Complete College America defines “Retention” as the percent of first time full time degree or certificate seeking community college students who are retained (still enrolled, graduated, and/or transferred) in the following spring and fall semesters. ICCB provides data to the CCA for all community colleges in Illinois and provides an Illinois comparison group of community colleges. Lake Land’s comparison group includes IL Eastern CC, Illinois Valley, Kankakee, Lewis and Clark, John Logan, and McHenry. These findings reveal the retention rates for the fall 2007 cohort of first time full time degree or certificate seeking students.

- For all colleges in the comparison group, the retention rate for spring 2008 was 76% or more. However, as time progresses the retention rate decreases. Lake Land had the lowest retention rate for spring 2008 at 76.1%.
- By fall 2008, the retention rate ranges between 56.7% (Lewis & Clark) to 73.2% (McHenry) with Lake Land’s rate coming in at 64% and the state average at 65.1%.
- At the end of four years (spring 2011), the retention rate ranges between 55% (Lewis & Clark) and 70.7% (Illinois Eastern) across all of the colleges. At this point, Illinois Eastern, McHenry and Kankakee have the highest retention rates (70.7%, 63.5%, and 59.5% respectively). At this point, the retention rate for Lake Land students is 58.6% which is right at the state average for all community colleges (59%).
- First time full time DOC students are included in the retention rate calculations.