

# University of Maine at Fort Kent

## Executive Summary - Retention & Graduation, Fall 2009

### *Persistence, Four Year, and Six Year Graduation Rates*

After small but steady increases over the past three years, retention of first time full time baccalaureate students showed a marked rise this year (see Table 1). Our current 75.8% Freshman to Sophomore persistence rate means that we have now well exceeded the previous high rate (65.6%), set with the class entering in fall of 2003. This persistence rate exceeds the national average of 67% (at 4 year public colleges), and the most recently reported rate of 70% for the University of Maine System. The most recent six year graduation rate is down from last year's, but the four year graduation rate increased, suggesting that six year rates may soon rise.

### *Teacher Certification Student Retention and Graduation Rates*

Although the number of Teacher Certification students has fallen sharply from the high set in fall of 2005, our retention of these students continues at a high rate, even showing a slight rise over last year, from 81.3% to 85.4% (see Table 2). Graduation rates for these students continue to be extremely high: the four year rate for the class of fall 2005 is nearly 90%, and the two year rate for the fall 2007 class is just over 84%.

### *Transfer Student Retention*

The overall number of transfer students has also fallen recently (because of the drop in Certification students), but retention and graduation rates for these students also remain high (see Table 3). For baccalaureate transfer students entering in Fall 2008, the retention rate was 67.3%, while the four year graduation rate for students entering Fall 2005 is 69.1%.

YEAR (FALL)	COHORT SIZE	% RETURNED FOLLOWING FALL	% GRADUATED UMFK WITHIN 4 YEARS	% GRADUATED UMFK WITHIN 6 YEARS	% STILL HERE
2001	78	52.6% (N=41)	29.5% (N=23)	37.2% (N=29)	0%
2002	101	54.9% (N=56)	37.6% (N=38)	41.6% (N=42)	0%
2003	90	65.6% (N=59)	21.1% (N=19)	34.4% (N=31)	0%
2004	124	49.2% (N=61)	18.7% (N=23)		2.4% (N=3)
2005	93	60.2% (N=56)	22.2% (N=20)		15.1% (N=14)
2006	88	62.5% (N=55)			42.0% (N=37)
2007	104	63.5% (N=66)			42.3% (N=44)
2008	91	75.8% (N=69)			75.8% (N=69)

<b>Table 2: Education Certification Students</b>					
YEAR (FALL)	COHORT SIZE	% RETURNED FOLLOWING FALL	% GRADUATED UMFK WITHIN 2 YEARS	% GRADUATED UMFK WITHIN 4 YEARS	% STILL HERE
2001	87	71.3% (N=62)	80.5% (N=70)	82.8% (N=74)	0%
2002	94	62.8% (N=59)	68.1% (N=64)	74.5% (N=70)	0%
2003	125	59.2% (N=74)	74.4% (N=93)	75.2% (N=94)	0%
2004	121	75.2% (N=91)	86.8% (N=105)	87.6% (N=106)	1% (N=1)
2005	129	86.8% (N=112)	89.9% (N=116)	89.9% (N=116)	1% (N=1)
2006	120	75.8% (N=91)	82.5% (N=99)		1% (N=1)
2007	107	81.3% (N=87)	84.1% (N=90)		3.7% (N=4)
2008	41	85.4% (N=35)			85.4% (N=35)

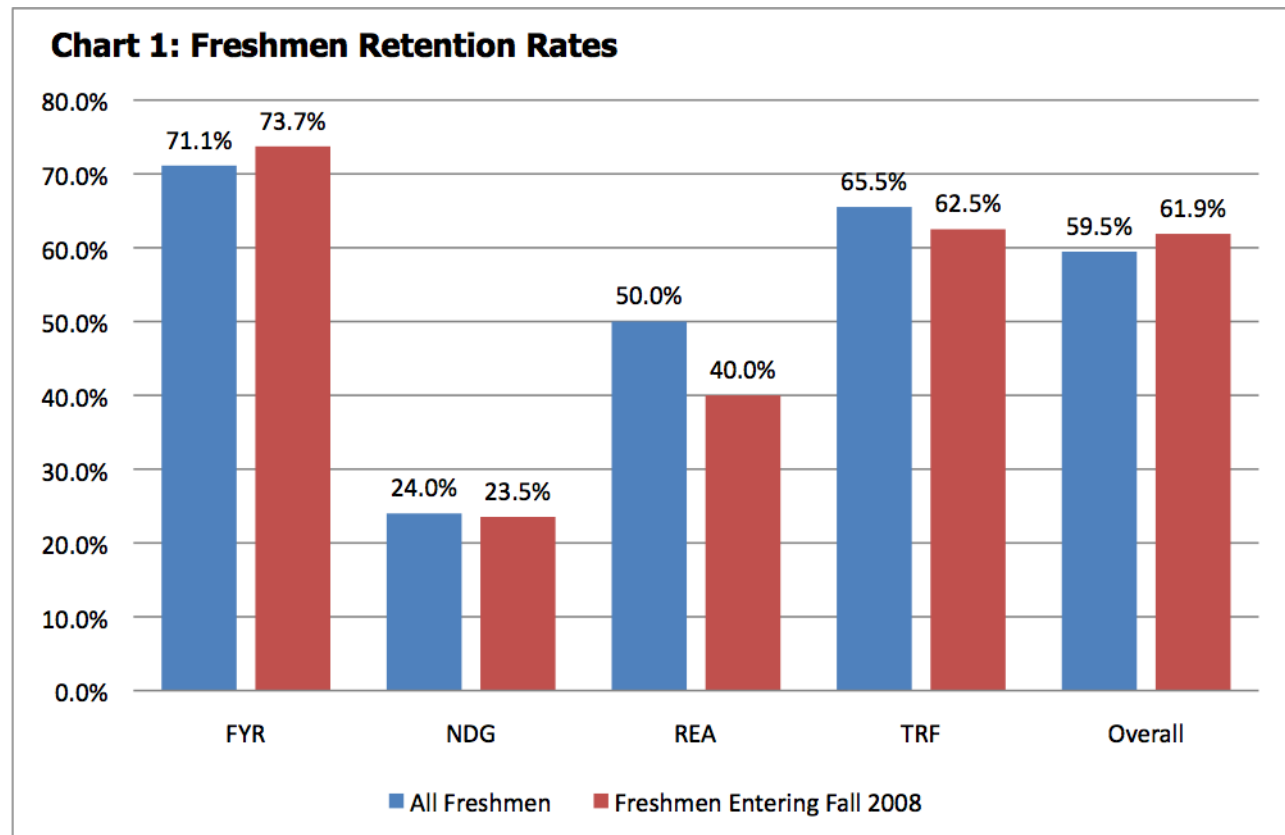
<b>Table 3: All Four Year Transfer Students</b>					
YEAR (FALL)	COHORT SIZE	% RETURNED FOLLOWING FALL	% GRADUATED UMFK WITHIN 4 YEARS	% GRADUATED UMFK WITHIN 6 YEARS	% STILL HERE
2001	164	62.7% (N=147)	61.0% (N=100)	70.7% (N=116)	1.3% (N=1)
2002	157	98.4% (N=146)	63.7% (N=100)	72.8% (N=107)	1.4% (N=2)
2003	181	58.6% (N=106)	61.3% (N=111)	63.6% (N=115)	1.0% (N=1)
2004	188	75.0% (N=141)	72.3% (N=136)		1.6% (N=3)
2005	188	75.0% (N=141)	69.1% (N=130)		2.1% (N=4)
2006	173	68.2% (N=118)			3.5% (N=6)
2007	178	65.7% (N=117)			16.8% (N=30)
2008	113	67.3% (N=76)			67.3% (N=76)

### *Overall Freshman Retention Rates*

As a whole, Freshman retention continues at a high rate. For all students who were freshmen in Fall 2008 (both two and four year, including those who were continuing as freshmen in their second year) the retention rate was 59.5%; for Freshmen who entered in Fall 2008, the rate was 61.9%. This overall rate is held down by very low retention rates for NDG students,

which are not surprising. For First Year Freshmen (both two and four year) the retention rates are comfortably above 70% (see Table 4 and Chart 1).

	All Freshmen			Freshmen Entering Fall 2008		
	Fall 2008	Returned Fall 2009	Retention Rate	Fall 2008	Returned Fall 2009	Retention Rate
FYR	142	101	71.1%	118	87	73.7%
NDG	50	12	24.0%	34	8	23.5%
REA	6	3	50.0%	5	2	40.0%
TRF	29	19	65.5%	24	15	62.5%
Overall	227	135	59.5%	181	112	61.9%



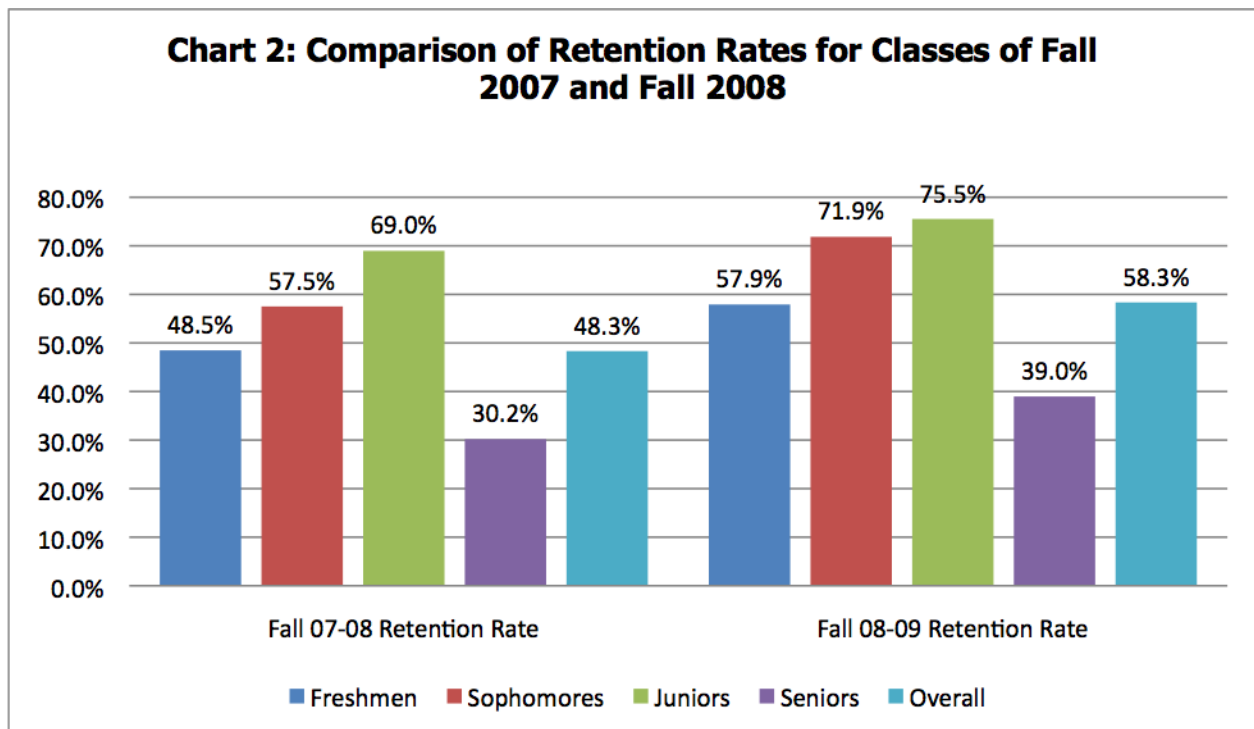
*Retention by Class Year*

This rise in retention for Freshman students is reflected across our entire student body. Retention rates are higher this year than last year for all non-certification, non-distance ed students (see Table 5 and Chart 2). Overall, 58.3% of these students attending in Fall 2008

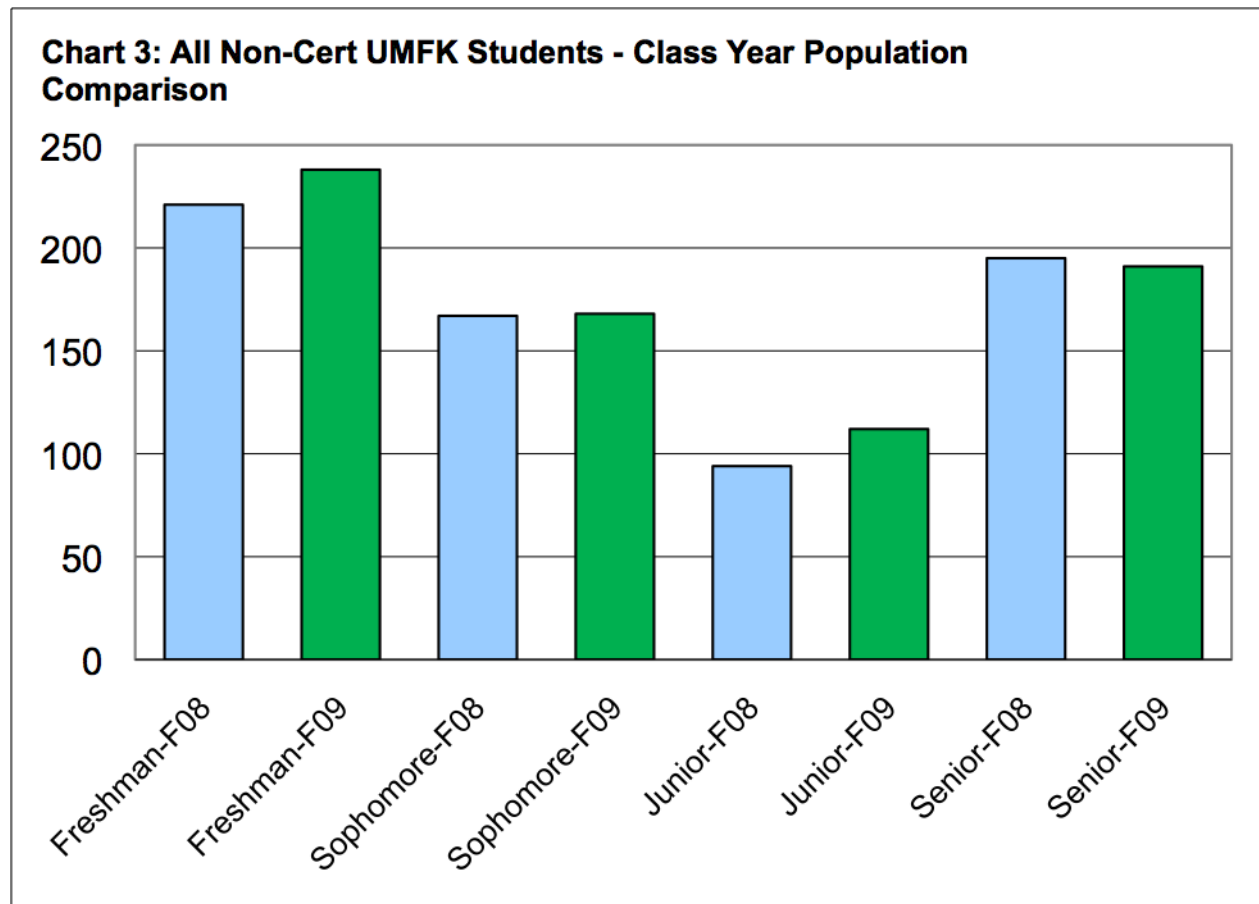
returned in Fall 2009, a rise of 10 percentage points from last year’s persistence rate. The biggest jump came with our Sophomore class, which showed an increase of over 14 percentage points in retention rate. This class was the first to be subject to more intensive retention efforts from the Student Success office and the VPAA, and the increase in retention to third year reflects this effort. 17.3 % of this group of students (non-certification, non-distance ed) graduated last year. Combined with the 58.3% retention rate, this means that 75.6% of these students either graduated or returned; we “lost” only 24.4%.

**Table 5: Comparison of Second Year Retention Rates**

	Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 Retention			Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 Retention		
	All UMFK Students Non-Cert Students (No Distance Ed)			All UMFK Students Non-Cert Students (No Distance Ed)		
	Fall 2008	Returned in Fall 2009		Fall 2007	Returned in Fall 2008	
Freshmen	221	128	57.9%	262	127	48.5%
Sophomores	167	120	71.9%	153	88	57.5%
Juniors	94	71	75.5%	116	80	69.0%
Seniors	195	76	39.0%	212	64	30.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>58.3%</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>48.3%</b>



<b>Table 6: Comparison of Class Year Composition, Fall 2008 to Fall 2009</b>					<b>All Non-Cert UMFK Students (No Distance Ed); Class Year Population by Degree</b>				
<b>All UMFK Students (No Distance Ed); Class Year Population by Degree</b>									
	ND	Assoc	Bach	Total		ND	Assoc	Bach	Total
Freshman-F08	51	40	137	228	Freshman-F08	51	40	130	221
Freshman-F09	57	34	148	239	Freshman-F09	57	34	147	238
Sophomore-F08	1	36	132	169	Sophomore-F08	1	36	130	167
Sophomore-F09	0	47	126	173	Sophomore-F09	0	47	121	168
Junior-F08	2	4	105	111	Junior-F08	2	4	88	94
Junior-F09	0	0	122	122	Junior-F09	0	0	112	112
Senior-F08	9	1	327	337	Senior-F08	9	1	185	195
Senior-F09	6	0	267	273	Senior-F09	6	0	185	191
Total-F08	63	81	701	845	Total-F08	63	81	533	677
Total-F09	63	81	663	807	Total-F09	63	81	565	709



The increased retention of Freshman and Sophomore students went a long way toward offsetting the precipitous drop in enrollment from Teacher Certification students. Indeed, when

we exclude the Teacher Certification students, there was an *increase* in the population of degree seeking students (i.e., non distance ed) in the Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior class years (see Table 6 and Chart 3). Of course, the completion rate for Teacher Certification students is much higher than for our first time full time baccalaureate students – 89.9% compared to 34.4%. Indeed, the completion rate of 34.4% is markedly lower than UMS rates (averaging around 48%) or national rates (averaging around 40%).

### *Recommendations*

- Stronger implementation of best practices for increasing graduation rates
- More extensive examination of factors relating to graduation of two and four year students
- Review attrition rates in academic programs
- Examine student histories to determine “roadblock” and “gateway” courses
- Review effects of credit hour load, SAT scores, and remedial coursework on student retention
- Implement closer monitoring of students in third and fourth years
- Continue and strengthen current retention strategies



## Detailed Retention Charts

		Bachelor Degrees						
		Entering Headcount	To 2nd year	To 3rd year	To 4th Year	To 5th Year	To 6th Year	To 7th year
Fall 2008	First Time Full Time	91	69 (76%)					
	First Time Part Time	3	2 (76%)					
	Transfer	113	76 (67%)					
Fall 2007	First Time Full Time	104	66 (63%)	44 (42%)				
	First Time Part Time	4	2 (50%)	0				
	Transfer	178	117 (66%)	30 (17%)				
Fall 2006	First Time Full Time	88	55 (63%)	46 (52%)	37 (42%)			
	First Time Part Time	3	2 (67%)	2 (67%)	1 (33%)			
	Transfer	173	118 (68%)	13 (8%)	6 (3%)			
Fall 2005	First Time Full Time	93	56 (60%)	38 (41%)	34 (37%)	14 (15%)		
	First Time Part Time	2	0	0	0	0		
	Transfer	188	141 (75%)	20 (11%)	6 (3%)	4 (2%)		
Fall 2004	First Time Full Time	124	61 (49%)	41 (33%)	39 (31%)	20 (16%)	3 (2%)	
	First Time Part Time	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Transfer	188	141 (75%)	36 (19%)	24 (13%)	8 (2%)	3 (2%)	
Fall 2003	First Time Full Time	90	59 (66%)	40 (44%)	37 (41%)	21 (23%)	6 (7%)	0
	First Time Part Time	4	4 (100%)	2 (50%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
	Transfer	181	106 (59%)	19 (10%)	12 (7%)	7 (4%)	4 (2%)	1 (1%)

		Associate Degrees						
		Entering Headcount	To 2nd year	To 3rd year	To 4th Year	To 5th Year	To 6th Year	To 7th year
Fall 2008	First Time Full Time	19	15 (79%)					
	First Time Part Time	5	1 (20%)					
	Transfer	11	4 (36%)					
Fall 2007	First Time Full Time	20	12 (60%)	8 (40%)				
	First Time Part Time	1	1 (100%)	1 (100%)				
	Transfer	7	2 (29%)	2 (29%)				
Fall 2006	First Time Full Time	18	12 (67%)	6 (33%)	5 (28%)			
	First Time Part Time	1	1 (100%)	0	1 (100%)			
	Transfer	5	2 (40%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)			
Fall 2005	First Time Full Time	28	18 (64%)	14 (50%)	9 (32%)	2 (7%)		
	First Time Part Time	1	1 (100%)	0	0	0		
	Transfer	12	5 (42%)	2 (17%)	1 (8%)	0		
Fall 2004	First Time Full Time	40	24 (60%)	19 (48%)	18 (45%)	7 (18%)	2 (5%)	
	First Time Part Time	3	2 (67%)	2 (67)	1 (33%)	0	0	
	Transfer	8	6 (75%)	5 (63%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)	0	

## Detailed Graduation Charts

		Bachelor Degrees						
		Entering Headcount	Within 1 Years	Within 2 Years	Within 3 Years	Within 4 Years	Within 5 Years	Within 6 Years
Fall 2008	First Time Full Time	91	0 (0%)					
	First Time Part Time	3	0 (0%)					
	Transfer	113	4 (4%)					
Fall 2007	First Time Full Time	104	0 (0%)	6 (6%)				
	First Time Part Time	4	0 (0%)	1 (25%)				
	Transfer	164	1 (1%)	77 (47%)				
Fall 2006	First Time Full Time	88	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	5 (6%)			
	First Time Part Time	3	0 (0%)	0 (0%)				
	Transfer	173	1 (1%)	95 (55%)	105 (61%)			
Fall 2005	First Time Part Time	93	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)	20 (22%)		
	First Time Part Time	2	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)		
	Transfer	188	2 (2%)	116 (62%)	127 (68%)	130 (69%)		
Fall 2004	First Time Full Time	123	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	3 (2%)	23 (19%)	32 (26%)	
	First Time Part Time	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	
	Transfer	188	0 (0%)	113 (62%)	125 (68%)	136 (72%)	139 (74%)	
Fall 2003	First Time Full Time	90	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)	19 (21%)	28 (31%)	31 (34%)
	First Time Part Time	4	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
	Transfer	181	2 (2%)	99 (55%)	106 (66%)	111 (72%)	115 (64%)	115 (64%)

		Associate Degrees			
		Entering Headcount	Within 1 Years	Within 2 Years	Within 3 Years
Fall 2008	First Time Full Time	19	0 (0%)		
	First Time Part Time	5	0 (0%)		
	Transfer	11	1 (1%)		
Fall 2007	First Time Full Time	20	0 (0%)	2 (10%)	
	First Time Part Time	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
	Transfer	7	0 (0%)	1 (14%)	
Fall 2006	First Time Full Time	18	0 (0%)	1 (6%)	3 (17%)
	First Time Part Time	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Transfer	5	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)
Fall 2005	First Time Full Time	28	0 (0%)	2 (27%)	12 (43%)
	First Time Part Time	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Transfer	12	0 (0%)	3 (25%)	3 (25%)
Fall 2004	First Time Full Time	40	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	6 (15%)
	First Time Part Time	3	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (67%)
	Transfer	8	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)