

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Fall 2001 to Spring 2002

The attrition and retention statistics in this document provide select data on Plattsburgh State University undergraduate matriculated students for the fall 2001 to spring 2002 semesters. This is the first attrition study conducted under the new Banner system. The following definitions apply to each attrition category:

**Attrition rate is defined as the ratio of the number of attritors over the number of eligible persistors (initial cohort minus graduates and applicants for graduation). Students in the attrition cohort were in attendance during the fall 2001 semester but were not in attendance during the spring 2002 semester. This report utilizes three attrition categories. An “academic dismissal” did not meet appropriate university cumulative GPA requirements (as listed on page 230-231 of the 2001-02 PSU catalogue). “Voluntary withdrawals” can occur at various times prior to, during or after a specific semester (as listed on page 239 of the 2001-02 PSU catalogue). A “non-returning” student was enrolled in the fall 2001 semester, was not an academic dismissal, and did not voluntarily withdraw. They did not enroll for the spring 2002 semester. (Due to the low number of coded “leave of absence” students, they were included in this category).**

- **Table 1** indicates overall attrition percentages by category and class level. There were 5,257 matriculated undergraduates in the fall 2001 semester. By the spring 2002 semester 475 students met the aforementioned attrition category definitions. The overall attrition rate was 9.7%. The attrition rate by class level was freshmen (12.0%), sophomores (8.6%), junior (8.9%), and seniors (8.0%). The highest number of attritors was in the “non-return” category (274) followed by academic dismissals (151) and voluntary withdrawals (50).
- **Table 2** indicates overall attrition percentages by student’s permanent resident location. New York State residents had a 9.8% attrition rate (433), International Students had a 9.0% attrition rate (29), and domestic out of state students had an 8.6% attrition rate (12).
- **Table 3** provides overall attrition percentages by ethnicity and gender. The overall attrition rate for Asians/Pacific Islander was 7.6%, Black Non-Hispanic 7.5%, Hispanic 6.9%, American Indian/Alaskan Native 20.0%, White 9.9%, Non-Resident Alien 9.0%, and Missing 10.2%. The overall attrition rates for males was 11.1% and for females 8.7%.
- **Table 4** lists attrition rates by class level and dormitory. The dormitories with the three highest attrition rates were Adirondack 10.6%, followed by Moffit 10.1%, and Whiteface 9.6%.
- **Table 5** lists attrition rates by class level and dormitory (7.9%) vs. non-dormitory students (11.5%).
- **Table 6** lists attrition rates by county. The three counties with the highest attrition numbers were Clinton (103), Suffolk (28), and Saratoga (24).
- **Table 7** lists attrition data PSU major. Majors with over 150 students in the initial cohort had the following attrition rates: Art 10.5%, Business 8.1%, Computer Science 13.8%, English and Journalism 5.0%, Environmental Science 10.5%, Communication Mass Media

5.9%, Psychology 8.2%, Criminal Justice 10.6%, Elementary Education 6.2%, Special Education 6.7%, Nursing 17.9%, and Undeclared 13.6%.

- **Table 8** lists ranges of cumulative GPA's by attrition and retention categories. There were 587 students at the end of the fall 2001 semester with a cumulative GPA below 2.00. Of that number, 213 did not enroll for the spring 2002 semester. In addition, there were 4,670 students with cumulative GPA's greater than or equal to 2.00. Of that number, 262 did not enroll for the spring 2002 semester.
- **Table 9** provides an overview of mean cumulative credit hours and mean cumulative GPA by class level and attrition categories. The mean cumulative GPA for 475 attritors was 2.06 with 55.4 mean cumulative credit hours.

### ATTRITION STATISTICS CAVEATS

- Attrition rate is defined as the ratio of the number of attritors over the number of eligible persistors (initial cohort minus graduates and applicants for graduation). There were 64 students that applied for the May 2002 graduation that did not enroll for the spring 2002 semester. While it is possible those students might not graduate in May, it is highly improbable.
- This was the first attrition data extracted from the Banner system that required multiple file merges. Whenever multiple files merges occur, the probability of inconsistencies increase on a proportional basis.
- There is no guarantee the self-selected ethnic codes listed for students are 100% accurate. There are also a large number of students that choose not to list their ethnic codes.
- Attrition studies can only capture data at a specific moment in time. Thus, the functions of these data are to provide a snapshot of the fall 2001 to spring 2002 attrition and retention cohort.
- There is a paucity of external attrition data by class level. Thus, comparisons to external benchmarks are not available. Concurrently, the vast majority of PSU attrition studies have been conducted from fall to fall semesters. Thus, there a limited internal benchmarks available for this cohort.