

# RESEARCH BRIEF

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### Retention of First-Time in College Students from Fall to Spring Terms

The purpose of this brief is to compare the re-enrollment in the next term of Fall term first-time-in-college (FTIC) degree seeking students at St. Petersburg College (SPC) to other colleges in the Florida Community College System. Student data for reporting year 2000-2001 were used to make the comparison. On the Student Data Base (SDB), an FTIC student is defined as one who is attending the institution for the first time, with no credit toward a degree or formal award, enrolled in A&P, PSV, or College Preparatory courses. Only FTIC students indicating they were seeking an A. A., A. S. or A. A. S. degree were included in the analysis.

Table 1 shows the number of degree seeking FTIC students enrolled in the Fall term who re-enrolled in the Spring term by gender and college. SPC ranked fourth in the number of students enrolled in the Fall term as well as Spring term. Miami Dade, Broward and Valencia Community Colleges ranked higher than SPC both terms. The number of females enrolling at SPC was greater both terms. The same gender relationship existed at Miami-Dade, Broward, and Valencia as well as Systemwide.

**Table 1**  
**Degree Seeking FTIC Student Retention by College and Gender**

College	Number Enrolled Fall 2000				Number Re-Enrolled in Spring 2000				Retention Rate					
	Male	Female	Total	Rank	Male	Female	Total	Rank	Male	Rank	Female	Rank	Total	Rank
Brevard	610	632	1242	13	445	449	894	13	73.0%	9	71.0%	23	72.0%	17
Broward	1761	2332	4093	2	1220	1749	2969	3	69.3%	16	75.0%	18	72.5%	16
Central Florida	308	444	752	18	213	340	553	18	69.2%	17	76.6%	15	73.5%	12
Chipola	111	133	244	26	84	112	196	25	75.7%	5	84.2%	1	80.3%	3
Daytona Beach	547	696	1243	12	392	541	933	11	71.7%	12	77.7%	10	75.1%	8
Edison	457	573	1030	15	312	406	718	15	68.3%	18	70.9%	24	69.7%	21
Fla CC at Jax	973	1414	2387	6	647	1069	1716	6	66.5%	21	75.6%	16	71.9%	18
Florida Keys	58	71	129	27	34	45	79	28	58.6%	25	63.4%	26	61.2%	25
Gulf Coast	177	239	416	23	109	171	280	23	61.6%	23	71.5%	22	67.3%	24
Hillsborough	1129	1304	2433	5	748	945	1693	7	66.3%	22	72.5%	21	69.6%	22
Indian River	370	422	792	17	267	326	593	17	72.2%	10	77.3%	12	74.9%	10
Lake City	132	142	274	25	90	110	200	24	68.2%	19	77.5%	11	73.0%	14
Lake-Sumter	207	273	480	22	139	205	344	22	67.1%	20	75.1%	17	71.7%	19
Manatee	469	600	1069	14	350	485	835	14	74.6%	7	80.8%	6	78.1%	5
Miami-Dade	2677	3580	6257	1	1999	2887	4886	1	74.7%	6	80.6%	7	78.1%	5
North Florida	51	76	127	28	30	57	87	27	58.8%	24	75.0%	18	68.5%	23
Okaloosa-Walton	327	343	670	21	235	238	473	21	71.9%	11	69.4%	25	70.6%	20
Palm Beach	1122	1209	2331	7	795	954	1749	5	70.9%	15	78.9%	8	75.0%	9
Pasco-Hernando	297	385	682	19	212	312	524	20	71.4%	13	81.0%	5	76.8%	6
Pensacola	597	678	1275	10	440	523	963	10	73.7%	8	77.1%	13	75.5%	7
Polk	403	533	936	16	289	396	685	16	71.7%	12	74.3%	19	73.2%	13
St. Johns River	282	393	675	20	220	308	528	19	78.0%	4	78.4%	9	78.2%	4
St. Petersburg	1090	1346	2436	4	782	995	1777	4	71.7%	12	73.9%	20	72.9%	15
Santa Fe	785	811	1596	8	655	679	1334	8	83.4%	1	83.7%	2	83.6%	1
Seminole	614	643	1257	11	438	493	931	12	71.3%	14	76.7%	14	74.1%	11
South Florida	142	192	334	24	78	112	190	26	54.9%	26	58.3%	27	56.9%	26
Tallahassee	780	668	1448	9	628	550	1178	9	80.5%	2	82.3%	3	81.4%	2
Valencia	1707	2059	3766	3	1338	1687	3025	2	78.4%	3	81.9%	4	80.3%	3
<b>System Total</b>	<b>18183</b>	<b>22191</b>	<b>40374</b>		<b>13189</b>	<b>17144</b>	<b>30333</b>		<b>72.5%</b>		<b>77.3%</b>		<b>75.1%</b>	

SPC's retention rate from Fall term to Spring term was 72.9% compared to a Systemwide retention rate of 75.1%. The College ranked fourteenth in total retention. Santa Fe, Tallahassee, and Valencia Community Colleges ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and third (3<sup>rd</sup>), respectively, while Miami-Dade and Manatee ranked fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) and Broward ranked fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>). At SPC the retention of females was higher (77.3%) than males (71.7%). The same was true for all other colleges except Brevard and Okaloosa-Walton Community Colleges.

Table 2 shows the same information by college and ethnicity. At SPC, the 2,436 degree seeking FTIC student population in Fall 2000 was composed of 80.5% white students, 10.0% black students, 5.1% Hispanic students, and 4.4% other students. One thousand

seven hundred and seventy-seven (1,777) students re-enrolled in Spring term. The retained group was 80.8% white, 9.7% black, 4.9% Hispanic and 4.6% other students. Retention of "other" students was highest (75.9%), followed by white students (73.2%), black students (71.2%) and Hispanic students (69.6%). Systemwide retention of the group "other" students was highest (78.8%), followed by Hispanic students (76.9%), black students (75.3%) and white students (74.2%).

**Table 2**  
**Degree Seeking FTIC Student Retention by College and Ethnicity**

College	Number Enrolled Fall 2000									Number Re-Enrolled in Spring 2001									Retention Rate							
	White	Rank	Black	Rank	Hispanic	Rank	Other	Rank	Total	White	Rank	Black	Rank	Hispanic	Rank	Other	Rank	Total	White	Rank	Black	Rank	Hispanic	Rank	Other	Rank
Brevard	989	9	122	14	78	11	53	10	1,242	711	10	86	15	58	11	39	11	894	71.9%	18	70.5%	20	74.4%	15	73.6%	18
Broward	1,658	3	1,188	2	990	2	257	2	4,093	1,178	3	869	2	733	2	189	2	2,969	71.0%	20	73.1%	14	74.0%	16	73.5%	19
Central Florida	576	20	103	16	56	15	17	20	752	422	20	75	17	43	16	13	20	553	73.3%	14	72.8%	15	76.8%	11	76.5%	14
Chipola	174	26	59	21	9	25	2	23	244	137	26	49	20	8	23	2	25	196	78.7%	4	83.1%	3	88.9%	2	100.0%	1
Daytona Beach	987	10	130	13	78	10	48	11	1,243	733	9	100	12	64	10	36	12	933	74.3%	11	76.9%	10	82.1%	5	75.0%	17
Edison	893	11	91	18	10	24	36	14	1,030	622	13	65	18	8	23	23	16	718	69.7%	23	71.4%	17	80.0%	6	63.9%	23
Fla CC at Jax	1,608	4	522	5	105	9	152	3	2,387	1,135	4	378	5	80	9	123	3	1,716	70.6%	21	72.4%	16	76.2%	12	80.9%	9
Florida Keys	103	27	6	27	18	22	2	23	129	65	27	3	25	10	22	1	26	79	63.1%	27	50.0%	27	55.6%	26	50.0%	25
Gulf Coast	330	23	61	20	7	26	18	19	416	224	23	41	21	5	25	10	22	280	67.9%	25	67.2%	24	71.4%	19	55.6%	24
Hillsborough	1,396	6	436	7	504	4	99	6	2,435	963	7	306	7	352	4	72	6	1,693	69.0%	24	70.2%	21	69.8%	21	72.7%	20
Indian River	590	17	113	15	71	12	18	19	792	431	19	95	14	53	12	14	19	593	73.1%	16	84.1%	1	74.6%	14	77.8%	13
Lake City	225	25	33	24	11	23	5	22	274	166	24	22	23	7	24	5	24	200	73.8%	12	66.7%	25	63.6%	24	100.0%	1
Lake-Sumter	473	22	4	28	2	28	1	24	480	338	22	3	25	2	27	1	26	344	71.5%	19	75.0%	11	100.0%	1	100.0%	1
Manatee	886	12	94	17	66	14	23	18	1,069	692	11	78	16	47	14	18	18	835	78.1%	5	83.0%	4	71.2%	20	78.3%	12
Miami-Dade	825	14	1,229	1	4,118	1	85	7	6,257	618	14	959	1	3,245	1	64	7	4,886	74.9%	9	78.0%	9	78.8%	8	75.3%	16
North Florida	91	28	32	25	4	27	0		127	61	28	22	23	4	26	0		87	67.0%	26	68.8%	23	100.0%	1	n/a	
Okaloosa-Walton	510	21	74	19	40	18	46	12	670	358	21	55	19	27	18	33	13	473	70.2%	22	74.3%	12	67.5%	23	71.7%	21
Palm Beach	1,398	5	475	6	328	5	130	4	2,331	1,044	5	348	6	249	5	108	4	1,749	74.7%	10	73.3%	13	75.9%	13	83.1%	7
Pasco-Hernando	587	18	34	23	32	21	29	16	682	455	17	22	23	23	20	24	15	524	77.5%	7	64.7%	26	71.9%	18	82.8%	8
Pensacola	990	8	192	10	35	20	58	9	1,275	759	8	137	10	21	21	46	9	963	76.7%	8	71.4%	18	60.0%	25	79.3%	10
Polk	700	16	143	12	69	13	24	17	936	516	16	99	13	50	13	20	17	685	73.7%	13	69.2%	22	72.5%	17	83.3%	6
St. Johns River	582	19	41	22	38	19	14	21	675	453	18	34	22	30	17	11	21	528	77.8%	6	82.9%	5	78.9%	7	78.6%	11
St. Petersburg	1,960	2	243	8	125	8	108	5	2,436	1,435	2	173	9	87	8	82	5	1,777	73.2%	15	71.2%	19	69.6%	22	75.9%	15
Santa Fe	1,172	7	222	9	158	7	44	13	1,596	983	6	181	8	130	7	40	10	1,334	83.9%	1	81.5%	6	82.3%	4	90.9%	2
Seminole	840	13	154	11	194	6	69	8	1,257	613	15	106	11	152	6	60	8	931	73.0%	17	68.8%	23	78.4%	10	87.0%	3
South Florida	249	24	19	26	52	17	14	21	334	140	25	15	24	26	19	9	23	190	56.2%	28	78.9%	7	50.0%	27	64.3%	22
Tallahassee	809	15	551	3	54	16	34	15	1,448	644	12	460	3	45	15	29	14	1,178	79.6%	3	83.5%	2	83.3%	3	85.3%	4
Valencia	2,026	1	545	4	839	3	356	1	3,766	1,638	1	428	4	659	3	300	1	3,025	80.8%	2	78.5%	8	78.5%	9	84.3%	5
System Total	23,627		6,916		8,091		1,742		40,376	17,534		5,209		6,218		1,372		30,333	74.2%		75.3%		76.9%		78.8%	

When compared to other community colleges, SPC ranked fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) in retention of white degree seeking FTIC students, nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) in retention of black students, and twenty-second (22<sup>nd</sup>) in the retention on Hispanic students. Only Tallahassee Community College ranked in the top three in the retention of these groups of students (white, 3<sup>rd</sup>; black, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Hispanic, 3<sup>rd</sup>).

Using Fall 2001 degree seeking FTIC students, the same analysis was repeated for SPC (other college data not currently available for 2002-2002). Table 3 shows the results. The overall retention rate of this group of students was less from Fall 2001 to Spring 2002 (70.4%) than it was for the previous year (72.9%). As in 2000-2001, the number of females enrolled in Fall term 2001 was greater than the number of males (1494 vs. 1322) and their retention rate was greater (72.5% vs. 68.1%).

**Table 3**  
**SPC Degree Seeking FTIC Student Retention**

	Number Enrolled Fall 2000	Number Re-Enrolled Spring 2002	Retention Rate
Male	1322	900	68.1%
Female	1494	1083	72.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2816</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>70.4%</b>
White	2196	1527	69.5%
Black	261	189	72.4%
Hispanic	191	136	71.2%
Asian	118	99	83.9%
Amer. Indian	23	17	73.9%
Unknown	27	15	55.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2816</b>	<b>1983</b>	<b>70.4%</b>

The Fall 2001 group was composed of 78.0% white students, 9.3% black students, 6.8% Hispanic students, and 4.2% Asian students. The re-enrolled group was composed of 77.0% white students, 9.5% black students, 6.9% Hispanic students and 5.0% Asian students. Of these four ethnicities, retention of Asian students was highest (83.9%), followed by black students (72.4%), Hispanic students (71.2%) and white students (69.5%). While the retention of white students dropped substantially, the retention of black and Hispanic students increased noticeably in 2001-2002.