



## DORAL COLLEGE GRADUATION RATES & ASSOCIATED INFORMATION: *2014 TO PRESENT*

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### OVERVIEW

Due to the unique nature of Doral College's stated purpose and student population, the College calculates its graduation rate in a slightly different way than do traditional two-year institutions. Guidelines and terms related to graduation rate are defined herein.

The mission of the College is to provide high school students the opportunity to take college-level courses concurrently with their high school programs. Thus, while most two-year colleges would likely define the time necessary for a student to complete all degree requirements as two to three years, the College admits students as early as 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and allows four years for completion, or until the student graduates from high school.

Additionally, while the College certainly encourages as many students as possible to complete the Associate in Arts degree, the more important goal for students is exposure to college-level coursework and the opportunity for advancement. For that reason, the majority of Doral College students do not earn the full degree, instead opting to take only a handful of courses. In consideration of this fact, the College also heavily weighs course retention rates and course success rates in evaluating the effectiveness of its programs. More information is provided on these figures in the sections titled "Existing Data" and "Analysis."

In 2014, the College added a "non-degree seeking" status to its enrollment structure in order to more accurately represent the goals of its students as described above. While the same admissions standards for both statuses are similar, students identify as degree-seeking or non-degree seeking at the time of application submission. This status remains the same for the duration of a student's enrollment from the College unless he or she requests a change in status.

### TERMINOLOGY

In accordance with these guidelines, Doral College defines terms related to graduation rate, course completion rate, and course success rates, as follows:

- **Normal Completion Time:** Up to four years, culminating in the year the student graduates from high school.
- **Date Range of Cohort to be Measured:** Rather than measuring a cohort based on the semester in which a student was admitted, Doral College groups its cohorts by high school graduation year. (I.e., if a student is scheduled to graduate high school in 2019, he/she will be counted in that cohort regardless of when he/she was admitted to the College.)
- **Exclusions:** Only degree-seeking students are included in the cohort. Thus, students identified as "non-degree seeking" are not counted.
- **Course Retention Rate:** The percentage of student enrollments that are completed (not dropped or withdrawn) in a semester, regardless of grade earned.
- **Course Success Rate:** The percentage of completed student enrollments that earn a passing grade.



## EXISTING DATA

Doral College's graduation rate is as follows:

### GRADUATION RATE

| YEAR                | NET COHORT | STUDENTS GRADUATING | GRADUATION RATE |
|---------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 2014                | 24         | 22                  | 91.66%          |
| 2015                | 26         | 11                  | 42.31%          |
| 2016                | 95         | 29                  | 30.53%          |
| <b>AVERAGE RATE</b> |            |                     | <b>54.83%</b>   |

Doral College began to calculate course retention rates and course success rates in Fall of 2014. Data for each semester thereon is as follows:

### COURSE RETENTION AND COMPLETION RATES

| SEMESTER            | COURSE RETENTION RATE | COURSE SUCCESS RATE |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Fall 2014           | 85%                   | 93%                 |
| Spring 2015         | 95%                   | 94%                 |
| Summer 2015         | 81%                   | 95%                 |
| Fall 2015           | 92%                   | 96%                 |
| Spring 2016         | 92%                   | 95%                 |
| Summer 2016         | 93%                   | 92%                 |
| <b>AVERAGE RATE</b> | <b>91%</b>            | <b>94%</b>          |

## ANALYSIS

Doral College was licensed by the Florida Commission on Independent Education in 2011. However, it did not actively enroll students in the degree program until Fall of 2013. For this reason, the graduation rate for its first graduating class—2014—is abnormally high. While later cohorts include students who enrolled at varying times during their high school careers, the 2014 cohort includes only students who enrolled in their senior year of high school. These students transferred in a substantial part of their degree requirements from other post-secondary institutions and Advanced Placement scores, as allowed by the College.

Furthermore, the composition of the College has changed in recent years as it expanded to serve additional affiliate schools. For example, the 2014 cohort included students from only two affiliate schools, and the 2015 cohort from only one. In contrast, the 2016 cohort included students from at least five affiliate schools.

It is also important to note that, as previously mentioned, the majority of the College's students do not wish to seek the entire degree. For this reason, the College considers its course retention rates and course success rates to be more indicative of whether or not it is meeting its goals and fulfilling its stated purpose. As noted above, the College has achieved very high rates in these two areas, indicating the majority of its students are performing satisfactorily and reaching their goals of advancement.

-August, 2016

