

CHAPTER 3 – UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE RETENTION

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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 2008 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 2008 Compendium who refer back to the 2007 edition will notice 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 decreased from 57.3% for the 2001 cohort¹ to 55.0% for the 2003 cohort. Attrition has remained relatively constant at the five-year mark at 21.0% between 2001 cohort and 2003 cohort.

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 97.0% for the 2001 cohort to 96.4% for the 2003 cohort. The percentage of students withdrawing from Second Entry Programs over the three years has increased from 1.9% for the 2001 cohort to 2.3% for the 2003 cohort.

¹ A 'cohort' refers to those students who entered a program in a particular year. Thus, the 2001 cohort refers to those students who entered their program in 2001. Rates are calculated after the end of the first year, fifth year and seventh year of studies after entry into the program. Thus, the 2001 cohort is assessed in 2002 (end of first year), 2006 (end of fifth year), and 2008 (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 99.4% for the 2000 cohort to 97.5% for the 2001 cohort. The percentage of students withdrawing from Co-operative Education Programs has increased slightly from no withdrawals for the 2000 cohort to 0.6% for the 2001 cohort.

When First and Second Entry programs are assessed together, the graduation rate for Manitoba universities has decreased from 69.9% for the 2001 cohort, to 67.3% for the 2002 cohort, and increased to 68.1% for the 2003 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 2001**			Students Entering in 2002**			Students Entering in 2003**		
	After 1 Year (2002)	After 5 Years (2006)	After 7 Years (2008)	After 1 Year (2003)	After 5 Years (2007)	After 7 Years (2009)	After 1 Year (2004)	After 5 Years (2008)	After 7 Years (2010)
% Graduated	0.0%	57.3%	68.3%	0.0%	54.0%	-	0.0%	55.0%	-
% Continuing	82.5%	10.1%	2.3%	83.2%	11.6%	-	83.4%	10.4%	-
% Transferred	5.1%	9.5%	9.0%	5.0%	10.3%	-	5.1%	10.6%	-
Success Rate	87.6%	76.9%	79.6%	88.2%	75.9%	-	88.5%	76.0%	-
% Attrition	11.0%	21.0%	18.2%	11.2%	22.2%	-	10.3%	21.0%	-
% Ineligible to Proceed	1.4%	2.1%	2.2%	0.6%	1.9%	-	1.2%	3.0%	-
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 provided revised figures for 2001 and 2002 cohorts.

3.1b Undergraduate Second Entry Program – All Universities*

Cohort Year No. Years of Study (calendar year)	Students Entering in 2001**			Students Entering in 2002**			Students Entering in 2003**		
	After 1 Year (2002)	After 5 Years (2006)	After 7 Years (2008)	After 1 Year (2003)	After 5 Years (2007)	After 7 Years (2009)	After 1 Year (2004)	After 5 Years (2006)	After 7 Years (2010)
% Graduated	0.0%	97.0%	97.8%	0.0%	97.3%	-	0.0%	96.3%	-
% Continuing	97.2%	0.5%	0.0%	97.5%	0.3%	-	96.9%	0.8%	-
% Transferred	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	-	0.6%	0.5%	-
Success Rate	97.7%	98.0%	98.2%	97.9%	98.0%	-	97.5%	97.6%	-
% Attrition	2.2%	1.9%	1.8%	2.0%	1.8%	-	2.4%	2.3%	-
% Ineligible to Proceed	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	-	0.1%	0.1%	-
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 provided revised figures for 2001 and 2002 cohorts.

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

Cohort Year No. Years of Study (calendar year)***	Entering in 2000**			Entering in 2001**		
	After 1 Year (2001)	After 6 Years (2006)	After 8 Years (2008)	After 1 Year (2002)	After 6 Years (2007)	After 8 Years (2009)
% Graduated	0.0%	99.4%	-	0.0%	97.5%	-
% Continuing	100.0%	0.6%	-	99.0%	1.9%	-
% Transferred	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
Success Rate	100.0%	100.0%	-	99.0%	99.4%	-
% Attrition	0.0%	0.0%	-	1.0%	0.6%	-
% 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 provided revised figures for 2000 and 2001 cohorts.

*** 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.

**** May not add due to rounding.

3.2 Colleges Graduation and Retention Rates

Table 3.2a shows that 58.8% of certificate students first entering college as full-time students in 2003 completed their program within two years. Only 1.7% of the original cohort was continuing a certificate program after four years.

Table 3.2b shows that 49.5% of full-time diploma students entering a program in 2003 completed their program within three years. After four years, 52.8% of students had graduated from their diploma program.

Manitoba college students entering their program in 2003 had a 64.3% success rate for certificate programs after two years and a 55.9% success rate for diploma program after three years.

When certificate and diploma programs are looked at together for the 2003 cohort, colleges in Manitoba enjoyed a 57.3% 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	2002				2003**			
	After 1 Year (2003)	After 2 Years (2004)	After 3 Years (2005)	After 4 Years (2006)	After 1 Year (2004)	After 2 Years (2005)	After 3 Years (2006)	After 4 Years (2007)
% Graduated	47.4%	66.0%	67.6%	68.2%	42.4%	58.8%	59.4%	59.6%
% Continuing	31.6%	5.5%	2.4%	1.4%	34.5%	5.5%	2.4%	1.7%
Success Rate	79.0%	71.5%	70.0%	69.6%	76.9%	64.3%	61.8%	61.3%
% Attrition*	16.0%	22.4%	23.9%	24.2%	16.9%	27.8%	30.2%	30.6%
% Other*	5.0%	6.1%	6.1%	6.2%	6.2%	7.9%	8.0%	8.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Revised figures for 2002 cohort

** ACC was unable to provide information for the 2003 cohort

3.2b Diploma Programs – All Colleges

Cohort Year	2003**			
	After 1 Year (2004)	After 2 Years (2005)	After 3 Years (2006)	After 4 Years (2007)
% Graduated	3.2%***	32.0%	49.5%	52.8%
% Continuing	74.4%	29.3%	6.4%	1.7%
Success Rate	77.6%	61.3%	55.9%	54.5%
% Attrition	21.8%	34.3%	37.1%	37.8%
% Other	0.6%	4.4%	7.0%	7.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

** ACC was unable to provide information for the 2003 cohort

*** Includes one-year diplomas and advanced diplomas