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Retention and Graduation Rates of Doctoral Students Fall 2002 – Fall 2018

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 four years? 16%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within five years? 41%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within six years? 55%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within seven years? 62%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within eight years? 67%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within nine years? 69%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within ten years? 68%

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. This report excludes students enrolled in any military doctoral program.

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, 41 percent of entering doctoral students graduate within five years. Sixty-two percent of entering doctoral students graduate within seven years, and 68 percent of entering doctoral students graduate within ten years. Details for each incoming class can be found in the table on the following page.

Doctoral Retention
Fall 2002-Fall 2018

Entry Term	N	After 1 year			After 2 years			After 3 years			After 4 years			After 5 years			After 6 years			After 7 years			After 8 years			After 9 years			After 10 years			
		Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	Cont	Gone	Grad	
Fall 2002	84	92.9%	7.1%		84.5%	11.9%	3.6%	72.6%	17.9%	9.5%	39.3%	22.6%	38.1%	27.4%	20.2%	52.4%	14.3%	23.8%	61.9%	9.5%	25.0%	65.5%	9.5%	23.8%	66.7%	7.1%	21.4%	71.4%	2.4%	20.2%	77.4%	
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%	38.6%	15.7%	45.7%	20.0%	17.1%	62.9%	10.0%	15.7%	74.3%	4.3%	14.3%	81.4%	1.4%	14.3%	84.3%	1.4%	14.3%	84.3%	
Fall 2004	85	89.4%	10.6%		80.0%	20.0%		75.3%	23.5%	1.2%	63.5%	28.2%	8.2%	36.5%	32.9%	30.6%	23.5%	36.5%	40.0%	11.8%	34.1%	54.1%	5.9%	35.3%	58.8%	4.7%	35.3%	60.0%	1.2%	35.3%	63.5%	
Fall 2005	96	93.8%	6.3%		82.3%	17.7%		65.6%	27.1%	7.3%	58.3%	30.2%	11.5%	37.5%	30.2%	32.3%	22.9%	31.3%	45.8%	10.4%	32.3%	57.3%	7.3%	32.3%	60.4%	5.2%	32.3%	62.5%	0.0%	34.4%	65.6%	
Fall 2006	108	95.4%	4.6%		89.8%	9.3%	0.9%	74.1%	15.7%	10.2%	57.4%	22.2%	20.4%	37.0%	26.9%	36.1%	15.7%	26.9%	57.4%	5.6%	25.9%	68.5%	0.9%	25.9%	73.1%	0.0%	25.9%	74.1%	0.0%	25.9%	74.1%	
Fall 2007	86	88.4%	11.6%		83.7%	16.3%		74.4%	24.4%	1.2%	59.3%	30.2%	10.5%	38.4%	30.2%	31.4%	22.1%	30.2%	47.7%	16.3%	29.1%	54.7%	7.0%	31.4%	61.6%	2.3%	31.4%	66.3%	0.0%	32.6%	67.4%	
Fall 2008	99	90.9%	9.1%		81.8%	16.2%	2.0%	71.7%	23.2%	5.1%	54.5%	29.3%	16.2%	34.3%	28.3%	37.4%	14.1%	29.3%	56.6%	10.1%	30.3%	59.6%	5.1%	31.3%	63.6%	2.0%	32.3%	65.7%	0.0%	32.3%	67.7%	
Fall 2009	115	96.5%	3.5%		87.0%	12.1%	0.9%	80.0%	16.5%	3.5%	66.1%	20.9%	13.0%	30.4%	19.1%	50.4%	13.9%	20.9%	65.2%	7.0%	20.9%	72.2%	4.3%	20.9%	74.8%	2.6%	20.9%	76.5%				
Fall 2010	118	88.1%	11.0%	0.8%	80.5%	18.6%	0.8%	69.5%	27.1%	3.4%	60.2%	30.5%	9.3%	41.5%	30.5%	28.0%	22.0%	31.4%	46.6%	10.2%	32.2%	57.6%	5.9%	33.9%	60.2%							
Fall 2011	115	92.2%	7.0%	0.9%	82.6%	15.7%	1.7%	66.1%	23.5%	10.4%	57.4%	25.2%	17.4%	25.2%	28.7%	46.1%	15.7%	27.0%	57.4%	10.4%	26.1%	63.5%										
Fall 2012	111	89.2%	10.8%		82.9%	17.1%		72.1%	20.7%	7.2%	65.8%	23.4%	10.8%	43.2%	23.4%	33.3%	26.1%	23.4%	50.5%													
Fall 2013	118	95.8%	4.2%		90.7%	7.6%	1.7%	82.2%	9.3%	8.5%	66.1%	12.7%	21.2%	41.5%	12.7%	45.8%																
Fall 2014	132	95.5%	4.5%		90.2%	9.8%		76.5%	14.4%	9.1%	63.6%	14.4%	22.0%																			
Fall 2015	155	96.1%	3.9%		88.4%	11.6%		74.8%	16.8%	8.4%																						
Fall 2016	137	88.3%	11.7%		82.5%	17.5%																										
Fall 2017	154	90.9%	9.1%																													
Fall 2018	232																															
Average		92.4%	7.5%		85.0%	14.0%		73.8%	19.3%	6.9%	59.3%	23.3%	17.4%	36.0%	24.9%	39.1%	19.1%	27.1%	53.8%	10.1%	27.2%	62.7%	5.6%	27.7%	66.7%	3.2%	26.7%	70.1%	0.7%	27.9%	71.4%	
5-Year Average		93.3%	6.7%		86.9%	12.7%		74.3%	16.9%	8.7%	62.6%	21.3%	16.1%	36.4%	22.9%	40.7%	18.4%	26.4%	55.3%	10.8%	27.7%	61.5%	4.6%	28.7%	66.7%	2.4%	28.6%	69.0%	0.2%	32.1%	67.7%	

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.)

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.