

RESEARCH BRIEF

FALL TO SPRING RETENTION RATES: FALL 2016 TO FALL 2020 COHORTS

Background

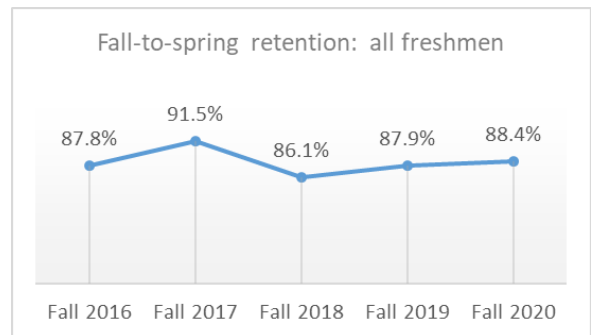
This report summarizes fall-to-spring retention rates for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students matriculating at Daemen College from fall 2016 to fall 2020, with an emphasis on trends related to the fall 2020 cohort.

Executive summary

The fall-to-spring retention rate for the fall 2020 cohort of incoming freshman was 88.4%, a slight increase over the fall 2019 rate of 87.9% and consistent with the average retention rate of 88.4% for the last five cohorts (see chart below right). However, there were significant gaps of seven to eight percentage points in retention rates for at risk groups, including under-represented minority students, Pell recipients, and first-generation students.

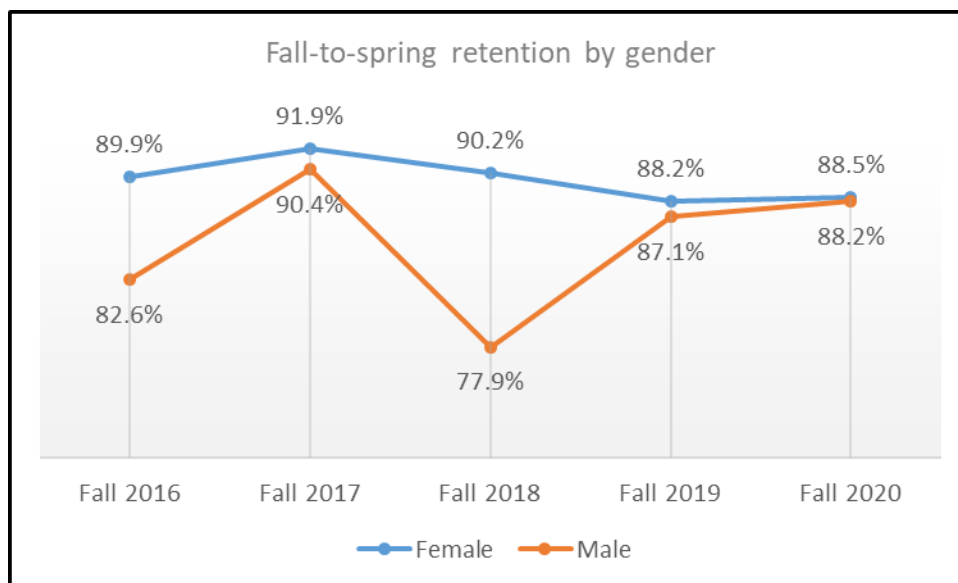
Student athletes and HEOP students, small but important cohorts, showed very strong retention rates for the fall 2020 cohort.

Students with a first-term Daemen GPA of less than 2.50 continue to show very poor retention rates.

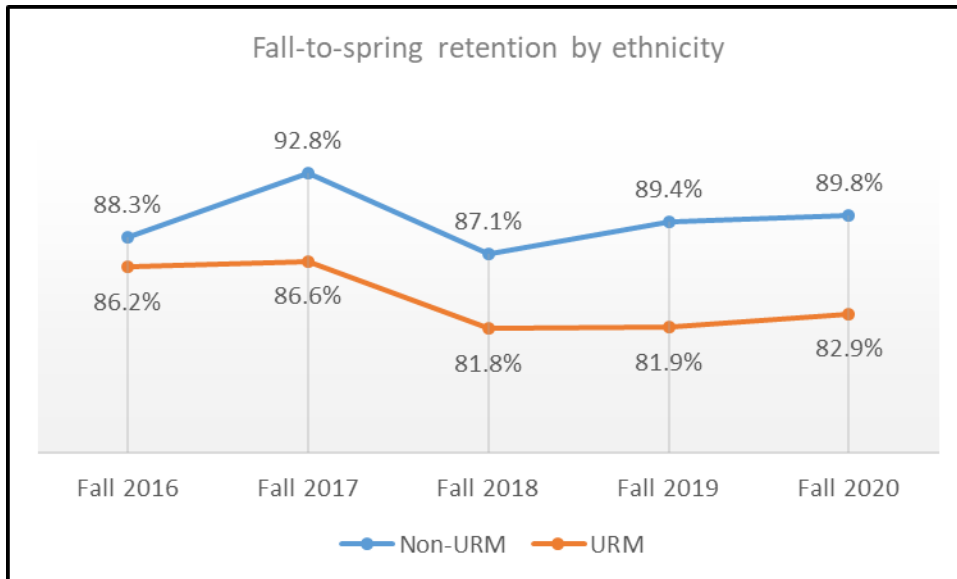


Data Analysis

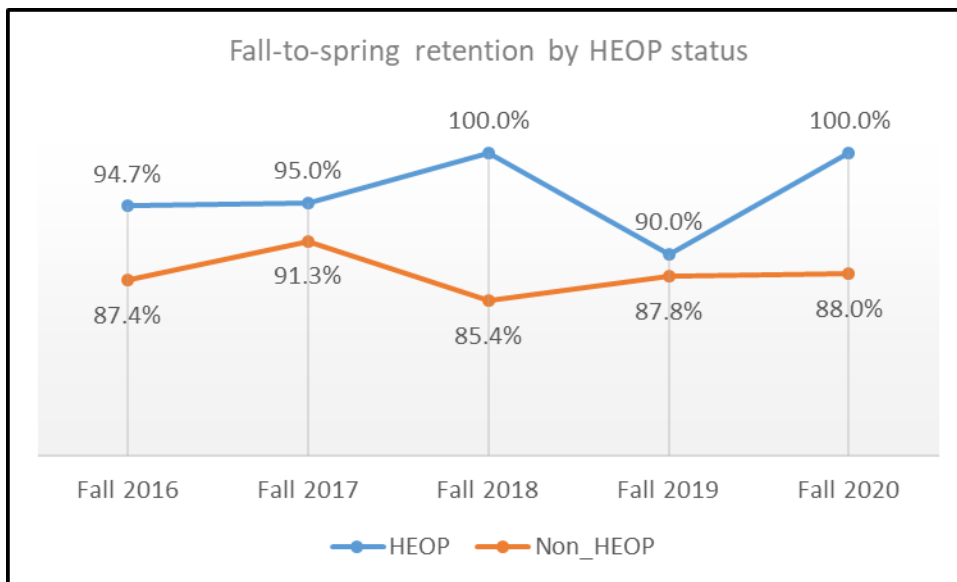
The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates by gender. For the fall 2020 cohort, there were virtually no differences, although historically female students have had higher retention rates.



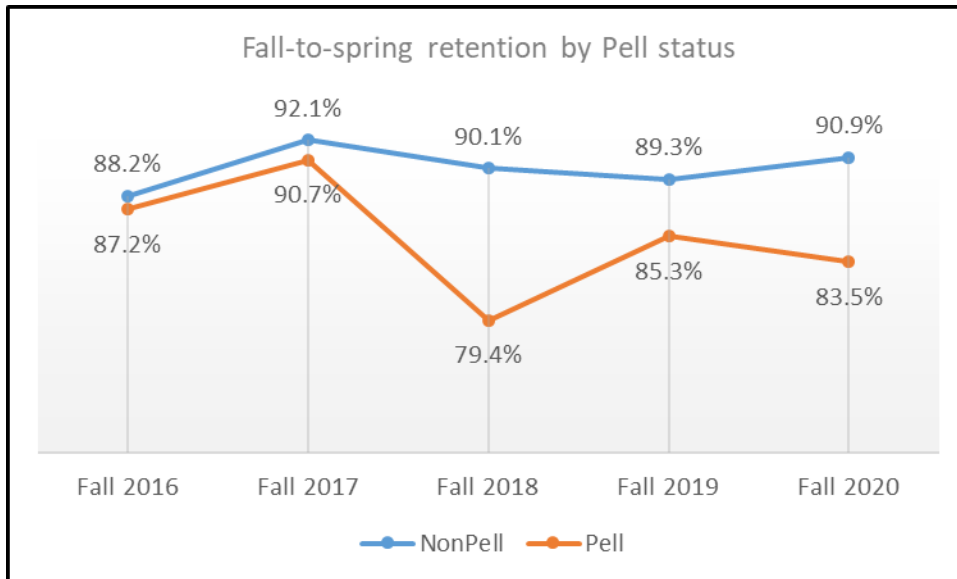
The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates by ethnicity. Historically, under-represented minority (URM) students (about 20% of the freshman class) have had somewhat lower retention rates than non-URM students. The gap has widened slightly with recent cohorts.



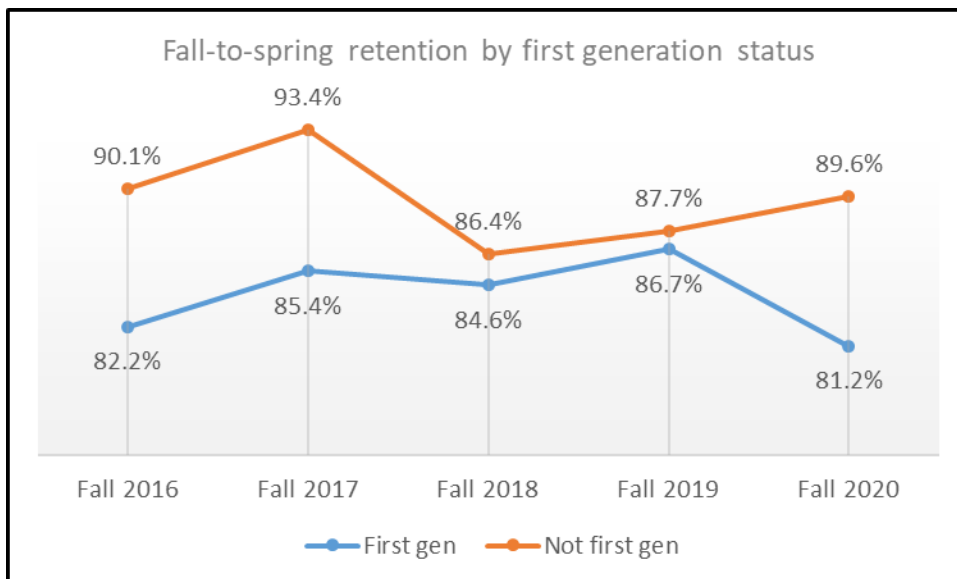
The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates for HEOP students. Although they represent a small percentage of our freshman class, HEOP students have very strong fall-to-spring retention rates.



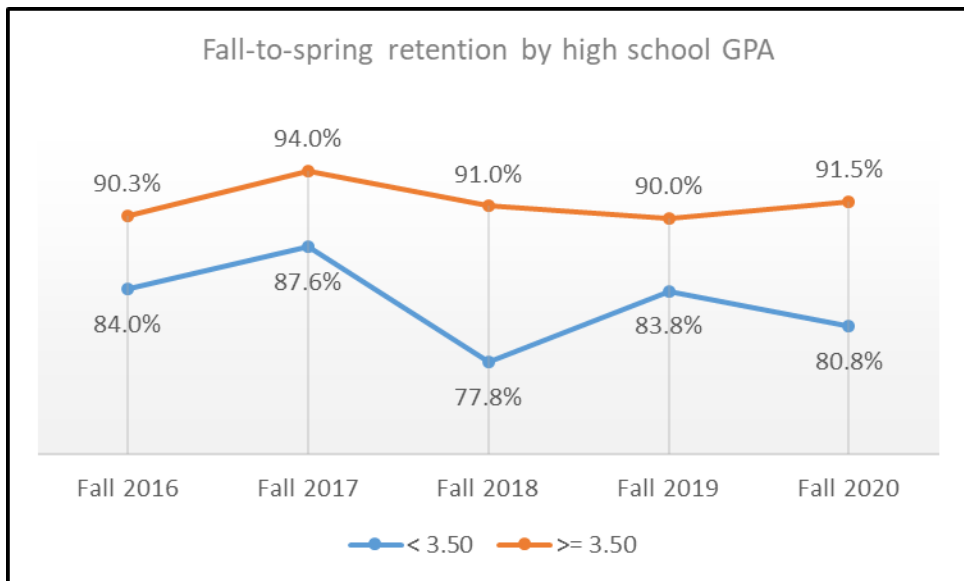
The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates by Pell status. A similar trend is seen for Pell recipients as for URM students: historically, Pell recipients (just under 40% of the freshman class) have had somewhat lower retention rates than non-Pell students, with a broader gap emerging in more recent cohorts.



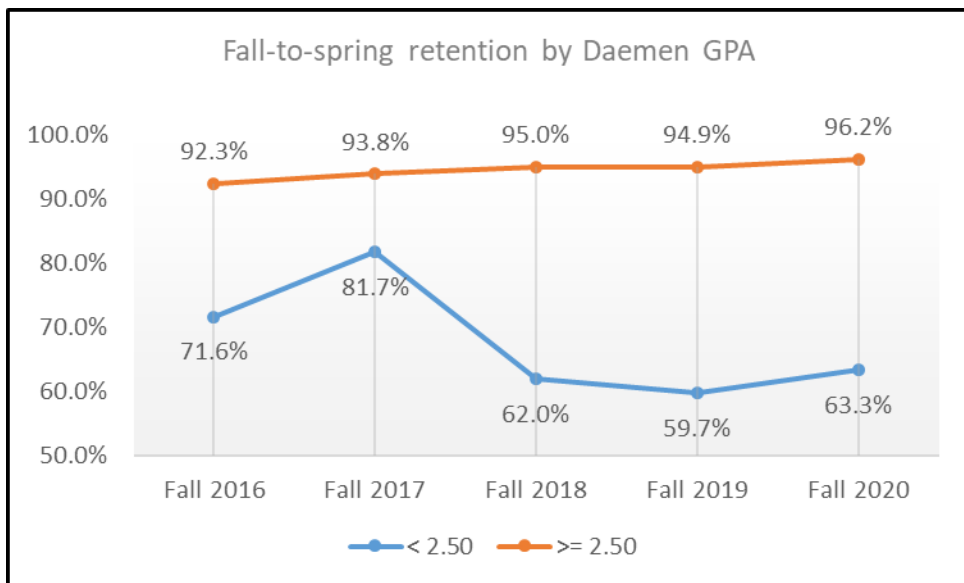
The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates by first generation status. For the fall 2018 and fall 2019 cohorts, the gap between first generation students (about 25% of the freshman class) and non-first generation students diminished, but the gap increased sharply with the fall 2020 cohort.



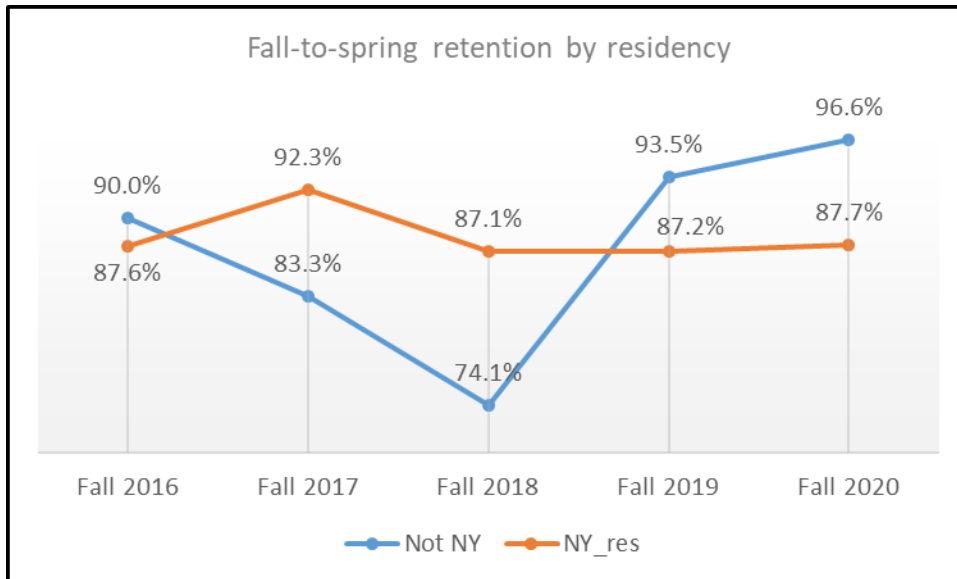
The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates by high school GPA, using 3.50 as a cutoff. Students with a GPA of 3.50 or greater (about 60% of the freshman class) have consistently high retention rates, while students with a GPA of less than 3.50 have somewhat lower retention rates.



The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates by first-term Daemen GPA, using 2.50 as a cutoff. Students with a GPA of 2.50 or greater have consistently high retention rates, while students with a GPA of less than 2.50 (about 20% of the freshman class) have very poor retention rates.



The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates by residency. In recent cohorts, out-of-state students (about 10% of the freshman class) have had somewhat higher retention rates than New York residents, although the pattern has not been consistent across time.



The chart below shows fall-to-spring retention rates by athletic status. For the last two cohorts, athletes (about 10% of the freshman class) have had very high retention rates.

