

Retention Rates

I. IPEDS Retention Rates

The federal IPEDS definition of retention rates for four-year colleges begins with the percentage of full-time, first-time bachelor’s degree-seeking undergraduates from the previous fall semester who are again enrolled in the subsequent fall semester. Trocaire College is classified as a four-year school, but most students are enrolled in 2-year or Certificate programs. Prior to Fall 2020, no first-time bachelor’s-seeking students had enrolled (some bachelor’s-seeking students have enrolled but they were not first-time). As a result, for the years prior to Fall 2020, no retention rate information for Trocaire could be reported in the IPEDS data system (See Table 1).

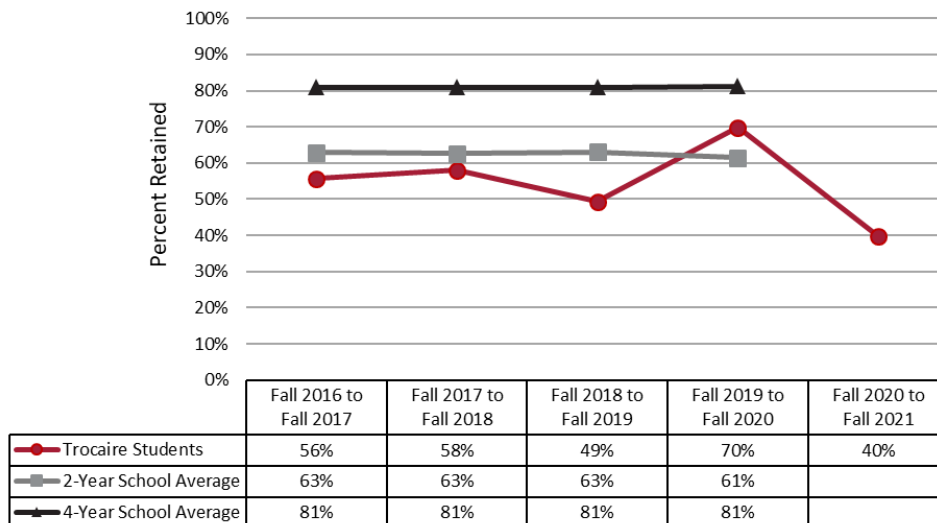
Table 1
IPEDS Retention Rates – Five Year Trends

Official IPEDS Retention Rate	Fall 2016 to Fall 2017	Fall 2017 to Fall 2018	Fall 2018 to Fall 2019	Fall 2019 to Fall 2020	Fall 2020 to Fall 2021
Trocaire Retention Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%

II. Retention Rates for 2-Year and Certificate Seeking Students

As indicated above, only one official IPEDS retention rate is available for Trocaire. However, Trocaire has calculated a similar retention rate, using the IPEDS definition of retention for two-year colleges, which reflects the number of first-time students seeking 2-year degrees or certificates from the previous fall semester who are again enrolled in the subsequent fall semester. The IPEDS approach for 2-year schools counts students who graduate during the fall-to-fall time frame as retained. These calculations, though not official IPEDS retention rates, are shown in Figure 1 below (See Figure 1). Figure 1 also provides average national retention rate benchmark information from IPEDS for two- and four-year school averages over the last five years. Note that the national averages for fall 2020 – fall 2021 were not yet available at the time of writing.

Figure 1
Retention Rates – Trocaire 2-Year Degree and Certificate-seeking Students



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III. First-Time and Transfer Student Retention Rates

Transfer students are not included in official IPEDS retention rate calculation. In any given fall semester, however, the number of new transfer students enrolled at Trocaire is much higher than the number of new, first-time freshman. To provide information on retention of transfer students, the IPEDS definition of retention for two-year colleges was used to calculate rates for both first-time freshmen and transfer students, separated by attendance status (full- vs. part-time), and are shown in Figure 2 (See Figure 2). Similar to the rates shown in Section II, these rates include the percentage of new undergraduates (freshman or transfer) from the previous fall semester who are again enrolled in the subsequent fall semester, and count as retained students who graduate during the fall-to-fall time frame.

Figure 2
Retention Rates for First-Time and Transfer Students

