3.4. Some majors are too small to give reliable retention information. There is a great deal of variability both across and within the three Schools, as well as across cohort years. Retention rates are monitored with the goal of assessing trends and identifying factors that impede or enhance retention in various programs. While first-year retention was lowest for undeclared students for the Fall 2005 freshman cohort (76%), this was not true for subsequent cohorts (82% for Fall 2006 and Fall 2007 cohorts).

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Table 3.4a - First-Time Freshman Retention & Graduation Rates by Original Major: Fall 2005 Cohort					
Fall 2005 Cohort	Fall 2005 Enrollment	Year 1 Retention %	Year 2 Retention %	Year 3 Retention %	3-Year Graduation %
Undeclared	123	75.6%	67.5%	63.4%	1.6%
College One	**123**	**75.6%**	**67.5%**	**63.4%**	**1.6%**
Bioengineering	36	75.0%	61.1%	58.3%	0.0%
Computer Science & Engineering	41	75.6%	65.9%	61.0%	0.0%
Environmental Engineering	2	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Undeclared Engineering	36	86.1%	75.0%	69.4%	0.0%
Engineering	**115**	**79.1%**	**67.8%**	**63.5%**	**0.0%**
Biological Sciences	145	89.0%	72.4%	67.6%	0.7%
Earth Systems Science	7	85.7%	71.4%	57.1%	0.0%
Human Biology	44	72.7%	56.8%	54.5%	0.0%
Undeclared Natural Sciences	37	83.8%	73.0%	64.9%	0.0%
Natural Sciences	**233**	**85.0%**	**69.5%**	**64.4%**	**0.7%**
Management	63	81.0%	73.0%	66.7%	6.3%
SBCS - Economics Emphasis	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
SBCS - Psychology Emphasis	5	80.0%	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Social and Cognitive Science	71	84.5%	64.8%	60.6%	1.4%
World Cultures & History	25	92.0%	68.0%	64.0%	0.0%
Undeclared Soc Sci, Human, Art	70	85.7%	67.1%	62.9%	1.4%
Social Sciences, Humanities & Art	**235**	**84.7%**	**67.7%**	**62.6%**	**2.6%**
Total	**706**	**82.3%**	**68.3%**	**63.5%**	**1.3%**

Note: Students are tracked according to their major upon entering UC Merced.
Note: Students in schools with undeclared majors have not yet selected a specific major

Prepared by Institutional Planning & Analysis