

HSS Student Retention Task Force

Three main premises:

- Faculty are already doing good work, and we should share knowledge
- Everyone wants to do the right thing, and the easier we can make doing the right thing, the more people are going to be willing and able to adopt helpful practices
- By sharing knowledge, we can celebrate the great things already being done

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Helpful Practices for Supporting Students In and Out of the Classroom

Below are easy to implement strategies you can use to help support and retain students. We have categorized opportunities below based on the time and effort required, from simple additions to more labor intensive options. Not all of these suggestions will work for every instructor or every classroom situation, and we know many of you are already doing several of these things, but we hope you'll add a couple more of these practices to your repertoire!

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Classroom culture

Technique	Quick intervention	Individualization	Invest in each student
Emphasize that students belong at UNC	On the first day of class, tell students that they belong here and that you're here to support them. Here's some sample text for ideas of what to say on your first day of class.	Consider adding visuals to go with your "You Belong Here" speech. Check out this great Sherril Montano post together!	Remind students regularly that they belong at UNC and that you are always there to help them. If you are comfortable, share details that make it easier to connect. Share your experiences as an undergrad, including challenges and obstacles that you overcame.
	Example: "Just a quick reminder that my office hours are [at this time]. This is time that I set aside to talk with students about all sorts of things. I'd love to talk with you about [discipline] generally, potential career options, or answer any questions about class. It's always easiest to get caught up early, so any time you have questions, please stop by! I look forward to talking with you!"		Add 1-on-1s with each student during a collaborative project during class time. These could be as simple as 5-minute meetings with each student during class time to check-in. End the conversation with the offer to expand the discussion during office hours now that you've hopefully reduced the intimidation.
	Best, Prof. XXXX		

HSS Student Retention Task Force

This course **designed** for you to

Learning Approach:



You won't grasp or **remember** everything immediately, and that's perfectly normal.

You belong here

Asking for **help** is a sign of strength; I encourage it.

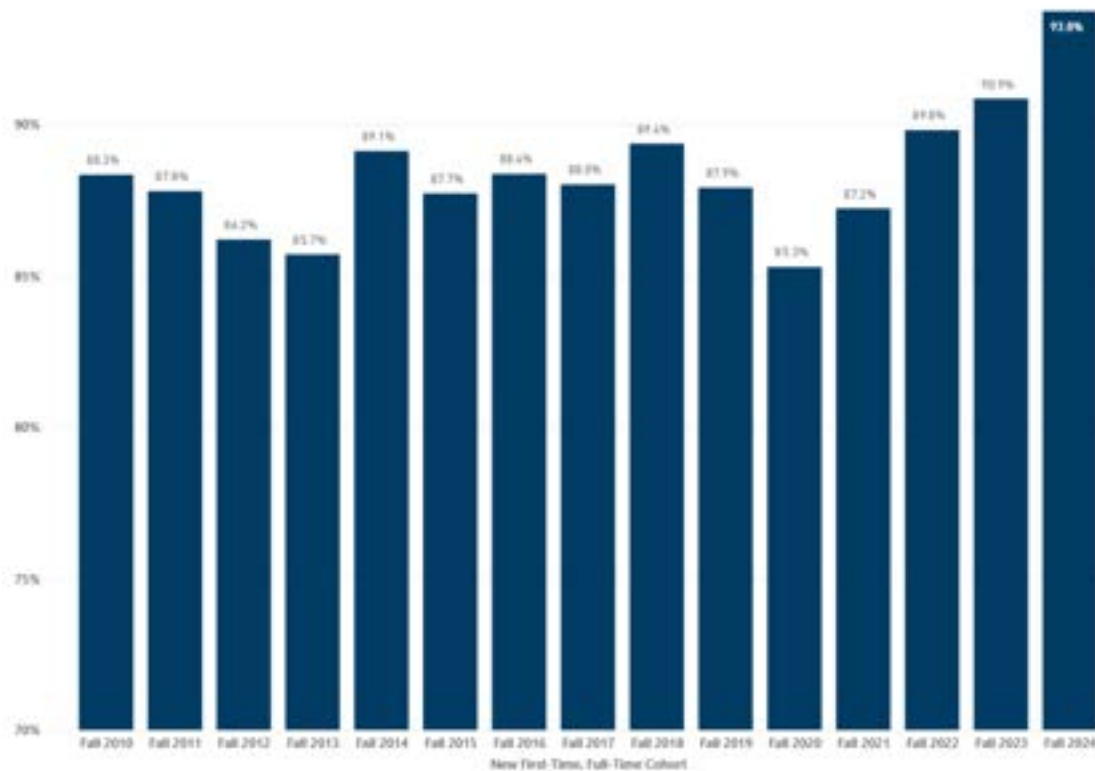
Assignments are **tailored** to aid in learning, not just busywork.

I desire your best work, but I **understand** perfection isn't always attainable.

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HSS Fall-to-Spring retention rates

Fall-to-Spring Retention Rate by New First-Time, Full-Time Cohort



Fall-to-Spring retention rates for all UNC students were 90.5%

HSS Student Retention Task Force

HSS retention results!



Kyle Britney



Reply



Reply all



Forward



To: @Tafuya, Lisa; @Nichols, Lisa; @Gentis, Joli; @Burkhart, Annie; @Smith, Jordan; @An, Soyeong; @Forthun, Ben; @Hervey, Stacey; +4 others

Fri 2/21/2025 11:55 AM



Hi everyone,

I wanted to share the news that the **HSS Fall-to-Spring retention numbers look incredible!** We retained 93.8% of our students from Fall-to-Spring. This is 2.9% higher than we've seen in HSS since at least 2010 (and possibly ever). Our college had the highest Fall-to-Spring retention rates at UNC (the average was 90.5%). I know that I've sent a lot of emails to you from the HSS Student Retention Task Force over the last year encouraging a variety of retention strategies (most of which can be found in our [Helpful Practices for Supporting Students In and Out of the Classroom](#) guide). I'm not sure if these numbers are partially due to your trying new strategies or just continuing the great work you've already been doing for years, but please keep up the good work! Also, special shout out to the SSRC and all of the staff who are invaluable in our retention efforts!

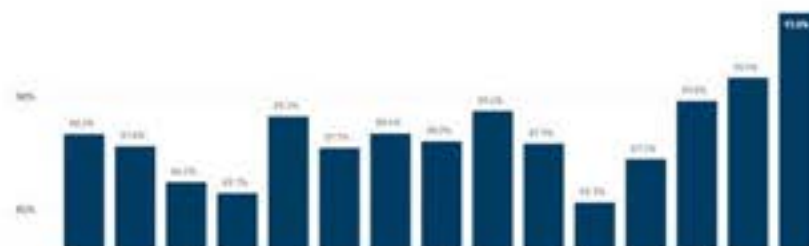
We have some great faculty and staff in HSS and we have a lot to be proud of even as we navigate challenging times.

Best,

Britney and the HSS Student Retention Task Force (Joseph Kusluch, Shawn Montano, Baillie Peterson, Marc Santos, Tracey Sedinger, Tara Wood, Brian Iannaccione, Kelly Langley Cook, and Matt Seymour)

Figure 1. HSS Fall-to-Spring retention rates

Fall-to-Spring Retention Rate by New First-Time, Full-Time Cohort





UNC Future Teacher Conference

- “A Day in the Life” of an Educator Prep student conference is geared toward high school and community college students
- Conference began in 2015 with 35 students
- Over 500 attendees
- Collaborative effort between CEBS, Admissions, Marketing, Events, and Foundations





The Day

- Ballroom: keynote
- McKee Hall: 35
Workshop sessions by
faculty, graduate
students, and local
teachers
- Holmes: Lunch
- Campus Commons:
Informational Fair and
Student Panel Session





Highlights

- Free Conference
- Past Keynotes: Steve Spangler, Michael Bennett, Governor Polis, Colorado Teachers of the Year
- 3 \$1000 scholarships given
- Over 60 UNC student volunteers
- 617 registrants exceeding goal by 23%
- Yield rate: 57%

