

Student Retention Data by GPA – UAS

The charts below show that:

1. Although our retention of students who have a less than 2.0 first semester GPA have lower rates of retention, we lose more students (in headcount) from the 3.0-4.0 first semester GPA range from Fall to Fall.
2. UAS has a 30% total completion rate, compared to a national average of 62%. Although the most common rhetoric regarding retention at UAS often revolves around the argument that students transfer away, only 11% of our students complete at another institution within six years, whereas an additional 17% are still enrolled and **53% are not enrolled anywhere.**

Total Population	201303	201403	201503	201603	Avg.
FTF	217	214	200	169	200
Persisted: Fall-to-Spring	79%	79%	83%	79%	80%
Retained: Fall-to-Fall	56%	57%	58%		57%

Persisted: Fall-to-Spring	201303	201403	201503	201603	Avg.	Avg. #	Avg. Loss
<2.0 GPA in First Term	63%	63%	62%	82%	68%	33	12
2.0-2.49 GPA in First Term	91%	81%	86%	75%	83%	28	5
2.5-2.99 GPA in First Term	81%	91%	89%	92%	88%	32	4
3.0-3.49 GPA in First Term	88%	86%	93%	85%	88%	50	6
3.5-4.0 GPA in First Term	84%	91%	86%	81%	86%	58	8

Retained: Fall-to-Fall	201303	201403	201503	201603	Avg.	Avg. #	Avg. Loss
<2.0 GPA in First Term	33%	34%	33%		34%	33	22
2.0-2.49 GPA in First Term	65%	52%	52%		56%	28	12
2.5-2.99 GPA in First Term	55%	74%	68%		66%	32	11
3.0-3.49 GPA in First Term	59%	63%	67%		63%	50	19
3.5-4.0 GPA in First Term	69%	74%	60%		68%	58	19

Note: 201703 has not closed yet so 201603 FTF retained data are not yet available.

Six-Year Outcomes: Fall 2010 Cohort

■ National Benchmark ■ UAF ■ UAA ■ UAS



Cohort Definition

The cohort examined in this study is made up of first-time degree-seeking students, of any age, who began their postsecondary studies in Fall 2010. Showing intent to seek a degree or certificate was defined as follows:

1. For students who started at four-year institutions, enrolled at least one term with an intensity of half-time or higher, and
2. For students who started at two-year institutions, either:
 - a. Enrolled full time for at least one term before August 15, 2011, or
 - b. Enrolled at least half time for any two terms before December 31, 2011.

First-time status was established by confirming that a student (1) did not show any postsecondary enrollment record in the four years prior to the student’s Fall 2010 enrollment (with the exception of dual enrollment while still in high school), and (2) did not receive a degree or certificate from any postsecondary institution prior to Fall 2010 (except in dual enrolled status), according to Clearinghouse data.

Throughout this report, we examine college completion rates for the Fall 2010 cohort. The study followed the cohort through May 31, 2016, and highlights six-year student outcomes, including degree and certificate completion as well as continuing enrollment (persistence).

EAB Academic Policy Diagnostic:

EAB Item	EAB Best Practice	UAS Notes	Determination
Registration and Course Scheduling			
Degree Plan Requirements	Require students to file an update and on-time degree plan with their advisor.	UAS students are allowed to register each term without any long-term degree planning on file.	Too Lenient
Degree Milestones	Notify students after a missed milestone and consider an advisor meeting.	This varies by department/program, but some advisors do notify students after a missed milestone. (For example, reports are generated from Degreeworks of students who have taken significant credits but are not in a program, have not completed course Math/English, etc).	Too lenient for those advisors (including faculty advisors) who do not track and contact. There is no consistent practice for contacting students.
Experiential Education Requirements	Integrate experiential learning into credit bearing courses.	This depends on the program, but generally experiential learning activities are not required but are offered (practicums, internships, etc).	Too Lenient
Transfer Credit Articulation	Communicate which credits will meaningfully transfer prior to matriculation.	UAS does not guarantee any transfer credits except on a course-by-course basis, with the exception of select MOU’s. Students must apply and submit their application fee prior to transfer credit evaluation.	Too Strict

<i>Accelerating Degree Progress</i>			
Remedial Education	Enroll students with remedial needs in-for credit summer courses before the first year.	UAS allows students to complete remedial coursework at any time – although most students must take these courses in order to continue on in courses.	Too Lenient
Course Load	Require an advisor waiver for first-year students who take fewer than 15 credits.	UAS Students have no specific intervention when they take fewer than 15 credits per term, although we have offered incentives for taking 15 credits.	Too Lenient
Major Declaration	Require students to declare a major upon earning 45 to 60 credits toward the degree.	There is no academic policy formally requiring them to file and declare a major with UAS, although Financial Aid policies due require programs.	Too Lenient
Excess Credit Accumulation	Perform graduation checks for students before reaching senior status.	Some Degreeworks reports are pulled, but UAS does not require advising for seniors unless those students request assistance.	Too lenient for those advisors (including faculty advisors) who do not track and contact. There is no consistent practice for contacting students.
<i>Registration and Course Scheduling</i>			
Bursar Holds	Set a minimum bursar hold amount below which students are allowed to register.	UAS student accounts puts immediate holds on student accounts for any balance owed.	Too Strict
Multi Term Registration	Encourage students to register for a year (fall, spring, and summer) of courses at once.	Students are allowed to register for only one academic term at a time, excluding summer.	Too Lenient
Course Wait Lists	Override registration caps for some students until wait list reaches enrollment minimum.	The wait list policy varies based on the course or the instructor.	Too Strict
<i>Preventing Unnecessary Withdrawals</i>			
Early Academic Alerts	Require instructors in critical courses to submit early alerts within a flexible timeframe.	UAS does not require faculty to submit early academic alerts or midterm grades	Too Lenient
Course Repeats	Allow students to repeat a course once, with an option to appeal for a second repeat.	UAS students can repeat courses indefinitely with no grade restrictions.	Too Lenient

Course and Institutional Withdrawal	Require students to complete an online advising prompt before processing a withdrawal.	Allow students to withdraw from courses through a simple online transaction.	Too Lenient
Academic Probation and Dismissal	Require students on probation to reverse GPA trend to continue at the institution.	Allow students to remain on probation/enrolled indefinitely, regardless of improvement.	Too Lenient
<i>Student Messaging and Outreach</i>			
Student Communications	Centrally coordinate and schedule messages to large numbers of students.	UAS generally allows Faculty and Staff to communicate with all students as frequently as desired.	Too Lenient
Student Aid Renewal	Sent a series of escalating “nudges” reminding students to refile financial aid forms.	UAS Financial Aid has advertising campaigns and communication plans in place for student aid renewal, but no individual reminders are given until after a FAFSA is completed.	Too Lenient (Financial Aid has identified this as an area for improvement and has been working on it).
Non- Registered Students	Call students who fail to register before the deadline for unexplained reasons.	Varies by department. Some students are not contacted at all, while other departments give notification. This varies primarily by advisor practice.	Too Lenient