

January 7, 2016

Siena Fast Facts

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a nice holiday break. This week we will resume our *Fast Facts* with a “sneak peek” at spring retention numbers.

The cohort for this analysis consists of students enrolled as of the fall 2015 census date. Students are tracked to determine whether they have registered for classes for spring 2016. It should be noted that these data are still preliminary, since some students who haven’t yet registered will do so, and some students who have registered won’t show up for classes. So there is a bit of flux, but the numbers should give us a pretty good idea of where we stand.

With those caveats, here are the fall-to-spring retention numbers for new students (i.e. new in fall 2015):

Cohort	Student type	Retention type	# in cohort	# retained	Retention rate
Fall 2015	New	Fall-to-spring	753	734	97.5%

So, 97.5% of our incoming fall class of new students have registered for spring classes. This is a solid fall-to-spring retention rate and similar to previous cohorts.

For transfer students who entered Siena in fall 2015, here’s what we have:

Cohort	Student type	Retention type	# in cohort	# retained	Retention rate
Fall 2015	Transfer	Fall-to-spring	135	117	86.7%

This is not a good fall-to-spring retention rate, and is some cause for concern, although transfer students constitute a relatively small percentage of our student population. Digging a little deeper, we find certain subgroups of transfer students with especially low fall-to-spring retention rates, including:

- Minority students (76.9% retention)
- Pell grant recipients (80.0% retention)
- First-generation students (75.0% retention)
- Students with a first-term GPA of less than 2.0 (75.0% retention)

All of these are previously identified risk factors for non-retention. It should be noted that all of these subgroups are numerically quite small, but obviously still very important to the Siena community.

And what about returning students? For full-time, matriculated, non-transfer students classified as sophomores in fall 2015, here are the retention numbers:

Cohort	Class	Retention type	# in cohort	# retained	Retention rate
Fall 2015	Sophomore	Fall-to-spring	662	642	97.0%

And for juniors, similarly defined:

Cohort	Class	Retention type	# in cohort	# retained	Retention rate
Fall 2015	Junior	Fall-to-spring	722	700	97.0%

Once again, these retention rates are quite solid and consistent with previous cohorts.

After the spring census date, when we have “official” numbers, we’ll revisit these retention rates to see if anything has changed significantly (and hopefully we’ll see an upturn in transfer retention).

Meanwhile, enjoy the wintery weather!

And as always, if you have any ideas for future *Fast Facts*, please let us know.