

# Understanding Adult Enrollment Patterns<sup>1</sup>

Report created by OPEIR  
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<sup>1</sup> This analysis was produced by OPEIR in response to a specific data request. Results are not necessarily generalizable and attempts to use results outside the scope of this project should be avoided.

 THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
CHATTANOOGA

# Demographic Information

## Population by Race, Age, and Income

This analysis examined all fall and spring undergraduate degree-seeking admits ages 23 and older from academic years 2019-20 to 2021-22. Demographics, academic preparedness, and retention to the subsequent spring or fall semester were reviewed. On average, 388 new adult undergraduates enrolled in the last three fall terms; less than 200 enrolled in spring semesters except for Spring 2021. More than one quarter were students of color with approximately half being of black or African American heritage (14% of the total population).

An average of 46 percent per term were from low-income households as indicated by financial aid eligibility for the Pell grant. Proportions are smaller for spring semesters, but 37 percent did not provide sufficient information to determine eligibility and household income. Eighty-eight percent of all adult undergraduates were in-state students. The largest group of out-of-state were from Georgia (8%), followed by Alabama (1%).

Demographics for New Adult Undergraduates

Term	N	%Female	%Student of Color <sup>1</sup>	%In-State Residency	%Low-Income <sup>2</sup>
Fall 2019	460	48.9%	26.3%	88.9%	50.2%
Fall 2020	368	51.6%	27.2%	87.5%	49.7%
Fall 2021	336	52.1%	25.9%	89.0%	53.0%
Spring 2020	174	47.1%	29.3%	90.8%	38.5%
Spring 2021	203	49.3%	25.1%	82.8%	43.3%
Spring 2022	178	47.8%	32.6%	88.2%	42.7%

<sup>1</sup>American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Pacific Islander, or Multiracial

<sup>2</sup>Determined by Pell grant eligibility through financial aid

## Population by Academic Preparedness

Adult undergraduates enrolled at UTC with lower metrics related to academic preparedness. When compared to first-time freshmen in the same timeframe (i.e., Academic Year 2019-20 through 2021-22), adult undergraduates reported a .48 lower high school GPA (3.59 to 3.11) and an ACT Composite score two points lower (23.6 to 21.7). The difference is smaller for transfer GPA compared to all incoming transfers (3.06 to 2.95).

Nearly all adult undergraduates have prior college attendance. Ninety-seven percent of all entering students since Fall 2019 were new transfers or re-admitted students. More than half of fall admits are new transfers, whereas most spring admits are readmits. Secondly, the overall population shows a 1:1 ratio for full-time/part-time enrollment (50.6%; 49.4%). Most transfers enrolled with 12 or more credit hours while readmits tended to register with 11 or less hours for the semester.

## Average Academic Preparedness and First-Term GPA Earned

Term	N	High School GPA	Transfer GPA	ACT Composite	Term GPA
<b>Fall 2019</b>	460	3.13	2.96	22.0	2.70
<b>Fall 2020</b>	368	3.05	3.00	21.5	2.68
<b>Fall 2021</b>	336	3.08	2.91	21.5	2.84
<b>Spring 2020</b>	174	3.16	2.94	21.7	2.84
<b>Spring 2021</b>	203	3.16	2.95	21.3	2.64
<b>Spring 2022</b>	178	3.15	2.93	22.1	2.67

## Adult Undergraduate Enrollment by Student Type and Hours Registered

Student Type	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Spring 2020	Spring 2021	Spring 2022
<b>First-Time Freshman</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Full-time</i>	12	12	8	3	3	4
<i>Part-time</i>	1	0	1	2	1	0
<b>New Transfer</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>70</b>
<i>Full-time</i>	155	119	131	36	41	41
<i>Part-time</i>	90	94	70	35	57	29
<b>Readmit</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>104</b>
<i>Full-Time</i>	96	67	55	40	32	48
<i>Part-Time</i>	106	76	71	58	69	56
<b>Total Full-Time</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Total Part-Time</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>85</b>

## Population by Program Enrollment and Age

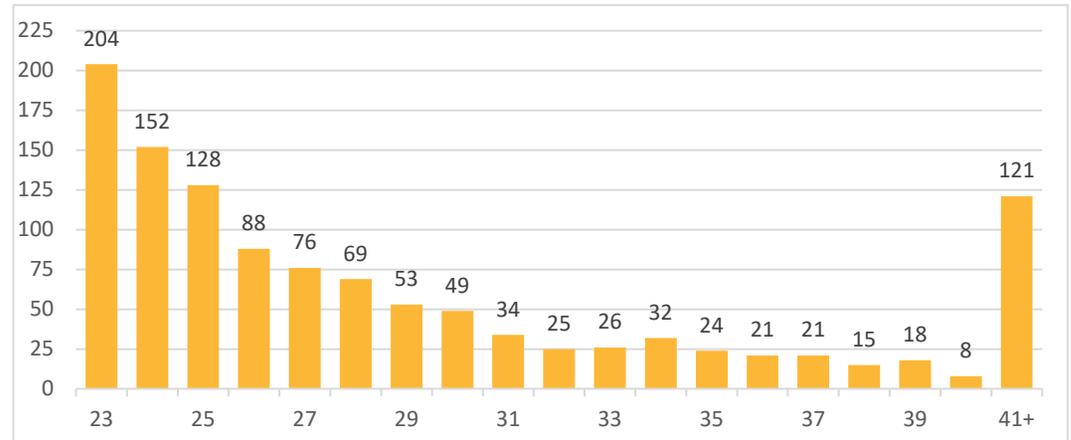
Fall and spring admits differ slightly in the top programs enrolled. Both BSN Nursing and BS psychology were the largest groups and made up 17 and 19 percent of fall and spring adult undergraduates, respectively. While it does not hold the same placement for both groups, BSBA Management is in the top five with a similar proportion of undergraduates enrolling in the program.

The age distribution of UTC's adult undergraduates shows that the majority are young adults. Forty-nine percent of adult undergraduates were between 23 to 26; the ratio is larger for spring admits (53%). Ten percent were aged 40 and older.

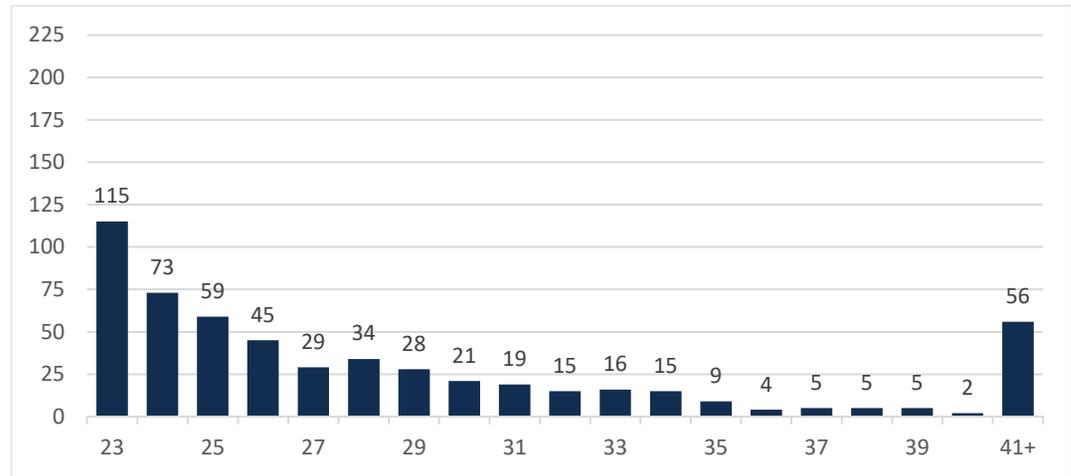
### Top Five Programs Enrolled for Fall and Spring Terms

Fall Entrants	Spring Entrants
BSN Nursing (9.5%)	BSN Nursing (11.5%)
BS Psychology (7%)	BS Psychology (7%)
BS Criminal Justice (5.2%)	BSBA Management (4%)
BSBA Accounting (4.4%)	BS Biology: General (4%)
BSBA Management (3.9%)	BSBA Accounting (4%)

Aggregate Breakout by Age: Fall 2019, 2020, 2021



Aggregate Breakout by Age: Spring 2020, 2021, and 2022

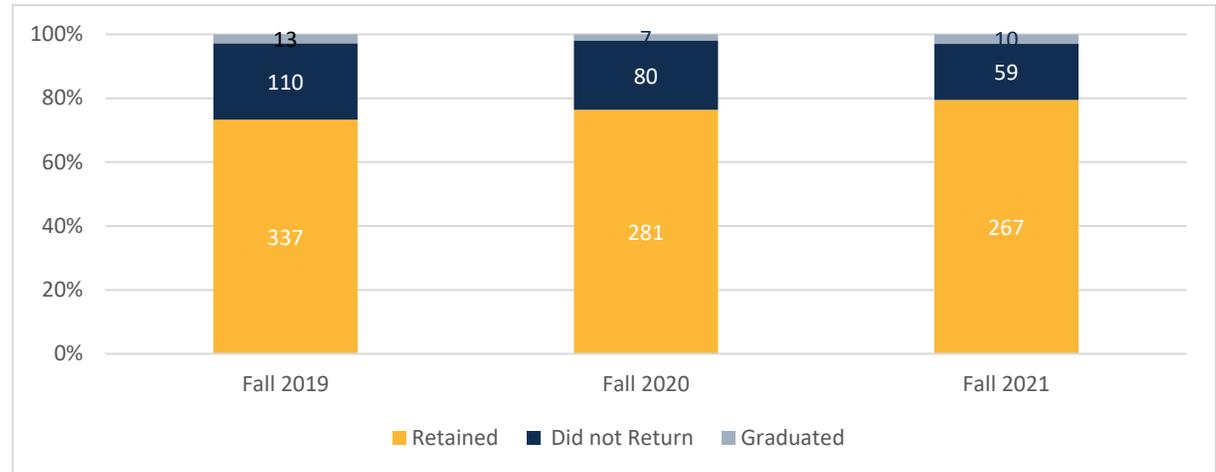


# Retention and Graduation

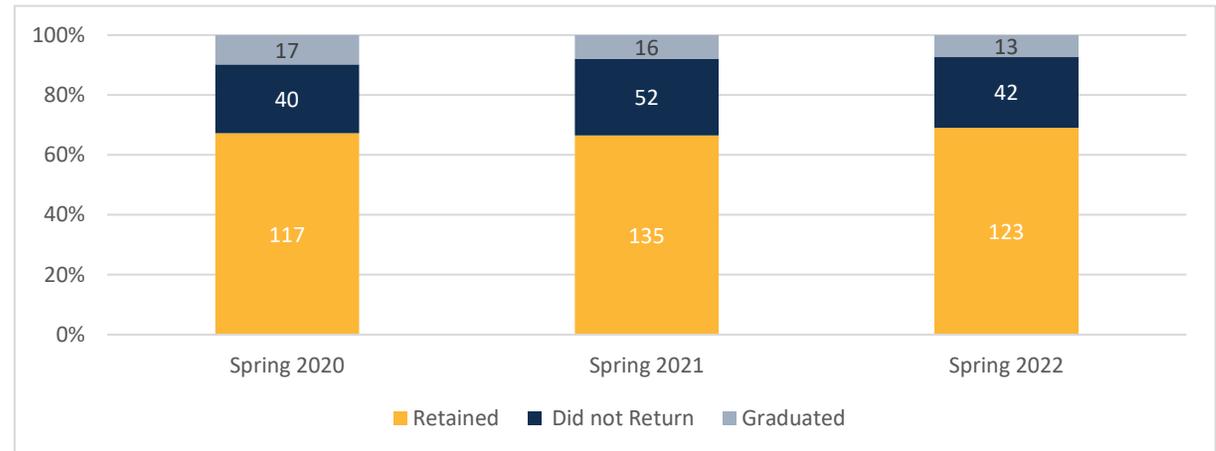
## Retention Rates by Term

Little difference was found between fall-to-spring and spring-to-fall retention and graduation rates. Three-fourths of fall admits were retained to the next spring semester. Sixty-eight percent of spring entrants returned for fall. When the number of students who graduated is included, the difference in students who neither return nor graduate between fall and spring entrants is only three percent in favor of fall admits.

### Fall-to-Spring Retention for Adult Undergraduates



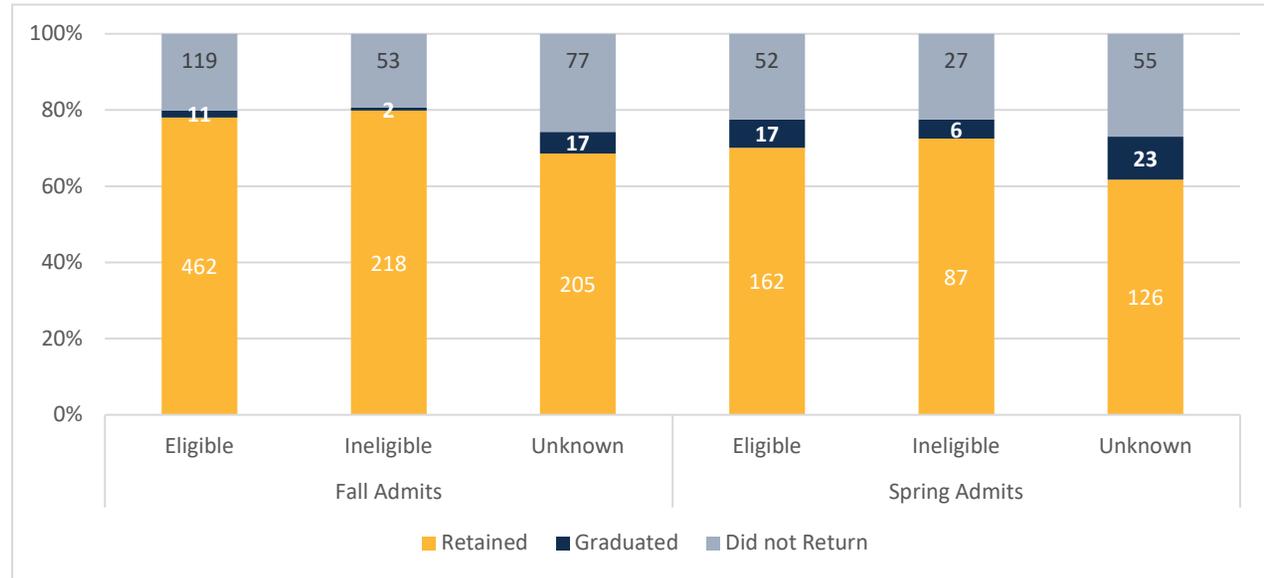
### Spring-to-Fall Retention for Adult Undergraduates



## Retention by Pell Eligibility

No significant differences were found between Pell-eligible and ineligible undergraduates. Both groups show a nearly equal proportion of students retained or graduated. However, as reported in a previous analysis, students of an unknown status are proportionally lost at a noticeably higher rate, up to a five percent difference compared to the other two groups.

### Adult Undergraduates Retention by Pell Eligibility



## Retention by Student Type

Fall-to-spring retention shows better results across all student types than spring-to-fall. One-fourth of all readmits did not return or graduate by the next semester. Fifteen percent admitted in spring graduate prior to the start of fall term, however; 80 percent of these were registered as part-time in the fall. Four percent fewer spring transfers were retained to fall when compared to fall transfers returning in the spring; none graduated within one semester. Spring-to-fall freshmen retention is very low, but this is due to the small admit groups (N = 14). Significantly less part-time students were also retained to the following semester.

When readmits were further broken down, about sixty percent of all African American adult undergraduates were readmits. From this group, 29 percent did not return or graduate within the last three years; this accounts for 21 percent of all readmits who did not return or graduate (n = 40).

Retention by Student Type and Credit Hours Registered

Student Type	Fall Entrants			Spring Entrants		
	Retained	Graduated	Did not Return	Retained	Graduated	Did not Return
<b>First-Time Freshman</b>	<b>85.3%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>53.8%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>46.2%</b>
<i>Full-time</i>	84.4%	0%	15.6%	60.0%	0%	40.0%
<i>Part-time</i>	100%	0%	0%	33.3%	0%	66.7%
<b>New Transfer</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>77.0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>23.0%</b>
<i>Full-time</i>	86.4%	0%	13.6%	78.8%	0%	21.2%
<i>Part-time</i>	72.0%	0%	28.0%	75.2%	0%	24.8%
<b>Readmit</b>	<b>68.6%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>24.1%</b>
<i>Full-Time</i>	76.1%	4.6%	19.3%	69.2%	7.5%	23.3%
<i>Part-Time</i>	62.1%	7.9%	30.0%	55.2%	20.2%	24.6%
<b>All Full-Time</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>23.0%</b>
<b>All Part-Time</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>62.9%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>