

IIR Corner

June 2016

In this issue of IIR Corner, the retention rates of degree-seeking first time in college (FTIC) STEM majors is examined.

Noteworthy observations:

- 1) The number of degree-seeking FTIC students with a STEM major has increased by about 45% from 2010FL to 2015FL.
- 2) The fall-to-spring retention rate of degree-seeking STEM FTIC students has been comparable to the retention rate of all degree-seeking FTIC. From 2010FL to 2012FL the fall-to-fall retention rate for degree-seeking STEM FTIC was higher than the retention rate for all degree-seeking FTIC, but more recently their fall-to-fall retention rates have been similar.
- 3) The percentage of STEM FTIC who were retained within STEM the following SP or following FL has decreased.

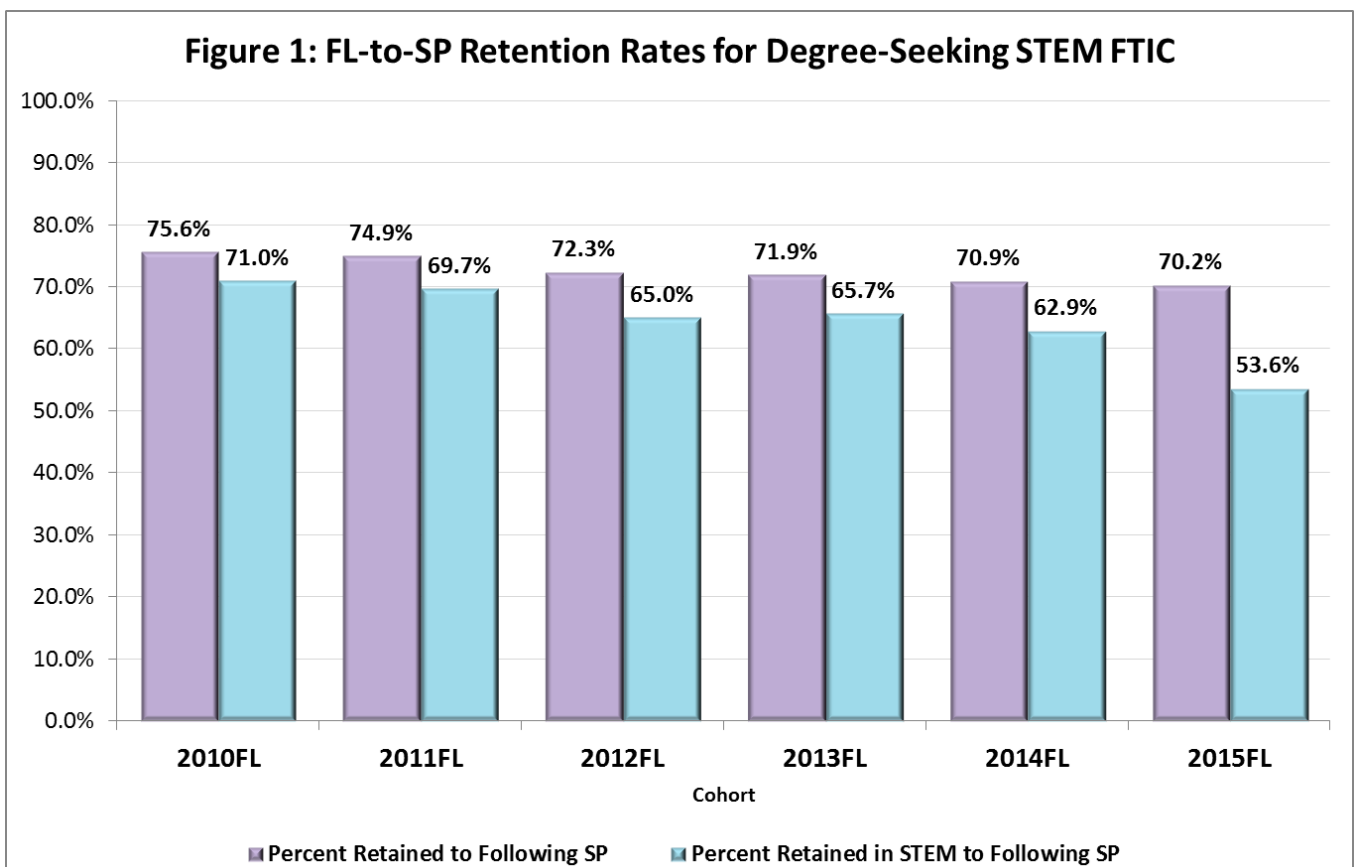
Team IIR

Note: STEM majors were identified using the Department of Homeland Security's definition. In addition, students with a program of associate of science (ASCI.XXXX.UG) were also considered STEM majors. <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stem-list.pdf>



1. Fall-to-Spring Retention of STEM Majors

In this section, fall-to-spring (FL-to-SP) retention rates of degree-seeking first time in college (FTIC) students who had a declared STEM major in their first term are presented. First, note that the number of degree-seeking STEM FTIC has almost doubled from 431 students in 2010FL to 789 students in 2015FL. The FL-to-SP retention rate for degree-seeking STEM FTIC has been comparable to the retention rate for all degree-seeking FTIC. However, as indicated by Figure 1, the percentage of degree-seeking STEM FTIC retained in STEM programs the following SP has decreased. In 2010FL, about 76% of degree-seeking STEM FTIC were retained with 71% retained in STEM programs, whereas in 2015FL about 70% of degree-seeking STEM FTIC were retained with about 54% retained in STEM programs.

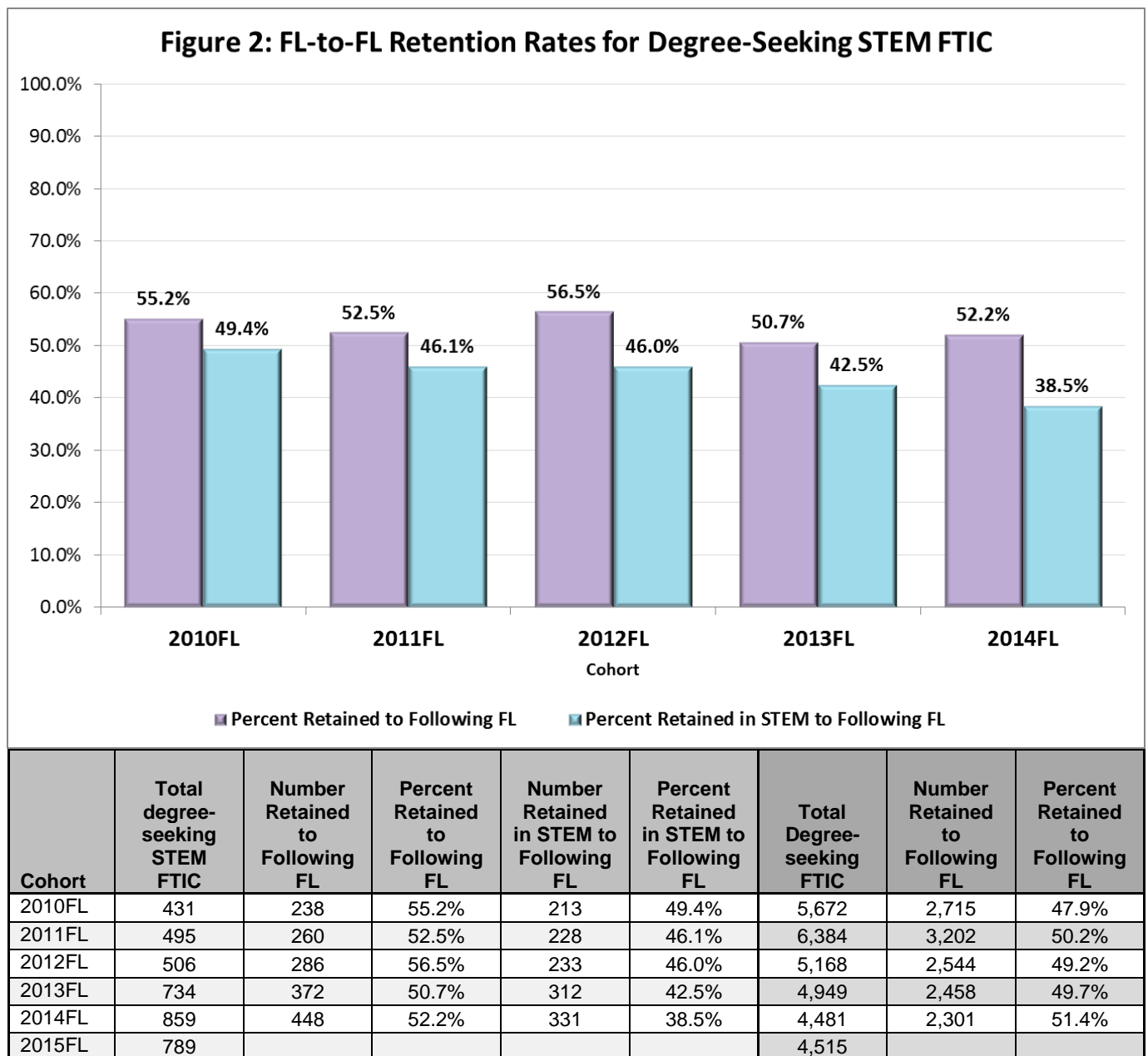


Cohort	Total degree-seeking STEM FTIC	Number Retained to Following SP	Percent Retained to Following SP	Number Retained in STEM to Following SP	Percent Retained in STEM to Following SP	Total Degree-seeking FTIC	Number Retained to Following SP	Percent Retained to Following SP
2010FL	431	326	75.6%	306	71.0%	5,672	4,100	72.3%
2011FL	495	371	74.9%	345	69.7%	6,384	4,563	71.5%
2012FL	506	366	72.3%	329	65.0%	5,168	3,661	70.8%
2013FL	734	528	71.9%	482	65.7%	4,949	3,508	70.9%
2014FL	859	609	70.9%	540	62.9%	4,481	3,099	69.2%
2015FL	789	554	70.2%	423	53.6%	4,515	3,218	71.3%

Source: ODR and ST Student by Ethnicity and/or Gender by Program

2. Fall-to-Fall Retention of STEM Majors

In this section, fall-to-fall (FL-to-FL) retention rates of degree-seeking first time in college (FTIC) students who had a declared STEM major in their first term are presented. From 2010FL to 2012FL the FL-to-FL retention rate for degree-seeking STEM FTIC was markedly higher than the retention rate for all degree-seeking FTIC. However, for 2013FL and 2014FL the retention rates for degree-seeking STEM FTIC and all degree-seeking FTIC were similar. As indicated by Figure 2, the percentage of degree-seeking STEM FTIC retained in STEM programs the following FL has decreased. In 2010FL, about 55% of degree-seeking STEM FTIC were retained with about 49% retained in STEM programs, whereas in 2014FL about 52% of degree-seeking STEM FTIC were retained with about 39% retained in STEM programs.



Source: ODR and ST Student by Ethnicity and/or Gender by Program