

Meharry Medical College Attrition Rates

Each of the column names related to student cohort data is defined as follows:

Year of Entry: The academic year when a group or cohort of students first enrolls.

Class Size: The total number of students enrolled in a particular cohort year.

Cumulative Attrition Rate: The total percentage of students from the original cohort who have left the institution without graduating, measured at a specific time.

Definition of Attrition: The percentage of a specific cohort (e.g., students entering in a particular year) who do not complete the program within the expected time frame.

Formula:

Cohort Attrition Rate

=
$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of students from the cohort who did not complete the program}}{\text{Total number of students in the original cohort}} \right) \times 100$$

Use Case:

% Dismissal: The percentage of students from the original cohort who were academically dismissed or expelled.

% Withdrawal: The percentage of students from the original cohort who voluntarily withdrew from the institution.

% Leave of Absence: The percentage of students from the original cohort who temporarily suspended their studies with institutional approval and may return.

Attrition patterns reveal that the 2020 cohort faced unique challenges, with the highest combined attrition rate (15%) distributed across dismissals (6%), withdrawals (4%), and leaves of absence (5%). This diversified attrition pattern suggests multiple factors were affecting student persistence. In contrast, recent cohorts (2022-2024) exhibit promising trends with minimal or zero attrition, although they are still in their early stages of the program.

Attrition Rates for the School of Medicine

Year of Entry	Class Size	Attrition Rate							
		Dismissal		Withdrawal		Leave of Absence		Total	
		%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
2013	105	3%	3	4%	4	0%	0	7%	7
2014	105	2%	2	7%	7	0%	0	9%	9
2015	105	5%	5	3%	3	2%	2	10%	10
2016	108	6%	6	8%	9	0%	0	14%	15
2017	115	1%	1	3%	3	2%	2	6%	6
2018	114	1%	1	3%	3	2%	2	6%	6
2019	115	4%	5	0%	0	0%	0	4%	5
2020	114	6%	7	4%	5	5%	6	15%	18
2021	115	4%	5	1%	1	5%	6	10%	12
2022	115	0%	0	1%	1	1%	1	2%	2
2023	116	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2024	112	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0

Attrition Rates for the School of Medicine

Year of Entry	Class Size	Attrition Rate							
		Dismissal		Withdrawal		Leave of Absence		Total	
		%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
2013	105	3%	3	4%	4	0%	0	7%	7
2014	105	2%	2	7%	7	0%	0	9%	9
2015	105	5%	5	3%	3	2%	2	10%	10
2016	108	6%	6	8%	9	0%	0	14%	15
2017	115	1%	1	3%	3	2%	2	6%	6
2018	114	1%	1	3%	3	2%	2	6%	6
2019	115	4%	5	0%	0	0%	0	4%	5
2020	114	6%	7	4%	5	5%	6	15%	18
2021	115	4%	5	1%	1	5%	6	10%	12
2022	115	0%	0	1%	1	1%	1	2%	2
2023	116	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2024	112	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0

**Source: Argo System and Office of Admissions and Records
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, 4/21/2025**

Attrition Rates:

Low Attrition Overall:

The School of Dentistry maintains low attrition rates, often at 0% or close to it, indicating strong retention and effective student support mechanisms.

Specific Annual Variations:

For certain years, such as 2017 and 2020, there were slight upticks in leave of absence, which slightly increased the total attrition rate to 5% and 7%, respectively.

These variations may reveal specific external or internal challenges needing further exploration.

Recent Year Observations:

From 2022 onwards, attrition rates are notably low to nonexistent, suggesting improved retention strategies or adaptive measures post-pandemic impacts.

Attrition Rates for the School of Dentistry

Year of Entry	Class Size	Attrition Rate							
		Dismissal		Withdrawal		Leave of Absence		Total	
		%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
2013	59	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2014	60	0%	0	0%	0	3%	2	3%	2
2015	60	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	2%	1
2016	61	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2017	60	3%	2	2%	1	0%	0	5%	3
2018	62	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2019	63	2%	1	0%	0	3%	2	5%	3
2020	61	2%	1	0%	0	5%	3	7%	4
2021	60	0%	0	0%	0	3%	2	3%	2
2022	79	1%	1	0%	0	0%	0	1%	1
2023	77	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2024	75	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0

**Source: Argo System and Office of Admissions and Records
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, 4/21/2025**

Attrition Rates:

Low Attrition Levels:

Attrition rates have remained low throughout the years, with no significant spikes. The highest total attrition was 5% in the 2014 and 2019 cohorts.

Minor Variability:

Occasional minor increases in attrition relate primarily to withdrawals rather than dismissals or leaves of absence, pointing to external factors likely influencing students' decisions.

Recent Improvements:

For the most recent cohorts (2022 and 2024), attrition rates are either 0% or minimal, highlighting effective retention strategies and student support mechanisms.

Overall Insights:

Program Effectiveness:

The Master's Program in Health Sciences effectively graduates many students within planned timelines. Any changes or expansions to the curriculum or support systems appear to be effectively managed.

Managing Growth:

The ability to maintain high graduation rates amidst growing class sizes indicates a robust program infrastructure capable of supporting a larger student body without compromising outcomes.

Areas for Monitoring:

While attrition is low, focused attention should be given to the reasons for withdrawals to ensure continued improvement. Understanding and addressing such areas can further enhance student experience and retention.

Attrition Rates for the Master's Program of Health Sciences

Year of Entry	Class Size	Attrition Rate							
		Dismissal		Withdrawal		Leave of Absence		Total	
		%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
2013	42	0%	0	2%	1	0%	0	2%	1
2014	39	0%	0	5%	2	0%	0	5%	2
2015	55	4%	2	0%	0	0%	0	4%	2
2016	47	0%	0	2%	1	2%	1	4%	2
2017	40	0%	0	3%	1	0%	0	3%	1
2018	46	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2019	91	1%	1	1%	1	0%	0	2%	2
2020	128	1%	1	0%	0	0%	0	1%	1
2021	125	1%	1	1%	1	0%	0	2%	2
2022	99	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2023	168	0%	0	1%	2	1%	2	2%	4
2024	190	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0

**Source: Argo System and Office of Admissions and Records
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, 4/21/2025**

Attrition Rates:

Generally Low Attrition Rates:

The program demonstrates low attrition across most cohorts, with several years' total attrition being 0% (notably 2014, 2018, 2022, 2023, and 2024).

Occasional spikes, such as in 2015 (5%) and 2021 (17%), indicate certain years faced challenges that affected student retention.

Focus on Withdrawal Reasons:

The 2017 cohort had a significant 5% attrition rate, primarily due to withdrawal without any dismissals. This suggests that while student support may have been sufficient for retention in some years, further analysis could help understand dropout factors.

Attrition Rates for the Master's Program of Public Health

Year of Entry	Class Size	Attrition Rate							
		Dismissal		Withdrawal		Leave of Absence		Total	
		%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
2013	14	0%	0	7%	1	7%	1	14%	2
2014	21	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2015	20	5%	4	0%	0	0%	0	5%	4
2016	22	4%	1	0%	0	0%	0	4%	1
2017	19	5%	1	0%	0	0%	0	5%	1
2018	18	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2019	15	0%	0	0%	0	13%	2	13%	2
2020	26	0%	0	0%	0	4%	1	4%	1
2021	12	0%	0	0%	0	17%	2	17%	2
2022	13	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2023	17	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2024	10	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0

**Source: Argo System and Office of Admissions and Records
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, 4/21/2025**

Attrition Rates:

Low Attrition Levels:

The attrition rates are relatively low, especially in most cohorts. Several years show 0% attrition (e.g., 2014, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024), indicating the effectiveness of retention strategies during those years.

Although the 2013 cohort saw a 22% attrition rate primarily due to withdrawals, this was an outlier rather than a trend.

Specific Cohorts of Concern:

The 2015 cohort faced a notable attrition rate of 33%, primarily due to students leaving without completing their program, which aligns with their low graduation rates.

The 2022 cohort experienced a 22% attrition rate, with a distribution of dismissals and withdrawals. This may highlight issues that need to be addressed to improve retention.

Strong Retention in Recent Years:

With zero attrition in 2023 and 2024, these cohorts show a clear improvement in student retention, suggesting refined support mechanisms or program adjustments that may be beneficial.

Attrition Rates for PhD Program

Year of Entry	Class Size	Attrition Rate							
		Dismissal		Withdrawal		Leave of Absence		Total	
		%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
2013	9	0%	0	22%	2	0%	0	22%	2
2014	6	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2015	6	0%	0	0%	0	33%	2	33%	2
2016	8	0%	0	0%	0	13%	1	13%	1
2017	7	0%	0	0%	0	14%	1	14%	1
2018	6	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2019	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2020	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2021	5	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2022	9	11%	1	11%	1	11%	1	22%	2
2023	12	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
2024	10	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0

**Source: Argo System and Office of Admissions and Records
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, 4/21/2025**

Attrition Rates:

Low Attrition Levels:

Attrition rates across the cohorts are commendably low, with the majority of students being retained. The 2021 and 2024 cohorts show 0% attrition, suggesting effective retention strategies and student support.

The 2022 cohort had a slight attrition rate of 5% due to withdrawals, but overall, this is a positive sign that most students can remain in the program.

Strong Retention Trends:

The 2023 cohort experienced only 3% total attrition, indicating effective management of student needs and the provision of supportive systems. This is encouraging given the increasing class sizes.

The consistent zero attrition rates in 2021 and 2024 highlight the program's strong retention capabilities, making a strong case for its effectiveness.

Attrition Rates

General Insights:

Attrition rates across all programs are generally low, highlighting effective retention strategies. However, some cohorts experience significant variation.

Specific Findings:

School of Medicine: Attrition rates varied, with spikes in specific years (such as through dismissals and withdrawals), but recent years (2023 and 2024) have shown zero attrition.

School of Dentistry: Maintains very low attrition rates, often at 0%, reflecting strong student support systems. Some years saw minor increases due to withdrawals, but overall retention remains robust.

Master's Program in Health Sciences: Overall, attrition is low, with several cohorts reaching zero attrition rates. Minor spikes in specific years (such as 2015 and 2021) indicate times of greater student challenges but reinforce the program's efficacy.

SACS Program: Consistently low attrition rates reflect the effective management of student needs, with 0% attrition in recent years. Minor withdrawals reported in the 2022 cohort illustrate manageable retention challenges.

Overall Trends and Considerations

Sustaining Improvement: Ongoing adaptation and monitoring of retention strategies, considering the potential for increasing class sizes and addressing varied student needs, will be essential to bolster overall student success and program effectiveness.

