



Evaluation Matters

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Results of the Senior Exit Survey, 2021

1. What is the purpose of this report?

This report examines the results of the Senior Exit Survey, which is administered annually to all graduating high school students. The fivefold purpose of the survey is to examine (a) seniors' post-secondary plans, (b) the credentials they plan to acquire, (c) the institutions they plan to attend, (d) the fields of study they choose to pursue, and (e) their community service experiences.

2. Which populations were targeted for this survey?

All twelfth-grade students enrolled in traditional and charter high schools within the district were targeted to receive the survey. A summary of the results across schools is presented, with the exception of special education centers and the juvenile justice center which elicited very few valid responses.

3. How were the data for this report collected and analyzed?

Data to conduct this analysis were obtained from responses to the Senior Exit Survey, which was administered online via Survey Gold 8.0. The survey was accessed through links provided on the district's main Web page and on the Student Portal between April 30 and June 15, 2021.

Students were generally asked to choose from among pre-specified choices presented in a series of drop-down lists. Those who selected "other" were provided with the opportunity to provide open-ended responses, which were then manually assigned into categories. The analysis of the survey data was limited to descriptive statistics. Seniors' eligibility to receive a diploma, certificate of completion, or General Equivalency Diploma was determined from the withdrawal code recorded on the district's data warehouse as of July 6, 2021.

4. To what extent did students respond to the survey?

Overall, 79.4% (n=19,890) of the targeted seniors responded to the survey, representing 87.1% of the seniors (n=17,676) who attended traditional schools, and 46.6% of the seniors (n=2,214) who attended charter schools. This rate of return indicates that the results obtained may be generalized to all high school seniors in M-DCPS. However, the results may not fully represent students who failed to engage remotely during distance learning.

5. How did the high school completion status of seniors who responded to the survey differ from that of seniors who did not participate?

Table 1 separately compares the number and percent of seniors eligible to receive a diploma for those who responded to the survey with those who did not.

Table 1. Comparison of Respondents' and Non-Respondents' High School Completion Status

High School Completion Status	Total Number	Respondents		Non- Respondents	
		n	%	n	%
Eligible to receive a Standard, Special or General Equivalency Diploma	22,599	19,365	97.4	3,234	62.7
Not eligible to receive a diploma or General Equivalency Diploma	2,451	525	2.6	1,926	37.3
Total	25,050	19,890	100.0	5,160	100.0

Note. Seniors' eligibility to receive a diploma or certificate of completion was determined from the withdrawal code recorded on the district's data warehouse as of July 6, 2021.

- Of the seniors who completed the survey, based on their withdrawal code, 97.4% (n=19,365) were eligible to receive a diploma or General Equivalency Diploma. Only 2.6% (n=525) were not eligible to complete high school.
- Of the seniors who did not complete the survey, 62.7% (n=3,234) were eligible to receive a diploma or General Equivalency Diploma based on their withdrawal code; 37.3% (n=1,926) were not eligible to complete high school.

6. What types of community service projects did seniors complete during high school?

Seniors were asked to provide information about the community service projects they completed, which serve as a graduation requirement. Students were asked to choose the focus of their community service projects from a pre-defined list (see Table 2).

Table 2. Seniors' Community Service Projects

Community Service Focus Area	n	%
Children and Youth	4,729	23.9
Education	2,623	13.2
Health	1,621	8.2
Environmental	1,296	6.5
Animals	1,279	6.5
Homelessness	797	4.0
Civic Organizations	680	3.4
Hunger	633	3.2
Older Adults	520	2.6
Financial Stability	291	1.5
Emergency Response	238	1.2
Cultural Centers	231	1.2
Other (Arts, Athletics, Cleanup, JROTC, Tutoring, Volunteering, etc.)	4,865	24.4
Total	19,803	100.0

- 23.9% of seniors (n=4,729) chose projects impacting Children and Youth for their community service project, followed by 13.2% (n=2,623) who chose Education, and 8.2% (n=1,621) who chose Health.
- 24.4% of seniors (n=4,865) indicated that their community service project did not focus on one of the listed topics, including themes of Arts, Athletics, Cleanup, JROTC, Tutoring, and Volunteering. A total of 87 students reported they did not do a community service project or specified uninterpretable choices.

7. What do seniors plan to do upon completing high school?

Survey items asked seniors to indicate their post-secondary plans. Table 3 lists the number and percent of diploma-eligible responding seniors who reported each of pre-specified pathways.

Table 3. Seniors' Post-secondary Plans

Post-secondary Plan	n	%
Enter the workforce, and/or take unspecified coursework	339	1.7
Enter full-time active military service	467	2.4
Earn a certificate or license, but not a degree	916	4.7
Earn an Associate's degree	1,627	8.4
Earn an Associate's degree; and then a Bachelor's, or more advanced degree	6,161	31.8
Earn a Bachelor's, or more advanced degree	7,323	37.8
Haven't decided, unsure, or don't know	2,465	12.7
None of the above	67	0.3
Total	19,365	100.0

- 82.7% (n=16,027) of the diploma-eligible responding seniors planned to further their education by attending a post-secondary educational institution in pursuit of a certificate/license or a degree.
 - 69.6% (n=13,484) of the diploma-eligible responding seniors planned to further their education by earning a Bachelor's or higher degree; 37.8% (n=7,323) directly and 31.8% (n=6,161) by first earning an Associate's degree.
 - 8.4% (n=1,627) of the responding seniors eligible to receive a diploma planned to further their education by earning an Associate's degree, while 4.7% (n=916) planned to earn a certificate/license.
- 2.4% (n=467) planned to enter full-time active military service, and 1.7% (n=339) planned to enter the workforce and/or take unspecified coursework.

8. What institutions do seniors plan to attend?

Table 4 separately lists the number and percent of seniors planning to attend selected post-secondary institutions. Institutions are grouped by those granting a Bachelor's or higher degree and those that do not.

- Of the responding seniors eligible to receive a diploma who planned to further their education, 95.7% (n=15,331) planned to attend a post-secondary institution that awarded a Bachelor's or more advanced degree, while 3.6% (n=574) planned to attend a post-secondary institution that did not award a Bachelor's or more advanced degree.
- Of the responding seniors eligible to receive a diploma who planned to further their education, 40.6% (n=6,502) planned to attend Miami Dade College, while 19.4% (n=) planned to attend Florida International University.

Table 4. Post-secondary Institutions

Institution	n	%
Awards Bachelor's or more advanced degree		
MIAMI DADE COLLEGE	6,502	40.6
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	3,105	19.4
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	670	4.2
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	593	3.7
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	374	2.3
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ^a	265	1.7
BROWARD COLLEGE	245	1.5
BARRY UNIVERSITY ^a	231	1.4
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ^a	208	1.3
SAINT THOMAS UNIVERSITY ^a	170	1.1
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY	137	0.9
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	109	0.7
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	108	0.7
SANTA FE COLLEGE	86	0.5
BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY ^a	77	0.5
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	74	0.5
VALENCIA COLLEGE	72	0.4
FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY ^a	64	0.4
DADE MEDICAL COLLEGE ^a	58	0.4
KEISER UNIVERSITY ^a	50	0.3
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY ^b	45	0.3
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	45	0.3
FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY ^a	45	0.3
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ^b	38	0.2
Awards Bachelor's or more advanced degree		
AIR FORCE ACADEMY COLORADO SPRINGS ^b	34	0.2
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	33	0.2
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ^b	32	0.2
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	32	0.2
UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA ^a	30	0.2
ART INSTITUTES ^{ab}	26	0.2
FLORIDA NATIONAL COLLEGE ^a	26	0.2
LYNN UNIVERSITY ^a	26	0.2
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTIC ^a	25	0.2
HARVARD UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	24	0.1
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ^b	24	0.1

(table continues)

Table 4. Post-secondary Institutions

Institution	n	%
Does not Award Bachelor's or more advanced degree		
TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	86	0.5
GEORGE T. BAKER AVIATION	74	0.5
LINDSEY HOPKINS TECHICAL EDUCATION CENTER	46	0.3
MIAMI LAKES TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL CENTER	46	0.3
ROBERT MORGAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER	46	0.3
BEAUTY SCHOOLS OF AMERICA ^a	41	0.3
FLORIDA TECHNICAL COLLEGE ^a	33	0.2
CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO ^b	26	0.2
FLORIDA CAREER COLLEGE ^a	24	0.1
HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	20	0.1
OTHER (SPECIFIED, UNSPECIFIED, UNCLASSIFIABLE, INTERNATIONAL)	1,902	11.9
TOTAL	16,027	100.0

Note. Institutions are public and in Florida unless otherwise marked. Other includes all colleges selected by fewer than 20 students in total.

^a Private non-profit/for profit institution. ^b Out-of-state institution.

9. What fields of study do seniors plan to pursue?

Fields of study as used in this evaluation are defined as the major area of concentration of a post-secondary certificate, license, or degree. Table 5 lists the number and percent of seniors who plan to pursue each major.

- Among the responding seniors eligible to receive a diploma who planned to further their education, the most popular field of study was Business, Management, Accounting, Finance, and Support Services, selected by 14.9%, followed by Biology, Biochemistry, Biological, and Biomedical Sciences selected by 8.3%, and then Nursing, selected by 7.8%.
- In addition, Psychology, Cognitive Science and Neuroscience was chosen by 6.1% of seniors, while Engineering, Engineering Technology and Related Fields; Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science, as well as Computer Science, Information Systems, Network and Support Services were each chosen by around 5%.

Table 5. Post-secondary Fields of Study

Field of Study	n	%
Business, Management, Accounting, Finance and Support Services	2,389	14.9
Biology, Biochemistry, Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,324	8.3
Nursing	1,249	7.8
Psychology, Cognitive Science and Neuroscience	976	6.1
Engineering, Engineering Technologies, and Related Fields	919	5.7
Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science	814	5.1
Computer Science, Information Systems, Network and Support Services	792	4.9
Visual Arts, Performing/Theater Arts, Fine Arts, Graphic Design and Related Fields	682	4.3
Health Professions and Related Programs	570	3.6
Medicine, Medical Technology, Radiology and Related Services	515	3.2
Advertising, Marketing, and Public Relations	379	2.4
Animal Health and Veterinary Science	315	2.0
Law, Legal Professions and Related Fields	313	2.0
Architecture and Related Services	279	1.7
Political Science, Politics and Public Administration	268	1.7
Dentistry, Dental Hygiene and Related Services	266	1.7
Journalism, Communication, Communication Technology/Technicians, Film, Broadcasting, Mass Media, Television and Support Services	265	1.7
Education	262	1.6
Computer/Video Game Development/Design, Digital/Graphic Design, and Animation	235	1.5
Sports and Athletic Training	221	1.4
Fire Protection, Adm. /Tech., Emer. Medical Tech., Paramedics and Related Fields	187	1.2
Culinary Services, Cosmetology, Hairstyling, Personal and Related Services	184	1.1
Aviation, Avionics and Aerospace Technology	168	1.0
Economics	167	1.0
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	151	0.9
Computer Technology, Drafting, and Support Services	138	0.9
Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Support Services	127	0.8
Physical Sciences, Chemistry and Related Fields	121	0.8
Apparel Design, Fashion, and Merchandising	106	0.7
Anatomy and Physiology	105	0.7
English, English Literature, and Letters	95	0.6
Marine Science and Fisheries	94	0.6
Hospitality and Tourism	91	0.6
Exercise Science, Physiology	89	0.6
Pharmacy and Pharmacology	89	0.6
Social Work	80	0.5
Law Enforcement, Security and Homeland Security and Related Fields	71	0.4
History	61	0.4
Construction Trades	60	0.4
Mathematics and Statistics	58	0.4
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	55	0.3
Dietetics and Nutrition	55	0.3
Social Sciences	51	0.3
Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies and Humanities	49	0.3
Mental Health and Counseling	40	0.2
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	36	0.2
Human Services	35	0.2
Science Technologies/Technicians	33	0.2
Foreign/International Affairs/Relations	24	0.1
Other (specified)	206	1.3
Invalid, undecided	168	1.0
Total	16,027	100.0

Note. "Other" includes all fields of study selected by fewer than 24 seniors.

10. What are the principal conclusions of this report?

This report presented the results of the 2021 administration of the Senior Exit Survey, which explored seniors' post-secondary plans; the certificate, licenses, or degrees they plan to acquire; the institutions they plan to attend; and the fields of study they plan to pursue. A total of 79.4% of seniors completed the survey, of which 97.4% were eligible to graduate. Of those students, 83.9% plan to acquire a certificate, license, or degree, with over 69.6% planning to earn a Bachelor's or higher degree, either directly or after first earning an Associate's degree. Most seniors pursuing a certificate, license, or degree plan to attend an institution in Florida. Among the responding seniors eligible to receive a diploma, Business, Management, Accounting, Finance was the most popular choice of major, followed by Biology, Biochemistry, Biological, and Biomedical Sciences and Nursing and.