



Evaluation Matters

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Results of the Senior Exit Survey, 2018-2019

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 fourfold purpose of the survey is to explore (a) senior's postsecondary plans, (b) the credentials they plan to acquire, (c) the institutions they plan to attend, and (d) 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 district's main Web page and on the Student Portal between April 18 and June 6, 2019. Students were generally asked to choose from among prespecified 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 or certificate of completion was determined from the withdrawal code recorded on the district's data warehouse, as of June 28, 2019.

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

Overall, 81.1% of targeted seniors (n=20,821) responded to the survey, representing 88.8% of the students (n=19,116) who attended the traditional schools, and 41.1% of the students (n=1,705) 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.

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. 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	22,499	19,445	95.8	3,054	62.9
Eligible to receive a Certificate of Completion or Special Certificate of Completion	828	654	3.1	174	3.6
Not eligible to receive a diploma or certificate of completion	2,347	722	3.5	1,625	33.5
Total	25,674	20,821	100.0	4,853	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 June 28, 2019.

- Of the seniors who completed the survey, based on their withdrawal code, 95.8% (n=19,445) were eligible to receive a diploma.
- Of the seniors who did not complete the survey, 62.9% (n=4,853) were eligible to receive a diploma, while more than a third were not eligible to complete high school.

6. What do responding seniors plan to do upon competing high school?

Survey items asked seniors to indicate what they planned to do once they completed college. Table 1 lists the number and percent of diploma-eligible responding seniors who reported each prespecified pathway.

Table 1. Senior's Postsecondary Plans

Postsecondary Plan	n	%
Responding Seniors		
Enter the workforce, and/or take unspecified coursework	192	1.0
Enter full-time active military service	674	3.5
Earn a certificate or license, but not a degree	719	3.7
Earn an Associate's degree	1,931	9.9
Earn an Associate's degree; and then a Bachelor's, or more advanced degree	6,751	34.7
Earn a Bachelor's, or more advanced degree	7,724	39.7
Haven't decided, unsure, or don't know	1,400	7.2
None of the above	54	0.3
Total	19,445	100.0

- 88.0% (n=17,125) of the diploma-eligible responding seniors planned to further their education by attending college in pursuit of a degree (84.3%, n=16,406), or a postsecondary educational institution in pursuit of a certificate/license (3.7%, n=719).
 - 74.4% of the diploma-eligible responding seniors planned to further their education by earning a Bachelor's or higher degree; 39.7% directly and 34.7% by first earning an Associate's degree.
 - 9.9% of the responding seniors eligible to receive a diploma, planned to further their education by earning an Associate degree, while 3.7% planned to earn a certificate/license.

- 3.5% (n=674) planned to enter full-time active military service; and 1.0% (n=192) planned to enter the workforce and/or take unspecified coursework.

7. What institutions do seniors plan to attend?

Table 2 lists the number and percent of seniors planning to attend selected postsecondary institutions. The institutions are grouped by those that grant the 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, 88.9% (n=15,225) planned to attend a postsecondary institution that awards a Bachelor's or more advanced degree, while 2.6% (n=441) planned to attend a postsecondary institution that do not award a Bachelor or more advanced degree.
- Of the responding seniors eligible to receive a diploma who planned to further their education, 44.6% (n=7,638) plan to attend Miami-Dade College, while 17.6% (n=3,012) plan to attend Florida International University.

Table 2. Postsecondary Institutions

Institution	n	%
Awards Bachelor's or more advanced degree		
MIAMI DADE COLLEGE	7,638	44.6
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	3,012	17.6
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	613	3.6
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	592	3.5
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	397	2.3
BROWARD COLLEGE	369	2.2
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY	277	1.6
BARRY UNIVERSITY ^a	215	1.3
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ^a	206	1.2
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	192	1.1
SAINT THOMAS UNIVERSITY ^a	169	1.0
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ^a	141	0.8
BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY ^a	101	0.6
SANTA FE COLLEGE	96	0.6
DADE MEDICAL COLLEGE ^a	90	0.5
FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY ^a	79	0.5
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	75	0.4
VALENCIA COLLEGE	67	0.4
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	56	0.3
JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	52	0.3
KEISER UNIVERSITY ^a	44	0.3
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	43	0.3
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	42	0.2
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY ^b	37	0.2
NEW WORLD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS	36	0.2
AIR FORCE ACADEMY COLORADO SPRINGS ^b	33	0.2
FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY ^a	33	0.2
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	31	0.2
FLORIDA NATIONAL COLLEGE ^a	29	0.2
SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN ^{ab}	28	0.2

(table continues)

Table 2, continued

Institution	n	%
Awards Bachelor's or more advanced degree, continued		
ART INSTITUTES ^{a b}	24	0.1
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTIC ^{ab}	24	0.1
HARVARD UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	24	0.1
LYNN UNIVERSITY ^a	24	0.1
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY ^b	24	0.1
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ^b	24	0.1
COLLEGE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	23	0.1
BOSTON UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	22	0.1
CORNELL UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	22	0.1
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ^b	21	0.1
FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ^a	20	0.1
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	19	0.1
EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE ^a	19	0.1
SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY ^a	19	0.1
HOWARD UNIVERSITY ^{ab}	18	0.1
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ^b	18	0.1
INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA ^b	17	0.1
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY ^b	17	0.1
Does not award a Bachelor's or more advanced degree		
TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	98	0.6
GEORGE T. BAKER AVIATION	61	0.4
ROBERT MORGAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER	57	0.3
LYNDSEY HOPKINS TECHICAL EDUCATION CENTER	43	0.3
BEAUTY SCHOOLS OF AMERICA ^a	36	0.2
CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO ^b	31	0.2
MIAMI LAKES TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL CENTER	29	0.2
FLORIDA TECHNICAL COLLEGE ^a	24	0.1
POLICE ACADEMY	20	0.1
FLORIDA CAREER COLLEGE ^a	16	0.1
UNIVERSAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ^{ab}	15	0.1
FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY	11	0.1
OTHER (SPECIFIED)	1,383	8.1
UNDECIDED, UNSPECIFIED, UNCLASSIFIABLE	76	0.4
TOTAL	17,125	100.0

Note. Institutions are public and in Florida unless otherwise marked. Other includes all colleges selected by fewer than 17 students in total.

^aPrivate non-profit/for profit institution. ^bOut-of-state institution.

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

Fields of study as used in this evaluation are defined as the major areas of concentration of a postsecondary certificate, license, or degree. Table 3 lists the number and percent of seniors who plan to pursue the following majors.

- 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, planned by 12.8%; followed by Nursing, planned by 8.2%.
- Biology, Biochemistry, Biological, and Biomedical Sciences; Engineering, Engineering Technology and Related fields; and Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science, each were chosen by 5% or more.

Table 3. Postsecondary Fields of Study

Field of Study	n	%
Business, Management, Accounting, Finance and Support Services	2,193	12.8
Nursing	1,541	9.0
Biology, Biochemistry, Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,397	8.2
Engineering, Engineering Technologies and Related Fields	1,042	6.1
Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science	1,017	5.9
Visual Arts, Performing/Theater Arts, Fine Arts, Graphic Design and Related Fields	804	4.7
Psychology, Cognitive Science and Neuroscience	788	4.6
Medicine, Medical Technology, Radiology and Related Services	772	4.5
Computer Science, Information Systems, Network and Support Services	714	4.2
Health Professions and Related Programs	584	3.4
Advertising, Marketing, and Public Relations	388	2.3
Law, Legal Professions and Related Fields	347	2.0
Journalism, Communication, Communication Technology/Technicians, Film, Broadcasting, Mass Media, Television and Support Services	320	1.9
Animal Health and Veterinary Science	302	1.8
Education	301	1.8
Sports and Athletic Training	287	1.7
Computer/Video Game Development and Design	285	1.7
Architecture and Related Services	267	1.6
Political Science, Politics and Public Administration	263	1.5
Dentistry, Dental Hygiene and Related Services	261	1.5
Fire Protection, Administration/Technology, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedics and Related Fields	228	1.3
Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Support Services	221	1.3
Aviation, Avionics and Aerospace Technology	182	1.1
Culinary Services, Cosmetology, Hairstyling, Personal and Related Services	181	1.1
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	171	1.0
Anatomy and Physiology	149	0.9
Hospitality and Tourism	135	0.8

(table continues)

Table 3, continued

Field of Study	n	%
Economics	133	0.8
Computer Technology, Drafting, and Support Services	131	0.8
Physical Sciences, Chemistry and Related Fields	129	0.8
Apparel Design, Fashion, and Merchandising	119	0.7
English, English Literature, and Letters	119	0.7
Pharmacy and Pharmacology	107	0.6
Law Enforcement, Security and Homeland Security and Related Fields	103	0.6
Social Work	96	0.6
Marine Science and Fisheries	82	0.5
Exercise Science, Physiology	81	0.5
Social Sciences	60	0.4
History	59	0.3
Mathematics and Statistics	55	0.3
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	54	0.3
Construction Trades	53	0.3
Science Technologies/Technicians	50	0.3
Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies and Humanities	49	0.3
Dietetics and Nutrition	46	0.3
Mental Health and Counseling	45	0.3
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	36	0.2
Human Services	35	0.2
Conservation and Wildlife	30	0.2
Natural Resources and Conservation	28	0.2
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	20	0.1
Other (specified)	127	0.7
Unspecified, undecided, and unclassifiable	138	0.8
Total	17,125	100.0

Note. "Other" includes all fields of study selected by fewer than 20 seniors.

9. What are the principal conclusions of this report?

This report presented the results of the 2019 administration of the Senior Exit Survey, which explored the seniors' postsecondary plans; the certificate, licenses, or degrees they plan to acquire; the institutions they plan to attend; and the fields of study they choose to pursue. Over 80% of seniors completed the survey, of which 88% plan to acquire a certificate, license, or degree. Of those, over 80% plan 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 Nursing.