

Academic Success of High School Graduates Enrolling Their First Term in College

Question: What is the first term, academic success in college of students who graduated from high school in 2000? Does it vary by type of school district?

Why look at student academic success? High school graduates' first term in college can be challenging. For students on Ohio's residential campuses, the first term of study may also be the first time the students have lived away from home. For students on Ohio's commuter campuses, the first term of study may be accompanied by students working full-time, or at new jobs, while going to school. There are a number of ways that students and their families might evaluate their first term. Among these, the first report card will be looked at by many as a sign of how well a student is making the transition to college. One might expect that students who complete an academic core curriculum while in high school would explain some variation in student's transition to college level coursework. An academic core curriculum is defined, minimally, as 4 years of English, and 3 years each of mathematics, science, and social studies while in high school.

National Answers: There are no known national data on this subject.

Statewide Answers: First term college students who graduated from high school in 2000 earned an average 2.64 (C+ to B-) grade point average. Almost one half a letter grade separates students' first term grade point averages for students who completed the academic core in high school (2.80 of B-) from students who did not take such coursework in high school (2.48 or C+). Students who enter college without having taken a college placement exam earn the lowest grade point average their first year and term of college (C).

First Term College Grade Point Average – Autumn 2000 of High School Graduates of 2000

	Enrollees	All Enrollees	Students with known core H.S. curriculum	Students with known less-than-core H.S. curriculum	Students not taking the College Entrance Exam
Grand Total	49,930	2.64	2.80	2.48	2.21

High School District Groupings Answers: Students from suburban, very high SES (Socio Economic Status) school districts earned the highest grade point averages (2.82 or B-) at four-year universities in Ohio. Students from major city school districts with extremely high poverty earned the lowest grade point averages at both four-year universities (2.30 or C) and two-year colleges (1.93 of C-). Students who completed an academic core curriculum while in high school consistently earned higher grade point averages in their first year of college in all types of school districts and college types. Almost without exception, irrespective of the type of high school district, students who enter college without having taken a college placement exam earn the lowest grade point average their first year and term of college.

First Term College Grade Point Average – Autumn 2000 of High School Graduates of 2000

Type of College Attended	District Grouping	Enrollment Count	All Enrollees	Students with known core H.S. curriculum	Students with known less-than-core H.S. curriculum	Students not taking the College Entrance Exam
public 2-year	Major City, extremely high poverty	1,197	1.93	2.28	1.93	1.65
	Urban moderate SES	1,691	2.28	2.61	2.28	1.98
	Suburban/urban high SES	3,001	2.34	2.64	2.35	2.02
	Suburban very high SES	816	2.47	2.75	2.41	2.15
	Small town, very high poverty	749	2.59	2.85	2.51	2.35
	Small town, moderate SES	1,682	2.52	2.81	2.48	2.22
	Rural High Poverty	914	2.80	3.13	2.78	2.38
	Rural	1,293	2.67	2.95	2.60	2.41
	Independent Schools	108	2.38	2.60	2.31	2.14
	Parochial	891	2.43	2.58	2.47	2.09
Public 2-year Total		14,282	2.43	2.73	2.44	2.15

First Term College Grade Point Average – Autumn 2000 of High School Graduates of 2000 (Continued)

Type of College Attended	District Grouping	Enrollment Count	All Enrollees	Students with known core H.S. curriculum	Students with known less-than-core H.S. curriculum	Students not taking the College Entrance Exam
Public 4-year	Major City, extremely high poverty	2,574	2.30	2.39	2.22	1.92
	Urban moderate SES	2,928	2.64	2.73	2.49	2.21
	Suburban/urban high SES	8,782	2.74	2.84	2.52	2.33
	Suburban very high SES	4,152	2.82	2.90	2.54	2.45
	Small town, very high poverty	2,478	2.56	2.72	2.34	1.94
	Small town, moderate SES	4,528	2.73	2.86	2.52	2.10
	Rural High Poverty	1,685	2.66	2.84	2.49	1.88
	Rural	3,012	2.76	2.89	2.58	2.34
	Independent Schools	448	2.75	2.81	2.57	2.63
	Parochial	4,266	2.76	2.82	2.58	2.52
public 4-year Total		35,648	2.70	2.81	2.49	2.30

High School District Answers:

- The complete list of college grade point averages by high school district can be found at: http://www.regents.state.oh.us/perfrpt/Chapt_5_2002.xls
- To demonstrate how these data appear, the Franklin County School districts are reported on the following page.

First Term College Grade Point Average – Autumn 2000 of High School Graduates of 2000*

District Grouping	district name	Type of College Attended	Enrollment Count	All Enrollees	Students with known core H.S. curriculum	Students with known less-than-core H.S. curriculum	Students not taking the College Entrance Exam	
Major City, extremely high poverty	COLUMBUS CITY SD	public 2-year	239	2.04	2.26	2.11	1.68	
		public 4-year	360	2.11	2.16	1.99	2.04	
		Total	599	2.09	2.18	2.04	1.80	
Urban moderate SES	GROVEPORT SD	public 2-year	46	2.85	3.04	2.73	2.71	
		public 4-year	28	2.45	2.55	2.28	2.20	
		Total	74	2.68	2.77	2.60	2.55	
	SOUTH-WESTERN CITY SD	public 2-year	145	2.49	2.53	2.56	2.29	
		public 4-year	161	2.69	2.78	2.53	2.71	
		Total	306	2.61	2.72	2.54	2.32	
	WHITEHALL CITY SD	public 2-year	18	1.89	2.63	1.99	1.35	
		public 4-year	16	2.89	2.96	2.81	2.50	
		total	34	2.42	2.88	2.39	1.48	
	Suburban/urban high SES	CANAL WINCHESTER LOCAL SD	public 2-year	11	2.61	2.07	2.87	3.33
			public 4-year	36	2.51	2.43	2.81	1.67
			total	47	2.53	2.38	2.83	2.89
GAHANNA-JEFFERSON CITY SD		public 2-year	53	2.58	2.61	2.70	2.35	
		public 4-year	134	2.74	2.82	2.68	2.23	
		total	187	2.70	2.80	2.69	2.29	
GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS CITY SD		public 2-year	6	2.51	3.11		1.86	
		public 4-year	25	2.72	2.82	2.60	2.55	
		total	31	2.68	2.87	2.60	2.26	
HILLIARD CITY SD		public 2-year	99	2.65	2.94	2.47	2.34	
		public 4-year	153	2.77	2.86	2.31	3.10	
		total	252	2.73	2.88	2.40	2.51	
REYNOLDSBURG CITY SD		public 2-year	41	2.61	2.50	2.83	2.44	
		public 4-year	104	2.63	2.52	2.92	1.99	
		total	145	2.62	2.51	2.89	2.28	
WESTERVILLE CITY SD		public 2-year	120	2.71	2.89	2.67	2.38	
		public 4-year	284	2.81	2.90	2.43	2.76	
		total	404	2.78	2.90	2.53	2.47	
Suburban very high SES		BEXLEY CITY SD	public 2-year	7	1.31	2.14	2.33	0.48
			public 4-year	54	2.76	2.83	2.35	2.38
			total	61	2.65	2.82	2.34	1.85
	DUBLIN CITY SD	public 2-year	91	2.90	3.00	2.93	2.72	
		public 4-year	264	2.89	2.94	2.72	2.74	
		total	355	2.90	2.95	2.77	2.73	
	PLAIN LOCAL SD	public 2-year	6	2.83	3.02	2.97	2.33	
		public 4-year	27	2.47	2.61	2.29	2.20	
		total	33	2.54	2.68	2.45	2.24	
	UPPER ARLINGTON CITY SD	public 2-year	34	2.50	3.21	1.83	2.20	
		public 4-year	131	2.99	3.02	2.59	2.30	
		total	165	2.91	3.04	2.03	2.24	
	WORTHINGTON CITY SD	public 2-year	83	2.56	2.79	2.46	2.35	
		public 4-year	242	3.01	3.06	2.92	2.61	
		total	325	2.92	3.03	2.73	2.46	
	Small town, very high poverty	HAMILTON LOCAL SD	public 2-year	23	2.17	1.91	1.91	2.50
			public 4-year	10	2.44	2.58	2.30	
			total	33	2.26	2.23	2.09	2.50

* = Cell Sizes < 5 students – blanked out for confidentiality purposes

First Term College Grade Point Average – Autumn 2000 of High School Graduates of 2000*

District Grouping	district name	Type of College Attended	Enrollment Count	All Enrollees	Students with known core H.S. curriculum	Students with known less-than-core H.S. curriculum	Students not taking the College Entrance Exam
Independent Schools	COLUMBUS ACADEMY HIGH	public 2-year	<5				
		public 4-year	13	3.19	3.03	3.36	3.15
		total	15	3.15	3.03	3.19	3.22
	COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS HIGH	public 4-year	10	3.34	3.30	3.67	
		total	10	3.34	3.30	3.67	
	COLUMBUS TORAH ACADEMY HIGH	public 4-year	<5				
		total	<5				
	EVANGEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY HIGH	public 2-year	<5				
		public 4-year	<5				
		total	7	2.57	2.48	3.20	
	LIBERTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY HIGH	public 2-year	<5				
		public 4-year	5	2.81	2.81		
		total	9	2.80	2.80		
	MARANATHA CHRISTIAN HIGH	public 2-year	6	1.60		4.00	1.41
		public 4-year	<5				
		total	8	2.17	3.18	4.00	1.87
	MARBURN ACADEMY HIGH	public 2-year	<5				
		total	<5				
	TREE OF LIFE-NORTHRIDGE BRANCH	public 2-year	6	2.77	2.13	3.12	4.00
		public 4-year	11	2.94	2.93	2.98	
		total	17	2.90	2.78	3.02	4.00
	WELLINGTON HIGH	public 2-year	<5				
		public 4-year	5	2.90	3.05	2.25	
total		6	2.83	2.95	2.25		
WORLD HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACAD H	public 2-year	6	1.64	3.69	0.88	1.25	
	public 4-year	5	1.87	1.87			
	total	11	1.77	2.11	0.88	1.25	

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