

**AGENDA ITEM B4: DEGREE COMPLETION**  
**BOARD RULE 400.0200.00**  
**STUDENT RETENTION - FALL TO FALL**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: JULY 25, 2013**

This report focuses on student retention rates from fall-to-fall terms. The retention rate is based on tracking cohorts of first-time full-time degree-seeking students who enroll in college for fall term in the first year and return to Belmont fall term the next academic year. Fall-to-fall retention rates are calculated by dividing the number of returning students in the second fall term by the number of entering students in the cohort the prior fall term. The fall-to-fall retention rate for the 2011/2012 cohort of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students is 46.5%.

**Presentation of Data**

The data in Chart I, *Fall-to-fall Retention, 2005/2006 through 2012/2013* includes data for seven cohorts of students. For each academic year in the chart, there are paired vertical bars indicating first the number of students who enrolled in fall term as first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students. Each dark blue vertical bar represents the number of students who enrolled at Belmont for the first time in the fall cohort. The orange bars to the right of the blues reflect the number of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students who returned in the next fall term. Chart I shows retention data for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students who entered the College in fall 2005 through fall 2012.

Chart I, *Fall-to-fall Retention, 2005/2006 through 2012/2013*

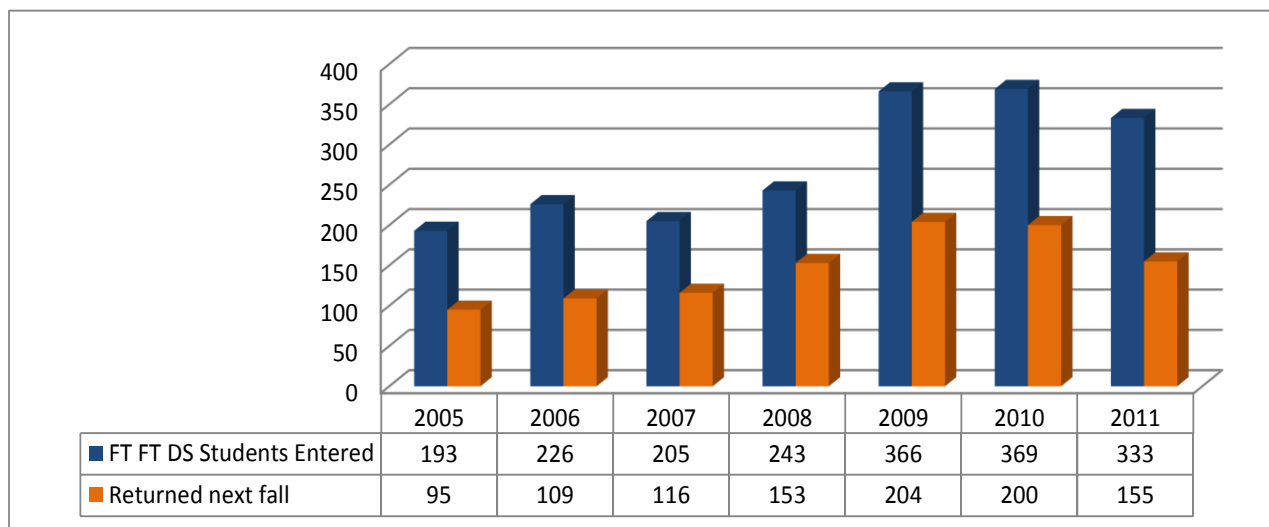


Table I, *Fall-to-fall Retention Rates, 2005 through 2011 student cohorts*

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
FT FT DS Students Entered	193	226	205	243	366	369	333
Returned next fall	95	109	116	153	204	200	155
Retention rate for cohort	49.2%	48.2%	56.6%	63.0%	55.7%	54.2%	46.5%

### **Data Highlights**

1. The fall-to-fall retention rate has fluctuated between 46.5% for the 2011 cohort to 63% for the 2008 cohort. Overall enrollment in fall 2009 term when 63% of the fall 2008 cohort returned was the highest enrollment for the College; the enrollment in fall 2012 when 46.5% of the 2011 cohort returned had one of the lowest enrollments for a fall term at the College.
2. The lowest fall-to-fall retention rate over the seven year period was recorded in the fall 2012 when 46.5% of the prior year's entering cohort returned.

### **Conclusions and Targets for Improvement**

1. Continue to implement a seamless college enrollment, admissions, and advising model. Track students from admission to registration and follow-up on students who attrition out during this time to determine reasons for their withdrawal. Apply proactive retention strategies during this time, such as assigning students to learning communities, mandatory orientation and FYE 1110, and case management advising.
2. Track students from enrollment to the first day of class continuing to apply proactive retention strategies such as faculty-to-student relational opportunities, co-curricular and other student activities, summer bridge activities, completion of developmental education courses via expedited/innovative delivery methodologies, intentional academic advising, counseling (regarding career services, fiscal responsibility, and financial aid planning). Determine reasons for student attrition prior to the first day of class.
3. Propose alternative modeling for the allocation of Trustee Scholarship dollars by Fall 2013 to support the Ohio completion agenda.
4. Improve fall-to-fall retention by 3% by fall 2015.