

# **STUDENT PROGRESSION WITHIN UNIVERSITY OF FIRST ENTRY: PERSISTENCE AND GRADUATION**

**JANUARY 2010**

**MARITIME UNIVERSITIES**



Definitions	
<b>Cohort Year</b>	Each academic year, a new cohort is established; the year a new cohort begins is referred to as the cohort year.
<b>Cohort</b>	<p>In the cohort year, students included in the cohort for tracking purposes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New at the institution in the fall term</li> <li>• Aged 19 or less on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></li> <li>• Enrolled full-time in a program leading to a Bachelor's degree</li> </ul> <p>[Full-time is defined as enrolment in at least 60% of a full course load: # credits to be considered FT = (Total expected credits/semester) x 0.60]</p> <p>The definition of cohort approximates that population which enters university directly from high school; 71% of full-time students new to an institution are aged 19 or less (this proportion increases to 81% if students entering with transfer credits are excluded).</p>
<b>Persistence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistence is defined as the percent of the cohort that enrolled in the <i>same institution</i> in subsequent years, regardless of registration status or field of study. That is, the student may be enrolled full- or part-time, or on a co-op work term, and/or may have changed programs.</li> <li>• Students who 'stop out' (i.e., leave the institution for a year or more but return) are counted when they re-enrol, with the exception of students who complete a degree and enrol again at the same institution.</li> <li>• Persistence is measured in the fall term.</li> </ul>
<b>Graduation/ Degree Completion</b>	The graduation/degree completion rate is defined as the percent of the cohort that completed an undergraduate degree at the same institution after x years. The statistic is cumulative.
<p>NOTE: Students in two and three year Engineering diploma programs at associate institutions are excluded from the graduation rates because these students would complete their degree at another institution. Students in these diploma programs are included in the calculation of persistence.</p>	
MPHEC Longitudinal PSIS Data File	
<p>The measures in this report were created using the MPHEC's Longitudinal PSIS data file. As of 2009, this file included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 62,300 individual students (Bachelor level)</li> <li>• 6 cohorts (2001 to 2006); ± 10,000/cohort</li> <li>• 7 years of data for the fall 2001 cohort</li> <li>• Longitudinal information <i>within the same institution</i> for each student on the number of years enrolled, changes in program, degree completed</li> <li>• Demographic information including gender, age, program, student origin</li> </ul>	

**Characteristics in Cohort Year 2001**  
**All Maritime Universities Combined**  
 (Corresponds to table 1)

		<b>N</b>	<b>Percent of cohort</b>
<b>Registration Status in cohort year<sup>a</sup></b>	Part-time (not part of cohort for analysis)	400	n/a
	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>9894</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	3934	39.8%
	Female	5960	60.2%
<b>Region/Province of Origin</b>	New Brunswick	2994	30.3%
	Nova Scotia	4535	45.8%
	Prince Edward Island	699	7.1%
	<b>Maritime subtotal</b>	<b>8228</b>	<b>83.2%</b>
	Newfoundland and Labrador	381	3.9%
	Quebec	75	0.8%
	Ontario <sup>b</sup>	644	6.5%
	Rest of Canada	194	2.0%
	Outside Canada	362	3.7%
	<b>Outside Maritimes subtotal</b>	<b>1656</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
	Unknown	10	0.1%
<b>Discipline Cluster in cohort year<sup>c</sup></b>	Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	4341	43.9%
	Physical & Life Sciences and Mathematics	1986	20.1%
	Applied Arts & Sciences / Professional	2077	21.0%
	Commerce and Administration	1490	15.1%
<b>Program Length (under full-time, uninterrupted study) NOTE: in this study, all program lengths are combined unless otherwise stated</b>	2 years <sup>d</sup>	103	1.0%
	3 years <sup>d, e</sup>	1837	18.6%
	4 years	7037	71.1%
	5 years	917	9.3%

Note: column statistics may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding

a - Determined in the fall term; part-time students are excluded from the cohort definition

b -Ontario students make up the largest proportion of enrolments in the cohort from out-of-region. In 2002, Ontario students comprised 8.7% of the entire cohort; in 2003, this proportion increased 8.9 percentage points to 17.6%. This increase was associated with the elimination of grade 13 in Ontario which produced a double cohort. Since then, the proportion of Ontario students declined somewhat, and in 2007 stood at 10.4%.

c - A list of majors comprising each discipline cluster may be found at: <http://www.mphec.ca/en/Resources/DisciplineClusters.pdf>

d -Includes students in 2 and 3 year engineering diploma programs at associate institutions. They are included for the measurement of persistence but are excluded from the graduation rates because these students would complete their degree at another institution.

e -At some Nova Scotia institutions students can complete a 3-year Bachelor's degree. In most institutions, for administrative purposes, all students in the Arts and Sciences are pooled in first year in either a three year or four year degree program regardless of the program they intend to finish. The most common degree completed is a 4-year degree.

## Student Progression and Status over Seven Years - 2001 cohort

Within-institution status (in the fall term) of the 2001 cohort who enrolled in 3- or 4-year bachelor's degree in the cohort year

All Maritime Universities Combined

(Corresponds to Figure 1)

	No Degree, Still Enrolled (Persistence)		Completed Degree (Graduation)		No Degree, Not Enrolled	
	Number of students	Percent of cohort	Number of students	Percent of cohort	Number of students	Percent of cohort
<b>Cohort Year (2001)</b>	8854	100%				
After 1 Year	6836	77%			2018	23%
After 2 Years	5882	66%	20	0.2%	2952	33%
After 3 Years	5290	60%	326	4%	3238	37%
After 4 Years	1980	22%	3434	39%	3440	39%
After 5 Years	652	7%	4712	53%	3490	39%
After 6 Years	296	3%	5081	57%	3477	39%

## Factors Associated with Persistence - Cohort years 2001 to 2006

Within-institution persistence after one year, and cumulative graduation rate after six years, all program lengths combined

All Maritime Universities Combined

(Corresponds to Table 2)

### Persistence

Cohort year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cohort size	9894	10155	11278	9900	9796	9453
Number of students still enrolled after 1 year	7705	8056	9016	7856	7683	7449
<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>79%</b>

### Graduation rate\*

Cohort year	2001
Cohort Size	9771
Number of students graduating after 6 years	5666
<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>58%</b>

\*excludes engineering diploma students at associate universities

## Discipline Cluster in Cohort Year

**Persistence after one year, and cumulative graduation rate after six years, by discipline cluster in the cohort year, all program lengths combined**  
**All Maritime Universities Combined**  
 (Corresponds to Figures 2 and 3)

### Persistence

Cohort year		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	Number of students in cohort	4341	4638	5261	4497	4524	4302
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year	3149	3477	3975	3328	3313	3161
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>
Physical & Life Sciences and Mathematics	Number of students in cohort	1986	2198	2446	2150	2160	2048
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year	1642	1823	2022	1758	1759	1670
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>82%</b>
Applied Arts and Sciences/Professional Programs	Number of students in cohort	2077	1897	2037	1868	1693	1746
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year	1741	1591	1746	1624	1458	1510
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>86%</b>
Commerce and Administration	Number of students in cohort	1490	1422	1534	1385	1419	1357
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year	1173	1165	1273	1146	1153	1108
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>82%</b>

### Graduation rate\*

Cohort year		2001
Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	Number of students in cohort	4341
	Number of students graduating after 6 years	2253
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>52%</b>
Physical & Life Sciences and Mathematics	Number of students in cohort	1986
	Number of students graduating after 6 years	1242
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>63%</b>
Applied Arts and Sciences/Professional Programs	Number of students in cohort	1954
	Number of students graduating after 6 years	1277
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>65%</b>
Commerce and Administration	Number of students in cohort	1490
	Number of students graduating after 6 years	894
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>60%</b>

\*excludes engineering diploma students at associate universities

## Gender

### Persistence after one year and cumulative graduation rate after six years, by gender, all program lengths combined

#### All Maritime Universities Combined

(Corresponds to Figures 4 and 5)

#### Persistence

		Cohort year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Female	Number of students in cohort		5960	6135	6709	5876	5885	5646
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year		4664	4926	5383	4683	4647	4457
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>		<b>78%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>79%</b>
Male	Number of students in cohort		3934	4020	4569	4024	3910	3794
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year		3041	3130	3633	3173	3035	2981
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>		<b>77%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>79%</b>

#### Graduation rate\*

		Cohort year	2001
Female	Number of students in cohort		5946
	Number of students graduating after 6 years		3633
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>		<b>61%</b>
Male	Number of students in cohort		3825
	Number of students graduating after 6 years		2033
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>		<b>53%</b>

\*excludes engineering diploma students at associate universities

## Gender and Discipline Cluster

**Graduation rate after six years by gender and discipline cluster in the cohort year, 2001 cohort**  
**All Maritime Universities Combined**  
 (Corresponds to Figure 6)

Graduation rate*	Cohort year	2001	
	Gender	Female	Male
Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	Number of students in cohort	2966	1375
	Number of students graduating after 6 years	1641	612
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Physical and Life Sciences and Mathematics	Number of students in cohort	1297	689
	Number of students graduating after 6 years	831	411
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>60%</b>
Applied Arts and Sciences/Professional Programs	Number of students in cohort	986	968
	Number of students graduating after 6 years	703	574
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>59%</b>
Commerce and Administration	Number of students in cohort	697	793
	Number of students graduating after 6 years	458	436
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>55%</b>

\*excludes engineering diploma students at associate universities

## Region of Origin

**Persistence after one year and cumulative graduation rate after 6 years, by region of origin, all program lengths combined.**

**All Maritime Universities Combined**

(Corresponds to Figures 7 and 8)

### Persistence

		Cohort year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Maritimers studying in home province	Number of students in cohort		7013	7089	7079	6980	6735	6425
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year		5433	5544	5509	5468	5227	4974
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>		<b>77%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>77%</b>
Maritimers studying outside home province	Number of students in cohort		1215	1178	1163	1044	1131	995
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year		924	937	934	840	894	782
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>		<b>76%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>79%</b>
Students from outside Maritimes	Number of students in Cohort		1666	1888	3036	1876	1930	2033
	Number of students still enrolled after 1 year		1348	1575	2573	1548	1562	1693
	<b>Persistence after 1 year</b>		<b>81%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>83%</b>

### Graduation rate\*

		Cohort year	2001
Maritimers studying in home province	Number of students in cohort		6915
	Number of students graduating after 6 years		3909
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>		<b>57%</b>
Maritimers studying outside home province	Number of students in cohort		1208
	Number of students graduating after 6 years		722
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>		<b>60%</b>
Students from outside Maritimes	Number of students in cohort		1648
	Number of students graduating after 6 years		1035
	<b>Graduation rate after 6 years</b>		<b>63%</b>

\*excludes engineering diploma students at associate universities