



Department of Student Affairs

DORAL COLLEGE GRADUATION RATES & METHODOLOGY: 2014 TO PRESENT

OVERVIEW

Until Spring 2020, Doral College served only high school students enrolled in its dual enrollment offerings. For this reason, the College has historically calculated its graduation rate using different metrics than do traditional institutions. Guidelines and terms related to the calculation of the graduation rate are defined herein.

The College's dual enrollment program offers high school students the opportunity to engage in college-level coursework up to and including the opportunity to earn an Associate in Arts degree. Thus, while most programs would define the maximum timeframe for earning the degree as three years (i.e. 150% times the program length of two years), the College allows as many as five-six years for completion for students who begin studying in middle school, for a term culminating in the year the student graduates from high school.

Further, while the College certainly encourages as many dual enrollment students as possible to complete the Associate in Arts degree, it is not an appropriate or desired goal for every student. Moreover, the more important aim for students is exposure to college-level coursework and the opportunity for advancement. For that reason, the majority of Doral College dual enrollment students do not earn the full degree, instead opting to take only a handful of courses. In consideration of this fact, the College has historically also heavily weighed course retention rates and course success rates in evaluating the effectiveness of its programs. More information is provided on these figures in the sections titled "Existing Data" and "Analysis."

The College offers a number of non-degree seeking statuses as appropriate to its students' qualifications as well as to more accurately represent the goals of its students as described above. While the same admissions standards for these statuses are similar, students generally identify as non-degree seeking at the time of application submission and then request degree-seeking status after they have determined they intend to earn the AA and have been advised accordingly.

TERMINOLOGY

In accordance with these guidelines, Doral College defines terms related to dual enrollment graduation rate, course completion rate, and course success rates, as follows:

- **Normal Completion Time:** Up to six years for students who begin study in middle school, culminating in the year the student graduates from high school.
- **Date Range of Cohort to be Measured:** Rather than measuring a cohort based on the semester in which a student was admitted, Doral College groups its cohorts by high school graduation year. (I.e., if a student is scheduled to graduate high school in 2019, he/she will be counted in that cohort regardless of when he/she was admitted to the College.)
- **Exclusions:** Only degree-seeking students are included in the cohort. Thus, students identified as "non-degree seeking" are not counted. Additionally, students who were admitted to the College but never enrolled in classes, as well as students who left an affiliate high school during their high school careers and thus were no longer eligible for enrollment, are also excluded from the cohort.



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- **Course Retention Rate:** The percentage of student enrollments that are completed (not dropped or withdrawn) in a semester, regardless of grade earned.
- **Course Success Rate:** The percentage of completed student enrollments that earn a passing grade.

EXISTING DATA

Doral College’s graduation rate for dual enrollment students pursuing the Associate in Arts degree is as follows:

GRADUATION RATE

YEAR	NET COHORT	STUDENTS GRADUATING	GRADUATION RATE
2014	24	22	91.66%
2015	24	11	45.83%
2016	87	29	33.33%
2017	173	50	28.90%
2018	136	65	47.79%
2019	84	48	57.14%
AVERAGE RATE			50.78%

Doral College began to calculate course retention rates and course success rates in Fall of 2014. Data for each semester thereon is as follows:

COURSE RETENTION AND SUCCESS RATES

SEMESTER	COURSE RETENTION RATE	COURSE SUCCESS RATE
Fall 2014	85%	93%
Spring 2015	95%	94%
Summer 2015	81%	95%
Fall 2015	92%	96%
Spring 2016	92%	95%
Summer 2016	93%	92%
Fall 2016	90%	95%
Spring 2017	97%	98%
Summer 2017	89%	88%
Fall 2017	89%	96%
Spring 2018	97%	97%
Summer 2018	83%	98%
Fall 2018	86%	96%
Spring 2019	88%	95%
Summer 2019	89%	97%
Fall 2019	90%	95%
Spring 2020	87%	95%
Summer 2020	89%	97%
AVERAGE RATE	90%	95%



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ANALYSIS

Doral College was licensed by the Florida Commission on Independent Education in 2011. However, it did not actively enroll students in the degree program until Fall of 2013. For this reason, the graduation rate for its first graduating class—2014—is abnormally high. While later cohorts include students who enrolled at varying times during their high school careers, the 2014 cohort includes only students who enrolled in their senior year of high school. These students transferred in a substantial part of their degree requirements from other post-secondary institutions and Advanced Placement scores, as allowed by the College.

Furthermore, the composition and size of the College's student body has changed in recent years as the College has expanded to serve additional affiliate schools. For example, the 2014 cohort included students from only two affiliate schools, and the 2015 cohort from only one. In contrast, the 2019 cohort included students from at least 10 affiliate schools.

Due to these unique factors and its untraditional student population, the College has historically considered its course retention rates and course success rates to be more indicative of whether or not it is meeting its goals and fulfilling its stated purpose. As noted above, the College has achieved very high rates in these two areas, indicating the majority of its students are performing satisfactorily and reaching their goals of advancement.

In the future, Doral College will report graduation rates for undergraduate students for the Associate in Arts and Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with ESOL and Reading endorsement degrees in addition to continuing to report a separate AA graduation rate for its dual enrollment students. Undergraduate graduation rates will be calculated using the more traditional metric of 150% of the maximum timeframe allowed for the degree – i.e. three (3) years for the Associate in Arts degree and three (3) years for the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree (upper division coursework only).

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