

Post-Graduate Educational Pursuits of DISD Graduates: 1998-2005

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At a Glance

This report tracks the educational progress of eight DISD graduating classes, 1998 to 2005. The report uses data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) that tracks college and post high school educational enrollment at the majority of educational institutions in the United States. The results reveal several new aspects of college enrollment in the analysis of the enrollment patterns in the institutions tracked by the Clearinghouse.

This report provides three ways of examining the post-graduate pursuits of DISD graduates. It examines by graduating class:

- The number and percentage of first time enrollments in schools, colleges and universities.
- The number and percentage of students currently enrolled in schools, colleges and universities.
- The number and percentage of students who completed a course of study at schools, colleges and universities.

The NSC computes its numbers based on the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. The individual student records returned were reanalyzed to provide numbers by school year.

The NSC returned records for the following numbers of students by graduating class.

Number of Student Records Returned by the NSC	
Graduating Class	Number of Records
1998	5549
1999	5430
2000	5748
2001	5968
2002	6494
2003	6659
2004	7045
2005	6779

The following table gives the number and percent of records returned who enrolled at least once in a post graduate institution of learning by class.

Number and Percent of Students Enrolled in Post Graduate Institutions		
Class	N Enrolled	% Enrolled
1998*	2749	50
1999*	2999	55
2000	3340	58
2001	3565	60
2002	3544	55
2003**	3488	52
2004**	3659	52
2005**	2929	43

*Did not include data for DCCCD

**Includes approximate 2% increase for estimate of UNT & UT Austin

The numbers and percentages enrolled reflect several factors:

- Students enrolling in the Dallas County Community College District were not included until the year 2000
- Students enrolling in University of North Texas or University of Texas at Austin were not included in NSC numbers. Estimates for their enrollment were obtained for 2003 to 2005.
- Enrollment in post-graduate institutions is very time dependent. Nearly 20% of each graduation class will wait more than six months before enrolling.
- The best estimate of percent post-graduate enrollment is currently 62% after several years. This includes estimates of UNT and UT-Austin enrollment.

The following table gives the number and percent of the classes of 1998 to 2001 who graduated from or completed a course of study at a post secondary institution. Classes after 2001 have not been enrolled for a sufficient period to obtain a reliable estimate.

Number and Percent of Students Completing Post Graduate Studies		
Class	Number	Percent
1998	562	10
1999	515	9
2000	472	8
2001	273	5

Again, it must be noted that these values are very time dependent and that missing UNT and UT-Austin information biases the rates by an unknown percentage and direction.

The following table gives the number and percent of each graduating class currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution as of December 2005 when the NSC extracted its data.

Class	N Currently Enrolled	% Currently Enrolled
1998	449	8
1999	533	10
2000	669	12
2001	997	17
2002	1320	20
2003	1666	25
2004	2135	30
2005	2422	36

These data are not surprising in the sense that the latest class, 2005, has the highest percentage currently enrolled in an institution. However, they illustrate in a different way the time dependency of these data. Eight years after graduation, 8% of the class of 1998 is enrolled in a post-graduate institution.

The last table gives the percentage of students in the class of 2001 that ever enrolled in a post-graduate institution by demographic sub-group. The class of 2001 was chosen because these data include enrollment in the DCCCD and sufficient time has passed to get a stable estimate of group enrollment. The percentage enrollment is lowest for Special Education students and highest for Asian students.

Number and Percent of the Class of 2001 Student Groups Attending Post-Graduate Institutions		
Group	N Students	% Students
White	482	72
African American	1609	61
Hispanic	1365	55
American Indian	11	50
Asian	98	75
Low - SES	1445	56
SPED	110	27
LEP	184	39
TAG	1097	73
Hispanic - LEP	154	36
Hispanic - Never - LEP	415	60
Hispanic - Exited - LEP	791	58
Total	3565	60

Summary

- A lower bound estimate of 62% of graduates attending post-secondary educational institutions is reasonable. A better estimate will be obtained when precise data from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Texas can be included in the results.
- A lower bound estimate of 10% of students graduating or completing a course of study at a post-secondary educational institution is reasonable. Again, a better estimate will be obtained when data from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Texas can be included in the results.
- The analysis of post-secondary educational pursuits is very time-dependent. Several years are necessary to obtain estimates of what percentage of district graduates will ever enroll in these institutions. Four or more years are necessary before graduation rates from post-secondary institutions can be successfully estimated.