**The Six-Year Graduation Rate of the Fall 2008 Cohort of First-Time Full-Time Freshmen**

**Executive Summary**

In fall 2008, 970 first-time full-time freshmen entered UMass Boston. By September of 2014 408 or 42.1% of those entrants had graduated. IPEDS will report this rounded to 42%. This is the second highest six-year graduation rate that UMass Boston has ever had. However, it is 1.5 points lower than the rate for the fall 2007 cohort, which because of IPEDS rounding will appear as a drop from 44% to 42%. Another 52 students from the 2008 cohort were actively enrolled at UMass Boston in fall 2014. That is a combined graduation/continuation rate of 47.4%.

Using National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data, we located 84 students who had received Bachelor’s degrees from other 4-year schools, including 17 who graduated from UMass Amherst, 6 who graduated from UMass Lowell, and 1 who graduated from UMass Dartmouth.

Overall, the NSC located 329 of the 562 fall 2014 students who had not graduated by fall 2014 at another school after leaving UMass Boston and prior to fall 2014. Based on these findings, we will report a transfer out rate of 34% to IPEDS. More information on these students will be presented later in this report.

Several areas stand out:

* Among U.S. residents, Pell Grant recipients (340 of 912) were as likely to graduate as non-Pell recipients at 41.2% compared to 41.1% for non-Pell recipients.
* Among U.S. residents, immigrants (164 of 912) were more likely to graduate at 45.7% to 40.1%, but the difference was not significant.
* Boston Public School (BPS) students (n=151) in the cohort graduated at a 39.1% rate, 3.5 points lower than all other students, but the difference was not statistically significant.
* Critical Reading SAT scores were not significantly different for those who graduated compared to those who did not at 491.5 to 487.0.
* Math SAT scores for those who graduated were significantly higher than for those who did not at 514.9 compared to 499.7.
* High school GPA was always significantly related to graduating whether in a significance of means test or in multivariate analyses.
* Women were significantly more likely to graduate than men at 45.4% to 37.3%.
* Students who withdrew from a course in the first semester (n=121) graduated at a 28.1% rate compared to 44.1% for students without a first semester withdrawal.
* Students who returned for the second year with at least 24 credits and a 2.5 GPA (n=401)graduated at a 70.1% rate compared to a 34.4% rate for students who returned for the second year but missed one or both of these marks (n=348).

**General Report**

**Demographics**

Women were significantly more likely to have graduated than men at 45.4% compared to 37.3%. We found that while women tended to be more likely to graduate within each racial/ethnic group, the difference was significant only for the group as a whole and at a lower level of significance for Asians and White non-Hispanics. The gap between men and women increased from 5.9% for the 2007 cohort to 8.2% for the 2008 cohorts. Both women and men graduated at lower levels than for the 2007 cohort with women dropping slightly from 46.1% to 45.4% and men dropping from 40.2% to 37.3%. The rate for men was still the second highest ever.

**Table 1: Differences by Gender within Racial/Ethnic Group**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Women** | **Men** | **Difference** | **Significance** |
| Asian P/I | 51.0% | 37.5% | 13.5% | P<.05\* |
| Black NH | 40.7% | 27.5% | 13.2% | No |
| Hispanic | 40.3% | 28.6% | 11.7% | No |
| International | 54.5% | 51.7% | 2.8% | No |
| Nat. Am. | 40.0% | NA | NA | NA |
| Unknown/Refused | 39.1% | 51.7% | -12.6% | No |
| White NH | 46.1% | 37.0% | 9.1% | P<.05\* |
| Total | 45.4% | 37.3% | 8.2% | P<.05 |

\*One tailed test

In the fall 2008 cohort, Asians, Black non-Hispanics, Hispanics, and White non-Hispanics had lower graduation rates than in the 2007 cohort. For Asians, the drop from 55.4% in 2007 to 45.0% was statistically significant. Black non-Hispanics, Hispanics, and White non-Hispanics all had rates of 40% or higher for the first time in 2007. Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics fell back below that marker for 2008. The details are provided in Table 2.

**Table 2: Graduation Rates by Racial/Ethnic Group**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Entered Fall 2008** | **Graduated by Fall 2014** | **Graduation Rate** |
| Asian P/I | 180 | 81 | 45.0% |
| Black NH | 121 | 44 | 36.4% |
| Hispanic | 121 | 43 | 35.5% |
| International | 51 | 27 | 52.9% |
| Nat. Am. | 5 | 2 | 40.0% |
| Unknown/Refused | 52 | 24 | 46.2% |
| White NH | 440 | 187 | 42.5% |
| **Total** | **970** | **408** | **42.1%** |

There were 151 students from Boston Public Schools (BPS) in the cohort. They graduated at a 39.1% rate, 3.5 points lower than all other students, but the difference was not statistically significant. About 8% of the BPS students were still enrolled at UMass Boston in fall 2014 compared to about 5% of all other students. The BPS cohort was about 20% larger than in 2007, but the graduation rate and the percentage actively enrolled at the beginning of the seventh year are similar.

**Academic Preparation Measures**

Critical Reading SAT scores (Verbal) were not significantly associated with graduating. However, Math SAT scores were significantly and positively associated with graduating with graduates averaging about 15 points higher than others at 514.9 to 499.7.

High school GPA was positively and significantly related to graduating. Graduates averaged about 0.23 points higher on high school GPA than did those who did not complete. The effect of high school GPA was also significant when looking at the 4-year graduation rate with graduates averaging 0.25 points higher than those who did not graduate within four years.

**Support Programs**

There were 218 Directions for Student Potential (DSP) program graduates in the cohort. Of these, 83 had graduated from UMass Boston by fall 2008 for a six-year graduation rate of 38.1% which trailed other students by 5.1 percentage points. The difference was not statistically significant.

Of 218 DSP students, 117 also participated in the Student Support Services (SSS) program once they had matriculated. Three other students who were not identified as DSP also participated in SSS. All SSS students graduated at a rate of 47.5% compared to 41.3% for non-SSS students. The difference was not significant. Students who participated in both DSP and SSS had a graduation rate of 47.0%. The 101 students who participated in DSP only without SSS had a graduation rate of only 27.7%. That difference was significant.

**Success in the First Year**

Of the 121 students who withdrew from a course in the first semester only 34 (28.1%) would go on to graduate compared to the 44.1% rate for students who did not have a W in the first semester. Any first semester course withdrawal should be treated as an early warning sign of trouble and should trigger an immediate intervention. In this cohort, 12.5% or 1 in 8 students had a course withdrawal in the first semester.

The cohort had a 77.2% retention to the second year rate. Of the students who returned for the second year with at least a 2.5 GPA and 24 credits (401 of 749), 70.1% would graduate from UMass Boston within six years. Of the students who returned for the second year below one or both of those benchmarks (348 of 749), only 34.4% would graduate.

**College Entered**

Students entering the College of Management (MGT) or the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) were significantly more likely to graduate than students entering the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) or the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM). In CNHS, all of the difference is attributable to the Nursing Program where about 72% graduated. Slightly less than 41% of Exercise and Health Sciences majors graduated. The difference between majors within CNHS was statistically significant.

Students are counted as graduated regardless of their entry college and major and their graduating college and major. An incoming Physics major who graduates with a degree in Art counts as graduated with CSM as the entry college. Table 3 presents the details by college. Appendix I beginning on page 6 will present graduation rates based on the entry major.

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by Entry College**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **College** | **Entered Fall 2008** | **Graduated by Fall 2014** | **Graduation Rate** |
| CSM-U | 237 | 94 | 39.7% |
| LA-U | 582 | 227 | 39.0% |
| MGT-U | 80 | 46 | 57.5% |
| CNHS | 71 | 41 | 57.7% |
| **Total** | **970** | **408** | **42.1%** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Within CNHS** | **Entered Fall 2008** | **Graduated by Fall 2014** | **Graduation Rate** |
| Exercise & Health Sciences | 32 | 13 | 40.6% |
| Nursing (BS) | 39 | 28 | 71.8% |
| **Total CNHS** | **71** | **41** | **57.7%** |

**Combining the Factors**

When we constructed several multivariate models that included age, gender, high school GPA, SAT scores, DSP and SSS participation, immigrant status, and racial/ethnic group dummy variables with White non-Hispanic as the base group, the only variables showing a statistically significant relationship to graduating within 6 years were high school GPA and participating in SSS.

**Success Elsewhere**

We used the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to look for members of the cohort who may have graduated elsewhere. NSC data is often incomplete because of limits on search parameters and because member institutions often do not submit complete data.

The NSC found 84 members of the cohort who had received bachelor’s degrees at other institutions and were reported with degree and major information. An additional 10 students were listed as graduated from another 4-year institution, but without accompanying detail. Of these 94 students, 17 received a bachelor’s degree from UMass Amherst and 6 received one from UMass Lowell. Overall, between UMass Boston records and the NSC data we can identify 53% of the students in the original cohort as having a graduated from a 4-year institution. Three other students received non-Bachelor’s credentials from 4-year schools, and 27 others received a credential from a 2-year or technical school. Two of the students who received an Associate’s degree from a 2-year school were enrolled at UMass Boston in fall 2014.

The current status of the students in the cohort based on UMass Boston records and the NSC records is presented in Table 4, below. Each student has a single status. The hierarchy is UMass Boston Graduate, other 4-year school graduate, currently enrolled at UMass Boston, other credential from a 4-year school, credential from a 2-year school, transferred to either a 2-year or 4-year school without attaining a credential, and not currently enrolled at UMass Boston and with no record outside of UMass Boston found in the NSC files. Again, the NSC misses some number of students who may have enrolled elsewhere at some time because of missing data or the limitations of its search criteria.

**Table 4: Current Educational Status of the Fall 2008 Cohort**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Status as of Fall 2014** | **Number of Students** | **Percent** |
| Graduated UMB by Fall 2014 | 408 | 42.1% |
| Confirmed Bachelor’s Degree Other Inst. | 84 | 8.7% |
| Enrolled UMB Fall 2014 | 52 | 5.4% |
| Unspecified Award from another 4-Year Inst. | 10 | 1.0% |
| Associate’s Degree or Certificate | 23 | 2.4% |
| Unspecified Award from 2-Year Inst. | 5 | 0.5% |
| Transferred Out/No Credential Listed | 192 | 19.8% |
| Not Enrolled/No Other Attendance Found | 196 | 20.2% |
| **Total** | **970** | **100.0%** |

Details of the colleges, degree titles, degree majors for those student receiving degrees from 4-year institutions are presented in Table 6 within Appendix II beginning on page 8.

Next year, we will report a six-year graduation rate for the 2009 cohort of first-time full-time freshmen. Their five-year graduation rate was about 1.4 points higher than that of the 2008 cohort in this report at 36.3% to 34.9% for 2008. However, there is cause for concern because the continuation to the sixth year rate was about 3.7 points lower than that of this cohort at 10.1% compared to the 13.8% of the fall 2008 cohort who were enrolled at UMass Boston entering their sixth year in fall 2013. The 2008 cohort had a combined graduated in five years or continued to the sixth year rate of 48.7% while the rate for the 2009 cohort is only 46.4%.

**Appendix I: Graduation Rates by Entry Major**

Although many students change majors before they graduate, graduation rates by entry major have been requested and are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5: Graduation Rates by Entry Major (Sorted by Entry College)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **College of Liberal Arts** |  |  |  |
| **Admissions Major** | **Number Entered Fall 2008** | **Number Graduated by Fall 2014** | **Graduation Rate** |
| American Studies (BA) | 2 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Anthropology (BA) | 5 | 3 | 60.0% |
| Anthropology-History | 3 | 3 | 100.0% |
| Art (BA) | 11 | 4 | 36.4% |
| Classical Languages (BA) | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Criminal Justice (BA) | 32 | 11 | 34.4% |
| Economics (BA) | 11 | 4 | 36.4% |
| English (BA) | 27 | 12 | 44.4% |
| Ethical, Soc, Polit. Phil.  | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| French (BA) | 2 | 1 | 50.0% |
| History (BA) | 17 | 5 | 29.4% |
| History and Archaeology | 4 | 3 | 75.0% |
| Music (BA) | 7 | 1 | 14.3% |
| Philosophy (BA) | 6 | 3 | 50.0% |
| Political Science (BA) | 21 | 6 | 28.6% |
| Psychology (BA) | 31 | 14 | 45.2% |
| Psychology (BS) | 15 | 9 | 60.0% |
| Psychology/Sociology (BA) | 11 | 6 | 54.5% |
| Psychology/Sociology (BS) | 4 | 3 | 75.0% |
| Sociology (BA) | 6 | 1 | 16.7% |
| Spanish (BA) | 4 | 1 | 25.0% |
| Theatre Arts (BA) | 3 | 1 | 33.3% |
| Undecided - Liberal Arts | 358 | 136 | 38.0% |
| **Total CLA** | **582** | **227** | **39.0%** |

Continued

**Table 5: Graduation Rates by Entry Major (Sorted by Entry College)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **College of Science and Mathematics** |  |  |
| **Admissions Major** | **Number Entered Fall 2008** | **Number Graduated by Fall 2014** | **Graduation Rate** |
| Biochemistry (BS) | 22 | 12 | 54.5% |
| Biology (BS) | 54 | 24 | 44.4% |
| Chemistry (BS) | 11 | 4 | 36.4% |
| Computer Science (BA) | 11 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Computer Science (BS) | 19 | 10 | 52.6% |
| Earth & Geographic Sci. (BA) | 3 | 2 | 66.7% |
| Earth & Geographic Sci. (BS) | 4 | 4 | 100.0% |
| Engineering (Major) | 14 | 4 | 28.6% |
| Engineering Physics | 3 | 2 | 66.7% |
| Information Technology | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Mathematics (BA) | 3 | 2 | 66.7% |
| Mathematics (BS) | 7 | 2 | 28.6% |
| Physics (BA) | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Physics (BS) | 2 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Undecided - Science & Math. | 82 | 28 | 34.1% |
| **Total CSM** | **237** | **94** | **39.7%** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **College of Management** |  |  |  |
| **Admissions Major** | **Number Entered Fall 2008** | **Number Graduated by Fall 2014** | **Graduation Rate** |
| Management (BS) | 80 | 46 | 57.5% |
| **Total MGT** | **80** | **46** | **57.5%** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **College of Nursing and Health Sciences** |  |  |
| **Admissions Major** | **Number Entered Fall 2008** | **Number Graduated by Fall 2014** | **Graduation Rate** |
| Exercise & Health Science | 32 | 13 | 40.6% |
| Nursing (BS) | 39 | 28 | 71.8% |
| **Total CNHS** | **71** | **41** | **57.7%** |

**Appendix II: Known Degree Recipients from other Four-Year Institutions**

Success in challenging majors at other 4-year institutions indicates that many of the students who transferred out did not do so due to an inability to complete college level work. Table 6 presents the details of the colleges, degree title and major for the 4-year institution graduates. They are sorted by college name.

**Table 6: Four-Year Graduates, by College, Degree Title, and Major**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **College Name** | **Degree Title** | **Degree Major** |
| Augsburg College | Bachelor of Science | Social Work |
| Babson College | Bachelor of Science | Not Applicable |
| Boston University | Bachelor of Arts | International Relations |
| Boston University | Bachelor of Arts | Mathematics With Distinction |
| Boston University | Bachelor of Arts | Neuroscience |
| Boston University | Bachelor of Science | Biomedical Laboratory and Clinical Sciences |
| Boston University | Bachelor of Science in Business Administration | Business Administration and Management |
| Boston University | Bachelor of Science in Business Administration | Business Administration and Management |
| Brandeis University | Bachelor of Arts | Psychology |
| Bridgewater State University | Bachelor of Arts | English |
| Bridgewater State University | Bachelor of Arts | Physical Education |
| Bridgewater State University | Bachelor of Science | Accounting And Finance |
| Bridgewater State University | Bachelor of Science | Management |
| Bridgewater State University | Bachelor of Science | Psychology |
| Brigham Young University | BA | French Studies |
| California State University - Sacramento | Bachelor of Arts | Asian Studies (Japanese) BA |
| Columbia College Chicago | Bachelor of Arts | Film & Video |
| CUNY Hunter College | Bachelor of Arts | Sociology BA |
| Emerson College | Bachelor of Science | Broadcast Journalism |
| Emmanuel College | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Framingham State University | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Georgia Institute of Technology | BS in Electrical Engineering | Electrical Engineering |
| Goddard College | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Gordon College | Bachelor of Science | Computer Science |
| Indiana University Bloomington | Bachelor of Arts | Major: Economics |

Continued

**Table 6: Four-Year Graduates, by College, Degree Title, and Major, continued**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **College Name** | **Degree Title** | **Degree Major** |
| ITT Technical Institute | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| John Carroll University | Bachelor of Arts | Sociology |
| Johnson & Wales University | Bachelor of Science | Baking & Pastry Arts/Food Svc Mg |
| Johnson & Wales University | Bachelor of Science | Management |
| Keene State College | Bachelor of Arts | Film Studies |
| Laboure College | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Laboure College | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Manhattan College | Bachelor of Arts | English |
| Massachusetts College of Art | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Massachusetts College of Pharmacy | Bachelor of Science | Pharmacology / Toxicology |
| Massachusetts College of Pharmacy | Bachelor of Science | Radiation Therapy |
| Nichols College | Bachelor of Arts | History |
| Northeastern University | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Purdue University - West Lafayette | Bachelor of Arts | Publ Rel & Rhetorical Advocacy |
| Purdue University - West Lafayette | Bachelor of Science | Financial Counseling& Planning |
| Rivier University | Bachelor of Science | Nursing |
| Rutgers -The State University of NJ -New Brunswick | Bachelor of Arts | English |
| Rutgers -The State University of NJ -New Brunswick | Bachelor of Arts | Psychology |
| Saint Michaels College | Bachelor of Science | Biology |
| Salem State University | Bachelor of Science | Communications |
| Salem State University | Bachelor of Science | Psychology-BS |
| Salem State University | Bachelor of Science | Psychology-BS |
| Salem State University | Bachelor of Science Bus Admin | Business Administration |
| Salem State University | Bachelor of Science in Nursing | Nursing |
| Salem State University | Bachelor of Science in Nursing | Nursing |
| Simmons College | Bachelor of Science | Chemistry-Management |
| Simmons College | Bachelor of Science | Nutrition & Dietetics |

Continued

**Table 6: Four-Year Graduates, by College, Degree Title, and Major, continued**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **College Name** | **Degree Title** | **Degree Major** |
| St Louis College of Pharmacy | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Suffolk University | Bachelor of Science | Applied Legal Studies |
| SUNY College - Brockport | Bachelor of Science | Sport Management |
| SUNY University at Buffalo | Bachelor of Fine Arts | Theatre |
| The Ohio State University | Bachelor of Science in Business Administration | Accounting |
| University at Albany, SUNY | Bachelor of Arts | Psychology |
| University of Delaware | Bachelor of Science | Marketing BS |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | English(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | English(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | English(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | English(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | History(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | Journalism(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | Political Science(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | Psychology(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | Psychology(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Arts | Psychology(BA) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Science | Biology(BS) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Science | Food Science(BS) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Science | Mechanical Engineering(BS) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Science | Psychology(BS) |

Continued

**Table 6: Four-Year Graduates, by College, Degree Title, and Major, continued**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **College Name** | **Degree Title** | **Degree Major** |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Science | Psychology(BS) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Science | Public Health Sciences(BS) |
| University of Massachusetts at Amherst | Bachelor of Science | Wildlife & Fisheries Conserv(BS) |
| University of Massachusetts Lowell | Bachelor of Science | Criminal Justice |
| University of Massachusetts Lowell | Bachelor of Science | Exercise Physiology |
| University of Massachusetts Lowell | Bachelor of Science in Engineering | Chemical Engineering |
| University of Massachusetts Lowell | Bachelor of Science in Engineering | Civil Engineering |
| University of Massachusetts Lowell | Bachelor of Science in Engineering | Electrical Engineering |
| University of Massachusetts Lowell | Bachelor of Science in Engineering | Mechanical Engineering |
| University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth | Bachelor of Science | Physics |
| University of New Hampshire- Durham | Bachelor of Science | Zoology |
| University of Rhode Island | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| Washington State University | Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration | Accounting |
| Wentworth Institute of Technology | Bachelor of Science | Electronic Engineering Tech |
| Wentworth Institute of Technology | Bachelor of Science | Industrial Design |
| Wichita State University | Bachelor of Science | Criminal Justice |
| Worcester Polytechnic Institute | Bachelor of Science | Electrical & Computer Eng. |
| Worcester State University | Bachelor of Arts | Visual And Performing Arts |
| Worcester State University | Bachelor of Science | Business Admin |
| Worcester State University | Bachelor of Science | Business Admin |
| Worcester State University | Bachelor of Science | Business Admin |