Retention and Graduation Rates of Doctoral Students
Fall 2002 – Fall 2021

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? 17%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within five years? 40%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within six years? 56%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within seven years? 64%
- What percentage of first-time doctoral students graduate within eight years? 67%
- 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, 40 percent of entering doctoral students graduate from their entry doctoral program within five years. Sixty-four 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.
| Entry Year | Fall 2002 | Fall 2003 | Fall 2004 | Fall 2005 | Fall 2006 | Fall 2007 | Fall 2008 | Fall 2009 | Fall 2010 | Fall 2011 | Fall 2012 | Fall 2013 | Fall 2014 | Fall 2015 | Fall 2016 | Fall 2017 | Fall 2018 | Fall 2019 | Fall 2020 | Fall 2021 |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| N          | 94       | 70       | 96       | 96       | 108      | 86       | 90       | 108      | 109      | 107      | 106      | 114      | 122      | 146      | 113      | 143      | 148      | 164      | 218      |
| Cont.      | 92.9%    | 90.0%    | 90.6%    | 90.6%    | 92.6%    | 88.4%    | 83.3%    | 96.3%    | 88.1%    | 89.7%    | 89.6%    | 94.7%    | 93.4%    | 94.5%    | 89.6%    | 91.6%    | 95.9%    | 95.7%    | 142%     | 218%     |
| Grad.      | 7.1%     | 4.5%     | 6.3%     | 6.3%     | 7.4%     | 11.6%    | 8.9%     | 1.9%     | 10.1%    | 6.5%     | 10.4%    | 3.5%     | 4.9%     | 5.3%     | 1.0%     | 8.4%     | 4.1%     | 4.3%     | 10.9%    | 0%       |
| Gone       | 0.0%     | 5.7%     | 0.4%     | 0.0%     | 3.7%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.9%     | 0.0%     | 3.5%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0%       |
| Grad.      | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0%       |
| Cont.      | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 3.7%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0%       |

Note: Cont = Continued in entry doctoral program  
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.