

# STUDENT RETENTION

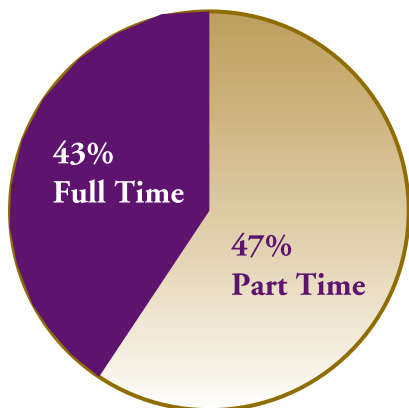
One variable that forecasts success in college is the students' ability to complete their program of study in a timely manner. The retention rate, the number of students who continue in their full time status one semester to the next until their programs are completed, is one important indicator of institutional effectiveness. However, there are many challenges to maintaining full-time enrollment, both on the part of the student and the institution.

The State of Texas keeps retention data for full-time students only (15 credit hours per semester). At UTB/TSC, only 43 percent of the student body enrolls on a full-time basis. However, it is important to note that UTB/TSC's full-time student retention rate is 55.4 percent compared to the statewide average of 52.8

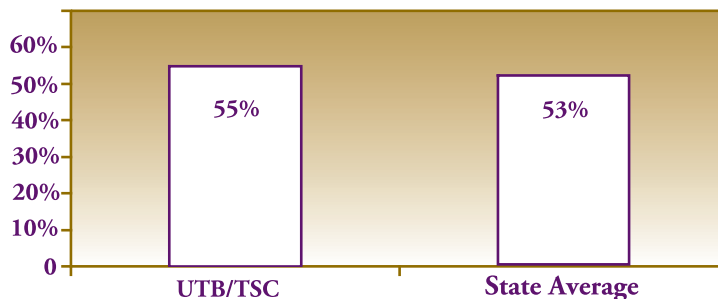
percent. This retention rate ranks UTB/TSC 22 out of the 76 community colleges in Texas. Unlike many higher education institutions in Texas, UTB/TSC maintains an open admissions policy, thus many more students have the opportunity to test out their interests, abilities and resources to succeed in higher education.

Many students who attend UTB/TSC do not have the money to continually enroll full-time. Even with financial aid, they must work to earn money for tuition. Family commitments and responsibilities also require many students to enroll part-time. In some cases, students must wait to enroll in required courses, since UTB/TSC lacks the total number of faculty needed to teach all courses on a regular basis.

**Enrollment Status**



**Retention Rate**



## DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ *UTB/TSC has established an office of P-16. The P-16 initiative focuses on collaboration with all local school districts to enhance coordination and relevance of education offerings at all levels.*
- ★ *UTB/TSC has developed and is now offering the Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) degree. The first of its kind in the state of Texas, this program was recognized nationally when it received the "Bellwether Award" from the Community College Futures Assembly. The BAT program allows people with coursework in technical fields to apply their credits toward a associate or bachelor's degree.*
- ★ *As a means of achieving its goal of becoming a nationally recognized center for the preparation of science teachers, graduate programs have been implemented in Math, Physics and Science Education.*