

## Second Year Student Characteristics and Outcomes: Fall 2013-17

November 20, 2018

*This exploratory analysis was produced by OPEIR in response to a request by UTC Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Results are not necessarily generalizable and attempts to use results outside the scope of this project should be avoided.*

### Statement of Key Findings

Students who are not retained from their second to third years are *more likely* to be

- (1) less academically prepared than their peers;
- (2) from an underrepresented minority racial or ethnic group;
- (3) from a low-income family;
- (4) from the Chattanooga area; or
- (5) admitted as a transfer or off-cycle from the typical Summer/Fall entering cohorts.

They are *less likely* to have

- (1) engaged in campus organizations and activities, or
- (2) taken advantage of available resources such as the First Year Experience course, Supplemental Instruction, and tutoring.

### Notes on Methodology

- A student is included if he or she has 30-59 earned hours at the start of the Fall term. The student is considered retained if he or she is also enrolled in the following Fall term.
- Analysis is focused on full-time students due to the distortions part-time students cause in retention and progression outcomes. More information on part-time students can be provided upon request.
- Progression time is in years and each Fall or Spring term is counted as 0.5 years. For example, a student who reaches 60 earned credit hours after her third Fall term achieves that milestone in 2.5 years.
- Federal Poverty Level information is only available for students who complete the FAFSA.
- Engagement in First Year Experience, Student Support Services, Greek Life, and Athletics are considered "Yes" if the student is on record as participating in any term since initial enrollment.

- Geographical classifications based on Home Address conform to the US Office of Management and Budget's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The Chattanooga and Memphis MSAs include some contiguous counties from surrounding states.

## Key Findings Based on Outcomes for Full-Time Second Year Students

### 1. Student academic quality/preparedness has a clear impact on outcomes.

ACT Composite Score	Retained to 3rd Year	Total Years to 60 Hours	Total Years to 90 Hours
Greater than 19	85.6%	2.2	3.2
19 or Less	78.9%	2.5	3.5

Avg high school GPA of students retained: 3.48

Avg high school GPA of students not retained: 3.32

### 2. Small differences exist along demographic lines.

Gender	Retained to 3rd Year	Total Years to 60 Hours	Total Years to 90 Hours
Female	85.5%	2.2	3.2
Male	82.7%	2.3	3.4

Race	Retained to 3rd Year	Total Years to 60 Hours	Total Years to 90 Hours
American Indian or Alaska Native *	77.8%	2.1	3.2
Asian	88.8%	2.2	3.1
Black or African American	81.2%	2.4	3.4
Hispanic	82.7%	2.3	3.3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander *	80.0%	2.7	3.8
White	84.8%	2.2	3.2
Two or More	83.7%	2.5	3.5
Unknown	87.4%	2.1	3.3

\* N<30; rates and averages may not be meaningful

Income Below 150% of Federal Poverty Line	Retained to 3rd Year	Total Years to 60 Hours	Total Years to 90 Hours
Yes	80.8%	2.4	3.4
No or Unknown	85.1%	2.3	3.2

3. Counterintuitively, local student outcomes tend to be slightly worse. This holds even when adjusting for student academic readiness.

Home Address	Retained to 3rd Year	Total Years to 60 Hours	Total Years to 90 Hours
Chattanooga-Cleveland-Athens Area	83.0%	2.3	3.3
Nashville Area	84.8%	2.2	3.2
Memphis Area	84.6%	2.3	3.3
Knoxville Area	86.2%	2.2	3.1
TN county outside of major TN metros	84.9%	2.1	3.1
Outside of TN; excludes TN metros	85.1%	2.3	3.2

Home Address	Retained to 3rd Year	Total Years to 60 Hours	Total Years to 90 Hours
<i>ACT Composite greater than 19</i>			
Chattanooga-Cleveland-Athens Area	84.8%	2.3	3.2
Nashville Area	85.4%	2.2	3.2
Memphis Area	86.4%	2.3	3.2
Knoxville Area	87.0%	2.2	3.1
TN county outside of major TN metros	85.7%	2.1	3.1
Outside of TN; excludes TN metros	89.4%	2.3	3.2
<i>ACT Composite 19 or less</i>			
Chattanooga-Cleveland-Athens Area	77.4%	2.8	3.7
Nashville Area	81.3%	2.5	3.5
Memphis Area	75.7%	2.5	3.4
Knoxville Area	81.3%	2.3	3.4
TN county outside of major TN metros	80.0%	2.6	3.6
Outside of TN; excludes TN metros	80.1%	2.3	3.3

4. *Students who enter in Summer/Fall as first-time freshmen have much better outcomes.*

<b>Admission type</b>	<b>Retained to 3rd Year</b>	<b>Total Years to 60 Hours</b>	<b>Total Years to 90 Hours</b>
Summer/Fall as First Time Freshman	86.6%	2.2	3.2
Summer/Fall as Transfer	75.0%	N/A	N/A
Other	78.1%	N/A	N/A

5. *Engagement in campus organizations and student support has a strong positive impact on retention, but the effect on progression time is mixed.*

<b>Ever Taken First Year Experience Course</b>	<b>Retained to 3rd Year</b>	<b>Total Years to 60 Hours</b>	<b>Total Years to 90 Hours</b>
Yes	87.2%	2.3	3.2
No	83.7%	2.2	3.2
<b>Use of Student Support Services</b>			
Yes	86.2%	2.3	3.3
No	81.0%	2.0	3.0
<b>Honors</b>			
Yes	97.4%	1.6	2.5
No	83.9%	2.3	3.3
<b>Greek Life</b>			
Yes	88.4%	2.3	3.3
No	83.2%	2.2	3.2
<b>Athlete</b>			
Yes	89.2%	2.2	3.1
No	84.0%	2.3	3.2

## Profile of the Full-Time Second Year Student Population (All Students)

### Academic Credentials

ACT Composite Score	% of second year students
Greater than 19	81%
19 or Less	19%

**Average High School GPA:** 3.45

### Demographics

Gender	% of second year students
Female	57%
Male	43%
<b>Race</b>	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
Asian	2%
Black or African American	11%
Hispanic	4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
White	76%
Two or More	6%
Unknown	1%
<b>Income Below 150% of Federal Poverty Line</b>	
Yes	19%
No or Unknown	81%
<b>Admission Type</b>	
Summer/Fall as First Time Freshman	78%
Summer/Fall as Transfer	14%
Other	9%
<b>Home Address</b>	
Chattanooga-Cleveland-Athens Area	34%
Nashville Area	29%
Memphis Area	9%
Knoxville Area	7%
TN county outside of major TN metros	16%
Outside of TN; excludes TN metros	5%

### *Engagement in Campus Activities and Student Support Programs*

<b>Ever Taken First Year Experience</b>	<b>% of second year students</b>
Yes	18%
No	82%
<b>Use of Student Support Services</b>	
Yes	64%
No	36%
<b>Honors</b>	
Yes	3%
No	97%
<b>Greek Life</b>	
Yes	22%
No	78%
<b>Athlete</b>	
Yes	5%
No	95%

### **Profile of Full-Time Second Year Students Not Retained to the Third Year**

#### *Academic Credentials*

<b>ACT Composite Score</b>	<b>% of second year students</b>
Greater than 19	74%
19 or Less	26%

**Average High School GPA:** 3.32

## Demographics

<b>Gender</b>	<b>% of second year students</b>
Female	53%
Male	47%
<b>Race</b>	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
Asian	1%
Black or African American	13%
Hispanic	4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
White	73%
Two or More	1%
Unknown	1%
<b>Income Below 150% of Federal Poverty Line</b>	
Yes	23%
No or Unknown	77%
<b>Admission Type</b>	
Summer/Fall as First Time Freshman	66%
Summer/Fall as Transfer	22%
Other	12%
<b>Home Address</b>	
Chattanooga-Cleveland-Athens Area	37%
Nashville Area	28%
Memphis Area	9%
Knoxville Area	6%
TN county outside of major TN metros	16%
Outside of TN; excludes TN metros	5%

*Engagement in Campus Activities and Student Support Programs*

<b>Ever Taken First Year Experience</b>	<b>% of second year students</b>
Yes	15%
No	85%
<b>Use of Student Support Services</b>	
Yes	56%
No	44%
<b>Honors</b>	
Yes	0%
No	100%
<b>Greek Life</b>	
Yes	16%
No	84%
<b>Athlete</b>	
Yes	3%
No	97%