

ORAP Research Bulletin

Office of Research, Assessment & Planning
Adelphi University

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Retention and Graduation Update

Retention measures the percentage of students who have either completed a program of study at the institution where they *first matriculated* or who are still enrolled there. National data collected by the U.S. Department of Education are for first-time, full-time freshmen. Longitudinal retention/graduation rates at Adelphi University are shown below:

**Retention/Graduation Rates of First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen –
Total University: Fall 1996 to Fall 2004**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of Students in Initial Fall Cohort	316	289	524	532	616	664	666	772	801
First semester									
% Enrolled ¹	83.9	87.9	89.3	88.0	90.6	91.4	89.9	92.4	92.1
1 Year									
% Enrolled ²	67.1	69.9	73.5	74.2	76.3	77.8	78.6	79.8	82.1
2 Years									
% Enrolled	57.3	60.9	60.3	59.8	66.4	68.1	69.1	67.8	
3 Years									
% Enrolled	49.1	50.2	53.2	54.7	61.2	61.7	66.7		
% Graduated ³	0.9	2.8	2.1	1.5	2.3	3.0	2.4		
4 Years									
% Enrolled	9.5	9.7	13.0	10.5	10.1	9.0			
% Graduated	40.5	44.6	40.8	43.8	51.0	54.8			
5 Years									
% Enrolled	2.2	1.4	3.1	1.9	1.9				
% Graduated	47.8	52.9	50.0	53.4	59.6				
6 Years									
% Enrolled	1.3	0.3	1.3	0.6					
% Graduated	48.7	52.9	53.2	54.1					
Total Number of Graduates	157	155	283	288	367	364	25	0	0

¹ First semester retention is defined as enrolled in the spring semester following initial entry.

² One year of retention is defined as enrolled in the fall semester following initial entry.

³ Year of graduation is defined as graduation within the 12 month period beginning with a fall semester.

One-Year (Freshman to Sophomore) Retention Rates:

As the previous chart confirms, the highest attrition rates occur in the first year of enrollment. These data show consistent improvement over time, however. The proportion of Adelphi freshmen who leave prior to their sophomore year has fallen from 33 percent for the 1996 cohort to 18 percent for the most recent (2004) cohort.

For purposes of comparison, the following chart lists Adelphi's one-year (freshman to sophomore) retention rate for the 2003 cohort, along with the one-year rates of peer institutions. Although Adelphi's one-year retention rate is generally comparable to or better than that of local peer institutions (with the exceptions of Fordham and SUNY – Stony Brook), it remains lower than that of most national peers.

Freshman to Sophomore Retention Rate for Full-time Students Adelphi and Peer Institutions – 2003 Cohort

Adelphi University's one-year retention rate = 80%			
Local Peer Institutions	one-year retention rate (%)	National Peer Institutions	one-year retention rate (%)
CUNY – Brooklyn College	79	Canisius College (NY)	84
CUNY – Hunter College	81	Catholic U of America (DC)	85
CUNY – Queens College	81	Drake University (IA)	86
Dowling College	66	Emerson College (MA)	86
Fordham University	90	Iona College (NY)	77
Hofstra University	74	Loyola College (MD)	89
L.I.U. C.W. Post Campus	70	Pepperdine University (CA)	89
Molloy College	84	Seton Hall University (NJ)	82
New School University	81	St. Joseph's University (PA)	89
Pace University (all campuses)	76	Univ of San Diego (CA)	85
St. John's University	78	Univ of San Francisco (CA)	86
SUNY – Stony Brook	87	Widener University (PA)	75
		Xavier University (OH)	90
Mean rate for local peers	78.9	Mean rate for national peers	84.8

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Entering Freshman Survey, 2004

Graduation Rates:

The U.S. Department of Education defines official graduation rates as the proportion of first-time, full-time degree-seeking undergraduates entering an institution in a particular year (cohort) who complete their program within 150 percent of normal time to completion. At a four-year post-secondary institution, “normal time” equals four years; “150 percent of normal time” equals six years.

The following table and graph compare Adelphi University’s six-year graduation rate to that of other four-year colleges and universities. Adelphi’s rate is comparable to the average for all institutions. It is higher than that of public institutions and private for-profit institutions, but lower than that of private not-for-profit institutions. [Note: As the initial chart in this bulletin reveals, Adelphi’s six-year graduation rate for the 2000 cohort is projected to be at least 60 percent.]

**Six-year Graduation Rates
Adelphi and Other Four-year Post-Secondary Institutions
Most Recent Cohorts¹**

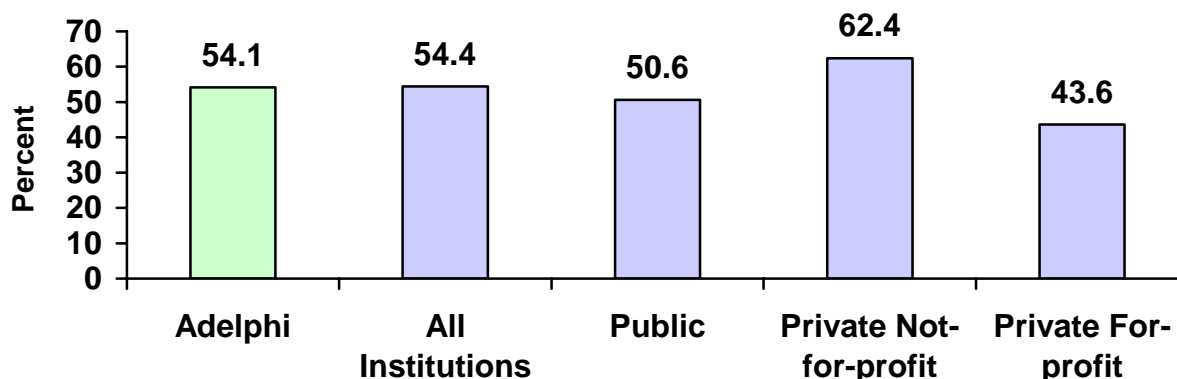
	Adelphi	All Title IV Post- secondary Institutions ²	Public	Private Not-for- profit	Private For-profit
Adjusted cohort³	532	1,118,522	703,614	378,665	36,243
Total completers	282	608,28	355,996	236,475	15,810
Graduation rate (%)	54.1	54.4	50.6	62.4	43.6

¹ The most recent cohort for Adelphi is 1999; for national comparisons, the most recent cohort is 1996.

² Source: *Enrollment in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2002* and *Financial Statistics, Fiscal Year 2002*, National Center for Education Statistics.

³ The adjusted cohort reflects changes made by the institution to the original cohort and exclusions to the cohort reported by the institution.

**Six-year Graduation Rates
All Four-year Postsecondary Institutions**

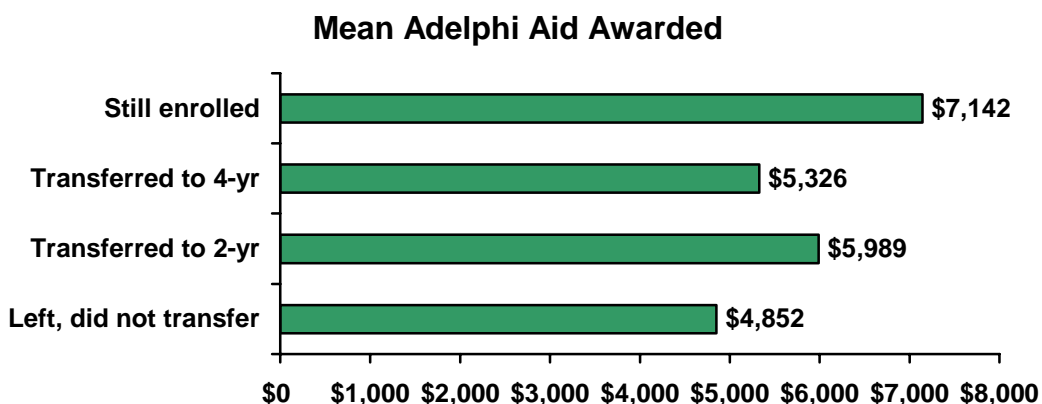


Studying Leavers

In September 2005, ORAP took a closer look at new freshmen (both full- and part-time) who leave Adelphi before the start of their second year, focusing on those who first enrolled in Fall 2003.

Highlights from the *Leavers Study*:

- Approximately 21 percent of full- and part-time new freshmen in Fall 2003 left Adelphi prior to Fall 2004. Of these students, 65 percent left in good academic standing, with cumulative GPAs at or above 2.0.
- Those who left were proportionately more likely to be non-traditional students, attending part-time and older than traditional college-age students.
- National Student Clearinghouse (NSCL) data show that three-quarters of those who left Adelphi in good academic standing transferred to other institutions. Leavers who transferred (as compared to leavers who did not transfer) were more likely to be traditional college students, younger and on-campus residents.
- The vast majority of students who transferred enrolled in public institutions.
- New freshmen receiving financial aid from any source were more likely to stay at Adelphi than those who did not receive any aid.
- Leavers who transferred received less Adelphi aid than students still enrolled, regardless of the type of institution (two-year or four-year) to which they transferred.



Note: The figures above include only those leavers in good academic standing (GPA \geq 2.0).

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For additional information on this Research Bulletin topic or other ORAP projects and reports, contact:

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