

Part Two – Student Success**Course Retention Rates**

One hallmark indicator of student success is whether or not a student completes a class, regardless of the grade received. This indicator of “course retention” represents the opposite of withdrawing from a class, so retention reflects a student’s overall willingness to persevere and complete a class. Figure 14 tracks the retention rate for the College over a five-year period. On average, roughly 75 percent of the students are retained at the end of the semester at the College, but this is lower than the state-wide average for community colleges, which typically exceeds 81 percent. Still, the gap between the two figures is not great, and the distance might be attributable to the College’s student population being unrepresentative when compared against state-wide averages.

Figure 14
College and State-wide Retention Rates
1998-2002

