five years, system retention of first-time, full-time freshmen seeking any degree increased from 63.0 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2018 to 66.8 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2022, reaching a five-year high. Within each university, UAA retained 66.0 percent of the undergraduate cohort entering in Fall 2022, UAF retained 64.9 percent and UAS retained 63.1 percent.

For entering students who self-identify as having at least some Indigenous heritage, system retention increased from 51.1 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2018 to 55.4 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2022, also reaching a five-year high. Within each university, UAA retained 57.9 percent of the entering cohort of students having at least some indigenous heritage, UAF retained 48.9 percent, and UAS retained 65.4 percent.

More than 73 percent of the bachelor's degree seeking cohort entering in Fall 2022 was retained in the system, up 2.5 points over the prior year, reaching a five-year high (Table 2.01b). Within each university, UAA retained 71.7 percent of the bachelor's cohort entering in Fall 2022, UAF retained 72.1 percent, and UAS retained 71.4 percent.

As a comparison to other bachelor-focused universities, the University of Idaho had an average bachelor's retention rate of 76 percent and Idaho State University, 64 percent<sup>1</sup>. The national retention rate for public, four-year, open admission institutions was 58.7 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2020 and returning in Fall 2021/FY22. In comparison, for the same period, UAA, UAF and UAS had an average bachelor's degree seeking university level retention rate of 67.1 percent and retention within the UA system for this group was 69.6 percent.

# Retention and Graduation Rates

February 2024

For entering first-time, full-

of almost 29 percent in FY23 – representing an increase of more than 6 points (Table 2.02b).