

The Performance Report for Ohio's Colleges and Universities 2002: Profile of Student Outcomes, Experiences and Campus Measures, Prepared by the Ohio Board of Regents at the Request of Governor Bob Taft, December 2002
Good News for YSU

[Once again, Youngstown State University has exceeded state and national averages in significant measures of the quality of higher education. Overall, YSU students are more likely to be taught by experienced, full-time senior faculty; to remain in college after their first year; to take classes small enough for individual attention; and to find in-state employment immediately after graduation than are their counterparts at many other public 4-year institutions.

The years covered in the 2002 *Report* vary by category, reflecting the most recent comparative data available for a given category. YSU's outcomes in 8 of the categories are outlined below.]

1. First-Year Classes Taught by Senior Faculty (Fall 2000)—An Indicator of a Quality First-Year Experience:

Institution	Full Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Total Senior Faculty (Prof. and Assoc. Prof.)
YSU	30%	17%	10%	47%
U of Akron	7%	11%	16%	18%
Cleveland SU	13%	19%	13%	32%
KSU	8%	7%	18%	15%
OSU	9%	9%	9%	18%
Miami U	21%	16%	17%	37%
Average, Main & Branch Campuses Statewide	11%	16%	20%	27%

For the second consecutive year, the percentage of first-year student credit hours taught by full professors at YSU (as opposed to associate or assistant professors, instructors, or graduate students) is **the highest in the state**, exceeding the percentages at branch campuses, selective-admissions 4-year institutions, and all other open-admissions institutions in Ohio. At YSU,

- 30% of first-year student credit hours are taught by full professors, compared to the state average of 11%.
- In addition, 59% of first-year student credit hours are taught by full-time faculty (as opposed to part-time faculty), compared to the state average of 51%. The figures for other northeastern Ohio universities were 53% at CSU, 40% at KSU, and 45% at Akron.

Among university main campuses, Miami University, with selective admissions, has the second-highest percentage of first-year student credit hours taught by full professors: 21%.

Why does the percentage of first-year courses taught by senior faculty matter? According to the *Performance Report*, "having faculty members with academic rank teaching first-year students"

is one “measure of a college’s or university’s commitment to helping first-year students succeed with attention and instruction from faculty members who are the most experienced and the most knowledgeable about their disciplines” (p. 07-1).

2. Retention and First-Year Experience (2000-2001): YSU Exceeds State and National Norms:

YSU	State Average	National Average
71%	70%	54.9%-64%

Retention rates are another measure of an institution’s success in serving and educating first-year students. According to the *Performance Report*, the first-year retention rate—the percentage of first-year students who return to the same institution the next year—reflects, “in part, . . . the services that a college or university is able to provide to students to help them succeed” (p. 10-1).

At **71%**, YSU’s freshman-to-sophomore retention (“persistence”) rate for 2000-2001 once again exceeded both state and national averages for open-admissions public 4-year institutions:

- Nationally, the first-to-second-year retention rate at open-admissions public 4-year institutions for 2000-2001 was **54.9%-64%**.
- In Ohio, the average retention rate for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students at open-admissions public 4-year institutions was **70%** for that period.
- At YSU, the retention rate for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students was **71%** for that period. Among open-admissions public 4-year institutions in Ohio, only one institution (the University of Toledo) had a higher retention rate. YSU’s 71% retention rate was a 4% increase over its 67% retention rate the previous year.
- The retention rate for “young” students (under age 20) at YSU was **83%** for students who had completed the core curriculum (4 years of English and 3 years each of math, science, and social studies) in high school.

YSU’s freshman-to-sophomore retention rate may be especially impressive given that, among open-admissions main campuses in Ohio, YSU has the second highest percentage of first-generation college students (57% of the undergraduates who applied for financial aid at YSU in fall 2001 identified themselves as first-generation college students—i.e., students whose parents did not attend college).

Yet, although YSU’s first-year retention figures are impressive, its median time-to-degree for associate and baccalaureate degrees also exceeds state averages, especially at the associate-degree level. YSU’s median time-to-degree for associate-degree graduates was 5.7 years in 2000-2001, compared to the average state median of 3.8 years at university main campuses and to 4.5 the previous year at YSU. (In part, the 2000-2001 figures may be due to anomalies such as the fact that one student took 32.33 years to earn the associate degree—and time-to-degree begins when a student first takes courses on a campus, even if he or she leaves school and returns many years later to complete the degree.)

At 5.0 years, the median time-to-degree for YSU's baccalaureate graduates was only slightly above the state average in 2000-2001. By comparison, the median time-to-degree for baccalaureate graduates at Cleveland State University and the University of Akron was also 5 years in 2000-2001.

The baccalaureate 6-year graduation rate (first-time, degree-seeking students who entered in 1995 and graduated **within** 6 years) for YSU was 39%, compared to 27% at Cleveland State University and 39% at the University of Akron.

3. Class Size (Fall 2001):

Institution	Average Lecture Size	Average Laboratory Size
YSU	30	19
Main Campuses Statewide	33	20

Students at YSU have a high probability of being enrolled in small classes, in which they can get to know their instructors and receive individual attention:

- The average lecture-class size at YSU is 30, compared to 33 at university main campuses statewide.
- The average laboratory-class size at YSU is 19, compared to 20 at university main campuses statewide. YSU is the only university main campus with no laboratory classes larger than 49 students.

4. Tuition and Fees (2002-2003):

Institution	2002-2003 Undergraduate In-State Tuition and Fees
YSU	\$4,996
CSU	\$5,196 (continuing) and \$5,496 (new students)
KSU	\$6,374
Akron	\$5,798 (continuing) and \$6,098 (new students)
Average, Main Campuses Statewide	\$5,658

Because state-assisted colleges and universities in Ohio receive considerably less financial support from the state than do comparable institutions elsewhere in the nation, tuition and fees at Ohio institutions exceed national averages. (For 2000-2001, the most recent year for which national comparisons are available, Ohio had the 7th highest in-state undergraduate tuition in the nation.) Nevertheless, full-time undergraduates at YSU pay lower in-state tuition and fees than do their counterparts at most other university main campuses in Ohio:

- At YSU, the average 2002-2003 in-state tuition and fees for full-time undergraduates is **\$4,996**. At university main campuses, only Central State University and Shawnee State University students pay lower tuition and fees.

- Statewide, the average 2002-2003 in-state tuition and fees for full-time undergraduate students at state-assisted university main campuses is **\$5,658**.

5. Financial Aid (1999-2000):

Institution	% Receiving Financial Aid	Average Federal Loan First-Time, Full-Time, Degree-Seeking Undergraduates Borrow
YSU	82%	\$2,700
Cleveland SU	71%	\$3,379
KSU	80%	\$3,696
U of Akron	63%	\$2,686
Statewide	81%	\$3,658
Public, 4-year nationwide	70%	\$3,158

Not only is YSU's tuition lower than at comparable institutions, but in 1999-2000, a higher percentage of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates at YSU (**82%**) received financial aid than did their counterparts at other main campuses in Northeast Ohio. In addition, students at YSU needed to borrow less in federal loans than did students at many other public 4-year institutions in the state and nation:

- The average federal loan for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates at YSU was **\$2,700** in 1999-2000.
- The average federal loan for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates in Ohio was **\$3,658** in 1999-2000.
- The average federal loan for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates at public 4-year institutions nationwide was **\$3,158** in 1999-2000.
- Thirty-two percent of YSU students received institutional grants (which do not have to be paid back) from YSU/the YSU Foundation, compared to 24% receiving institutional grants at Cleveland State University and Kent State University and 25% at the University of Akron.

6. Diversity of the Undergraduate Student Body:

Institution, Fall 2001	Full-Time	Part-Time	> Age 24
YSU	79%	21%	27%
University Main Campuses, Statewide	81%	19%	18%

Institution, Fall 2001	Asian/Pacific Island	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
YSU	1%	9%	2%

University Main Campuses, Statewide	2%	10%	2%
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Diversity figures in the *Performance Report* are based on full-time versus part-time student status, racial/ethnic diversity, and the number of high school students attending college through Ohio's Postsecondary Enrollment Option.

In fall 2001, YSU had a slightly larger percentage of part-time undergraduate students (21% compared to the state main-campus average of 19%), and a larger percentage of students older than age 24 (27% compared to the state main-campus average of 18%) than did other main campuses in Ohio.

The racial/ethnic diversity of students at YSU was similar to that at other state-assisted university main campuses in Ohio. In fall 2001, the 1% Asian/Pacific Island population at YSU was one percent below the 2% average for main campuses. The 9% Black/non-Hispanic population at YSU was one percent below the 10% average for main campuses. The 2% Hispanic population at YSU was equal to the state average.

The Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) is a program through which high school students can take some college courses while still in high school. High school students who participated in the PSEO program at YSU in fall 2000 earned a slightly higher grade point average than did PSEO students on other university main campuses, and a slightly higher percentage of YSU's PSEO students were enrolled in Ohio colleges or universities the following fall term:

High School Students Attending College Through PSEO Program	Average College GPA Fall 2000	% Attending Ohio Colleges or Continuing PSEO in Fall 2001
YSU	3.5	72%
University Main Campuses, Statewide	3.3	70%

7. Employment Outcomes 6 Months Following Graduation, 1998-2001:

Institution	Known In-State Employment	Known In-State Employment or Continuing School
Associate Degree:		
YSU	82%	91%
University Main Campuses, Statewide	78%	89%
Baccalaureate Degree:		
YSU	71%	78%
State-assisted Colleges and Universities Statewide	68%	75%

For the 4-year period from 1998-2001, 82% of YSU's associate-degree graduates had found in-state employment within 6 months of graduation, compared to the state average of 78%. If one adds to that percentage the graduates known to have continued going to school in Ohio, the percentage jumps to 91%, compared to the state average of 89%.

During the same period, 71% of YSU's baccalaureate-degree graduates had found in-state employment within 6 months of graduation, compared to the state average of 68%; and 78% were either employed or attending school in-state, compared to the state average of 75%.

YSU's figures are especially high, given that YSU is located only a few miles from the Pennsylvania border, and graduates employed or continuing school in Pennsylvania are not counted in these percentages. Nor are small business owners or employees of certain government agencies.

8. Scores on State and National Exams:

In another indicator of employability, YSU students in several health professions scored exceptionally well on licensing exams on their first attempt:

Three-Year, First-Time Pass Rates (1999-2000)

Institution	Dental Hygienist National Boards	EMT-Basic State Exam	EMT-Paramedic State Exam
YSU	95%	84%	94%
State Average	92%	76%	66%

YSU is proactively taking steps to address the areas in which students did not perform as well as their counterparts at some other state institutions. For instance, 84% of YSU students taking the PRAXIS exam for teaching fields passed the exams, compared to the statewide average of 89% among public 4-year institutions. YSU is exploring the stage at which students at peer institutions take the PRAXIS exams and looking at possible curricular and co-curricular changes to improve test scores. The pass rate at Cleveland State University and the University of Akron was also 84%.

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Online Report: <http://www.regents.state.oh.us/perfrpt/2002index.html>