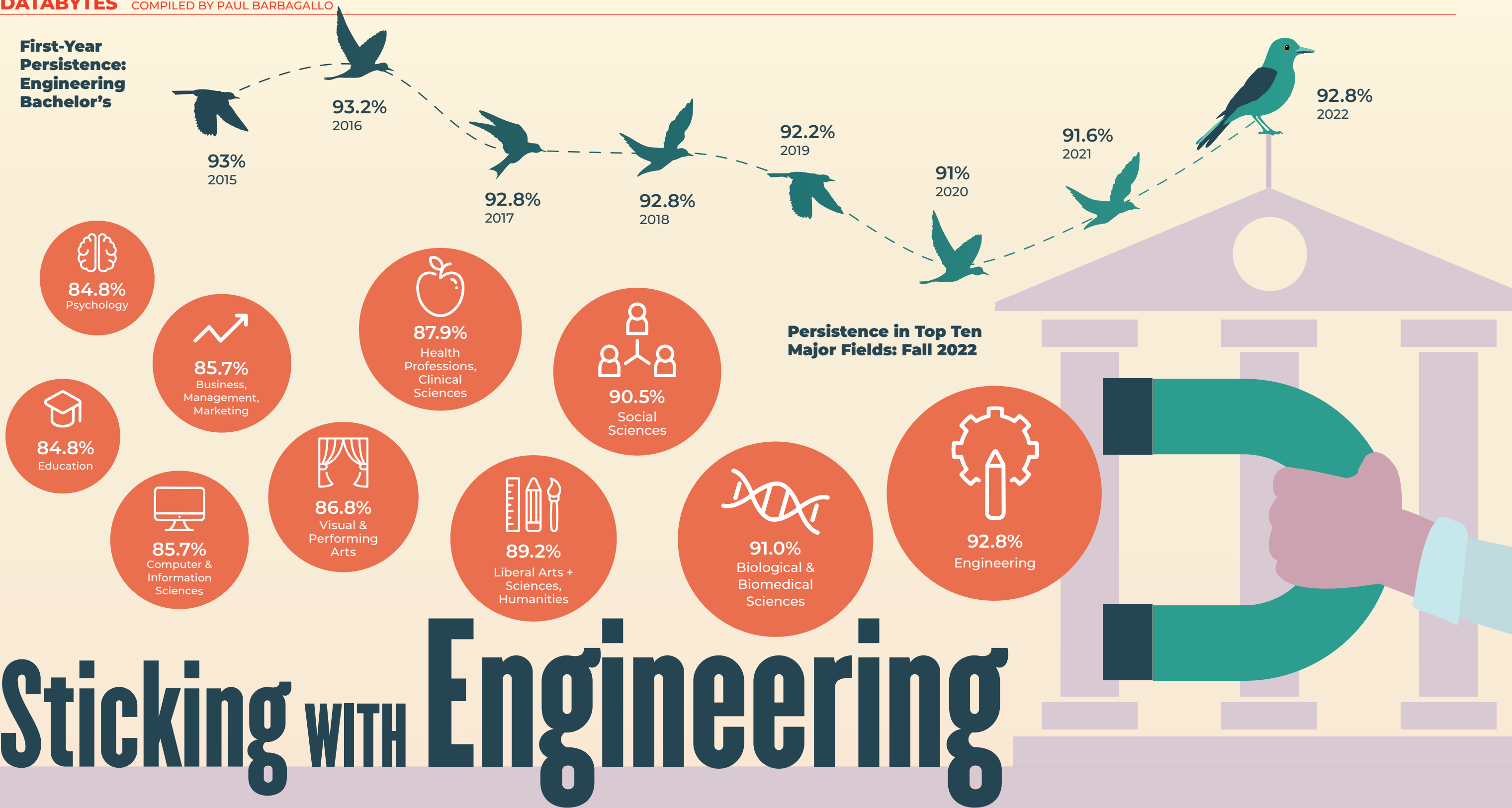




Engineering has a (deserved) reputation for high quit rates. However, a new report not only reveals the highest first-year persistence and retention* rates across undergraduate majors in a decade but also shows a slight increase among engineering students.

Based on data from students who enrolled in fall 2022, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reported an

overall undergraduate persistence rate of 76.5 percent, up from 75.7 percent the previous year and 73.8 percent among those who began college in 2019. Those latter students were the most affected by the onset of COVID-19 in spring 2020, when learning shifted from in-person to remote, and many quit or considered doing so.

The 2022 data represent the second straight year of overall increases post-pandemic. Among students seeking engineering

bachelor's degrees, the first-year persistence rate exceeded or matched the most recent pre-pandemic levels. And while the top 10 majors all saw increases, engineering ranked first, with 92.8 percent of students continuing on to their second year and 86.4 percent remaining at the same institution.

The growth for engineering majors, though small, offers room for optimism. The center's researchers note that persistence and

retention rate changes are generally very slight, so an increase of about a percentage point each year is considered significant.

*According to the center, persistence measures the share of students who stayed in (any) college from freshman to sophomore year, while retention refers to those who remained at the same institution.

Source: <https://nscresearchcenter.org/persistence-retention>