

POST-GRADUATION ENROLLMENT OF RECENT UW-MADISON BACHELORS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Clare Huhn, Academic Planning and Analysis, Office of the Provost, UW-Madison

In a 2001 analysis, we tested the utility of the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) database to identify post-graduation enrollments. We found few enrollment matches and concluded that the NSC had an insufficient number of participants to make this type of analysis valuable at that time. In recent years, participation in the NSC has expanded tremendously and now provides a more robust data source. Because of the increased participation in the NSC and the growing maturity of its database, we attempted this analysis again with the purpose of estimating how many UW-Madison graduates continue with higher education after receiving bachelors degrees, with a particular emphasis on enrollment at AAU institutions.

At least 44% of the approximately 18,000 UW-Madison students who graduated during the 2002-2003 academic years continued their enrollment after graduation. At least 40% of UW-Madison graduates continued their enrollment at institutions that offer graduate/professional degrees.

UW-Madison Graduates who Enrolled in Higher Education after Graduation 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 Bachelors Degree Cohorts

Student Records Submitted to NSC	18,050	
Student Records Matched by the NSC	7,902	43.8%
Student Records Matched at Institutions Offering Graduate/Prof. Degrees	7,237	40.1%

UW-Madison Graduates who Enrolled in Higher Education after Graduation at Institutions Offering Graduate Degrees 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 Bachelors Degree Cohorts

Graduating Cohort		Cumulative Post-Graduation Enrollment Within:			
		1 Year	2 Years	3 Year	4 Years
2000-01	5,985	19.8%	29.8%	37.2%	41.9%
2001-02	5,958	20.5%	30.0%	36.6%	
2002-03	6,107	19.0%	28.3%		
	18,050	19.8%	29.4%	36.9	41.9

Notes:

1. This table does not include enrollments for academic years that are not complete (boxes shaded gray). For example, the 7,237 enrollment records obtained from the NSC contain some records are for fall 2005. These enrollments have not been included because the 2005-06 academic year was not complete at the time of this analysis.
2. These rates are minimum rates and represent approximately 91% of enrollments in U.S. universities; international enrollments are not included.

Many of our undergraduates continue their enrollment at UW-Madison or other AAU institutions after graduation. Of the 7,237 post-graduation enrollment records for these three graduating cohorts, 2,386 (33%) are enrolled at UW-Madison. An additional 1,290 (18%) are enrolled at other AAU institutions. Fifty-one percent (51%) of recent UW-Madison graduates who continued enrollment in higher education enrolled at either UW-Madison or at another AAU institution.

**UW-Madison Bachelors Degree Recipients who Enrolled in Higher Education after Graduation
Enrollment at AAU Institutions
2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 Bachelors Degree Cohorts**

UW-Madison – 2,386	Pennsylvania State Univ. – 16	SUNY-Buffalo – 5
University of Minnesota – 294	Columbia University – 16	University of Nebraska – 5
New York University – 83	University of Maryland – 16	Brandeis – 4
Northwestern University – 72	UC-San Diego – 15	Brown – 3
University of Michigan – 72	University of Oregon – 15	Rice – 3
University of Chicago – 70	University of Florida – 14	UC-Santa Barbara – 3
University of Illinois – 48	Syracuse University – 13	University of Kansas – 3
University of Washington – 39	Yale – 12	Calif. Institute of Tech. – 2
Harvard University – 38	Emory – 11	University of Rochester – 1
UC-Berkeley – 36	Purdue – 11	Duke – 0
University of Iowa – 34	Tulane – 10	University of Arizona – 0
University of Colorado – 31	Iowa State University – 9	University of Pennsylvania – 0
Johns Hopkins University – 29	Princeton – 7	
Michigan State University – 26	SUNY-Stony Brook – 7	Non Participants
Washington University – 25	University of Pittsburgh – 7	Case Western Reserve
Cornell University – 22	UC-Davis – 7	Indiana University
Ohio State University – 21	University of Missouri – 7	MIT
UC-Los Angeles – 21	Texas A & M – 6	University of Texas
Stanford University – 20	UC-Irvine – 6	McGill (ineligible)
Univ. of Southern Calif. – 20	University of Virginia – 6	Univ. of Toronto (ineligible)
Rutgers – 19	Vanderbilt – 6	
Univ. of North Carolina – 19	Carnegie Mellon – 5	Total at AAUs – 3,676

The National Student Clearinghouse and Opportunities for Analysis

The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), a non-profit organization established for the purpose of providing students enrollment and degree verification, is the only source of national unit-record enrollment information. For a nominal fee, participating institutions are able to use the NSC's Student Tracker service to query its large database of enrollment records to determine, among other things, whether former students are currently enrolled.

The NSC has limitations in terms of its analytic usefulness, particularly for this type of post-degree enrollment analysis.

1. The NSC claims enrollment records for over 91% of students enrolled in higher education. Among UW-Madison's AAU peers, there are four large institutions that do not participate (University of Texas-Austin, Indiana University, MIT and Case Western Reserve University) and two Canadian AAU institutions that are not eligible to participate (McGill University and The University of Toronto). Because some UW-Madison graduates are undoubtedly enrolled at institutions that do not participate in the NSC (including all foreign institutions), the examination of subsequent enrollment will always reflect a minimal participation level.
2. The NSC records do not contain information about student level (graduate, undergraduate, professional, "special"). Therefore, this analysis only allows the calculation of enrollment rates after graduation, not necessarily enrollments in graduate or professional programs. Limiting an analysis to enrollments at institutions that offer graduate degrees minimizes, but does not eliminate, the chances of mis-concluding that a student is enrolled in graduate or professional school.
3. The NSC has more recently implemented a service called Degree Verify which allows participating institutions (institutions who supply degree information to the NSC) to use the NSC to provide degree verifications. In the future, we should be able to determine which of our bachelors degree recipients received graduate degrees from other institutions in the future. However, although UW-Madison has participated in Degree Verify since its inception in 2002, participation is limited and only 32 of the 62 AAU institutions participate.