



Evaluation Matters

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Results of the Senior Exit Survey, 2018

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 threefold purpose of the survey is to explore (a) the credentials seniors plan to acquire, (b) the institutions they plan to attend, and (c) the fields of study they choose to pursue.

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, except for those enrolled in special education centers, the educational alternative outreach program, the juvenile justice center, and centers for special instruction.

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 is administered online via Survey Gold 8.0. The survey was accessed through links provided on the districts' main Web page and on the Student Portal between April 2 and June 7, 2018. Selected open-ended "other" responses were assigned into categories. The analysis of the survey data was otherwise limited to descriptive statistics.

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

Overall, 84.5% of targeted seniors (n=22,307) responded to the survey, representing 90.3% of the students (n=19,901) who attended the traditional schools, and 55.3% of the students (n=2,406) who attended the charter schools. This high rate of return indicates that the results obtained may be generalized to all high school seniors in the M-DCPS.

- Traditional-school response rates (n=67) ranged from a low of 18.4% to a high of 100.0% and averaged 90.5%.
- Charter-school response rates (n=30) ranged from a low of 0.2% to a high of 100.0% and averaged 54.1%.

5. What do seniors plan to do upon competing high school?

Survey items were developed to determine the credentials seniors and their armed service status (i.e., if they would be joining the military). Table 1 lists the number and percent of students who reported planning to earn the following educational credentials as their ultimate educational goal, by whether or not they planned to enter the armed services (Armed Service Status).

Table 1. Highest Credential Seniors Plan to Attain by Armed Service Status

Highest Credential Planned ^a	Total		Armed Service Status			
			Non-Serving		Serving	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Advanced, Doctoral, or higher (e.g., J.D. (Lawyer), M.D., Ph.D.)	5,592	25.9	5,342	26.2	250	18.9
Master (e.g., M.A., M.B.A., M.F.A., M.S.)	7,075	32.7	6,751	33.1	324	24.5
Bachelor (e.g., B.A. B.B.A., B.F.A., B.S, B.T.)	6,571	30.4	6,125	30.0	446	33.7
Associate degree	1,336	6.2	1,219	6.0	117	8.8
Certificate(s)/license(s) in a skilled trade(s)/vocation(s)	1,053	4.9	958	4.7	95	7.2
Plan to Further Education						
Yes	21,627	97.0	20,395	97.2	1,232	93.0
No	680	3.0	588	2.8	92	7.0
Total	22,307	100.0	20,983	100.0	1,324	100.0

^aPercentages, which are based on seniors furthering their education, may exceed 100 due to rounding.

- Overall, 97% of seniors plan to further their education, representing 97.2% of those not planning to serve in the military (Non-Serving) and 93.0% of those planning to serve in the military (Serving).
- Overall, nearly 90% of seniors furthering their education plan to earn a Bachelor or higher degree, representing 89.3% of Non-Serving seniors and 84.0% of Serving seniors.
- Overall, 6.2% of seniors furthering their education plan to earn an Associate degree and 4.9% plan to earn a certificate/license.

6. What institutions do seniors plan to attend?

Table 2 separately lists the number and percent of seniors planning to attend selected postsecondary institutions, by Armed Services Status; for institutions granting the Bachelor's or higher degree and those that do not; followed by the pace that seniors planned to pursue their studies.

- Of the seniors furthering their education, 42.0% plan to attend Miami-Dade College and 18.4% plan to attend Florida International University.
- Of the seniors furthering their education, 66.4% plan to do so on a full-time basis, 20.0% plan to do so on a part-time basis, and 13.6% are unsure at what pace they will do so.
- Most of the Serving seniors planning to further their education, while in the armed services, plan to attend local institutions like their Non-Serving counterparts, instead of academies associated with a specific branch of the service.

Table 2. Institution of Attendance by Armed Service Status

Institution	Armed Service Status					
	Total		Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Awards Bachelor or Higher Degree						
Miami Dade College	8,904	42.0	8,541	42.6	363	31.2
Florida International University	3,913	18.4	3,742	18.7	171	14.7
University of Florida	753	3.5	736	3.7	17	1.5
Florida State University	632	3.0	605	3.0	27	2.3
University of Central Florida	529	2.5	510	2.5	19	1.6
Broward College	494	2.3	466	2.3	28	2.4
Florida Atlantic University	404	1.9	387	1.9	17	1.5
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU)	391	1.8	365	1.8	26	2.2
University of Miami ^a	311	1.5	283	1.4	28	2.4
Barry University ^a	304	1.4	281	1.4	23	2.0
Bethune-Cookman University ^a	254	1.2	232	1.2	22	1.9
Air Force Academy ^b	189	0.9	63	0.3	126	10.8
Dade Medical College ^a	179	0.8	163	0.8	16	1.4
Nova Southeastern University ^a	156	0.7	152	0.8	4	0.3
Santa Fe College	147	0.7	142	0.7	5	0.4
Tallahassee Community College	95	0.4	92	0.5	3	0.3
University of South Florida	95	0.4	91	0.5	4	0.3
Florida Gulf Coast University	91	0.4	84	0.4	7	0.6
St.Thomas University ^a	89	0.4	84	0.4	5	0.4
American University ^a ^b	87	0.4	79	0.4	8	0.7
Valencia College	84	0.4	82	0.4	2	0.2
Florida Memorial University	80	0.4	75	0.4	5	0.4
Art Institutes (all locations) ^{ab}	74	0.3	67	0.3	7	0.6
Johnson and Wales University ^a	73	0.3	71	0.4	2	0.2
Advanced Software Analysis (ASA) ^{ab}	65	0.3	57	0.3	8	0.7
New York University ^{ab}	65	0.3	60	0.3	5	0.4
Keiser University ^a	63	0.3	61	0.3	2	0.2
Robert Morgan Educational Center	63	0.3	61	0.3	2	0.2
Florida National College ^a	59	0.3	54	0.3	5	0.4
Full Sail University ^a	52	0.2	43	0.2	9	0.8
Alabama State ^b	50	0.2	44	0.2	6	0.5
College of Central Florida	48	0.2	40	0.2	8	0.7
New World School of the Arts	41	0.2	41	0.2	0	0.0
Harvard University ^{ab}	38	0.2	31	0.2	7	0.6
City College ^a	35	0.2	32	0.2	3	0.3
Florida Southwestern University	35	0.2	32	0.2	3	0.3
University of California ^b	34	0.2	27	0.1	7	0.6
Boston College ^{ab}	33	0.2	28	0.1	5	0.4
Boston University ^{ab}	33	0.2	33	0.2	0	0.0
Georgia State University ^b	33	0.2	31	0.2	2	0.2

(table continues)

Table 2, continued

Institution	Total		Armed Service Status			
			Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Awards Bachelor or Higher Degree, continued						
University of North Florida	32	0.2	31	0.2	1	0.1
Berklee College of Music ^{ab}	30	0.1	28	0.1	2	0.2
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	30	0.1	22	0.1	8	0.7
Florida Institute of Technology ^a	27	0.1	25	0.1	2	0.2
Lynn University ^a	27	0.1	26	0.1	1	0.1
Savannah College of Art and Design ^{ab}	26	0.1	25	0.1	1	0.1
Stetson University ^{ab}	26	0.1	25	0.1	1	0.1
Duke University ^{ab}	25	0.1	22	0.1	3	0.3
Does not Award Bachelor or Higher Degree						
George T. Baker Aviation	76	0.4	66	0.3	10	0.9
Lyndsey Hopkins Technical Education Center	49	0.2	48	0.2	1	0.1
Beauty Schools of America ^a	48	0.2	44	0.2	4	0.3
Miami Lakes Technical Educational Center	46	0.2	44	0.2	2	0.2
Florida Technical College ^a	43	0.2	36	0.2	7	0.6
Florida Career College ^a	37	0.2	33	0.2	4	0.3
Police Academy	37	0.2	24	0.1	13	1.1
Universal Technical Institute ^{ab}	35	0.2	32	0.2	3	0.3
Other	1,551	7.3	1,456	7.3	95	8.2
Pace of Completion						
Full time	14,097	66.4	13,637	68.0	460	39.5
Part time	4,254	20.0	3,832	19.1	422	36.2
Unsure	2,869	13.6	2,586	12.9	283	24.3
Total	21,220	100.0	20,055	100.0	1,165	100.0

Note. Excludes invalid selections by the Non-Serving (n=170) and Serving (n=67) respondents who provided written responses. Institutions are public unless otherwise marked. Other includes all colleges selected by fewer than 25 students in total.

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

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

Majors represent the students' principal area of concentration maintained through the attainment of their ultimate credential. Table 3 lists the number and percent of seniors who plan to pursue the following majors, by armed services status.

- Among Non-Serving seniors, the most popular field of study was Business Management Accounting, Finance, planned by 12.5%; followed by Nursing, planned by 8.3%.
- Among Serving seniors, the most popular field of study was Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science, planned by 13.2%; followed by Medicine, Medical Technology, Radiology, and Related Services, planned by 7.9%.

Table 3. Major Fields of Study

Field of Study	Total		Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Business, Management, Accounting, Finance and Support Services	2,611	12.2	2,526	12.5	85	7.0
Nursing	1,760	8.2	1,684	8.3	76	6.2
Biology, Biochemistry, Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,486	6.9	1,440	7.1	46	3.8
Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science	1,383	6.5	1,222	6.0	161	13.2
Engineering, Engineering Technologies and Related Fields	1,234	5.8	1,137	5.6	97	7.9
Medicine, Medical Technology, Radiology and Related Services	1,131	5.3	1,084	5.4	47	3.8
Visual Arts, Performing/Theater Arts, Fine Arts, Graphic Design and Related Fields	1,104	5.2	1,078	5.3	26	2.1
Computer Science, Information Systems, Network and Support Services	863	4.0	796	3.9	67	5.5
Psychology, Cognitive Science and Neuroscience	852	4.0	820	4.1	32	2.6
Health Professions and Related Programs	702	3.3	670	3.3	32	2.6
Computer/Video Game Development and Design	522	2.4	494	2.4	28	2.3
Advertising, Marketing, and Public Relations	509	2.4	485	2.4	24	2.0
Law, Legal Professions and Related Fields	455	2.1	435	2.2	20	1.6
Animal Health and Veterinary Science	428	2.0	402	2.0	26	2.1
Journalism, Communication, Communication Technology/Technicians, Film, Broadcasting, Mass Media, Television and Support Services	413	1.9	408	2.0	5	0.4
Education	411	1.9	403	2.0	8	0.7
Dentistry, Dental Hygiene and Related Services	388	1.8	376	1.9	12	1.0
Sports and Athletic Training	388	1.8	368	1.8	20	1.6
Architecture and Related Services	332	1.5	313	1.5	19	1.6
Fire Protection, Administration/Technology, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedics and Related Fields	290	1.4	261	1.3	29	2.4
Aviation, Avionics and Aerospace Technology	285	1.3	219	1.1	66	5.4
Political Science, Politics and Public Administration	285	1.3	268	1.3	17	1.4
Computer Technology, Drafting, and Support Services	284	1.3	257	1.3	27	2.2
Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Support Services	281	1.3	271	1.3	10	0.8
Culinary Services, Cosmetology, Hairstyling, Personal and Related Services	235	1.1	216	1.1	19	1.6
Anatomy and Physiology	224	1.0	209	1.0	15	1.2
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	194	0.9	174	0.9	20	1.6
Pharmacy and Pharmacology	180	0.8	175	0.9	5	0.4
Law Enforcement, Security and Homeland Security and Related Fields	176	0.8	133	0.7	43	3.5
Hospitality and Tourism	174	0.8	170	0.8	4	0.3
Apparel Design, Fashion, and Merchandising	160	0.7	154	0.8	6	0.5
English, English Literature, and Letters	158	0.7	156	0.8	2	0.2
Economics	149	0.7	145	0.7	4	0.3
Physical Sciences, Chemistry and Related Fields	137	0.6	130	0.6	7	0.6
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	111	0.5	99	0.5	12	1.0
Social Work	97	0.5	87	0.4	10	0.8

(table continues)

Table 3, continued

Field of Study	Total		Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Marine Science and Fisheries	86	0.4	76	0.4	10	0.8
Mathematics and Statistics	83	0.4	79	0.4	4	0.3
Social Sciences	69	0.3	67	0.3	2	0.2
Construction Trades	65	0.3	60	0.3	5	0.4
Dietetics and Nutrition	65	0.3	62	0.3	3	0.2
Exercise Science, Physiology	61	0.3	58	0.3	3	0.2
History	60	0.3	56	0.3	4	0.3
Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies and Humanities	59	0.3	56	0.3	3	0.2
Conservation and Wildlife	58	0.3	55	0.3	3	0.2
Mental Health and Counseling	51	0.2	47	0.2	4	0.3
Human Services	49	0.2	44	0.2	5	0.4
Science Technologies/Technicians	48	0.2	46	0.2	2	0.2
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	45	0.2	40	0.2	5	0.4
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	40	0.2	36	0.2	4	0.3
Philosophy and Religious Studies	23	0.1	22	0.1	1	0.1
Military Technologies and Applied Sciences	22	0.1	3	0.0	19	1.6
Other	159	0.7	140	0.7	19	1.6
Total	21,435	100.0	20,212	100.0	1,223	100.0

Note. Excludes invalid selections by the Non-Serving (n=183) and Serving (n=9) respondents who provided written responses. Other includes all majors selected by fewer than 22 students in total.

Industry Certifications provide evidence of mastery in a discipline, and are earned beginning in high school. Table 4 lists the number and percent of seniors who reported planning to acquire each of the listed industry certifications/certification types by armed service status.

- Overall, nearly 50% of the seniors furthering their education, plan to earn one or more industry certifications, representing 48.5% of Non-Serving seniors and 64.5% of Serving seniors.
- Certified Nursing Assistant, Computer Web Design & Publishing, and Computer Application, Software & Gaming were the most popular choices of the Non-Serving seniors, while Aircraft, Aviation & Aerospace, Automotive Technician, and Emergency Medical Technician were the most popular choices of the Serving seniors.

Table 4. Industry Certifications

Industry Certification/Type	Armed Service Status					
	Total		Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	1,866	17.5	1,747	17.7	119	15.0
Computer Web Design & Publishing	1,772	16.6	1,670	16.9	102	12.8
Computer Application, Software & Gaming	1,341	12.5	1,248	12.6	93	11.7
Certified Medical Administrative Assistant	1,273	11.9	1,199	12.1	74	9.3
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	1,241	11.6	1,096	11.1	145	18.2
Computer Operating Systems	1,084	10.1	984	9.9	100	12.6
Automobile, Automotive Technology & Repair	1,072	10.0	913	9.2	159	20.0
Computer Networking & Administration	967	9.0	871	8.8	96	12.1
Aircraft, Aviation & Aerospace Technology	927	8.7	712	7.2	215	27.0
Culinary Arts & Management	840	7.9	761	7.7	79	9.9
Computer Aided Design & Manufacturing	784	7.3	729	7.4	55	6.9
Certified EKG Technician (CET)	611	5.7	558	5.6	53	6.7
Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPHT)	592	5.5	553	5.6	39	4.9
Food Protection Manager	540	5.1	491	5.0	49	6.2
Certified Front Desk Supervisor	323	3.0	283	2.9	40	5.0
Certified Bookkeeper	181	1.7	167	1.7	14	1.8
Medical Technology (not otherwise classified)	159	1.5	152	1.5	7	0.9
Computer & Related Technologies (not otherwise classified)	98	0.9	90	0.9	8	1.0
Construction, Plumbing, Electric & Related Areas	68	0.6	63	0.6	5	0.6
Other	1,341	12.5	1,290	13.0	51	6.4
Plan to Earn One or More Industry Certifications						
Yes	10,686	49.4	9,891	48.5	795	64.5
No	10,941	50.6	10,504	51.5	437	35.5
Total	21,627	100.0	20,395	100.0	1,232	100.0

8. In which branch of the armed services did seniors plan to enlist?

Table 5 separately lists the branch of the armed services that seniors indicated that they would be joining upon completing high school for those who reported planning to further their education and those who did not.

- Of the Serving seniors furthering their education, 90.5% (n=999) plan to do so while serving and 9.5% (n=204) plan to do so after serving. This suggests that education and military service are not mutually exclusive pursuits.
- Nearly half of the Serving seniors plan to join either the Army or the Marines, with similar percentages choosing each branch regardless of whether they planned to continue their education.

Table 5. Armed Services Branch

Branch	Plan to Further Education							
	Total		Yes				No	
			While Serving		After Serving			
n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Army	318	24.8	253	25.3	43	21.1	22	27.8
Marines	297	23.2	226	22.6	50	24.5	21	26.6
Air Force	270	21.1	218	21.8	39	19.1	13	16.5
Navy	252	19.7	190	19.0	48	23.5	14	17.7
Coast Guard	85	6.6	66	6.6	15	7.4	4	5.1
National Guard	55	4.3	45	4.5	6	2.9	4	5.1
Merchant Marines	5	0.4	1	0.1	3	1.5	1	1.3
Total	1,282	100.0	999	100.0	204	100.0	79	100.0

Note. Excludes invalid responses provided by seniors furthering their studies while serving (n=21), after serving (n=8) and not furthering their studies (n=13)

9. Why did seniors not plan to further their education?

Table 6 lists the number and percentage of seniors who gave each of the following reasons for not furthering their education, by armed service status.

Table 6. Reasons Provided for Not Furthering Education

Reasons	Armed Service Status					
	Total		Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not interested	138	21.5	120	21.7	18	20.0
Don't need it for what I want to do	93	14.5	83	15.0	10	11.1
Plan to make some money first	89	13.9	73	13.2	16	17.8
Prefer to work only	89	13.9	83	15.0	6	6.7
Will defer till later	85	13.2	74	13.4	11	12.2
Don't feel academically ready	42	6.5	34	6.2	8	8.9
Prefer military training	20	3.1	2	0.4	18	20.0
Too expensive	19	3.0	18	3.3	1	1.1
Family obligations	18	2.8	16	2.9	2	2.2
Applied but was not accepted	10	1.6	10	1.8	0	0.0
Not eligible	23	3.6	23	4.2	0	0.0
Other	16	2.5	16	2.9	0	0.0
Total	642	100.0	552	100.0	90	100.0

Note. Excludes invalid entries provided by seniors who are Not Serving (n=36) and Serving (n=2).

- Overall, lack of interest (i.e., *not interested*), cited by 21.5% of respondents, was the reason most common seniors gave for not furthering their education.
- Among the Non-Serving seniors not furthering their education, unnecessary (i.e., *don't need it for what I want to do*) and wanting to work (i.e., *prefer to work only*), at 15.0%, were the second most frequently cited reasons.
- Among the Serving seniors not furthering their education, *prefer to military training*, 20.0%, and *prefer to make money*, 17.8%, were, respectively, the second and third most common reasons.

10. What are the principal conclusions of this report?

This report presented the results of the 2018 administration of the Senior Exit Survey, which explored the credentials seniors plan to acquire, the institutions they plan to attend, and the fields of study they choose to pursue. Nearly 85% of seniors completed the survey, of which 97% plan to further their education. Of those continuing their studies, nearly 90% plan to earn a Bachelor or higher degree, representing 78.1% of seniors planning join the military (Serving) and 86.8% of those who do not (Non-Serving). Once considered mutually exclusive pursuits, nearly 80% of seniors joining the armed services planned to further their education while serving. Most seniors furthering their education, plan to attend a college in Florida. Among Non-Serving seniors, Business Management Accounting, Finance was the most popular choice of major, while among Serving seniors, Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science was the most popular. Overall, lack of interest was the most frequently cited reason seniors gave for not furthering their education.