

**COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY**

***Office of Institutional Research***

**MEMO**

**TO:** Mark Fowler

Ron Rapoport

**FROM:** Matt Clayton

**DATE:** March 10, 1999

**RE:** Continuance Standards - Graduation Rates by Cumulative QPA

Attached please find results of a study of graduation rates based on cumulative QPAs.

First-time freshmen entering in fall 1990 through fall 1993 were examined. Those entering in fall 1993 comprise the most recent cohort who may have graduated within five years. Five-year graduation rates were used because of the College's ten-semester attendance limit. Degrees conferred by the fifth summer following matriculation were included. For instance, fall 1990 matriculants had until summer 1995 to graduate. This is our typical method for determining graduation rates.

Each cohort was matched against a file of cumulative QPA information, using records from the second, fourth, and sixth terms following matriculation (for instance, QPAs for fall 1990 matriculants were examined after spring 1991, spring 1992, and spring 1993). Thus, academic standing was based on time since matriculation, not cumulative hours earned. Finally, records were matched against our degrees conferred file. Degree recipients and those who did not receive degrees within each five-year period were stratified according to cumulative QPA at the three measurement times. As noted on the attached tables, except for certain degree recipients counted in the IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey for the entering cohorts of fall 1991 and fall 1992, changes in social security numbers are not reflected in the QPA comparisons or in the degrees conferred counts.

Please note the following observations. First, students who achieve above a 2.25 cumulative QPA at any time during their careers graduate at a very high rate (93% for all students above that level after two semesters, 97% after four semesters, and almost 99% after six semesters). Those who achieve between a 1.9 and a 2.25 QPA after two semesters graduate at a rate similar to the overall five-year rate (85% for those students versus the 88% graduation rate for the four entering classes). The graduation rate diminishes significantly, to 62%, for students who achieve below a 1.9 QPA after two semesters, and further, to 55%, for those who achieve below a 1.7. After four semesters, 59% of students with a QPA below 1.9 graduate in five years. The graduation rate falls further to 45% for students with QPAs below 1.7 after four semesters.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

cc: Gill Cell

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**College of William and Mary**  
**Study of Continuance Standards**  
**Five-Year Graduation Rates Depending on Cumulative Quality Point Averages**

Cum QPA after 2 Semesters	First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1990				First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1991				First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1992			
	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #
3.7501-4.0000	60	57	95.0%	3	62	56	90.3%	6	71	68	95.8%	3
3.5001-3.7500	97	94	96.9%	3	100	95	95.0%	5	105	102	97.1%	3
3.2501-3.5000	147	139	94.6%	8	146	135	92.5%	11	154	148	96.1%	6
3.0001-3.2500	161	154	95.7%	7	162	151	93.2%	11	153	141	92.2%	12
2.7501-3.0000	162	156	96.3%	6	186	169	90.9%	17	165	153	92.7%	12
2.5001-2.7500	177	167	94.4%	10	169	159	94.1%	10	157	141	89.8%	16
2.2501-2.5000	160	147	91.9%	13	144	128	88.9%	16	138	124	89.9%	14
2.0001-2.2500	106	90	84.9%	16	106	87	82.1%	19	104	89	85.6%	15
1.9000-2.0000	34	29	85.3%	5	19	16	84.2%	3	21	18	85.7%	3
1.8000-1.8999	22	14	63.6%	8	26	24	92.3%	2	24	15	62.5%	9
1.7000-1.7999	19	12	63.2%	7	28	21	75.0%	7	21	16	76.2%	5
1.5000-1.6999	25	19	76.0%	6	24	18	75.0%	6	23	17	73.9%	6
1.3000-1.4999	15	10	66.7%	5	11	8	72.7%	3	30	21	70.0%	9
<1.3000	19	3	15.8%	16	10	2	20.0%	8	24	6	25.0%	18
Missing	31	4	12.9%	27	28	10	35.7%	18	25	2	8.0%	23
Total	1,235	1,095	88.7%	140	1,221	1,079	88.4%	142	1,215	1,061	87.3%	154

**Four-Year Totals After Two Semesters**

3.7501-4.0000	253	238	94.1%	15
3.5001-3.7500	424	409	96.5%	15
3.2501-3.5000	582	546	93.8%	36
3.0001-3.2500	645	602	93.3%	43
2.7501-3.0000	708	652	92.1%	56
2.5001-2.7500	663	618	93.2%	45
2.2501-2.5000	569	512	90.0%	57
2.0001-2.2500	400	344	86.0%	56
1.9000-2.0000	95	79	83.2%	16
1.8000-1.8999	94	68	72.3%	26
1.7000-1.7999	81	56	69.1%	25
1.5000-1.6999	89	65	73.0%	24
1.3000-1.4999	69	46	66.7%	23
<1.3000	80	20	25.0%	60
Missing	130	23	17.7%	107
Total	4,882	4,278	87.6%	604

Note: QPAs were measured two, four, and six semesters following matriculation. Thus, academic standing is based on length of time since matriculation earned. Five-year graduation rates include all undergraduate degrees earned through the fifth summer following matriculation. With the exception of recipients counted in the IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey (GRS - entering cohorts of 1991 and 1992), changes in social security numbers are not included. QPAs with missing QPAs may include early graduates, stop-outs, study-abroad students, non-returning students, and social security number changes.

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**College of William and Mary**  
**Study of Continuance Standards**  
**Five-Year Graduation Rates Depending on Cumulative Quality Point Averages**

Cum QPA after 4 Semesters	First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1990				First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1991				First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1992				En
	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #	
3.7501-4.0000	45	45	100.0%	0	56	55	98.2%	1	54	54	100.0%	0	
3.5001-3.7500	95	94	98.9%	1	78	77	98.7%	1	104	104	100.0%	0	
3.2501-3.5000	155	149	96.1%	6	167	163	97.6%	4	157	150	95.5%	7	
3.0001-3.2500	161	159	98.8%	2	176	171	97.2%	5	182	176	96.7%	6	
2.7501-3.0000	183	179	97.8%	4	170	165	97.1%	5	171	165	96.5%	6	
2.5001-2.7500	185	173	93.5%	12	167	163	97.6%	4	145	140	96.6%	5	
2.2501-2.5000	142	139	97.9%	3	136	125	91.9%	11	123	115	93.5%	8	
2.0001-2.2500	106	95	89.6%	11	79	66	83.5%	13	75	67	89.3%	8	
1.9000-2.0000	21	18	85.7%	3	28	26	92.9%	2	28	24	85.7%	4	
1.8000-1.8999	25	16	64.0%	9	21	18	85.7%	3	23	19	82.6%	4	
1.7000-1.7999	13	9	69.2%	4	16	12	75.0%	4	19	13	68.4%	6	
<1.7000	25	8	32.0%	17	27	15	55.6%	12	42	20	47.6%	22	
Missing	79	11	13.9%	68	100	23	23.0%	77	92	14	15.2%	78	
Total	1,235	1,095	88.7%	140	1,221	1,079	88.4%	142	1,215	1,061	87.3%	154	

Four-Year Totals After Four Semesters				
3.7501-4.0000	209	207	99.0%	2
3.5001-3.7500	394	390	99.0%	4
3.2501-3.5000	636	611	96.1%	25
3.0001-3.2500	687	669	97.4%	18
2.7501-3.0000	690	670	97.1%	20
2.5001-2.7500	656	627	95.6%	29
2.2501-2.5000	526	497	94.5%	29
2.0001-2.2500	341	296	86.8%	45
1.9000-2.0000	104	88	84.6%	16
1.8000-1.8999	81	61	75.3%	20
1.7000-1.7999	65	43	66.2%	22
<1.7000	125	56	44.8%	69
Missing	368	63	17.1%	305
Total	4,882	4,278	87.6%	604

Note: QPAs were measured two, four, and six semesters following matriculation. Thus, academic standing is based on length of time since matriculation earned. Five-year graduation rates include all undergraduate degrees earned through the fifth summer following matriculation. With the exception of recipients counted in the IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey (GRS - entering cohorts of 1991 and 1992), changes in social security numbers are not included. Recipients with missing QPAs may include early graduates, stop-outs, study-abroad students, non-returning students, and social security number changes.

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**Five-Year Graduation Rates Depending on Cumulative Quality Point Averages**

Cum QPA after 6 Semesters	First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1990				First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1991				First-Time Freshmen Entering Fall 1992				En
	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #	Entering #	Grad #	Grad %	Not Grad #	
3.7501-4.0000	42	42	100.0%	0	52	52	100.0%	0	49	49	100.0%	0	
3.5001-3.7500	104	104	100.0%	0	79	78	98.7%	1	99	98	99.0%	1	
3.2501-3.5000	149	148	99.3%	1	177	177	100.0%	0	163	162	99.4%	1	
3.0001-3.2500	172	171	99.4%	1	170	167	98.2%	3	178	176	98.9%	2	
2.7501-3.0000	183	181	98.9%	2	174	172	98.9%	2	176	174	98.9%	2	
2.5001-2.7500	167	162	97.0%	5	145	144	99.3%	1	113	112	99.1%	1	
2.2501-2.5000	127	123	96.9%	4	114	106	93.0%	8	113	108	95.6%	5	
2.0001-2.2500	74	70	94.6%	4	64	58	90.6%	6	69	63	91.3%	6	
1.9000-2.0000	15	13	86.7%	2	21	19	90.5%	2	16	13	81.3%	3	
1.8000-1.8999	12	8	66.7%	4	12	10	83.3%	2	22	14	63.6%	8	
1.7000-1.7999	9	4	44.4%	5	13	8	61.5%	5	11	5	45.5%	6	
<1.7000	9	1	11.1%	8	8	3	37.5%	5	19	5	26.3%	14	
Missing	172	68	39.5%	104	192	85	44.3%	107	187	82	43.9%	105	
Total	1,235	1,095	88.7%	140	1,221	1,079	88.4%	142	1,215	1,061	87.3%	154	

**Four-Year Totals After Six Semesters**

3.7501-4.0000	196	196	100.0%	0
3.5001-3.7500	386	384	99.5%	2
3.2501-3.5000	631	627	99.4%	4
3.0001-3.2500	694	687	99.0%	7
2.7501-3.0000	684	678	99.1%	6
2.5001-2.7500	567	556	98.1%	11
2.2501-2.5000	474	449	94.7%	25
2.0001-2.2500	260	236	90.8%	24
1.9000-2.0000	59	49	83.1%	10
1.8000-1.8999	60	40	66.7%	20
1.7000-1.7999	41	24	58.5%	17
<1.7000	47	11	23.4%	36
Missing	783	341	43.6%	442
Total	4,882	4,278	87.6%	604

Note: QPAs were measured two, four, and six semesters following matriculation. Thus, academic standing is based on length of time since matriculation earned. Five-year graduation rates include all undergraduate degrees earned through the fifth summer following matriculation. With the exception of recipients counted in the IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey (GRS - entering cohorts of 1991 and 1992), changes in social security numbers are not included. Students with missing QPAs may include early graduates, stop-outs, study-abroad students, non-returning students, and social security number changes.

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