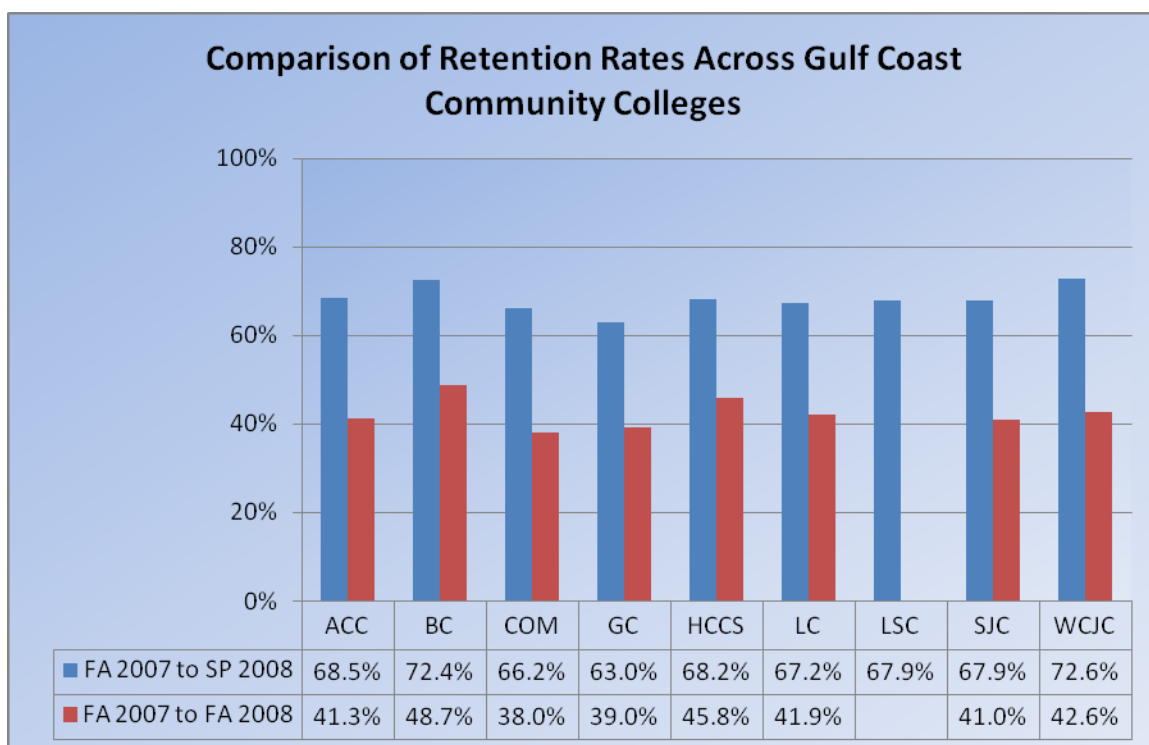


## Student Retention: A Comparison of Across Gulf Coast Community Colleges

**Purpose:** To examine how student retention/persistence at College of the Mainland compares to other community college’s in the Gulf Coast Region.

**Definitions:**

- **Fall to Spring Retention**, also referred to as **student persistence**, is the percentage of students who were enrolled in the fall semester and returned the following spring semester.
- **Fall to Fall Retention** is the percentage of students who were enrolled in the fall semester that returned the following fall semester. Students who have graduated with a degree or certificate are excluded.



**Findings:**

- With a fall to spring retention rate of 66.2%, COM has one of the lowest rates across the Gulf Coast Region. Only Galveston College is lower with a rate of 63%. Both Brazosport College and Wharton County Junior College have the highest rates, over 72%.
- COM’s fall to fall retention rate of 38% is the lowest across the region. Brazosport College has the highest rate at 48.7%.

Source: Individual Institution Files

