TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: October 9, 2020

SUBJECT: Provost Report for October 2020

1. **COVID Update**
   I appreciate everyone's flexibility and commitment during the two-week remote pivot. I have heard from students an overall appreciation of your efforts to stay connected in classes that had to move from face-to-face to a remote format, as well as an appreciation to now be back in class.

   As you know, the registration process for the Spring semester has already begun. We cannot completely predict the conditions of the virus in late January so prudent planning dictates that we must continue to prepare for all contingencies, including the teaching modalities of our classes. While our hope is to resume normal instruction on campus, we are preparing for the likelihood that we will need to utilize the Royal Flex program in the Spring semester in a similar way that it was utilized in the Fall semester. Through a survey sent on September 28, we have asked, for planning purposes, each faculty member to identify their first and second teaching modality preferences for each course/section that they are scheduled to teach during the Spring semester. For registration purposes, we primarily concentrated on identifying the fully remote classes on the schedule.

   I want to emphasize that any initial decisions about teaching modes may need to be altered as we approach the spring semester and learn more about the spread of the virus and a potential vaccine. We have also made it clear to students that the mode of teaching indicated during the registration period may be altered as we approach the Spring semester.

2. A special note on **Intersession planning** – Most Intersession classes will be offered remotely except for those laboratory courses that need to be face-to-face. We will work with individual faculty to identify modes of teaching for Intersession.

3. **Strategic Plan Update**
   The Board of Trustees approved a new University-wide strategic plan on September 25th. The strategic plan outlines five institutional goals, supported by a series of specific objectives. The President shared the news of the plan's approval in a campus-wide email earlier this week, and the plan document is available in the My.Scranton portal, News Tab, University Planning channel. The construction of the plan drew from the insights and ideas of faculty, students, and staff from all areas of our campus, and I am particularly grateful to the leaders of the Faculty Senate for their service on the University Planning Committee, and their help in gathering input from faculty, as part of

this process. As always, Kate Yerkes has provided excellent leadership in shepherding this plan to completion.

In the weeks ahead, the www.scranton.edu/strategicplan site will be updated with information about the new plan, including resources regarding implementation and how we will monitor and communicate the plan's progress and impact. We know that members of the University community will embrace the plan in creative ways. Faculty are particularly invited and encouraged to consider how they can support the plan in ways unique to their disciplines and areas of expertise. Each of the three colleges and the Weinberg Library will be likewise considering their important roles in supporting the plan as they review and update college-level plans, and updated guidance to academic chairpersons about incorporating the new plan into academic department Annual Reports will be forthcoming shortly.

The plan includes specific goals regarding several of our current academic priorities - review of general education, the role of the humanities in academics campus-wide, and expanding and supporting diversity and inclusion. As was the case in the plan's construction, the success of the implementation process will rely on the contributions of all members of the University community. I call upon all members of the faculty to contribute as they are able to these priorities.

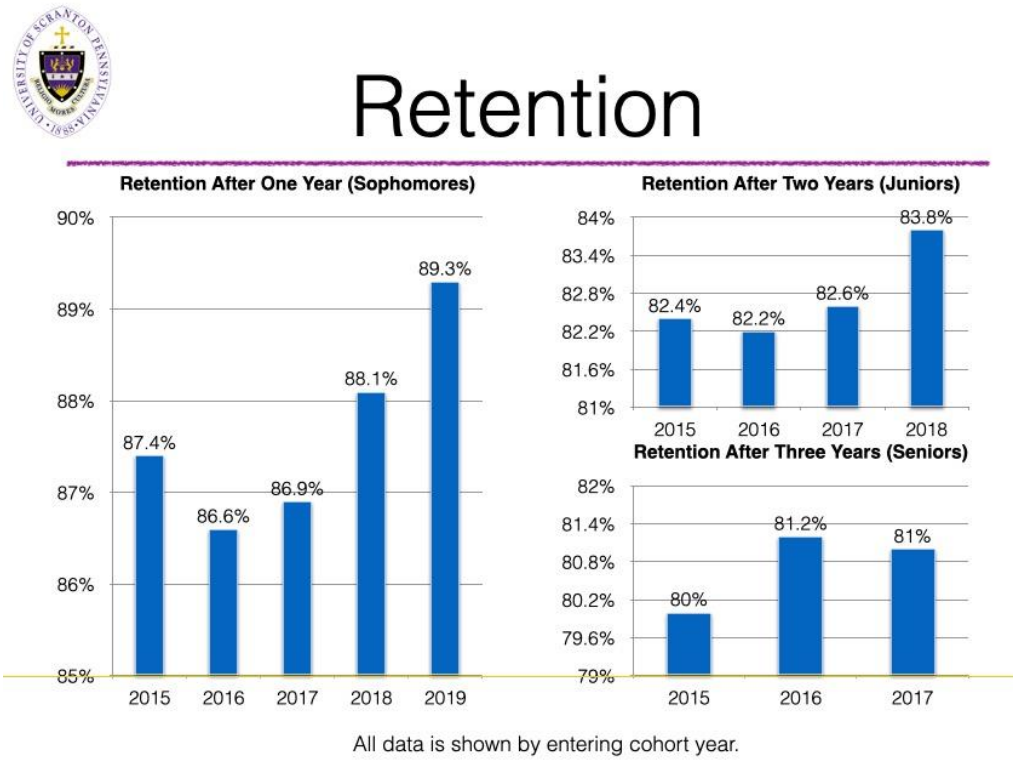
4. **Admissions Update**

One of the most important enrollment numbers for us is the full-time first-year undergraduate class. As you can see below, this years, class came in at 895. While this is much lower than previous years and below our budgeted goals, many other institutions experienced an even larger decrease in first-year enrollment. Kudos to our admissions team and to all of the faculty who helped to support undergraduate admissions for this accomplishment within a very challenging environment.

Please see submitted report for full undergraduate admissions update.

5. **Retention**

We all should be very proud of our retention numbers this year. Our first year-retention percentage increased 1.2% over the previous year. This was 2.4% above two years ago. It is very difficult for any college or university to raise their first-year retention numbers more than one percent in any normal year, but to do this in the midst of a pandemic is truly remarkable. I know that faculty efforts to support students was a big part of this increase. Special thanks to Julie Ferguson and the entire Retention Committee for their intentional work over the past two years to increase communication and support to help our students return. Nick Truncale began his new role as Director of Student Retention and Completion this summer and we are already seeing the positive impact of this position through increased data analysis and coordination of communication. Great work.



6. **Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence report**
   Please see submitted report on mid-semester tutoring services, writing center and accommodations from the CTLE.

7. **Rank and Tenure**
   A virtual meeting to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures was held on September 17, including a demonstration of the electronic process for submitting rank and tenure applications. Twenty-one faculty have applied for tenure and/or promotion for 2020-2021 review. Ten faculty are applying for promotion to full professor, seven for associate professor, two for tenure and promotion to associate and two for tenure.

   Due to the COVID pandemic, FAC and FPC have also signed a Memo of Understanding to use an electronic process for the 2020-2021 annual evaluations of non-tenured tenure track faculty. Directions have been sent to all faculty being evaluated as well as eligible voting faculty.

8. Curriculum Update

I have approved the following curriculum proposals:

New Course	**Date Posted**
SE 518: Software Security	9/4/20
ENLT 275: Latinx Literature	8/24/20
New Program	
Applied Behavior Analysis Minor	6/2/20
Course Deletion	
ENLT 251: Borderlands Writing	8/24/20

Tutoring Services, the Writing Center, & Accommodations

Summary of Services for Fall 2020

Through week 8 of the semester
August 17 – October 8

Peer Tutor Requests by Class

Through week 8 of the semester

	FALL 2018	FALL 2019	FALL 2020	Most requested
Freshmen (45.6% of requests)	**708** requests	**686** requests	**431** requests	BIOL: 128 CHEM: 125 MATH: 75
Sophs (23.8% of requests)	**488** requests	**405** requests	**225** requests	MATH: 40 CHEM: 38 PHYS: 27
Juniors (21.4% of requests)	**238** requests	**295** requests	**202** requests	NURS: 43 PHYS: 29 OT: 26
Seniors (8.6% of requests)	**92** requests	**112** requests	**81** requests	OT: 15 CHEM: 15 BIOL: 12
TOTALS	**1534** requests	**1507** requests	**945** requests	CHEM: 203 BIOL: 164 MATH: 132

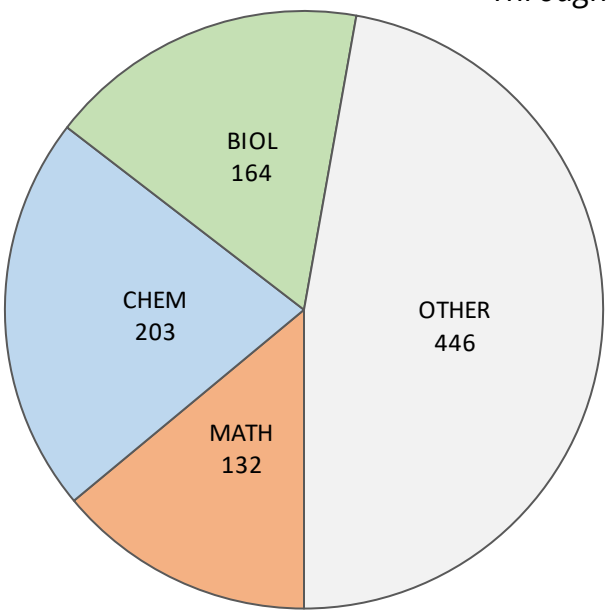
Number of Distinct Students Requesting Tutoring

Through week 8 of the semester

	FALL 2018	FALL 2019	FALL 2020	
Freshmen	**369** students	**372** students	**271** students	**24.9%** of all freshmen
Sophs	**275** students	**244** students	**135** students	**14.5%** of all sophomores
Juniors	**140** students	**174** students	**118** students	**14.8%** of all juniors
Seniors	**63** students	**79** students	**43** students	**5.1%** of all seniors
TOTALS	**847** students (22.5%)	**869** students (22.8%)	**567** students	**15.5%** of all undergrads

The Big Three

Through week 8 of the semester



The big three:

MATH (14.0% of all tutoring requests)
CHEM (21.5% of all tutoring requests)
BIOL (17.4% of all tutoring requests)

make up **52.8%** of all tutoring requests. This is down from last year's percentage of **54.9%**.

		FALL 2019	FALL 2020
MATH	Freshman	128	75
	Sophomores	74	40
	Juniors	19	13
	Seniors	22	4
	TOTALS	**243**	**132**
CHEM	Freshman	186	125
	Sophomores	68	38
	Juniors	39	25
	Seniors	14	15
	TOTALS	**307**	**203**
BIOL	Freshman	206	128
	Sophomores	29	13
	Juniors	33	11
	Seniors	10	12
	TOTALS	**278**	**164**

Number of Students Visiting the Writing Center

Through week 8 of the semester

	FALL 2018	FALL 2019	FALL 2020
Freshmen (64.3% of visitors)	**164** visitors	**128** visitors	**137** visitors
Sophs (9.4% of visitors)	**53** visitors	**40** visitors	**20** visitors
Juniors (5.2% of visitors)	**21** visitors	**31** visitors	**11** visitors
Seniors (5.2% of visitors)	**14** visitors	**21** visitors	**11** visitors
Grads (16.0% of visitors)	**17** visitors	**28** visitors	**34** visitors
TOTALS	**269** visitors	**248** visitors	**213** visitors

Number of Consultations Held in the Writing Center

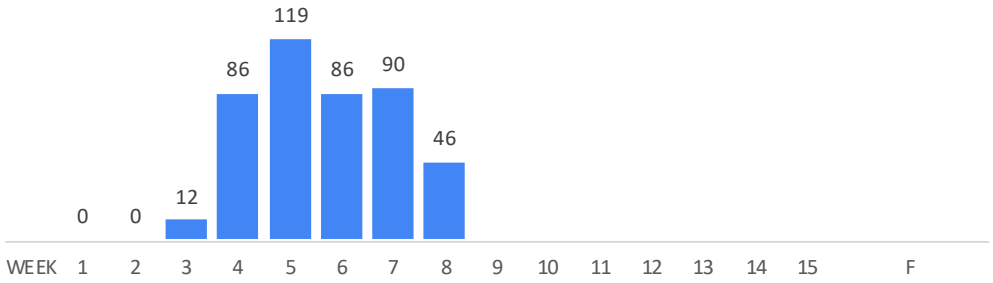
Through week 8 of the semester

FALL 2018	FALL 2019	FALL 2020	Subjects generating the most consultations
452 consultations	**498** consultations	**386** consultations	WRTG: 125 consultations (32.4%) NURS: 38 consultations (9.8%) ENLT: 22 consultations (5.7%) PHIL: 19 consultations (4.9%) T/RS: 15 consultations (3.9%)

Number of Exams Administered

Through week 8 of the semester

FALL 2019



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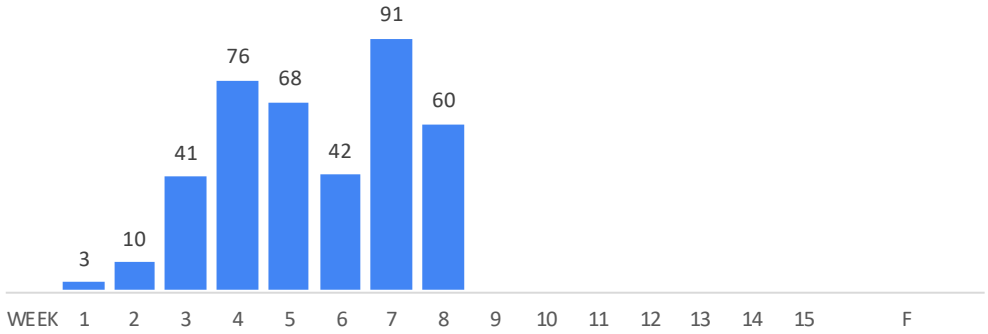
exams

FALL 2020



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exams

Students Receiving Accommodations

	FALL 2017	FALL 2018	FALL 2019
Number of students receiving accommodations	187	197	**200**
Number of students eligible for accommodations	248	272	**280**

Faculty Senate

Admissions Update

October 2020

Class of 2024

Fall Admissions Numbers	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	AVG
Applications	10,114	10,002	9,968	9543	**9123**	**9750**
Acceptances	7,540	7,480	7,296	7285	**7329**	**7386**
Accept Rate	75%	75%	73%	76%	**80%**	**76%**
Deposits	1,091	974	1,013	1064	**963**	**1021**
Withdrawals	80	67	59	59	**69**	**67**
Melt	7.3%	6.9%	5.8%	5.5%	**7.1%**	**6.5%**
Net Deposits	1,011	907	953	1005	**895**	**954**
Yield	13.4%	12.1%	13.1%	13.8%	**12.2%**	**12.9%**

Gender & Ethnicity

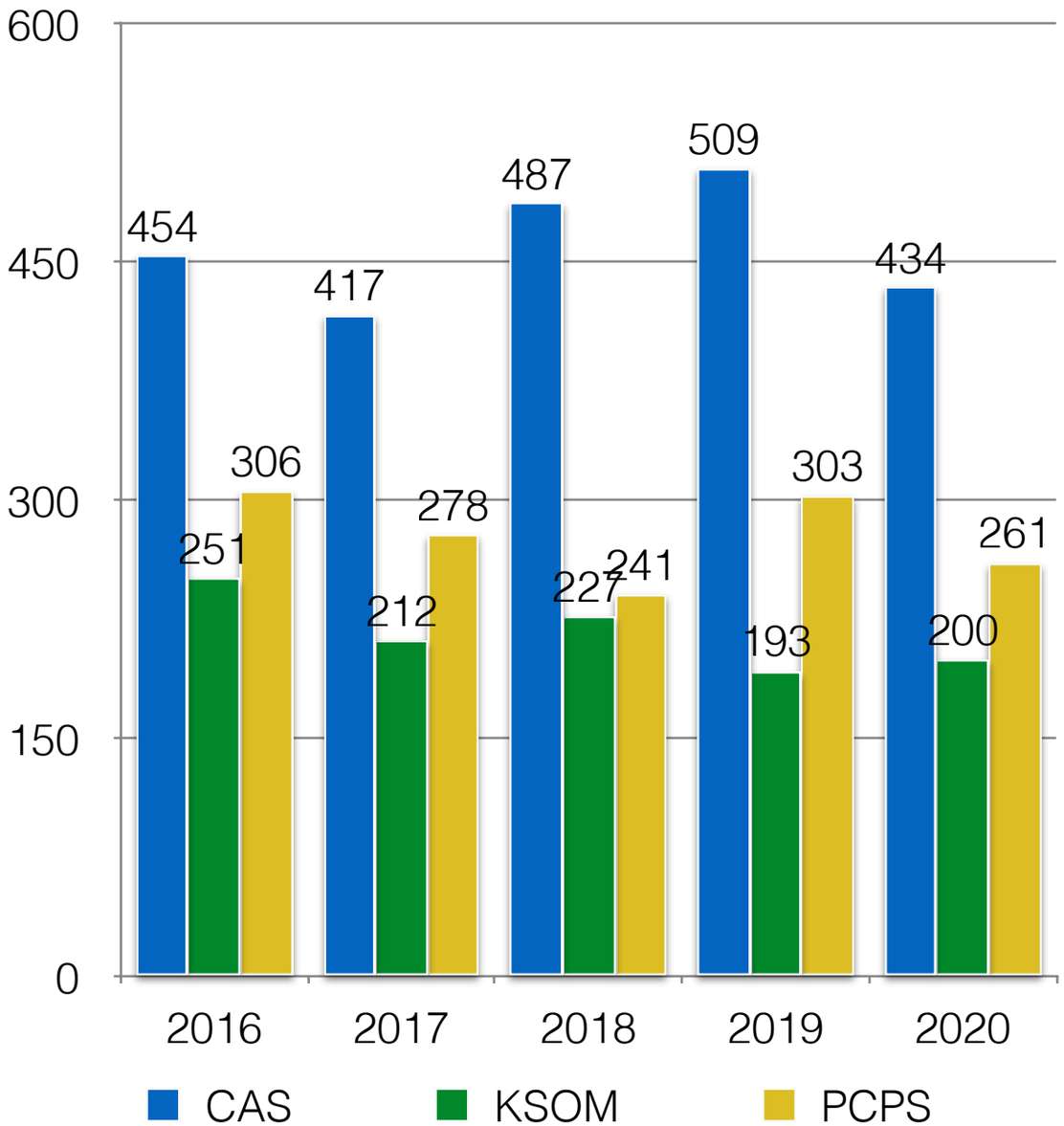
Gender & Ethnicity	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Female	571	524	549	584	**541**
Male	440	383	404	421	**354**
Ratio	56% to 44%	58% to 42%	58% to 42%	58% to 42%	**60% to 40%**
Students of Color	19%	17%	20%	22%	**22%**

Residence Status

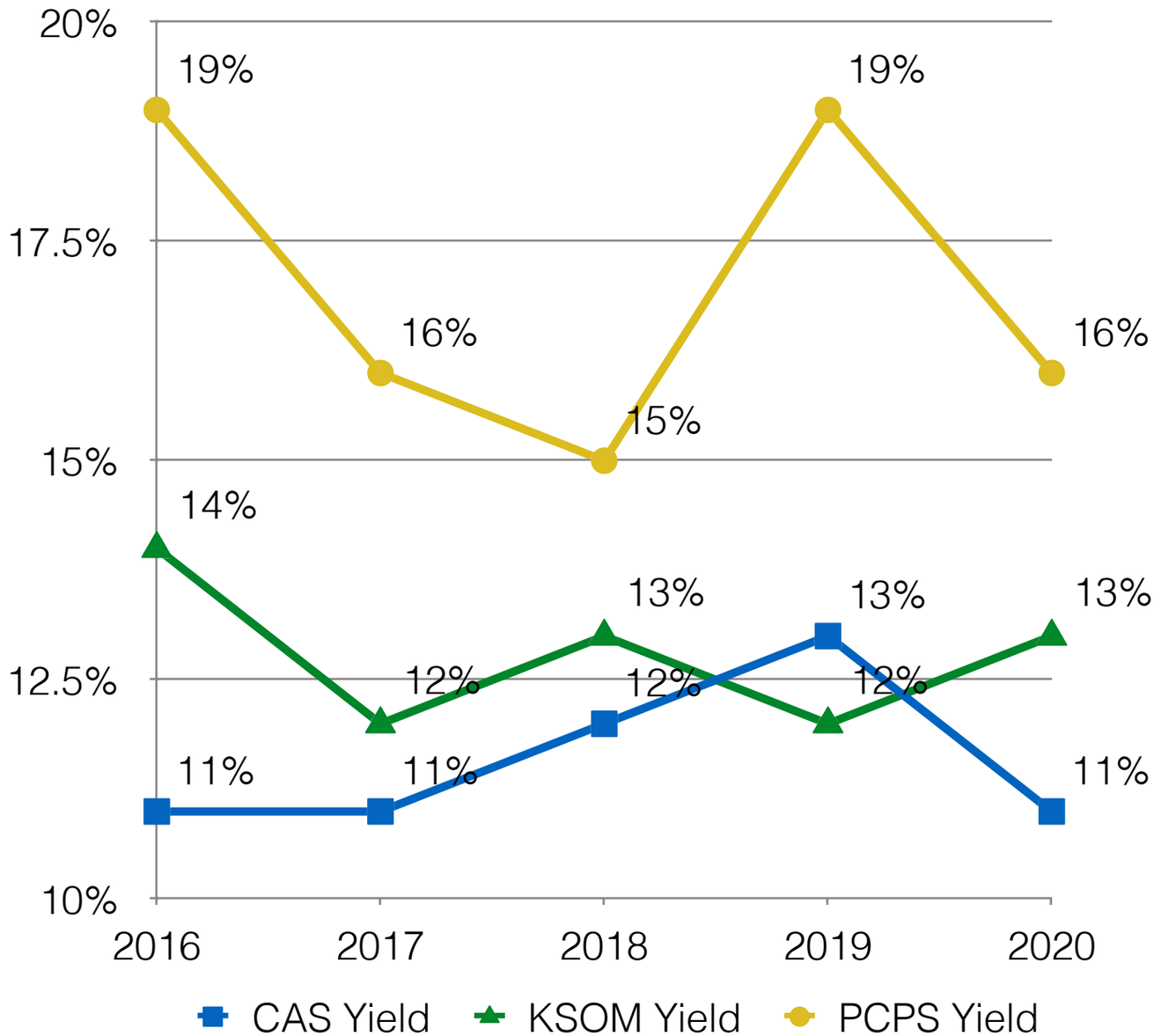
Residence Status	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Residential	915	810	836	880	**761**
Commuter	96	97	119	125	**84**
Ratio	91% to 9%	89% to 11%	88% to 12%	88% to 12%	**85% to 15%**
Local Students (10 Counties)	213	201	230	250	**206**

College Overview

Enrollment by College

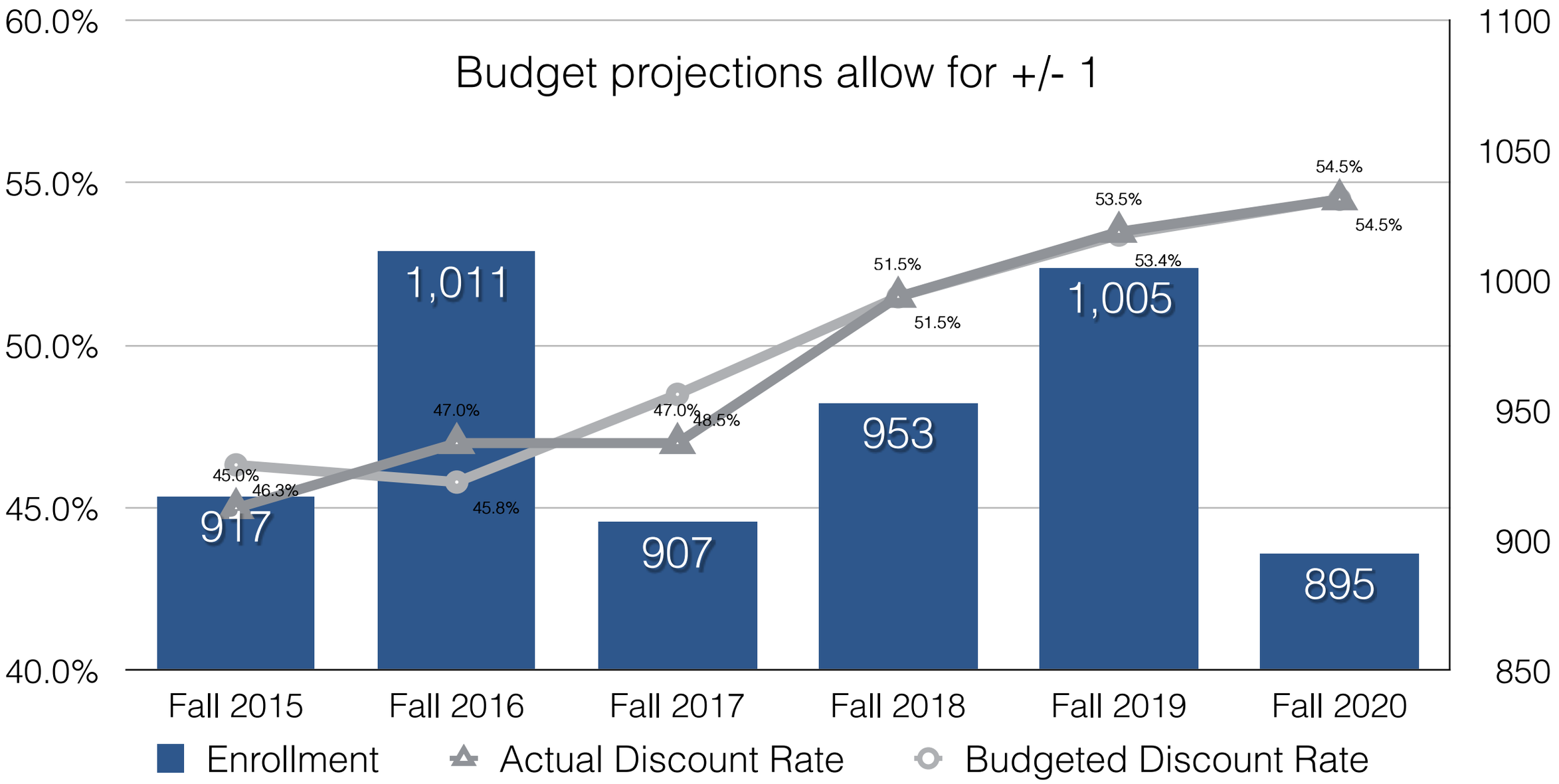


Yield Percentage by College



Discount Rate

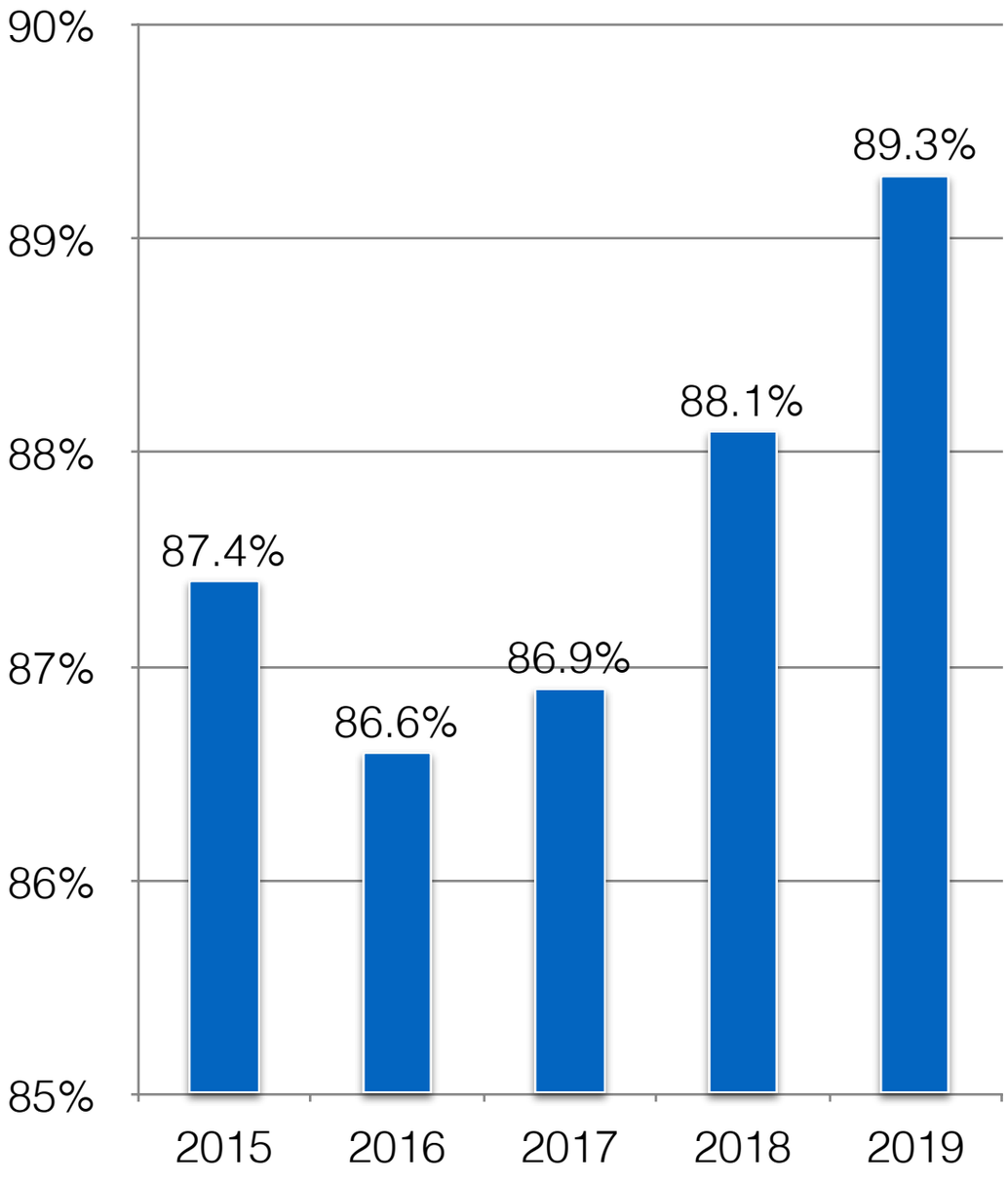
Budget vs Actual Discount Rate w/o Remission



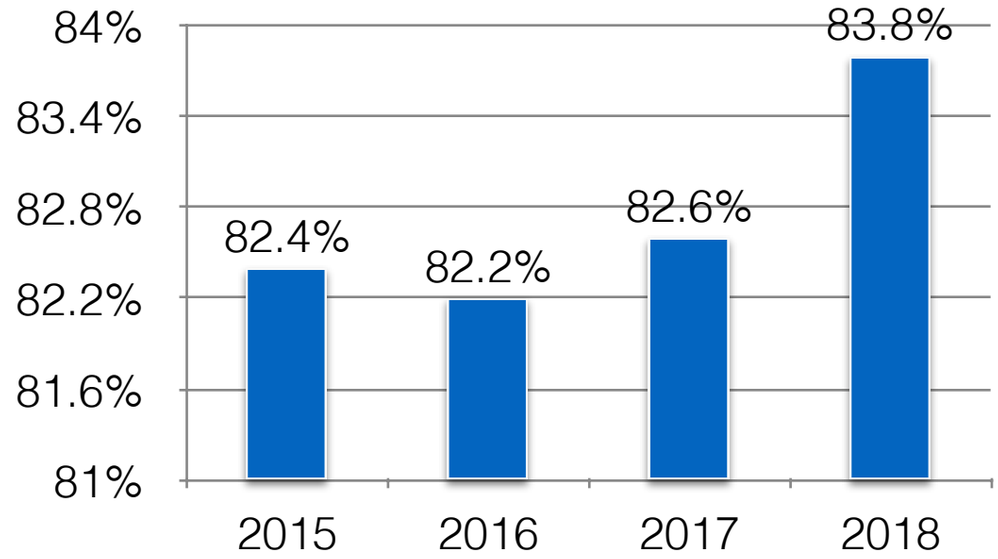
Note: FY2015 includes additional funds for Occupational Therapy.

Retention

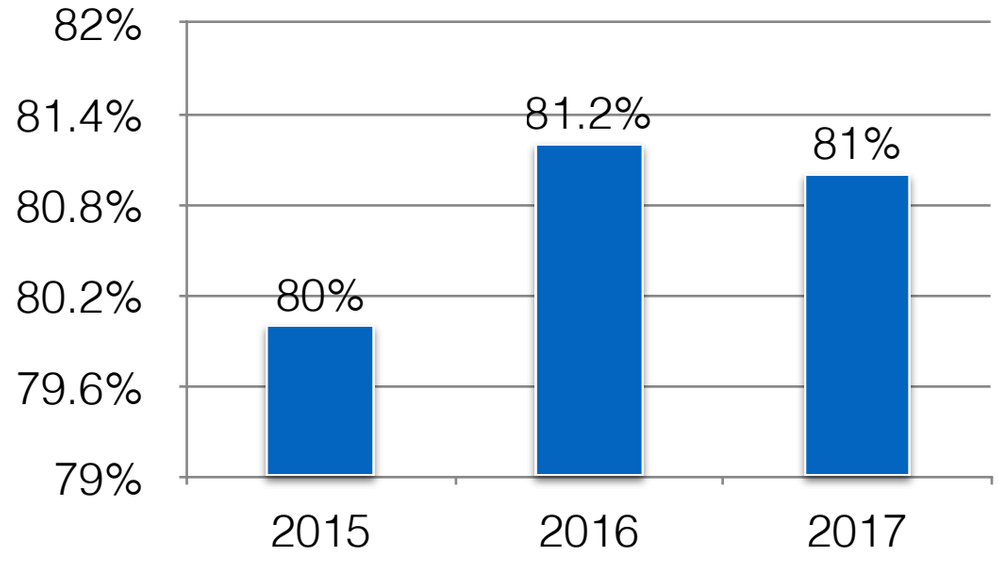
Retention After One Year (Sophomores)



Retention After Two Years (Juniors)



Retention After Three Years (Seniors)



All data is shown by entering cohort year.