Fall 2011 Cohorts Returning Spring 2012
Retention Summary
First-Year Students

In the fall of 2011, USM had admitted and enrolled 710 first-year students with 83.8% of those students returning spring 2012. The number of first-year full-time students was 661 and reflects a retention rate of 85.0% or 1.2% higher than the overall first-year group. See Table 1.

The first-year minority group had an 84.8% retention rate and was segmented further based on gender in which the males had a higher rate of 86.1% as opposed to females (81.8%). Male out-of-state retention rates (80.0%) were significantly higher than female out-of-state (76.6%) first-year students but the overall gender breakdown was higher for females at 83.9% vs. males at 83.6%. NEBHE first-year students had a 100% retention rate with there being two more females than males in the cohort. Maine first-year students had an 84.2% retention rate, 3% higher than those from out-of-state. Two percent of the students represent Piscataquis, Waldo and Washington counties in Maine and retained 100% of those students in spring 2012. Oxford (90.5%), York (87.7%) Knox (87.5%) and Kennebec (87.1%) proved to be the strongest counties for the first-year students returning. Cumberland and York counties represent 61% of this first-time cohort and have a retention rate of 86% which is 2.15% higher than the overall first year cohort retention rate (83.8%). Students between the ages of 18 and 24 were retained at a rate of 83.8% with females representing a retention rate of 55.4%. Students over the age of 25 were retained at a rate of 88.2% with females representing a retention rate of 60%.

The following high schools represent the highest number of “students”: Windham (28 students), Bonny Eagle (24 students), Deering (22 students) and Biddeford (21 students) and had a retention rate of 64.3%, 91.7%, 86.4%, and 90.5% respectively. Part-time students at each of these high schools were retained at 100%. The five home schooled students, all full-time, had a retention rate of 100%.

Transfer Students

In the fall of 2011, USM had admitted and enrolled 784 transfer students with 85.2% returning spring 2012. The number of transfer full-time students was 540 and reflects a retention rate of 91.1% or 5.9% higher than the overall transfer group. See Table 2.

The transfer minority group had an 88.4% retention rate and was segmented further based on gender in which the females had a higher rate of 90.2% as opposed to males (85.2%). Male out-of-state retention rates (91.3%) were significantly higher than female out-of-state (81.8%) transfer students as well as the overall gender breakdown was with males at 86% vs. females at 84.6%.
NEBHE transfer students had a 100% retention rate with there being two females and one male in the cohort. Maine transfer students had an 84.7% retention rate, 8.3% lower than those from out-of-state (93%). Four percent of the transfer students represent Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Washington counties in Maine and retained 100% of those students in spring 2012. Kennebec (91%), Oxford (90.5%) Lincoln (90%) and Franklin (88.9%) proved to be the strongest counties for the transfer students returning. Cumberland and York counties represent 71.2% of this transfer cohort and have a retention rate of 84.3% which is .3% lower than the overall transfer cohort retention rate (84.7%). Students between the ages of 18 and 24 were retained at a rate of 85.3% with females representing a retention rate of 56%. Students over the age of 25 were retained at a rate of 85.1% with females representing a retention rate of 57.25%.

The following Community Colleges represent the highest number of “students” transferring to USM: Southern Maine (169 students), Central Maine (56 students) and York (33 students) and had a retention rate of 83.4%, 82.1%, and 88% respectively. Students transferring in as full-time students (91.1%, 87%, and 95% respectively) from each of these Community Colleges were retained at a higher rate than those enrolling part-time (72%, 67%, and 75% respectively).

The following Colleges represent the highest number of “students” transferring to USM: University of Maine (80 students), University of New England (28 students) and University of Maine at Farmington (22 students) and had a retention rate of 83.8%, 85.7%, and 91% respectively. Students transferring in as full-time students from University of Maine (86.2%) and University of New England (91.3%) retained at a higher rate than those enrolling part-time (77.3%, and 60% respectively). University of Maine at Farmington had just the opposite where part-time retention rate (100%) was higher than those transferring in with an enrollment status of full-time (88.9%).