



Baylor University

IRT Series

Vol. 19-20, No. 019

September 18, 2019

Retention and Graduation Rates of Doctoral Students Fall 2002 – Fall 2019

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? 13%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within five years? 37%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within six years? 54%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within seven years? 60%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within eight years? 62%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within nine years? 66%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within ten years? 66%

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.

Graduation percentages reflect those who graduated from the doctoral program in which they initially enrolled. In some cases, students transfer to a different doctoral program or choose to leave the University with a Master's degree. These students are not included in the graduation percentages in this report.

Based on five-year averages, 37 percent of entering doctoral students graduate from their entry doctoral program within five years. Sixty percent of entering doctoral students graduate within seven years, and 66 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 2019

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	Other	Cont	Gone	Grad	Other	Cont	Gone	Grad	Other	Cont	Gone	Grad	Other	Cont	Gone	Grad	Other	Cont	Gone	Grad	Other	Cont	Gone	Grad	Other	Cont	Gone	Grad	Other	Cont	Gone	Grad	Other				
Fall 2002	84	92.9%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	81.0%	7.1%	3.6%	8.3%	69.0%	13.1%	9.5%	8.3%	38.1%	17.9%	35.7%	8.3%	26.2%	15.5%	50.0%	8.3%	14.3%	19.0%	59.5%	7.1%	9.5%	19.0%	63.1%	8.3%	9.5%	17.9%	64.3%	8.3%	6.0%	15.5%	69.0%	9.5%	2.4%	14.3%	73.8%	9.5%
Fall 2003	70	90.0%	4.3%	0.0%	5.7%	78.6%	7.1%	2.9%	11.4%	68.6%	7.1%	11.4%	12.9%	50.0%	10.0%	27.1%	12.9%	32.9%	11.4%	42.9%	12.9%	14.3%	11.4%	58.6%	15.7%	5.7%	10.0%	68.6%	15.7%	1.4%	8.6%	74.3%	15.7%	1.4%	8.6%	74.3%	15.7%	1.4%	8.6%	74.3%	15.7%
Fall 2004	85	82.4%	9.4%	0.0%	8.2%	74.1%	10.6%	0.0%	15.3%	67.1%	11.8%	1.2%	20.0%	56.5%	14.1%	7.1%	22.4%	35.3%	17.6%	25.9%	21.2%	22.4%	20.0%	35.3%	22.4%	11.8%	18.8%	47.1%	22.4%	5.9%	20.0%	51.8%	22.4%	4.7%	18.8%	51.8%	24.7%	1.2%	18.8%	55.3%	24.7%
Fall 2005	96	90.6%	6.3%	0.0%	3.1%	75.0%	9.4%	0.0%	15.6%	61.5%	11.5%	7.3%	19.8%	52.1%	12.5%	11.5%	24.0%	34.4%	12.5%	31.3%	21.9%	18.8%	13.5%	43.8%	24.0%	10.4%	12.5%	52.1%	25.0%	7.3%	12.5%	54.2%	26.0%	5.2%	12.5%	56.3%	26.0%	0.0%	14.6%	59.4%	26.0%
Fall 2006	108	92.6%	3.7%	0.0%	3.7%	83.3%	7.4%	0.9%	8.3%	69.4%	11.1%	10.2%	9.3%	54.6%	13.0%	18.5%	13.9%	36.1%	14.8%	31.5%	17.6%	14.8%	13.9%	52.8%	18.5%	5.6%	14.8%	63.0%	16.7%	0.9%	13.9%	67.6%	17.6%	0.0%	13.9%	68.5%	17.6%	0.0%	13.9%	68.5%	17.6%
Fall 2007	86	88.4%	11.6%	0.0%	0.0%	80.2%	15.1%	0.0%	4.7%	68.6%	17.4%	1.2%	12.8%	55.8%	18.6%	10.5%	15.1%	34.9%	18.6%	31.4%	15.1%	19.8%	18.6%	46.5%	15.1%	15.1%	16.3%	52.3%	16.3%	5.8%	17.4%	59.3%	17.4%	1.2%	18.6%	64.0%	16.3%	0.0%	18.6%	64.0%	17.4%
Fall 2008	90	83.3%	8.9%	0.0%	7.8%	74.4%	13.3%	1.1%	11.1%	64.4%	15.6%	2.2%	17.8%	53.3%	17.8%	10.0%	18.9%	32.2%	15.6%	31.1%	21.1%	12.2%	14.4%	51.1%	22.2%	8.9%	14.4%	54.4%	22.2%	2.2%	14.4%	58.9%	24.4%	0.0%	14.4%	61.1%	24.4%	0.0%	14.4%	61.1%	24.4%
Fall 2009	108	96.3%	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	87.0%	6.5%	0.9%	5.6%	79.6%	6.5%	2.8%	11.1%	66.7%	7.4%	10.2%	15.7%	31.5%	5.6%	47.2%	15.7%	14.8%	6.5%	62.0%	16.7%	7.4%	6.5%	69.4%	16.7%	4.6%	7.4%	72.2%	15.7%	2.8%	7.4%	74.1%	15.7%	0.0%	7.4%	75.9%	16.7%
Fall 2010	109	88.1%	10.1%	0.0%	1.8%	78.9%	11.9%	0.0%	9.2%	70.6%	13.8%	0.0%	15.6%	63.3%	13.8%	3.7%	19.3%	44.0%	12.8%	22.9%	20.2%	23.9%	14.7%	42.2%	19.3%	9.2%	15.6%	54.1%	21.1%	4.6%	15.6%	56.9%	22.9%	1.8%	15.6%	60.6%	22.0%				
Fall 2011	107	89.7%	6.5%	0.9%	2.8%	79.4%	9.3%	0.9%	10.3%	66.4%	11.2%	5.6%	16.8%	57.9%	11.2%	12.1%	18.7%	25.2%	14.0%	42.1%	18.7%	15.0%	12.1%	54.2%	18.7%	10.3%	11.2%	59.8%	18.7%	6.5%	11.2%	64.5%	17.8%								
Fall 2012	106	89.6%	10.4%	0.0%	0.0%	81.1%	13.2%	0.0%	5.7%	74.5%	13.2%	3.8%	8.5%	67.9%	14.2%	7.5%	10.4%	44.3%	13.2%	31.1%	11.3%	25.5%	14.2%	49.1%	11.3%	13.2%	14.2%	61.3%	11.3%												
Fall 2013	114	94.7%	3.5%	0.0%	1.8%	91.2%	3.5%	1.8%	3.5%	83.3%	4.4%	7.0%	5.3%	67.5%	5.3%	19.3%	7.9%	43.0%	5.3%	44.7%	7.0%	25.4%	6.1%	60.5%	7.9%																
Fall 2014	122	93.4%	4.9%	0.0%	1.6%	86.1%	6.6%	0.0%	7.4%	80.3%	6.6%	1.6%	11.5%	67.2%	5.7%	15.6%	11.5%	37.7%	6.6%	44.3%	11.5%																				
Fall 2015	146	94.5%	3.4%	0.0%	2.1%	87.0%	6.8%	0.0%	6.2%	78.1%	8.2%	4.8%	8.9%	69.2%	8.2%	12.3%	10.3%																								
Fall 2016	113	94.7%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	85.8%	8.0%	0.0%	6.2%	80.5%	7.1%	0.9%	11.5%																												
Fall 2017	143	91.6%	8.4%	0.0%	0.0%	83.9%	10.5%	0.0%	5.6%																																
Fall 2018	148	95.9%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%																																				
Fall 2019	164																																								
Average 5-Year		91.1%	6.5%			81.7%	9.1%			72.1%	10.6%	4.6%	12.7%	58.6%	12.1%	14.4%	15.0%	35.2%	12.6%	36.6%	15.6%	18.4%	13.7%	51.3%	16.6%	9.7%	13.9%	58.7%	17.7%	4.9%	13.9%	62.4%	18.8%	2.6%	13.9%	64.4%	19.1%	0.6%	13.8%	66.5%	19.0%
Average		94.0%	5.2%			86.8%	7.1%			79.3%	7.9%	3.6%	9.1%	65.9%	8.9%	13.4%	11.8%	38.8%	10.4%	37.0%	13.7%	20.9%	10.7%	53.6%	14.8%	9.8%	12.4%	59.8%	18.0%	4.7%	13.2%	62.4%	19.6%	1.2%	14.0%	65.7%	19.2%	0.0%	13.8%	65.8%	20.4%

Note: Cont = Continued in entry doctoral program
 Gone = Not enrolled at Baylor
 Grad = Graduated from entry doctoral program (The graduation percent is cumulative. If a student graduated following the 2nd year, he/she is included in the 3rd year's percentage.)
 Other = Continued or graduated from different program

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.