Complete College America defines “Retention” as the percent of first time part 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 part time degree or certificate seeking students.

- For all colleges in the comparison group, the retention rate for spring 2008 was 53.6% or more. However, as time progresses the retention rate decreases.
- By fall 2008, the retention rate ranges between 34.7% (Illinois Eastern) to 51.2% (John Logan). The average retention rate for all community colleges by this point is 42.7%. Lake Land’s retention rate (40.4%) for part time students at this point falls below the state average.
- At the end of four years (spring 2011), the retention rate ranges between 35.5% and 45.7% across all of the colleges. At this point McHenry, Illinois Valley, John Logan, and Kankakee have the highest retention rates (45.7%, 40.5%, 40.3%, and 40% respectively). The retention rate for Lake Land students is the lowest in the comparison group at 35.5% and falls well below the state average of 40.2%.
- First time part time DOC students are included in the retention rate calculations.