Retention is a complicated issue and there are many factors involved. One of our efforts that we can do as a department is to give our students a good experience in their college career. Many activities were carried out during the past academic year to give our students good experiences in learning, research, seminars, student activities, etc. Listed below are the on-going activities and initiatives conducted by the Computer Science Department in the student retention effort.

- Annual welcoming party for new CS students – we hold such welcoming function every fall semester where new CS students meet with all the CS faculty members, staff, and the student representatives.
- Department website is constantly being updated with the latest information. A new page called “News and Events” has been implemented. Most of the forms (e.g., curriculum control sheet, lab equipment malfunction report form, CS 215 proficiency exam application form, MSDN alliance application form, etc.) are now available on the web. All important information for our students is available on our department website.
- The department chairperson uses the Student Query Pad feature in WPConnect to connect with all the CS majors for important departmental news and job/internship opportunities whenever they are available.
- Four different types of seminar are conducted throughout the academic year to enrich the intellectual pursuit of the CS students. The four types of seminar are:
  - Computer Science Colloquium
  - ACM/UPE Lecture Series (Series #1 in fall and Series #2 in spring)
  - Special Seminar (e.g., Cisco conducted an internship workshop in fall 2008)
  - Computer Science Student Seminar Series – this is student seminar as a result of faculty/student research, independent study, or internship experience
- Tutoring program – every semester we hire about 4 or 5 excellent junior or senior students as tutors/mentors for several 200 and 300 level courses.
- Lab assistance program – we have about 3 or 4 students each semester who joined the Department Lab Director to maintain all the servers and PCs in our department. They also conduct certain networking experience in the Student Research Lab.
- Student research – students are encouraged to participate in faculty/student research in the two major research groups in the CS Department: fiber optics design research and digital signal processing research. (In fall 2008, about 10 students had joined these two research groups.)
- Student club activities – we have the UPE honor society, the ACM Student Chapter, and the SGA Computer Science Society. The membership is to open to all CS majors. Student officers of these organizations conduct all business which include lecture series, field trips, programming contests, honor society, UPE, induction ceremony each semester and student awards (academic and service) ceremony annually.
- Academic advisor – we tried to have an advisor stay with the students for over their entire academic career years at WPUNJ for both freshmen and transfers.
- Student engagement – faculty are very involved in encouraging students to apply for various types of awards/scholarships (e.g., Student Workers Fund, Student Undergraduate Research Program), participate in faculty research, co-author papers with faculty.
- Early alert system – faculty are encouraged to use the university online early alert system. Department warning letters for students who absent too many classes are still in place.
- Scheduling initiative – schedule wider expanse of hours (e.g., 8 AM, evening, Friday classes) to address particular student needs. The cycling of courses for the next couple years is posted and available on the department website.
- Curriculum and course improvement – as part of the ABET/CAC accreditation effort, the CS Department has several initiatives in place:
  - New course development in net centric programming
  - Foundation course examination to gauge student success
  - Course coordination – multi-section courses are coordinated to have common coverage and common exam.
  - Course binders – each course related to ABET/CAC has a binder with syllabus, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, student pre- and post-semester surveys, instructor assessment that the Department Curriculum Committee can review.