



# Report at a Glance: The Vermont High School Class of 2012

## Overview

Study looks at Vermont's high school Class of 2012 4 years after high school graduation. Examines percentage of graduates who attained a bachelor's or associate degree within 4 years of leaving high school. Based on enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse and responses to the VSAC 2012 Senior Survey, administered to high school seniors across Vermont in the spring of their senior year and completed by 84% of that group.

## Key Findings

### Two ways to measure success:

Of students who enrolled in college immediately:

60% graduated college within 4 years

*Indicator of on-time completion rates of students who began full-time at a 4-year institution*

Of all students who completed the survey:

34% graduated college within 4 years

*Indicator of how well we are doing, as a state, in educating our youth*

### Degree completion varied by:

- Parents' education level ("second-generation" means at least one parent completed a bachelor's degree):
  - 46% of second-generation students completed a degree within 4 years.
  - 24% of first-generation students completed a degree within 4 years.

**Table 5. Postsecondary outcomes by gender and first-generation status, Class of 2012**

FACTOR	Aspiration (at a 4-year school)	Enrollment (at a 4-year school, fall 2012)	Completion rate (of those who started full-time at a 4-year school)	Degree attainment (Class of 2012)
First-generation male	38%	34%	46%	16%
First-generation female	54%	48%	57%	30%
Second-generation male	72%	63%	57%	37%
Second-generation female	81%	72%	70%	54%
<b>Statewide average</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>34%</b>

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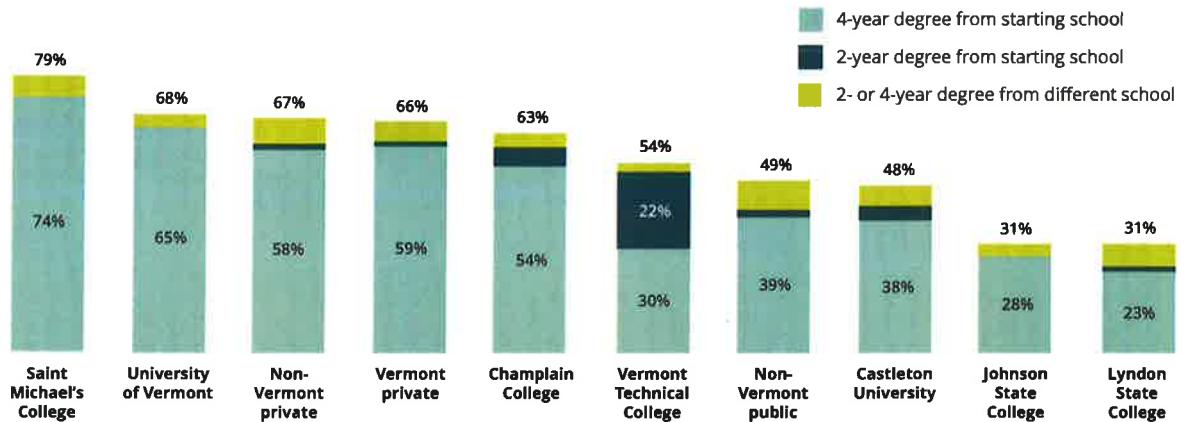




- Gender: 70% of second-generation females, but only 46% of first-generation males, finished in 4 years.
- Students' academic preparation in high school is critical for postsecondary success.
  - 61% of those who took Algebra II in high school finished college in 4 years vs. 30% of those who did not take Algebra II.
  - 68% of those who took an AP course in high school finished college in 4 years vs. 44% of those who did not take an AP course.
  - College completion had a stronger association with academic preparation than with either gender or parents' education level.
- Graduation rates varied by the type of institution that students attended.

**Figure 8. Completion rates for the Class of 2012 by institution/sector**

Vermont institutions with enrollments greater than 50 students from the Class of 2012 are listed individually.



### How Vermont compares to other states

- Vermont's public high school graduation rate was 8 points higher than the national average in 2012 (88% vs 80%). This has been the case historically.
- In contrast, Vermont's college-going rates among high school graduates have been lower than the national average. In 2012, Vermont's was 60%, 6 points below the national average.
- Vermont's 4-year degree completion rate among those who enroll immediately after high school (60%) is 13 points higher than the national average (47%).
- Vermont's college drop-out/stop-out rate (22%) is higher than the national average (17%).

### The "transfer penalty"

- Only 53% of students who started full-time at a 4-year school remained enrolled full-time for 4 years at that school. 10% of students who began college in the fall of 2012 transferred schools.
- Students who transferred schools were almost 30 points less likely to graduate within 4 years than those who remained at their starting schools.
- Why it is important: A 2017 study by the GAO indicated that students lose about 40% of their credits when they transfer.