B A Y L O R
U N I V E R S I T Y

Retention and Graduation Rates of Doctoral Students
Fall 1991 – Fall 2007

Executive Summary

An analysis of retention and graduation rates for entering doctoral students was performed. Based on five-year averages, the following questions were answered:

- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within <u>four</u> years?   31%

- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within <u>five</u> years?   51%

- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within <u>six</u> years?   59%

- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within <u>seven</u> years?   63%

Detailed Report

This report contains information on the retention of doctoral students at Baylor University. Doctoral students have a maximum time limit of ten years to complete the doctoral program, and any extension of the time limit must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. Even though some students take the full ten years to complete their program, the majority of doctoral students finish within seven years from the time of entry. All doctoral students were considered together as a group, and there was no differentiation between PhD, EdD or PsyD students.

Since the sizes of incoming classes are relatively small, there are issues that must be considered when doing any type of retention study. Semester data is 'frozen' on the official census day of the semester. If a student registers or completes financial registration after the census day, he or she would not be included in the data, and thus would appear as a 'leaver' when actually they continued to be enrolled.

Based on five-year averages, one-half of entering doctoral students graduate within five years. Nearly 60% of entering doctoral students graduate within seven years. Details for each incoming class can be found in the table on the following page.

Doctoral Retention
Fall 1991-Fall 2007

Entry Term	N	After 1 year			After 2 years			After 3 years			After 4 years			After 5 years			After 6 years			After 7 years		
		Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad
Fall 1991	67	91.0%	9.0%		77.6%	20.9%	1.5%	58.2%	29.9%	11.9%	31.3%	29.9%	38.8%	20.9%	29.9%	49.3%	11.9%	32.8%	55.2%	4.5%	34.3%	61.2%
Fall 1992	69	87.0%	13.0%		79.7%	20.3%		66.7%	30.4%	2.9%	29.0%	37.7%	33.3%	14.5%	44.9%	40.6%	15.9%	37.7%	46.4%	10.1%	37.7%	52.2%
Fall 1993	78	83.3%	16.7%		66.7%	33.3%		53.8%	41.0%	5.1%	35.9%	43.6%	20.5%	25.6%	46.2%	28.2%	20.5%	43.6%	35.9%	11.5%	43.6%	44.9%
Fall 1994	80	86.3%	13.8%		77.5%	18.8%	3.8%	68.8%	22.5%	8.8%	42.5%	26.3%	31.3%	32.5%	26.3%	41.3%	23.8%	26.3%	50.0%	16.3%	27.5%	56.3%
Fall 1995	86	89.5%	10.5%		76.7%	23.3%		67.4%	31.4%	1.2%	45.3%	33.7%	20.9%	29.1%	33.7%	37.2%	22.1%	34.9%	43.0%	17.4%	33.7%	48.8%
Fall 1996	66	86.4%	13.6%		80.3%	19.7%		68.2%	30.3%	1.5%	37.9%	33.3%	28.8%	16.7%	34.8%	48.5%	16.7%	31.8%	51.5%	15.2%	30.3%	54.5%
Fall 1997	74	87.8%	12.2%		83.8%	16.2%		74.3%	21.6%	4.1%	47.3%	20.3%	32.4%	29.7%	24.3%	45.9%	17.6%	27.0%	55.4%	10.8%	27.0%	62.2%
Fall 1998	65	93.8%	6.2%		89.2%	10.8%		80.0%	13.8%	6.2%	43.1%	18.5%	38.5%	27.7%	24.6%	47.7%	21.5%	21.5%	56.9%	13.9%	21.5%	64.6%
Fall 1999	64	89.1%	10.9%		87.5%	12.5%		68.8%	17.2%	14.1%	45.3%	18.8%	35.9%	25.0%	23.4%	51.6%	17.2%	25.0%	57.8%	6.3%	25.0%	68.7%
Fall 2000	78	91.0%	9.0%		85.9%	14.1%		76.9%	18.0%	5.1%	55.1%	18.0%	26.9%	26.9%	21.8%	51.3%	14.1%	25.6%	60.3%	9.0%	26.9%	64.1%
Fall 2001	87	85.1%	14.9%		86.2%	12.6%	1.2%	78.2%	17.2%	4.6%	50.6%	20.7%	28.7%	29.9%	17.2%	52.9%	17.2%	18.4%	64.4%			
Fall 2002	84	92.9%	6.0%	1.1%	84.5%	11.9%	3.6%	72.6%	17.9%	9.5%	39.3%	22.6%	38.1%	27.4%	20.2%	52.4%						
Fall 2003	70	95.7%	4.3%		88.6%	8.6%	2.9%	78.6%	10.0%	11.4%	60.0%	12.9%	27.1%									
Fall 2004	85	89.4%	10.6%		80.0%	20.0%		75.3%	25.5%	1.2%												
Fall 2005	96	93.8%	6.2%		82.3%	17.7%																
Fall 2006	108	95.4%	4.6%																			
Fall 2007	86																					
Average		89.8%	10.1%		81.8%	17.4%		70.6%	23.3%	6.3%	43.3%	25.9%	30.9%	25.5%	28.9%	45.6%	18.0%	29.5%	52.4%	11.5%	30.8%	57.7%
5-Year Average		93.4%	6.3%		84.3%	14.2%		76.3%	17.7%	6.4%	50.1%	18.6%	31.4%	27.4%	21.5%	51.2%	17.5%	23.5%	59.0%	11.0%	26.2%	62.8%

Note: Cont = Continued

Gone = Not Enrolled

Grad = Graduated (the graduation percent is cumulative. If a student graduated following the 2nd year, he/she is included in the 3rd year's percentage)