

# Office of Institutional Research

## Research Brief 36: Graduate Student Retention and Graduation

Spring 2021

### 1. Introduction and Methodology

- Graduate student cohorts were defined based on modified IPEDS methodology: full-time (9 hours or more) students who started in the fall or previous summer. Graduation rate was determined by tracking the cohort for 3 years (150% of average time to complete). The cohort year used was Fall 2017.
- Exceptions to this include the EMBA and the M. Ed. in Educational Leadership programs.
- The EMBA program course sequence begins in January, so the EMBA cohort was defined as students enrolled for the first time in the program in Spring 2018.
- The M Ed. in Educational Leadership program is a cohort-designed program consisting of 6 semesters. All students enrolled for the first time for this program in Summer 2015 and Fall 2015 were included, and the cohort was tracked for five years.
- Graduate programs that were not included due to insufficient cohort sizes include the MAT in Elementary Education, MA in History, MS in Integrated Science and Technology, MA in Organizational Communication, MAT in Special Education, Early Interventionist, the M. Ed. in Special Education, and the Ed. D. in Educational Leadership. Cohorts were not created if there were 3 or fewer students who were first time, full time students enrolled for the first time in the target semesters. Additionally, we were unable to create cohorts for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program due to the inability to differentiate between students in the MSN to DNP track versus students in the BSN to DNP track.

## 2. Retention

- Below is a table listing the retention rates for the Fall 2017 Cohort that was tracked. The overall cohort one-year retention rate was 87.8%, with 108 of 123 students enrolling in Fall 2018.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Cohort Size</b>	<b>Enrolled Fall 2018</b>	
<b>MA English</b>	4	4	100.0%
<b>MA Psychology</b>	11	9	81.8%
<b>MBA</b>	32	30	93.8%
<b>M MUS Music</b>	10	8	80.0%
<b>MS Applied Sociology</b>	5	3	60.0%
<b>MS Biology</b>	10	8	80.0%
<b>MS Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders</b>	16	15	93.8%
<b>MS Counseling</b>	13	13	100.0%
<b>MS Health and Kinesiology</b>	11	8	72.7%
<b>MSN Nursing</b>	11	10	90.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>87.8%</b>

### 3. Graduation

- Below you can find the number of students who graduated within one year, the (cumulative) number who have graduated in two years, the (also cumulative) number who have graduated in three years, and also the graduation rates for each of the three years.
- The highest three year graduation rate was for the MA in English program, with 100.0% of the students graduating in three years or less.
- Of the cohorts, the MS in Applied Sociology had the lowest three year graduation rate with 40.0% of the students graduating within three years or less.
- The overall three year graduation rate was 80.5%, with 99 of the 123 students having graduated within three years or less.

Program	Cohort Size	Graduated within One Year		Graduated in Two Years or Less		Graduated in Three Years or Less	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
MA English	4	0	0.0%	2	50.0%	4	100.0%
MA Psychology	11	0	0.0%	5	45.5%	6	54.5%
MBA	32	2	6.3%	30	93.8%	31	96.9%
M MUS Music	10	0	0.0%	7	70.0%	7	70.0%
MS Applied Sociology	5	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	2	40.0%
MS Biology	10	0	0.0%	6	60.0%	7	70.0%
MS Communication Sciences & Disorders	16	0	0.0%	11	68.8%	15	93.8%
MS Counseling	13	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	84.6%
MS Health and Kinesiology	11	0	0.0%	5	45.5%	8	72.7%
MSN Nursing	11	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8	72.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>80.5%</b>

#### 4. EMBA

- The EMBA program’s course sequence begins in January, so the cohort for this program was created using the full-time students enrolled in Spring 2018 for the first time. The cohort was tracked for three years. The cohort had a 95.5% one-year retention rate.

Cohort Size	Enrolled Spring 2019	
22	21	95.5%

- The three year graduation rate for the EMBA program was 95.5%, with 20 of the 21 graduating students having graduated in two years or less.

Cohort Size	Graduated within One Year		Graduated in Two Years or Less		Graduated in Three Years or Less	
22	0	0.0%	20	90.9%	21	95.5%

#### 5. M. Ed. in Educational Leadership

- The 2015 M. Ed. in Educational Leadership student cohort was tracked for five years in graduation and retention.
- For the M. Ed. in Educational Leadership 2015 cohort, 94.1% of the students were retained in the first fall. Following the first fall, there were no students still persisting in the program who had not already graduated.

Cohort Size	Enrolled Fall 2016	
17	16	94.1%

- For the M Ed. in Educational Leadership 2015 cohort, 88.2% of the students graduated within 5 years or less, and, in fact, all of the graduating students completed the program in two years or less.

Cohort Size	Graduated within One Year		Graduated in Two Years or Less		Graduated in Three Years or Less		Graduated in Four Years or Less		Graduated in Five Years or Less	
17	0	0.0%	15	88.2%	15	88.2%	15	88.2%	15	88.2%