# Retention Rates

## Description

Carolina College of Biblical Studies (CCBS) serves an adult, open-enrollment student population. Most students are older (average age 45), attend part-time, and are often first-generation, Pell-eligible, or returning to complete a degree. Because traditional "first-time, full-time freshman" metrics do not reflect our student body, CCBS evaluates persistence using fall-to-fall retention for all degree-seeking students (undergraduate and graduate), excluding dual-enrollment and certificate students.

## Methodology

Retention is evaluated using Populi's Retention Report, which categorizes students as Retained, Graduated, Lost, or Excused. The CCBS Retention Rate is calculated as: Retention Rate = 100% – % Lost.

## Retention Data (Fall-to-Fall)

| Year | Cohort Size | % Retained | % Graduated | % Lost | % Excused | Retention Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2021–2022 | 147 | 51% | 25% | 24% | 0% | 76% |
| 2022–2023 | 147 | 55% | 24% | 20% | 1% | 80% |
| 2023–2024 | 176 | 61% | 20% | 19% | 0% | 81% |
| 2024-2025 | 198 | 54% | 23% | 22% | 1% | 78% |
| 2025-2026 | 197 | 56% | 19% | 24% | 1% | 76% |
| **5-Year Avg** | **156.4** | **54.4%** | **23.4%** | **22%** | **0.2%** | **78.2%** |

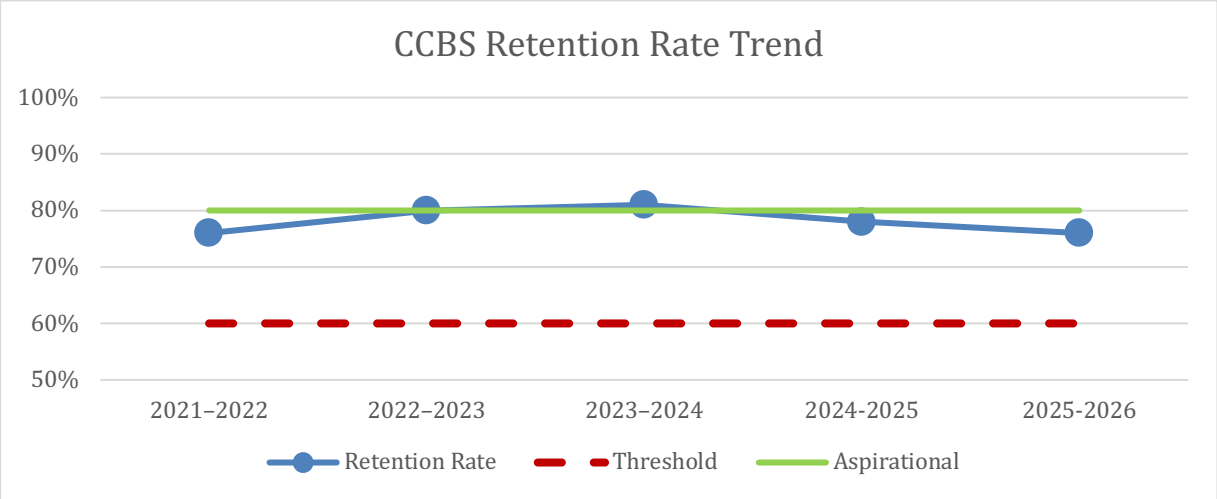
## Summary

CCBS has exceeded its retention threshold of 60% for five consecutive years and met or surpassed its 80% aspirational goal in two of the past five years. The five-year average retention rate of 78.2% reflects strong student persistence within an adult, part-time, open-enrollment population.

**Current Retention**: 76%

**5-Year Average**: 78.2%

**Threshold**: 60%
**Aspirational Goal**: 80%

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