Percentage of Students who Progress to Second Term and/or Second Year
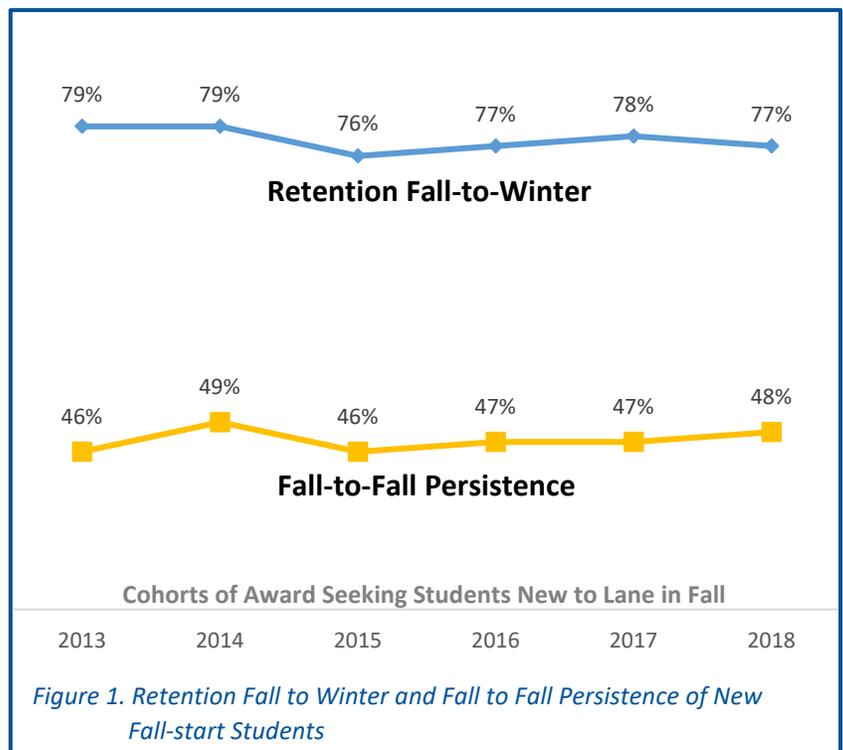
	Previous	Current	Trend	Target	Rating
Fall to Winter	78%	77%	↘	79%	Emerging
Fall to Fall	47%	48%	↗	48%	

Mission Fulfillment Indicator (MFI) 14 measures the rates at which cohorts of award-seeking credit students new to Lane in fall are retained the next term (winter) or persist to the next year (fall) by enrolling in at least one course. Retention and persistence are critical indicators of mission fulfillment due to their direct correlation to student goal attainment. Note that fall-to-fall persistence does not require continuous enrollment during intervening terms.

Discussion

Fall-to-fall persistence increased by 1% and fall-to-Winter retention decreased by 1% for the most recent cohort with data available. However, the graph shows both rates remained stable from 2013 to 2018.

It is important to remember that the students behind these data are all award-seeking. They arrived at Lane with dreams and specific academic goals in mind but fewer than half persisted to pursue those goals for a second year. Daily decisions and actions that increase these numbers have strong positive impacts on student success and on the College's enrollment. Developing program maps and a First Year Experience (FYE) course are reform efforts targeted specifically at increasing retention and persistence.

Figure 1. Retention Fall to Winter and Fall to Fall Persistence of New Fall-start Students

Deeper Data Dive

This data suggests that retention to a second term and persistence to a second year occur at higher rates among students who begin in fall rather than other terms, and for students who are full-time rather than part-time in their first term.

Guided Pathways program maps are expected to increase retention and persistence by helping students plan and keep on track. First-round maps will be designed for full-time students. To address the need seen in these graphs, later-round maps will also be created for part-time students.

Peer Comparisons

The accreditation process calls for evidence-informed self-reflection along with meaningful comparison against peers to provide a contextualized perspective on an institution's quality. Based on Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) 2017 cohort data, Lane's fall-to-winter retention rate is similar to that of comparable Oregon community colleges.

Table 1. Fall to Winter Retention of First Time in College Students (VFA Fall 2017 cohort)		
	Fall 2017 Cohort	Percent Retained
Lane	1,223	79.4%
Chemeketa	2,251	77.9%
Linn-Benton	1,408	78.1%
Mt Hood	1,562	81.1%

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

A key focus for Guided Pathways work is developing the necessary systems and structures for students entering Lane in fall 2021 to select their first term courses based on a program map and customize an individual academic plan in an FYE course that incorporates career exploration. With a strong starting point, initial clarification of career and academic goals, and a customized academic plan based on a well-structured program map, students will be better supported to persist and achieve their goals.