

Graduation and Retention Rates of Nonresidents by State

March 2011

Highlights:

California, Illinois, and Texas are the states with the largest numbers of nonresidents.

Students from Ohio and Wyoming persist and graduate at the highest rates, while students from Arizona and New Jersey have the lowest rates.

Students from the Rocky Mountain and Midwest regions are the most academically prepared and these regions have the highest graduation and retention rates.

Nonresident students have lower graduation and retention rates than resident students. The purpose of this research brief is to explore the retention and graduation rates of nonresident students by their state and region of residency. Future research will utilize the National Clearing House data to explore if nonresidents who leave CSU do so to attend an in-state institution.

There are 15 states that have had less than 100 students start as new freshmen at CSU in the cohorts between Fall 1995 and Fall 2009. These states are West Virginia, Delaware, District of Columbia, Rhode Island, Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky, Maine, Louisiana, Vermont, Arkansas, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Tennessee. Due to the small number of students, these states are excluded from state by state comparisons. On average, students from these 15 states make up 5% of a nonresident cohort. California, Texas, and Illinois are the states with the largest number of nonresident new freshmen. Students from these three states collectively make up about 30% of a nonresident freshmen cohort. Chart 1 displays the average proportion of nonresident freshmen from different states since fall 1995.

Chart 1.

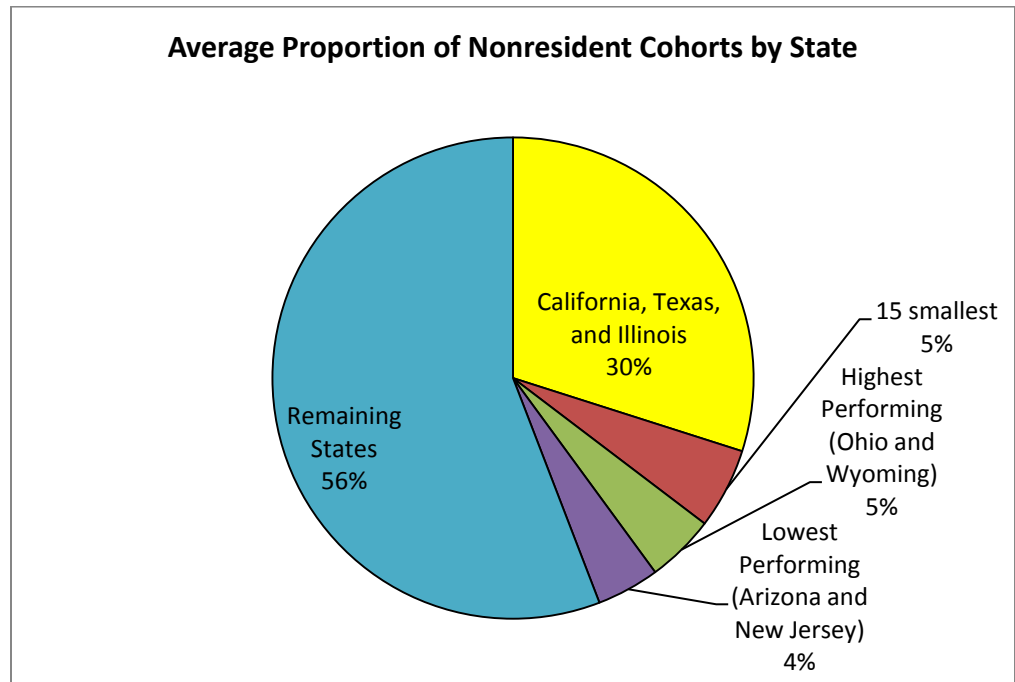
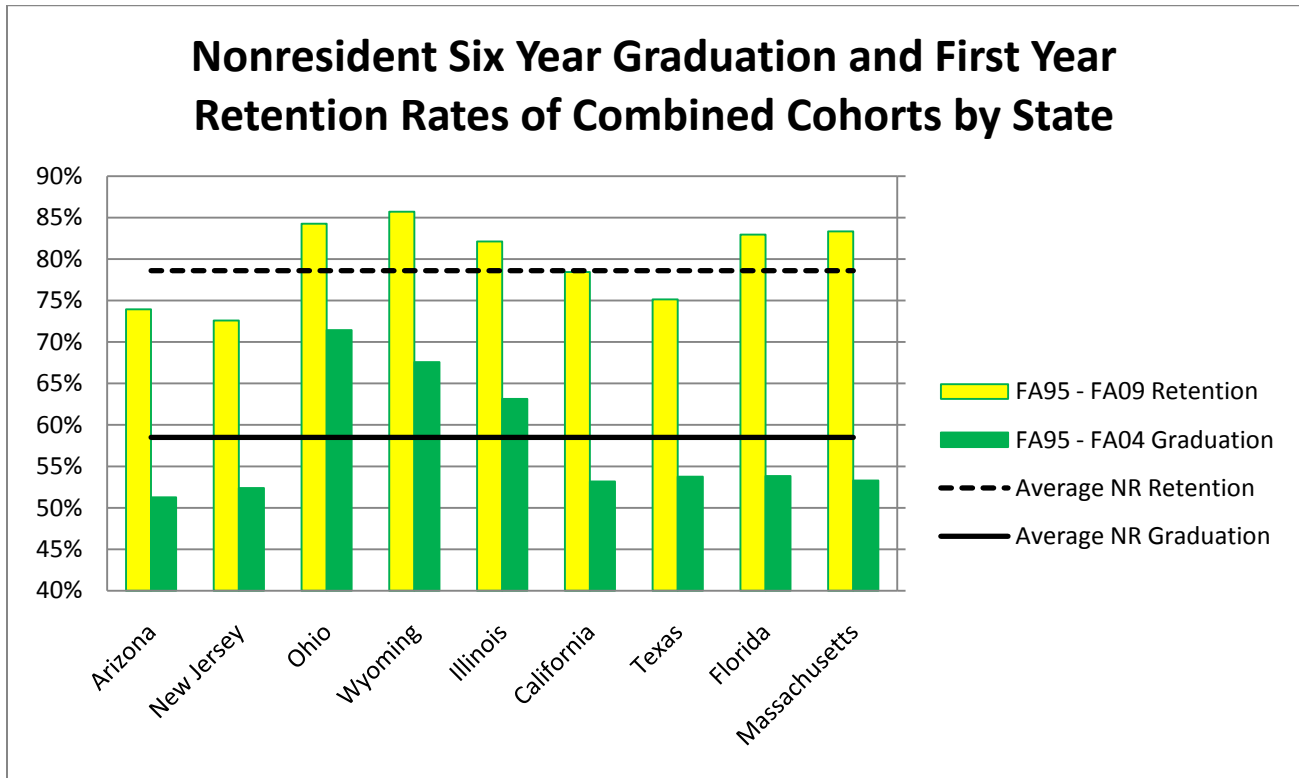


Chart 2 compares the overall nonresident average retention and graduation rates to the state average retention and graduation rates for select states. Nine states were selected because they are the lowest performing states (AZ and NJ), the highest performing states (OH and WY), the largest states (IL, CA, and TX), and the two states with the largest gap between their retention and graduation rates (FL and MA). The cohort size, average graduation, and average retention rates by state are presented in the appendix.

Chart 2.



In order to show recent trends by state, Charts 3 and 4 represent the worst performing, best performing, and largest states' retention and graduation rates over the last five years. Much of the volatility in the graduation and retention rates by state could be due to the small cohort sizes. All cohorts averaged less than 100 students each fall and most averaged less than 20 students each fall.

Chart 3.

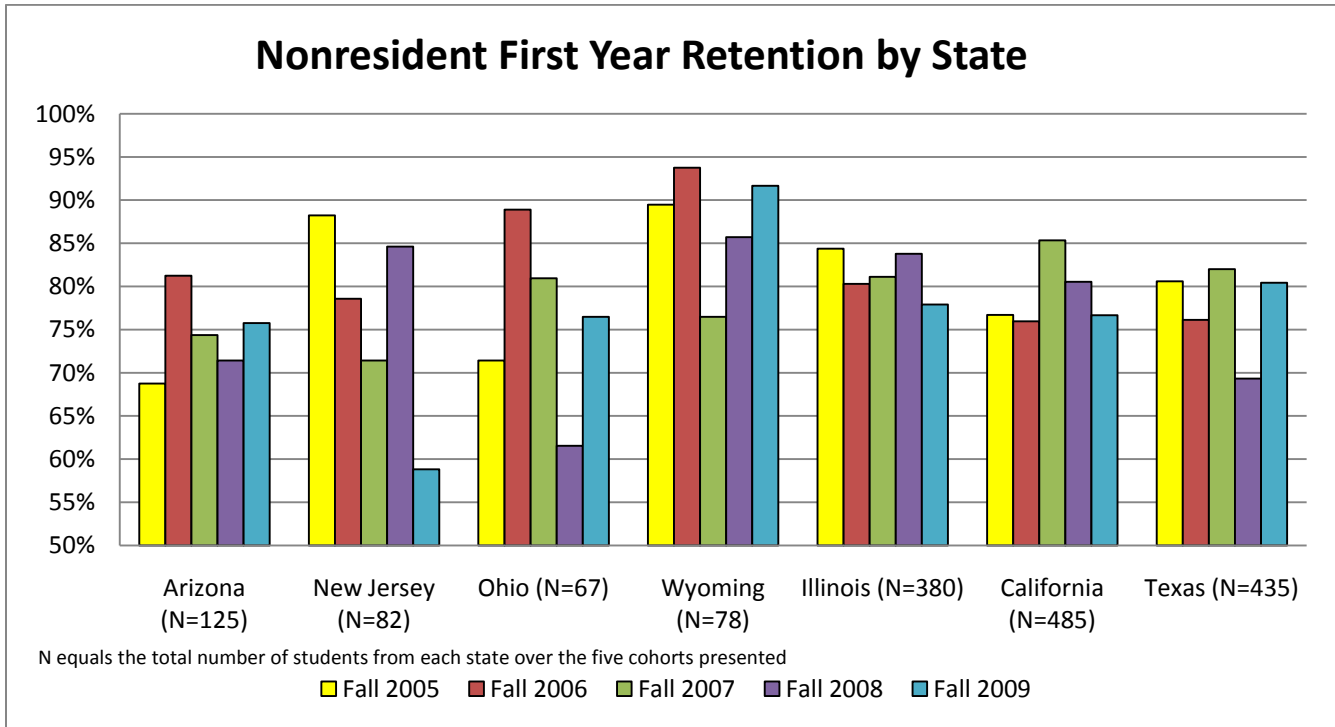
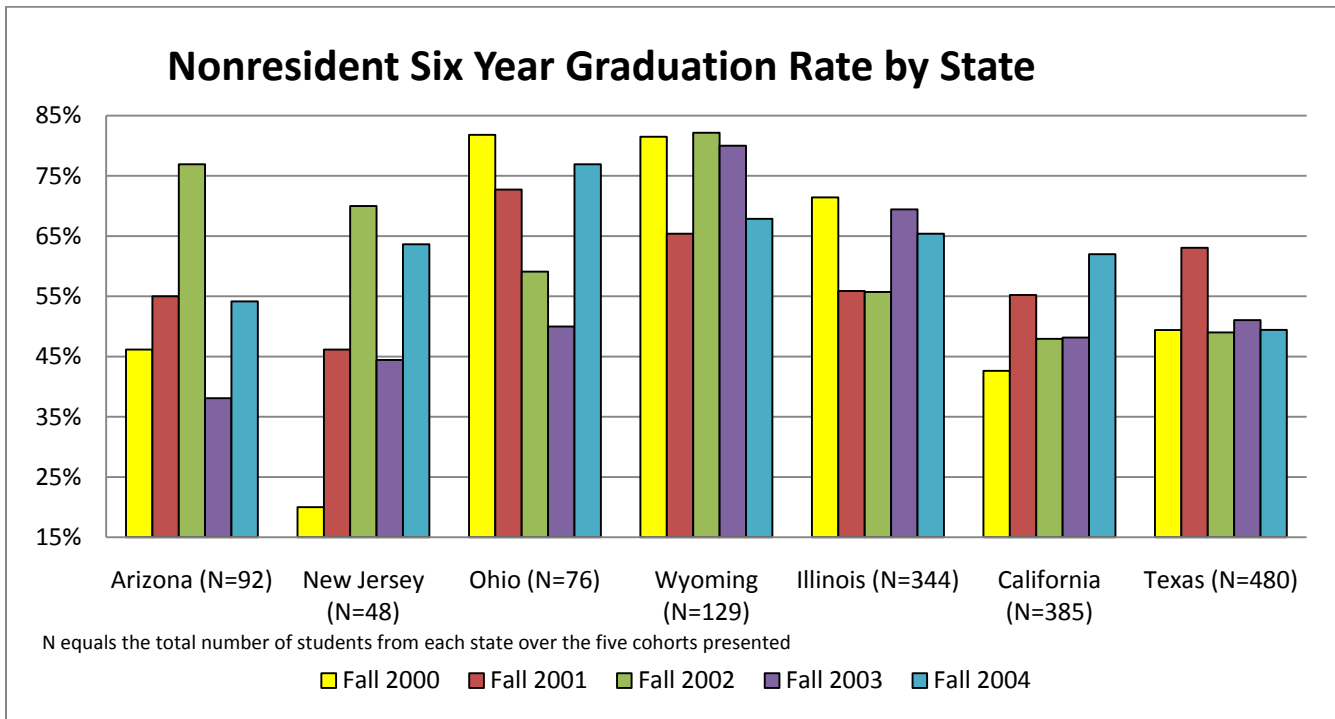
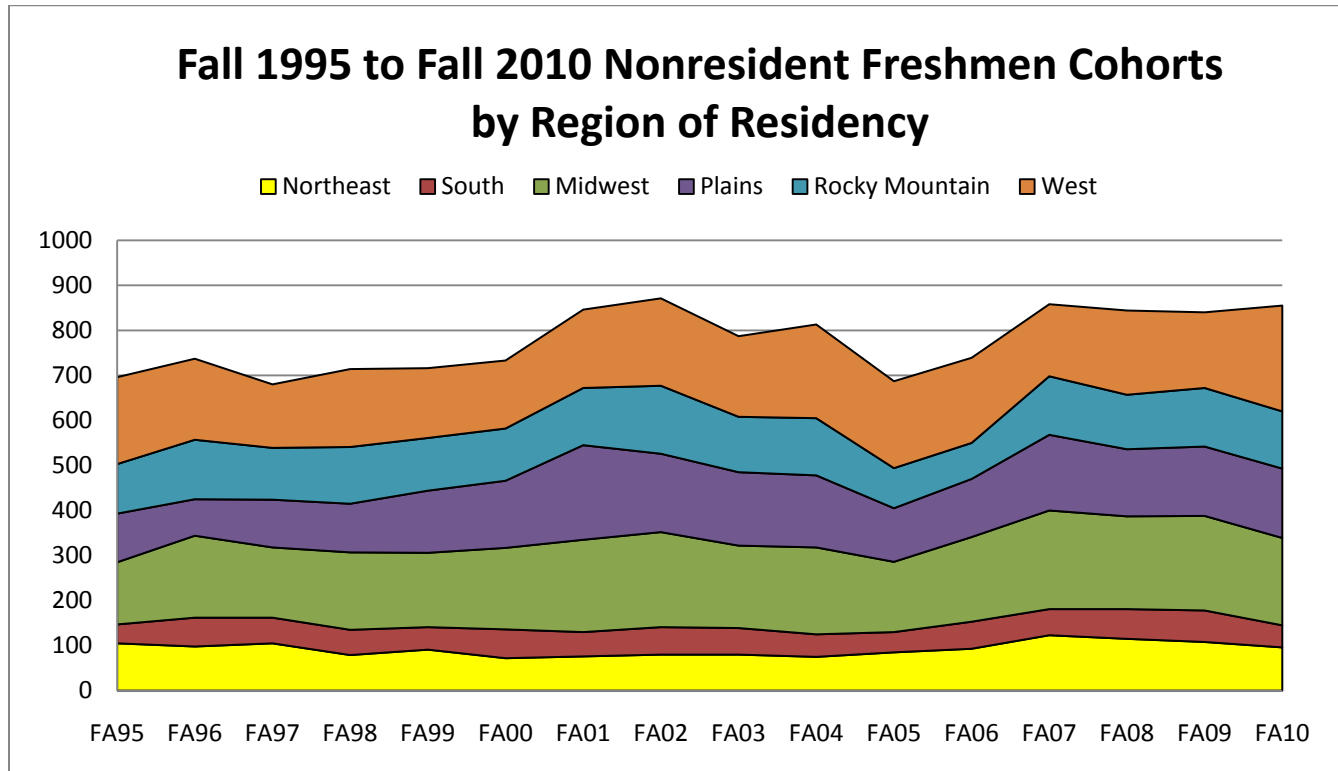


Chart 4.



To mitigate some of the volatility, analysis was also done grouping nonresident students by their region of residency. Over the last 15 years the proportion of nonresident students from each region has remained relatively stable; although, the nonresident class size has grown. Chart 5 is a stacked bar graph that represents the last 15 years of nonresident cohorts and the proportion of them from each region. The appendix includes information on which region each state is from.

Chart 5.



Academic preparation influences retention and graduation rates; therefore, average academic preparation indicators should be considered by region. Table 1 displays the overall nonresident average high school GPA, Index score, high school percentile rank, and test score averages for the last 15 nonresident cohorts and the difference by region from the overall average.

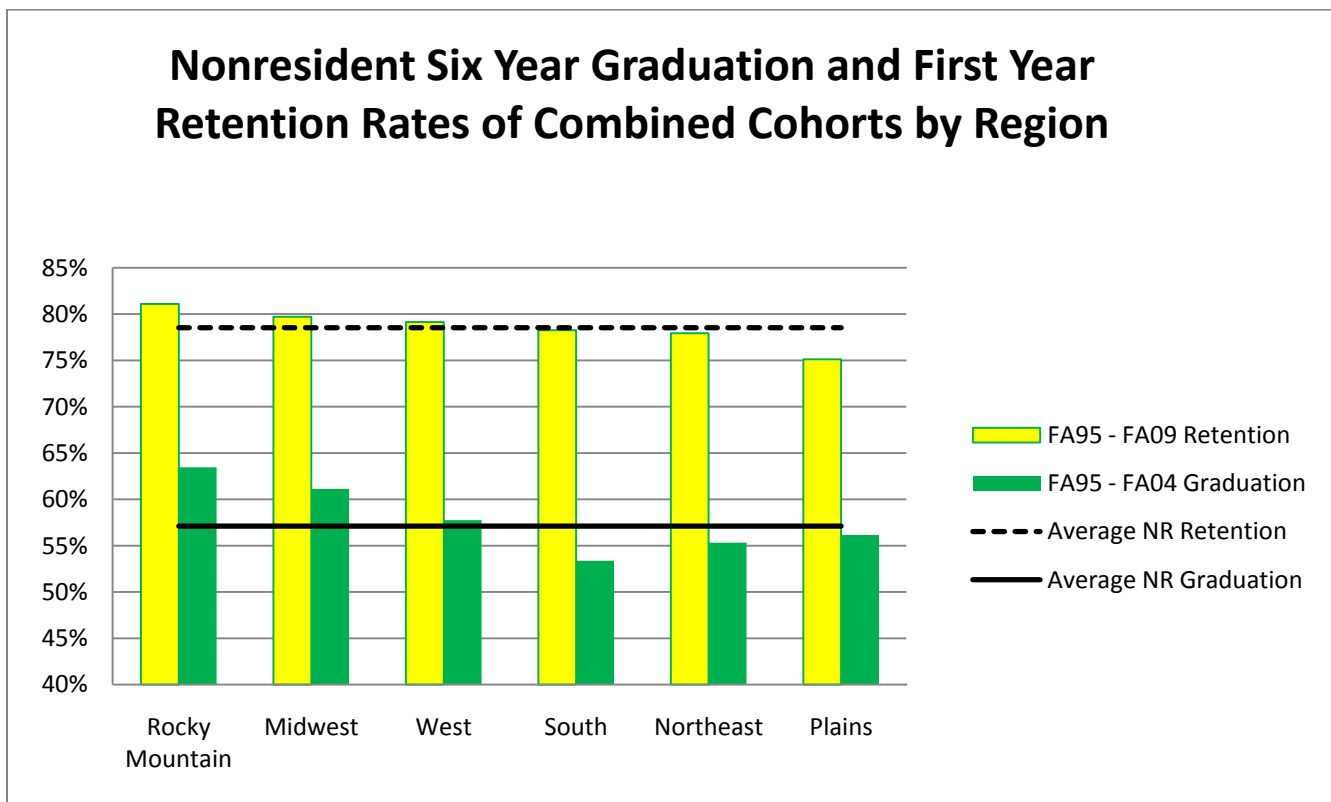
Table 1.

Fall 1995- Fall 2010 Nonresident Academic Preparation Region Averages Compared to Overall Nonresident Averages

	Nonresident Average	Midwest	Northeast	Plains	Rocky Mountain	South	West
High School GPA	3.5	0.05	0.17	0.06	0.23	0.06	0.01
Index	114.6	1.15	2.35	0.60	4.52	1.09	0.54
High School Percentile Rank	63.1	0.91	7.28	2.45	11.95	10.22	2.19
ACT composite	24.7	0.26	0.69	0.06	0.77	0.12	0.28
SAT verbal	563.5	0.69	1.50	4.96	8.76	5.55	10.16
SAT math	571.8	2.25	1.54	0.21	5.50	3.63	2.80

Chart 6 displays the average retention and graduation rates by region compared to the overall nonresident averages.

Chart 6.



Charts 7 and 8 represent the graduation and retention rates for nonresidents from different regions over the last five years.

Chart 7.

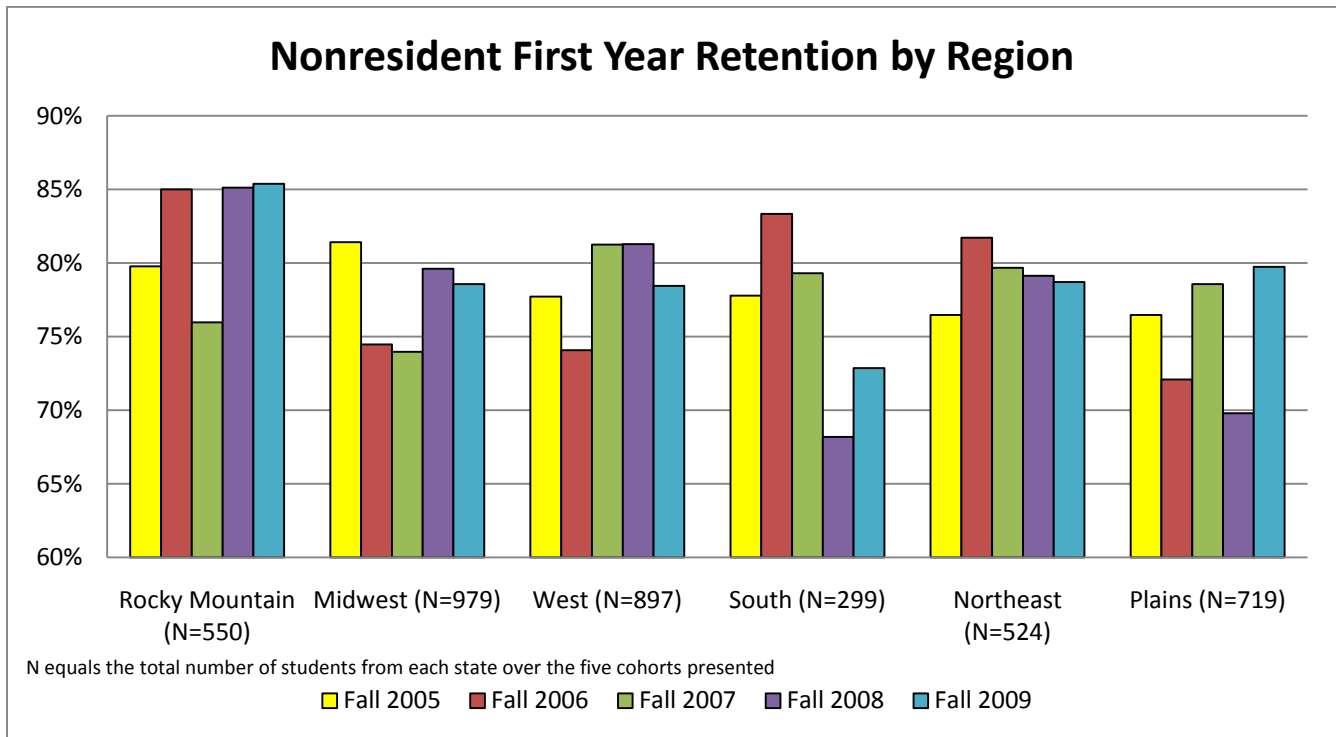
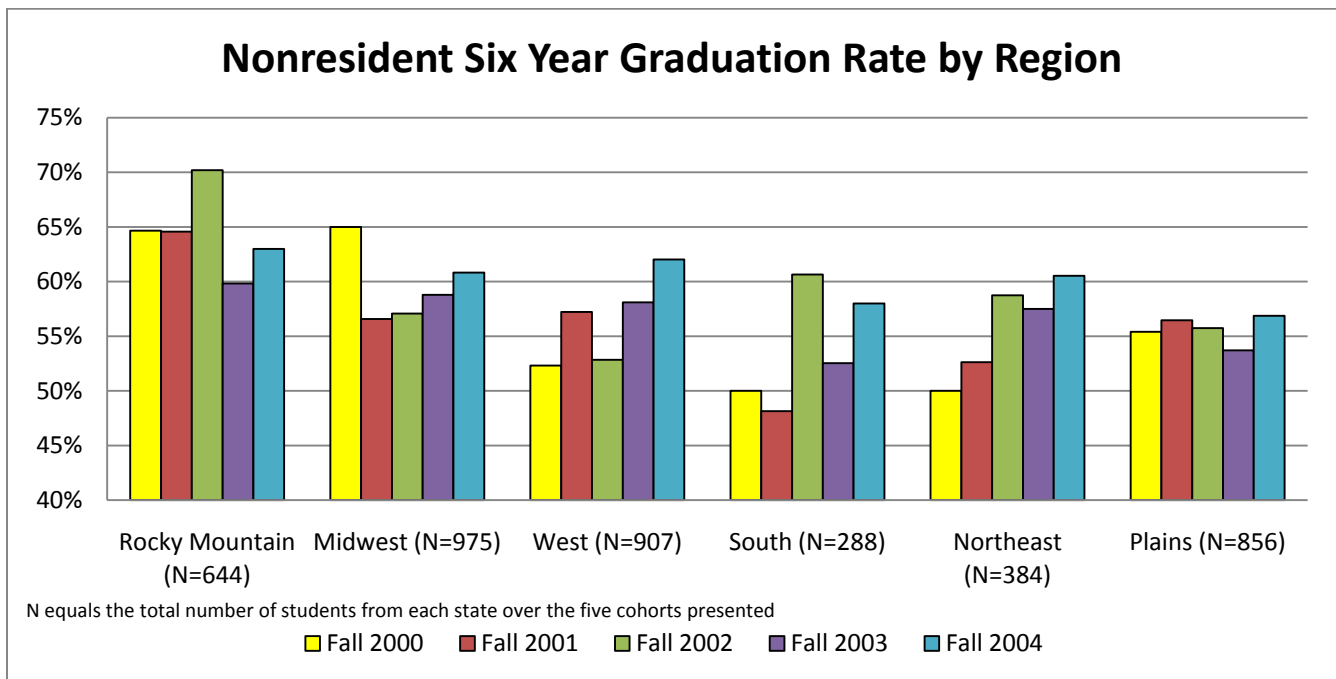


Chart 8.



Appendix.

State (Region)	Count of New Freshmen from Fall 1995 to Fall 2009	Average Proportion of Cohort	Average Persistence Rate	Average Graduation Rate
AK (West)	354	3%	79.9%	65.6%
AZ (Rocky Mnt)	284	2%	73.9%	51.3%
CA (West)	1,322	11%	78.4%	53.2%
CT (Northeast)	133	1%	78.2%	59.6%
FL (South)	198	2%	83.3%	53.3%
GA (South)	153	1%	81.0%	60.3%
HI (West)	389	3%	81.7%	60.1%
IA (Midwest)	214	2%	79.0%	63.3%
ID (Rocky Mnt)	141	1%	83.0%	58.3%
IL (Midwest)	1,001	9%	82.1%	63.1%
IN (Midwest)	128	1%	75.6%	62.4%
KS (Plains)	220	2%	80.0%	55.2%
MA (Northeast)	176	2%	83.0%	53.8%
MD (Northeast)	183	2%	85.8%	58.9%
MI (Midwest)	175	2%	78.3%	59.1%
MN (Midwest)	440	4%	74.8%	53.8%
MO (Midwest)	306	3%	78.8%	56.6%
MT (Rocky Mnt)	192	2%	77.6%	64.1%
NE (Plains)	380	3%	74.7%	60.7%
NH (Northeast)	103	1%	76.7%	56.1%
NJ (Northeast)	208	2%	72.6%	52.4%
NM (Rocky Mnt)	530	5%	83.2%	67.4%
NV (Rocky Mnt)	219	2%	81.3%	63.5%
NY (Northeast)	197	2%	76.7%	54.9%
OH (Midwest)	236	2%	84.3%	71.4%
OK (Plains)	105	1%	77.1%	56.2%
OR (West)	299	3%	77.6%	60.9%
PA (Northeast)	238	2%	77.3%	56.6%
SD (Plains)	174	2%	74.6%	59.3%
TX (Plains)	1,167	10%	75.1%	53.8%
UT (Rocky Mnt)	127	1%	78.6%	62.6%
VA (South)	165	1%	77.6%	62.4%
WA (West)	282	2%	79.0%	62.3%
WI (Midwest)	267	2%	77.5%	58.9%
WY (Rocky Mnt)	301	3%	85.7%	67.6%
15 smallest states*	558	5%	76.3%	46.3%

* West Virginia, Delaware, District of Columbia, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont (Northeast), South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee (South), and North Dakota (Plains).