

High School Graduate Outcomes Report

An Analysis of Postsecondary Enrollment and Degree Completion of Georgia High School Graduates

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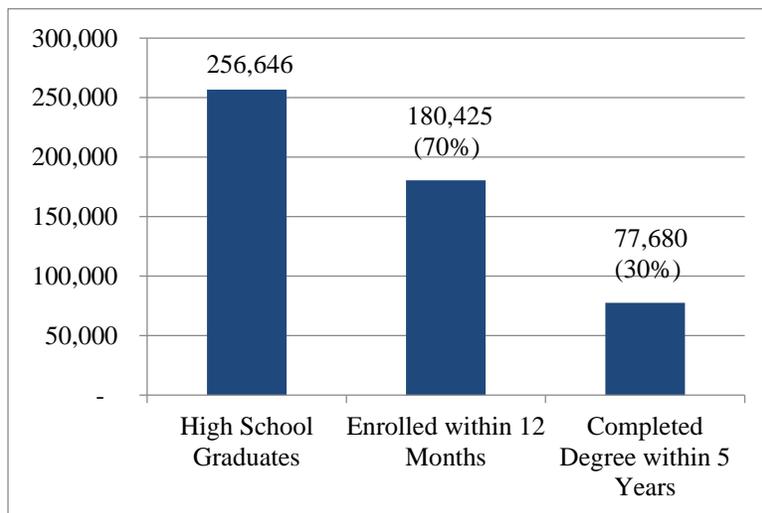


Executive Summary

This report serves as a follow-up to the [“Georgia Students’ High School to College Transition”](#) report published by GOSA in 2009, which presents college enrollment by school system and investigates the relationship between college enrollment as well as student-level factors. This report goes beyond the previous report by adding a layer of analysis using newly available data from Georgia’s Academic and Workforce Analysis and Research Data System (GA•AWARDS) and investigates relationships at the high school level. The report also acts as a companion tool to the [High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard](#), launched in January 2016, which allows users to drill down into the data from high school graduating classes between 2007 and 2014 and investigate where students enrolled in college, as well as the overall outcome of their enrollment.ⁱ

This analysis follows the high school graduating classes of 2008, 2009, and 2010 to analyze patterns in college enrollment and degree completion. Using data from these three graduating classes allows for an analysis of degree completion since at least five years have passed since high school graduation.ⁱⁱ Additionally, the rates of college enrollment and degree completion are examined by high school to identify differences between high schools. Figure 1 presents the total number of high school graduates, the total that enrolled in college within 12 months, and the total who completed a degree within 5 years.

Figure 1: Outcomes for High School Graduates (2008-2010)

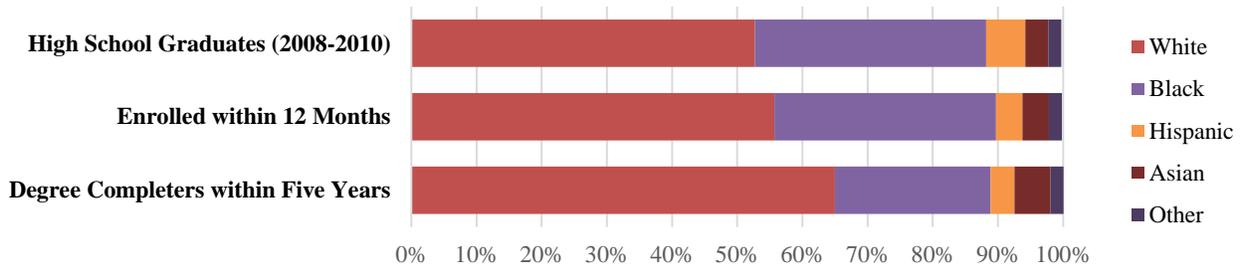


ⁱ In this report, “college” refers to colleges, universities, and technical colleges.

ⁱⁱ In this report, “degree” refers to certificates, associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, doctorates, and professional degrees.

The figure below presents the race/ethnicity percentages among of high school graduates, the number who enrolled in college within 12 months, and the number who completed a degree within 5 years.ⁱⁱⁱ Students who enrolled in college and those who earned degrees within this cohort are proportionally more likely to be white and Asian and less likely to be Hispanic and black when compared to the original high school graduate cohort. It is important to note that the outcomes presented in this paper should not be interpreted as cause-effect because additional factors outside of the scope of this analysis may play a role in the relationship.

Figure 1: Demographics of Graduates, Enrollees and Five-Year Degree Completers



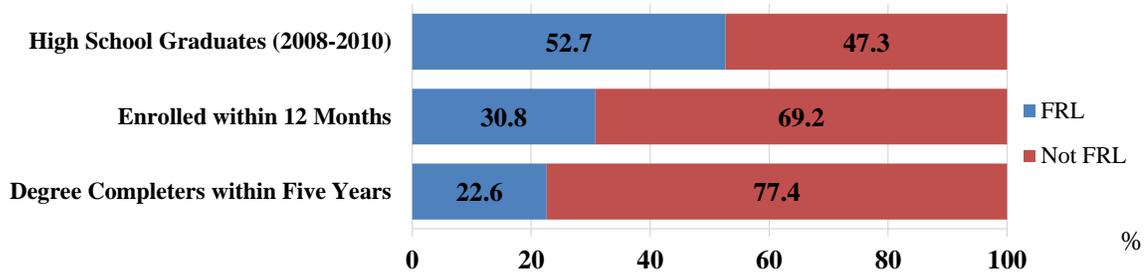
Selected findings from the analysis of high school graduates between 2008 and 2010 include:

- Enrollment in College within 12 Months
 - 70.3% of high school graduates enrolled in college within 12 months.
 - Of those high school graduates enrolling, 86.1% of students elected in-state colleges.
 - Of the students enrolling in colleges outside of Georgia, 57.1% enrolled in the neighboring states of Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and North Carolina.
 - High schools with higher participation rates on the SAT/ACT and AP tended to have higher enrollment rates, as do high schools with higher average three-year high school graduation rate (2008-2010).
 - High schools with high eligibility rates for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL) tended to have lower college enrollment rates.
- Degree Completion
 - Only 30.3% of the students in this study completed a certificate or degree within five years.
 - Compared to all high school graduates, Hispanic and black students were proportionally underrepresented among degree completers, while white and Asian students were proportionally overrepresented.

ⁱⁱⁱ Degree completers waiting more than twelve months after high school graduation to enroll in college are included in the enrollment group in Figure 1.

- 52.7% of high school graduates were eligible for FRL, but only 22.6% of degree completers five years later were FRL-eligible.

Figure 3: Graduates, Enrollees and Five-Year Degree Completers by FRL Status



- 18.2% of students who require remediation in math and English at Georgia public colleges completed a degree within five years, compared to 45.0% of students who did not require remediation.
- High schools with higher FRL-eligibility rates tended to have lower degree completion rates.
- High schools with high AP exam participation rates and high school graduation rates tended to have higher degree completion rates.