

INFORMATION CAPSULE

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College Enrollment Patterns and Results of M-DCPS 2016-2017 Graduating Cohort

At a Glance

This Information Capsule utilized National Student Clearinghouse and Senior Exit Survey data to report on postsecondary plans and college enrollment of Miami-Dade Public Schools' graduates who were part of the 2016-2017 cohort. M-DCPS' four-year graduation rate for students enrolled for the first time in the fall of 2017 was 47%. This rate was in line with the national rate in 2015, as reported in the latest publication from the National Student Clearinghouse.

Introduction

This Information Capsule examines the postsecondary plans and college enrollment of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) students in the 2016-2017 graduating cohort, as well as the four-year college graduation rates for this cohort. The data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and the Senior Exit Survey are used in the analyses.

The National Student Clearinghouse's Student Tracker

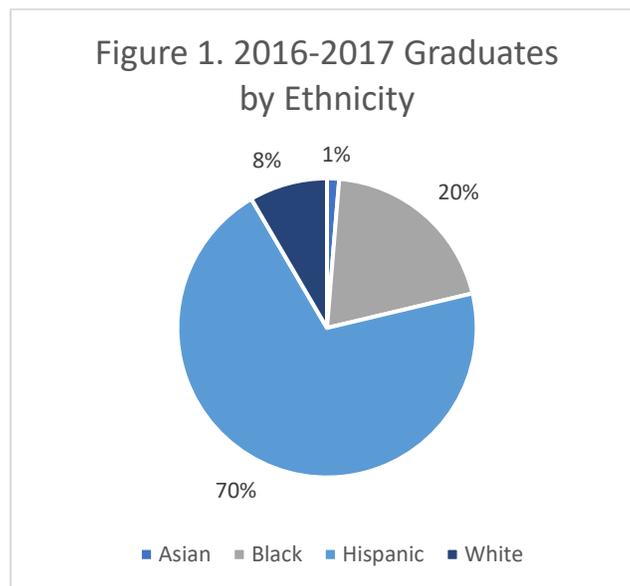
The NSC is a non-profit organization responsible for collecting national college enrollment and degree information. The NSC has data on 97% of currently enrolled postsecondary students from 99% of all public and private institutions and on over 94% of all college degrees awarded in the U.S. The StudentTracker from the NSC collects student college enrollment and degree data including college name, location, type of institution, enrollment dates and status, graduation status, date, and degree title. The NSC relies on academic institutions to provide the data; therefore, not all relevant data might be available.

The Senior Exit Survey

The Senior Exit Survey was administered in M-DCPS annually to all graduating high school students through the 2020-2021 school year. Among other things, this survey collected data on seniors' postsecondary plans. The Senior Exit Survey was administered to twelfth-grade students enrolled in traditional and charter high schools, except for those enrolled in special education centers, the educational alternative outreach program, the juvenile justice center, and centers for special instruction. Only students who indicate being eligible to receive a diploma or certificate of completion were asked about their postsecondary plans.

2016-2017 High School Graduating Cohort: Their Senior Year Plans vs. Actual College Enrollment

The M-DCPS 2016-2017 cohort included a total of 27,106 students who started 9th grade in the 2013-2014 academic year and were expected to graduate in the 2016-2017 academic year. Of these students, a total of 21,867 students graduated from high school, a graduation rate of 80.7%. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the 2016-2017 high school graduates by race/ethnicity.



Results from the Senior Exit Survey provided information on the plans that students had for their postsecondary careers; 21,762 twelfth-grade students who participated in the survey reported their postsecondary plans. As seen in Table 1, most of the students (88%) reported they would attend college after graduating high school. Of those who reported having plans to attend college after graduation, 43% indicated that they planned on attending Miami Dade College, followed by Florida International University (19%).

Table 2 lists the top five colleges students planned on attending as reported on the Senior Exit Survey. Additionally, of those seniors who reported that they planned on attending college after graduation, most (67%) planned on enrolling on a full-time basis, 19% planned on enrolling part-time, and 14% were undecided about their type of enrollment.

Table 1. Institutions Seniors Reported Planning to Attend After High School Graduation-2016-17 Graduation Cohort

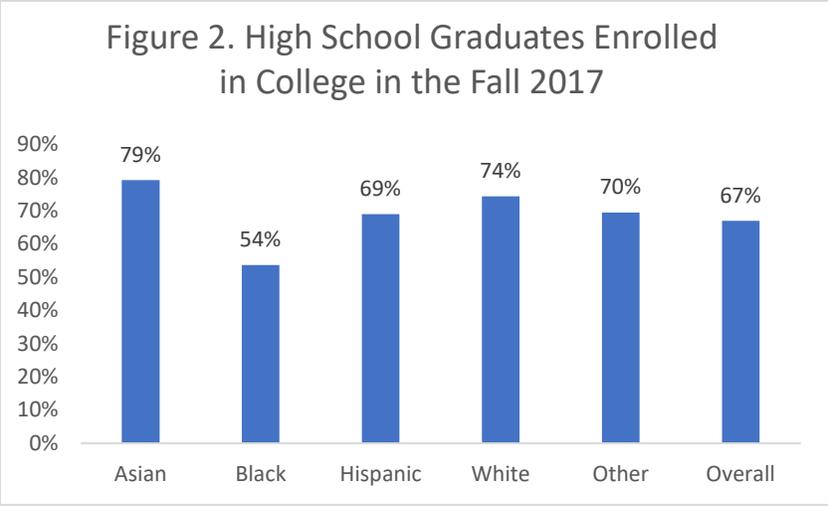
Institution	Count	Percentage*
College or university	19,049	88%
The military	1,425	7%
Technical, trade, or other institution	902	4%
None of the above	386	2%
Total	21,592	100%

*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 2. Top 5 Colleges M-DCPS Students Planned on Attending – 2016-17 Graduation Cohort

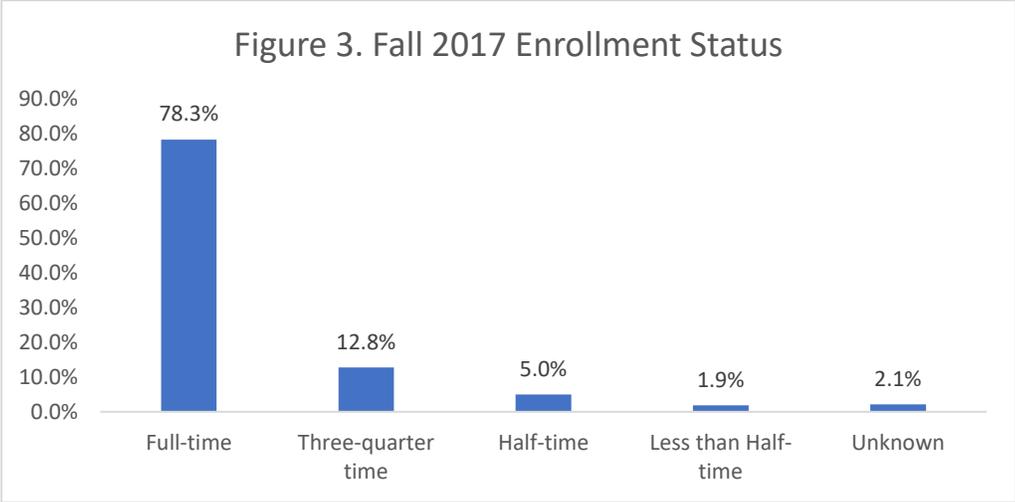
	Institution	Count	Percentage
1	Miami Dade College	8,503	43%
2	Florida International University	3,810	19%
3	University of Florida	698	4%
4	Florida State University	590	3%
5	University of Central Florida	481	2%

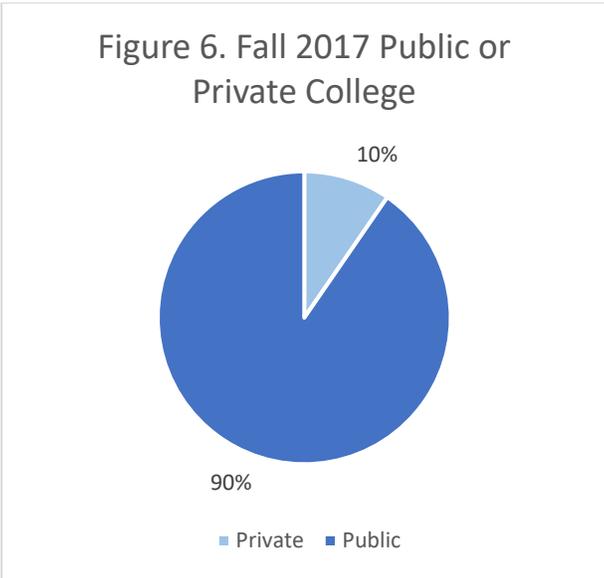
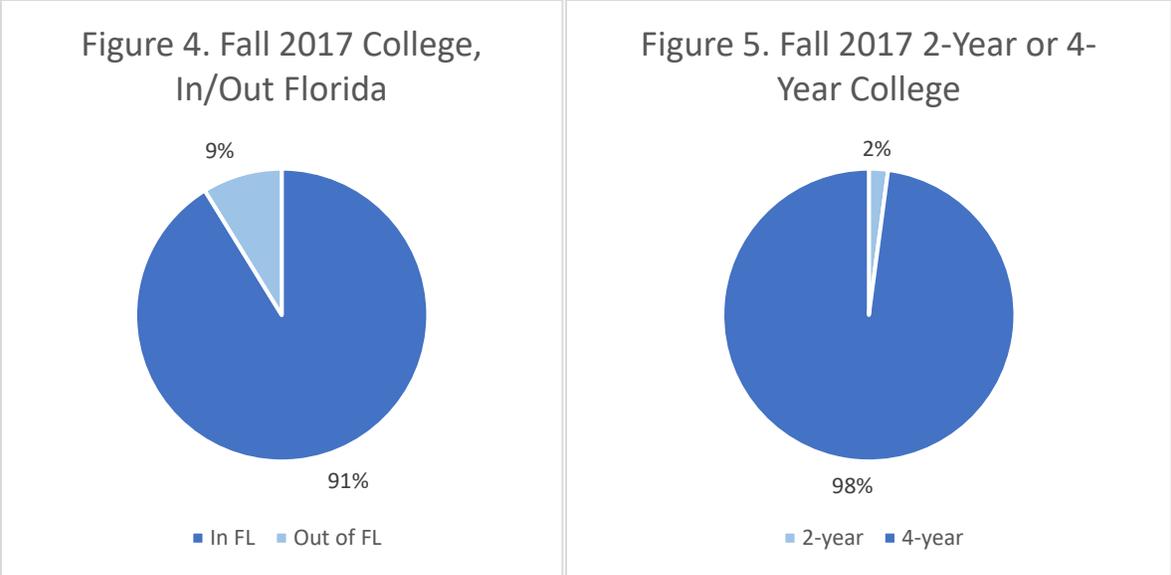
The September 2022 NSC data provided college information for 17,612 (81%) of the high school graduates of the 2016-2017 cohort. Of those seniors who graduated from high school, 67% (14,547) enrolled in college after graduation in the fall of 2017. Figure 2 shows the proportion of those who enrolled in college in the fall of 2017 by race/ethnicity. As seen in the figure, 79% of Asians, 74% of Whites, 70% of students who identified as “Other,” 69% of Hispanics, and 54% of Blacks enrolled in college immediately after high school.



<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>2016-2017 High School Graduates</i>	<i>Of those, Students Enrolled in College in the Fall of 2017</i>
<i>Asian</i>	294	233
<i>Black</i>	4,341	2,331
<i>Hispanic</i>	15,302	10,554
<i>White</i>	1,833	1,363
<i>Other</i>	95	66
<i>Overall</i>	21,865	14,547

The majority (78%) of the students who enrolled in college in the fall of 2017 had a full-time enrollment during their first semester in college; 91% attended an institution in Florida, 98% enrolled in a four-year college, and 90% chose a public institution (see Figures 3-6). Results from the Senior Exit Survey indicated that of those who completed the survey, 2% of students indicated they planned on attending an institution out of state; this percentage is less than the percentage of students (9%) who attended college out of Florida according to the NSC data.





The top colleges, those attended by more than 100 M-DCPS students in the fall of 2017, are listed in Table 3; all of them are in the state of Florida. Over half (54%) of the students who enrolled in college in the fall of 2017 attended Miami Dade College, followed by Florida International University (17%). The Senior Exit Survey provided self-reported data on the institutions seniors planned on attending; the planned college attendance results in Table 2 are similar to the first-semester actual enrollment data obtained from the NSC and reported in Table 3.

Table 3. Colleges Attended by More Than 100 Students in Fall 2017

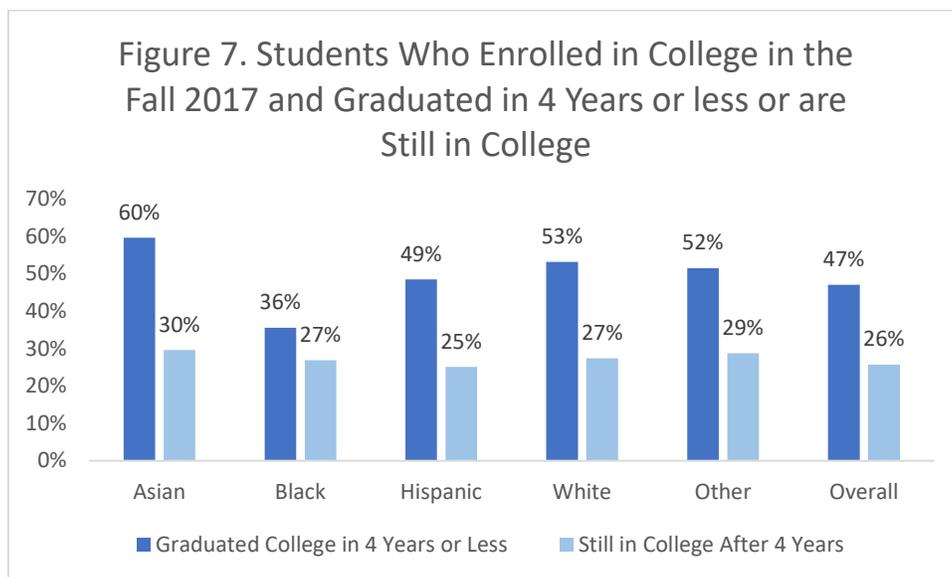
College	Count	Percentage of Students Enrolled in College in the Fall of 2017
Miami Dade College	7914	54%
Florida International University	2402	17%

University of Florida	507	3%
Broward College	396	3%
Florida State University	373	3%
University of Central Florida	303	2%
Florida A&M University	208	1%
Santa Fe College	122	1%
Tallahassee Community College	113	1%
University of Miami	112	1%
Barry University	110	1%
Total	12560	86%

Note: In the few cases when a student was reported as attending more than one college in the fall of 2017, the college of higher enrollment status (full-time rather than less than full-time, etc.) was used.

Four-Year Graduation Rate and Persistence for Students Enrolled in College in the Fall after High School Graduation

As mentioned previously, of the 21,867 high school graduates in the 2016-2017 cohort, a total of 14,547 enrolled in college in the fall of 2017. Figure 7 illustrates the four-year graduation rates for those 14,547 students who enrolled in college in the fall of 2017 following their high school graduation. Overall, 47% of these students graduated from college in four years or less. Over 50% of Asians, Whites, and students identified as “Other”, and 35% or more of Hispanics and Blacks graduated college in four years or less. Of the students who enrolled in college in the fall of 2017 and did not graduate in four years or less, 26% were still enrolled in college after four years. Additionally, Figure 7 shows the breakdown and percentages of those continuing their education by race/ethnicity.



Based on the latest available National Student Clearinghouse Research Center report, 47.3% of students nationwide who enrolled in college in the fall of 2015 for the first time as full-time degree-seeking students, graduated within four years (Lee et al., 2022). As shown in Figure 7, the four-year graduation rate for M-DCPS students who enrolled in college in the fall of 2017 was in line with the national rate.

Reference

Lee, S., Ryu, M., and Shapiro, D. (2022). Yearly Success and Progress Rates - Fall 2015 Beginning Postsecondary Student Cohort, Herndon, VA: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.