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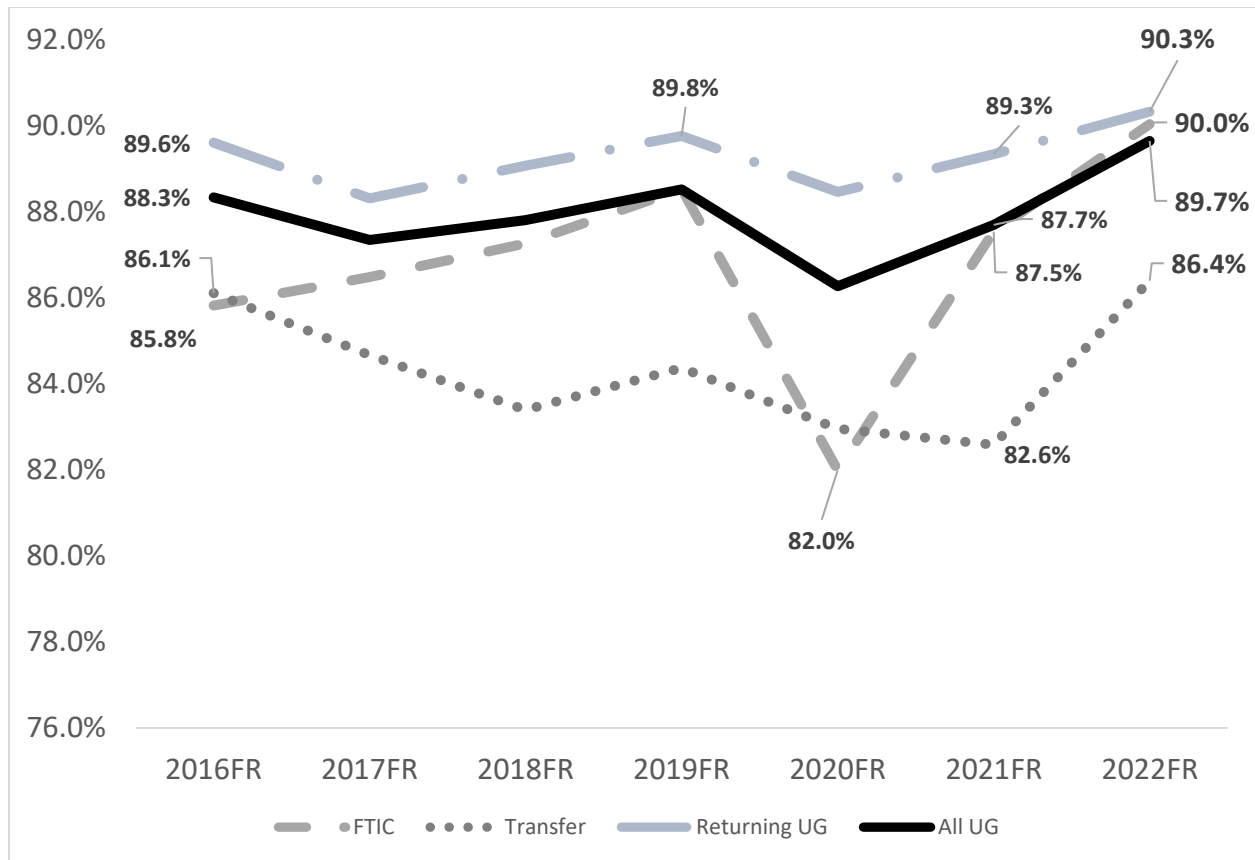
### Fall to Spring Retention

Student retention is a large factor in funding, enrollment and university priority. The above graph is an average for Fall to Spring retention from 2016 to 2022. The four categories are:

- 1) FTIC – these are first-time in college students. Commonly referred to as the freshman cohort
- 2) Transfer – these are students whose first transfer semester at WT was in the fall. Both Senior and Junior College transfers are counted in this number
- 3) Returning – these are students who have been enrolled one semester in the past at WT, either the immediate past semester or prior past semesters. Thus making them a returning student.
- 4) All UG – this is all three above categories combined

Based on this data it is clear that transfer students have the lowest fall to spring retention numbers. To gain a historical perspective please see the graph on the next page.

## Data Bite #12 – Fall to Spring Retention



The first item that sticks out is the steep drop in the FTIC retention from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021. Given the presence of COVID, this is not a surprise, as lots of students took a leave of absence from higher education and moved home until the pandemic ended. This is an outlier. As you can see the FTIC fall to spring retention is back on track as the following years show.

The second item that sticks out from this data is the continual decline of transfer student retention from 2016-2021. Due to the nature of transfer students, it is often hard to pin down what is commonly known as a swirling student. Swirling students are students who constantly change between community college and university, making them hard to track in retention efforts. However, a 4% increase was found this current Fall to Spring retention. A first in many years.

For more information, questions or interest in additional data points, please reach out to The Office of Institutional Effectiveness.