**Persistence & Retention**

This section of the Outcomes Report focuses on the students who start college and continue on, as well as the students who start at a particular institution and stay there throughout their college tenure.

* [2nd Semester Persistence](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/ReportingDocumentation/SitePages/Persistence-%26-Retention.aspx#2nd-semester-persistence)
* [3rd Semester Persistence](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/ReportingDocumentation/SitePages/Persistence-%26-Retention.aspx#3rd-semester-persistence)
* [College Retention & Transfers](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/ReportingDocumentation/SitePages/Persistence-%26-Retention.aspx#college-retention-transfers%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B)

**2nd Semester Persistence**

* **Definition**: enrolled fall and persisted the following spring.
  + 2nd semester persistence data is not available for “Access Only” students
  + The data when captured in Salesforce for Success program students, reflects Bottom Line’s data, or National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)[[6]](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/ReportingDocumentation/SitePages/Persistence-%26-Retention.aspx#6-historically%2c-bottom-line%E2%80%99s-calculation-of-2nd-and-3rd-semester-persistence-using-data-obtained-from-nsc-has-not-accounted-for) only when Bottom Line data is not available.
    - A student is counted under the “Persisted” category if their Salesforce record shows that both their Fall and Spring Credits Attempted are greater than 0.
    - A student is counted under the “Did Not Persist” category if either their Fall or Spring Credits Attempted equal 0.

**[6] Historically, Bottom Line’s calculation of 2nd and 3rd semester persistence using data obtained from NSC has not accounted for “enrollment status”. In other words: if a NSC record exists for the semesters in question -regardless of the enrollment status reported in said record- the student was reported as having persisted. We have identified this as a reporting inaccuracy that potentially affects between 2 and 20 records per cohort going back at least to 2005.**

**3rd Semester Persistence**

* **Definition**: enrolled fall and persisted the following fall.
  + 3rd semester persistence data is not available for “Access Only” students
  + The data when captured in Salesforce for Success program students, reflects Bottom Line’s data, or National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)[[7]](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/ReportingDocumentation/SitePages/Persistence-%26-Retention.aspx#%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B-7-historically%2c-bottom-line%E2%80%99s-calculation-of-2nd-and-3rd-semester-persistence-using-data-obtained-from-nsc-has-not-accou) only when Bottom Line data is not available.
    - A student is counted under the “Persisted” category if their Salesforce record shows that both their Year 1 Fall and Spring Credits Attempted are greater than 0 and Year 2 Fall Credits Attempted is greater than 0
    - A student is counted under the “Did Not Persist” category if either their Year 1 Fall or Spring Credits Attempted equal 0, or if their Year 2 Fall Credits Attempted equals 0
* **Note:**Students do **not** count as “Persisted” if they did not enroll until the Spring semester (I.e., if they do not begin college in the fall immediately following high school graduation)[[8]](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/ReportingDocumentation/SitePages/Persistence-%26-Retention.aspx#8-this-is-bottom-line%E2%80%99s-historic-definition-of-3rd-semester-persistence)

**​​​​​​​[7] Historically, Bottom Line’s calculation of 2nd and 3rd semester persistence using data obtained from NSC has not accounted for “enrollment status”. In other words: if a NSC record exists for the semesters in question -regardless of the enrollment status reported in said record- the student was reported as having persisted. We have identified this as a reporting inaccuracy that potentially affects between 2 and 20 records per cohort going back at least to 2005.**

**[8] This is Bottom Line’s historic definition of 3rd Semester Persistence**

**College Retention & Transfers​​​​**

* **Definition**: Analysis on colleges’ retention numbers. This analysis aims to show any potential college transfers[[9]](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/ReportingDocumentation/SitePages/Persistence-%26-Retention.aspx#9-there-are-some-limitations-to-this-analysis-data-is-not-available-for-all-cohorts-because-it-was-not-being-warehoused-until-20) broken down by school, as well as by cohort.
  + Note: this analysis was designed to aid the New York region in identifying potential college transfers between two Partner College systems (SUNY & CUNY). This analysis can be adapted to reflect the needs of the Massachusetts and Illinois regions pending approval from the appropriate Data Governance group(s)

**[9] There are some limitations to this analysis; Data is not available for all cohorts because it was not being warehoused until 2019.  This analysis uses “Year 1 Fall College Attending” as a proxy for the first college the student might have attended, and “Last or Most Recent College Attended” as a proxy for their current college. The “Last or Most Recent College Attended” field only gets updated once a year at the end of the academic year. Therefore, no mid-semester changes are captured which may leave some intermediate transfers out of the analysis.**