VT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2012: A longitudinal study of postsecondary education and attainment

December 4, 2018

Wanda Arce, Director of Research
Robert Walsh, Research Analyst
The Senior Survey of 2012

Overview
• Longitudinal study of 5,900+ high school graduates from 61 public and private high schools, representing 85 percent of all Vermont high school graduates
• Postsecondary enrollment through June, 2018

Research Questions
• What are students’ postsecondary aspirations?
• How do postsecondary trajectories differ by student characteristics?
• What types of institutions do students decide to attend?
• What percentages of students graduate within four years, six years?

Senior Survey Data Collection Waves
• Base year (2012): Senior Survey Questionnaire
• First Follow-up (2014): Fall 2012 and Fall 2013 enrollment verification using National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)
• Second Follow-up (2017): Four-year degree completion using NSC
• Third Follow-up (Planned for spring, 2019)
The postsecondary aspirations for the Vermont Class of 2012

Ever aspired to PSE: 91%

Aspired to any PSE as HS senior: 70%

- Yes (2- & 4-yr): 5%
- Yes (other)
- No

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012  Baseline
Differences in “getting ready”

- Took PSAT, ACT, SAT exam (66%)
  - Male, first gen: 62%
  - Female, first gen: 76%
  - Male, not first gen: 85%

- Talked to an adult about careers (63%)
  - Male, first gen: 52%
  - Female, first gen: 63%
  - Male, not first gen: 66%

- Toured a college campus (60%)
  - Male, first gen: 39%
  - Female, first gen: 58%
  - Male, not first gen: 68%

- Researched education/training needed to do the work I want to do (58%)
  - Male, first gen: 46%
  - Female, first gen: 59%
  - Male, not first gen: 62%

- Attended career fair (41%)
  - Male, first gen: 39%
  - Female, first gen: 47%
  - Male, not first gen: 40%

- Job shadowing (31%)
  - Male, first gen: 26%
  - Female, first gen: 36%
  - Male, not first gen: 36%
Aspirations remain dynamic during summer after high school graduation

Percentage of Class of 2012 who planned to enroll at two- or four-year U.S. school, but did not

- Male, first generation: 20%
- Female, first generation: 18%
- Male, not first generation: 15%
- Female, not first generation: 12%

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 First Follow-up
Enrollment in Vermont lags overall, but more students begin at four-year schools. 

Percentage of Class of 2012 high school graduates enrolled at two- and four-year colleges in VT, region and the U.S.

- VT: 53% (7% 2-year, 47% 4-year)
- NESSC*: 47% (15% 2-year, 32% 4-year)
- US: 37% (29% 2-year, 8% 4-year)

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 First Follow-up
Class of 2012 immediate postsecondary enrollment and advanced math

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 First Follow-up

- Took advanced math: 67%
- Did not take advanced math: 33%

- Did not continue: 76%
- Continued: 24%

The diagram shows the percentage of students who took advanced math and those who did not continue their education.
75% of class re-enrolled at the school at which they started

** Persisted at the same school**
- Two- or four-year institution: 75%
- Four-year institution: 79%

** Transferred schools**
- Two- or four-year institution: 14%
- Four-year institution: 10%

** Not enrolled**
- Two- or four-year institution: 11%
- Four-year institution: 11%

** Compared to 58% nationally**

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 First Follow-up
Persistence differs by parent education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persistence Rate</th>
<th>First generation</th>
<th>Not first generation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persistence rate, starting from a two-year school</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistence rate, starting from a four-year school</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 First Follow-up
Class of 2012: status in fall of 2013

Where are they 18 months later?

- Not enrolled: 35%
- Left postsecondary education: 8%
- Persisted to a second year, transferred schools: 7%
- Persisted to a second year at the same school: 45%
- Delayed continuers: 5%

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 First Follow-up
Degree attainment within four years
The third report on postsecondary outcomes of Vermont’s high school Class of 2012.

Reports findings on:

- Degree completion within four years among students who enrolled in the fall of 2012, at 4-year institutions as full-time students;

- Degree attainment of the entire cohort within four years.

Executive Summary

In 2014, VSAC issued a report on the aspirations of the Vermont High School Class of 2012. The following year, 2015, VSAC issued a report on the postsecondary enrollment of the Class of 2012. This third report looks at the Class of 2012 four years after high school graduation and describes the percentage of graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education, along with the percentage who attained a degree within four years. This report also discusses some of the factors associated with the timely completion of a degree. The study provides some encouraging data about the four-year graduation rates of matriculated members of the class as a whole. However, the data also reveals wide variation in the success rates between students from different socioeconomic groups and between students attending different institutions of higher education.

This report examines the on-time completion rates of Vermont high school graduates who began their postsecondary education full-time at a four-year school. Vermont high school students enroll immediately in four-year institutions at a higher rate than the
Completion rate versus Degree attainment rate

- **Attained a 2- or 4-year degree**
- **Did not attain a 2- or 4-year degree**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completion Rate</th>
<th>Degree Attainment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Measurement of completion of those students who enrolled full-time at a 4-year school
- Measurement of completion of the entire graduating high school class

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 Second Follow-up
Vermont and the Nation

Degree Completion within four years:
Among student who started full-time at a four-year school
(includes 2- and 4 year degrees)

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 Second Follow-up
Completion rates within four years
Vermont High School Class of 2012

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 Second Follow-up

Note: Completion rates for those who started full-time at a four-year school, fall 2012
Graduation rates varied by the type of institution students attended.

- Saint Michael's College: 79% (74% 4-year degree, 5% 2-year degree, 9% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- University of Vermont: 68% (65% 4-year degree, 3% 2-year degree, 12% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- Non-Vermont private: 67% (58% 4-year degree, 4% 2-year degree, 15% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- Vermont private: 66% (59% 4-year degree, 5% 2-year degree, 13% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- Champlain College: 63% (54% 4-year degree, 8% 2-year degree, 11% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- Vermont Technical College: 54% (30% 4-year degree, 19% 2-year degree, 15% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- Non-Vermont public: 49% (39% 4-year degree, 6% 2-year degree, 14% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- Castleton University: 48% (38% 4-year degree, 6% 2-year degree, 15% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- Johnson State College: 31% (28% 4-year degree, 3% 2-year degree, 10% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)
- Lyndon State College: 31% (23% 4-year degree, 4% 2-year degree, 13% 2- or 4-year degree from different school)

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 Second Follow-up
The importance of academic preparation

Degree Attainment rates by gender and parents’ education

- All graduates from the Class of 2012
- Graduates who completed Algebra II and obtained an overall "A" high school GPA

Note: Degree attainment rates for all high school graduates

Source: VSAC Senior Survey 2012 Second Follow-up
From HS graduation to college degree

100% high school graduates

70% planned to enroll, fall 2012

60% enrolled, fall 2012

Four-year outcome

31% never enrolled

21% left school

15% still enrolled

34% 2- or 4-year degree

Delayed enrollment 9%