

## FIRST-TIME STUDENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Enrollment and academic trends of first-time students show the following.

- In 2006, 37.5% of new freshmen and transfer students attended summer Orientation sessions, and 40.1% of accepted students enrolled at Coastal Carolina University.
- Applications from new students increased by 55% between fall 2002 and fall 2006. New student who were accepted to the University increased by 47% between fall 2002 and fall 2006. New students who enrolled increased by 25% between fall 2002 and fall 2006.
- Between fall 2002 and fall 2006, the average total SAT score among new Coastal freshmen increased by 3 points and exceeded the average scores for high school students in South Carolina and the nation (the writing test is not included in total SAT scores). The average ACT composite score for Coastal freshmen was on par with that of the nation and one point above the state average score for the Fall 2006 cohort.
- The average high school GPA for Coastal freshmen increased, from 3.28 for the Fall 2002 cohort to 3.32 for the Fall 2006 cohort. Coastal freshmen's average high school GPAs have kept pace with those of freshmen throughout the nation but were lower than those of South Carolina freshmen.
- The percentage of new freshmen meeting the high school course prerequisites requirement was 94.5% in 2006.
- The freshman profile for the Fall 2002 through Fall 2006 cohorts shows the following. The number of new freshmen continues to grow. In fall 2006, there were 1,468 new freshmen, an increase of 37% over fall 2002. Percentages of women and men were about even although, in general, percentages of women were slightly higher than those of men. At least 85% of first-time full-time freshmen were White, non-Hispanic. The second largest group was Black, non-Hispanic, with almost 10% of first-time full-time freshmen in the Fall 2006 cohort. Almost 99% of first-time full-time freshmen were less than 20 years of age. A little more than half of new freshmen in the Fall 2006 cohort were from outside South Carolina. The highest percentage of in-state freshmen was from Horry County, with 38% of the in-state Fall 2006 cohort from that county.

- “Popular” academic majors among first-time full-time freshmen between fall 2002 and fall 2006 were Management (38%-57% of Wall College of Business Administration majors), Early Childhood Education (17%-28% of Spadoni College of Education majors), Political Science (20%-24% of Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts majors), and Marine Science (36%-48% of College of Natural and Applied Science majors). The percentage of Undeclared freshmen was 14% of the Fall 2006 cohort.
- The percentage of first-time full-time freshmen earning at least a 3.00 Coastal grade point average after one semester was close to 50% for the Fall 2002 through Fall 2006 cohorts.
- One-year retention of first-time full-time freshmen was 67.4% for the Fall 2005 cohort, an increase over the percentage for the Fall 2004 cohort. One-semester retention of first-time full-time freshmen was almost 88% for the Fall 2005 cohort, an increase over the percentage for the Fall 2004 cohort. Retention rates for first-time full-time ethnic minority freshmen have generally been higher than those of all first-time full-time freshmen. Retention of resident and non-resident first-time full-time freshmen has been even. Not surprisingly, retention is higher among students who earn strong grade point averages during their first semester at Coastal.
- Six-year graduation rates increased from 30.0% for the Fall 1993 cohort to almost 43% for the Fall 2000 cohort.
- Of the total adjusted Fall 1997 cohort of 826 freshmen: 302, or 37%, graduated within six years from Coastal Carolina University; 25, or 3%, were still enrolled at Coastal after the sixth year; 111, or 13%, transferred to another institution of higher education and graduated within six years; 137, or 17%, transferred and were still enrolled at another institution of higher education after the sixth year; and 251, or 30%, left Coastal and did not transfer to or graduate from another higher education institution. A higher percentage of out-of-state freshmen graduated from Coastal, transferred, or transferred and graduated from another higher education institution. A higher percentage of in-state freshmen left Coastal and did not transfer to another higher education institution. Total SAT scores were substantially higher for groups that graduated within six years than for groups that did not. Composite ACT scores were relatively the same for all groups, as were average high school GPAs. Average cumulative GPAs during the last semester at Coastal were higher for groups that graduated than for groups that did not. The average academic hours earned for students who left Coastal were between 30 and 39 hours, the highest amount of hours being among students who left Coastal and did not transfer.

- Of the total adjusted Fall 1998 cohort of 855 freshmen: 341, or 40%, graduated within six years from Coastal Carolina University; 38, or 4%, were still enrolled at Coastal after the sixth year; 125, or 15%, transferred to another institution of higher education and graduated within six years; 195, or 23%, transferred and were still enrolled at another institution of higher education after the sixth year; and 156, or 18%, left Coastal and did not transfer to or graduate from another higher education institution. A higher percentage of out-of-state freshmen graduated from Coastal or transferred to another higher education institution. A higher percentage of in-state freshmen transferred to another higher education institution and graduated or left Coastal and did not transfer. Total SAT scores were substantially higher for the group that graduated from Coastal than for groups that left Coastal. Composite ACT scores and average high school GPAs were relatively the same for all groups. The average cumulative GPA during the last semester at Coastal was higher for Coastal graduates than for the other groups. The average academic hours earned for students who left Coastal were between 29 and 42 hours, the highest amount of hours being among students who left Coastal and did not transfer.
- Of the total adjusted Fall 1999 cohort of 757 freshmen: 327, or 43%, graduated within six years from Coastal Carolina University; 26, or 3%, were still enrolled at Coastal after the sixth year; 131, or 17%, transferred to another institution of higher education and graduated within six years; 167, or 22%, transferred and were still enrolled at another institution of higher education after the sixth year; and 106, or 14%, left Coastal and did not transfer to or graduate from another higher education institution. A higher percentage of out-of-state freshmen graduated from Coastal or transferred to another higher education institution and graduated. A higher percentage of in-state freshmen transferred to another higher education institution and did not graduate or left Coastal and did not transfer. Total SAT scores were substantially higher for the group that graduated from Coastal than for groups that left Coastal. Composite ACT scores and average high school GPAs were relatively the same for all groups. The average cumulative GPA during the last semester at Coastal was higher for Coastal graduates than for the other groups. The average academic hours earned for students who left Coastal were between 31 and 46 hours, the highest amount of hours being among students who left Coastal and did not transfer.