

NPS GRADUATION RATE REPORT – 2018

7/1/2019

Bottom Line Up Front:

NPS tracks graduation rates across all degree programs -- by program, school, department, and mode (resident/DL). Grad Rates over the period 2002-2018 fluctuate some from year to year, but are broadly stable. Grad Rates differ significantly between the resident program and DL program.

Approximate point indicators of Grad Rates are:

- Resident: 93%
- Distance Learning: 81%
- Overall: 90%

Overall Grad Rates (all programs, Resident and DL combined) show a slight decline over time. This is due primarily to an increased proportion of DL programs in the NPS program mix.

Why Graduation Rates?

Graduation Rates are a major student outcome measure used in higher education. There has been a considerable increase in attention to graduation rates at universities in the US over the past decade, much driven by heightened Department of Education oversight, motivated significantly by concerns that (some) universities may not sufficiently support successful outcomes for their students. NPS does not operate in the same environment as civilian universities and does not compete with them for students. Yet graduation rates have an analogous significance at and for NPS. All students at NPS are 100% funded by their services or commands, with that funding representing both an investment by sponsors in the students' careers and an investment in NPS to add value. As the go-to place for defense-related education to Navy/DON/DOD, NPS has a singular responsibility to provide a return on DOD's investment in NPS. NPS has a special responsibility in its education programs to support student achievement and success toward graduation. Graduation rates are one metric NPS tracks to monitor its stewardship and effectiveness.

Methods/Data:

NPS revised its approach to determining Graduation Rates in 2015. Historically NPS has produced 2-year, 3-year and 5-year Grad Rate statistics, measuring the percentage of students who had graduated by 2, 3, or 5 years after starting a program. This approach – based on years after start – is common in higher education and not unreasonable to use when all students are following a standard length program. Standard length is not the case at NPS, where our degree programs range from 1 to 2½ years in length. And NPS students newly enroll and newly graduate each of four quarters a year. So NPS has shifted to determining Grad Rates based on an expected time to graduation. At the time of initial enrollment, each NPS student is assigned an expected graduation date based on the known standard length of the specific individual program. Grad Rates are determined with reference to the projected graduation date. Table 1, attached, shows Grad Rates using this new approach.

- Three graduation rates are calculated and reported:
 - On-Time Graduation Rate (OT): Each NPS degree program has an expected length and each student an expected graduation date. Graduation by this expected date is reflected in On-Time Rates.
 - Late Graduation Rate (LT): Reflects eventual graduation, occurring after the expected date.
 - Total Graduation Rate (TOT): Total of OT and LT.

- Year Group: What defines the Year Group cited in the data? The year group is the Year-of-Expected-Graduation (not the year of program matriculation).
- Student Numbers: The numbers of students cited in the data represent counts of students expected to graduate in a particular year. (Since NPS' degree program length averages somewhere near 2 years, actual student enrollment (average on board) tends to be about double the expected graduates.)
- Period: Graduation Rates determined for 2002- 2018 (expected graduation years).

Resident vs Distance Learning Students: NPS serves two distinct student populations, in resident and DL, with different demographics.

- Residents students are dominantly full-time students at NPS, without competing job responsibilities. Resident students are overwhelmingly active duty military officers (Naval, other services and international).
- DL students are overwhelmingly part-time (typically half-time) students, with full-time job responsibilities. While there are significant numbers of active duty Naval in DL, DL students are still majority civilians (DON, DOD, Fed Govt).

Observations/Findings:

NPS Resident Graduate Rates – Comments:

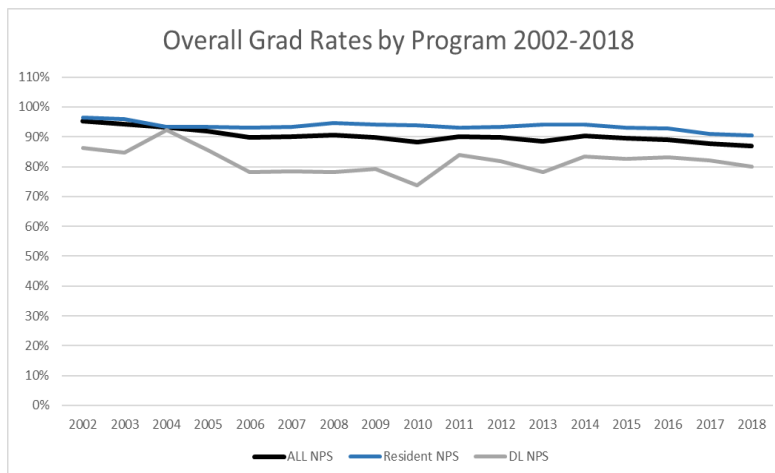
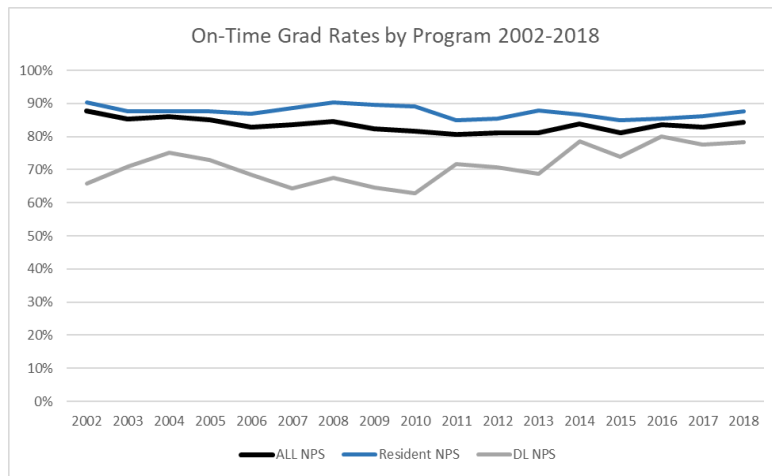
- Resident TOT Grad Rates are largely stable across time – at **about 93%**. Call this the long-run average NPS Resident Grad Rate.
- There is some small indication of higher Grad Rates pre-2010 (95%), slightly lower post-2010 (93%)...
- But...The most recent years (2013-2018) should tend to have lower TOT Grad Rates because of less time for Late Grads to occur.

NPS Distance Learning (DL) Graduation Rates – Comments:

- DL shows lower overall TOT Grad Rates than in resident – at **about 81%**. This is not surprising given the part-time student demographic in DL.
- DL shows a larger proportion of Late Grads than resident, also not surprising. With full-time jobs competing, DL students are more likely to drop out because of work demands, or stop out temporarily, completing a program after the nominal expected date.

NPS Overall Graduation Rates – Comments:

- Combining both resident and DL students, NPS' TOT Grad Rates show a slight decline over time – with Grad Rates in the mid 90% during 2002-2004 declining to low 90% during 2005-2009, and typically below 90% since 2010. But...
- There has been a steady and significant increase in both the number and the proportion of DL students since 2002 – with DL students increasing from less than 100 during 2002-2004 up to about 400-500 since 2010. It is this changing mix of resident vs DL students that accounts for the declining trend noted in TOT Grad Rates.
- Looking at the more recent years, with the current mix of resident and DL students, a fair round number to reflect **NPS' overall Grad Rate is about 90%**.



Differences by School?

- As is typically expected with data, disaggregating to smaller subsets tends to produce findings that vary to a greater degree from the overall average. Is this random or systemic? The table shows Grad Rates for each of NPS' Schools, with at least some differences apparent.
- What explains lower Grad Rates? The data by itself can't explain this, but various factors or hypotheses might be offered...
 - Students less academically prepared at entry.
 - Students not offered a refresher period, hence no leg up to grad work.
 - Students provided less support toward achievement and success.
 - Higher academic standards.
 - Faculty more demanding.
 - All of the above, to unknown degrees.

Graduation Rates-Resident & Distance Learning by School

June 2019

	Grad On-Time/Grad	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2002-2018	2014-2018	2016-2018
NPS All Students	Total #	852	824	973	1154	1211	1337	1269	1294	1298	1361	1505	1475	1468	1406	1453	1256	1360	21496	7058	4115
All	%OT	88%	85%	86%	85%	83%	83%	84%	82%	82%	81%	81%	81%	84%	81%	83%	83%	84%	83%	82%	83%
	%LT	8%	9%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%	10%	9%	7%	6%	8%	6%	5%	2%	7%	6%	5%
	%TOTAL	95%	94%	93%	92%	90%	90%	90%	90%	88%	90%	90%	88%	90%	90%	89%	88%	87%	90%	88%	88%
GSBPP Students	Total #	226	184	241	270	340	350	371	302	350	330	347	393	362	364	368	303	336	5437	1733	1007
All	%OT	85%	83%	85%	80%	87%	88%	86%	80%	78%	81%	85%	75%	85%	81%	87%	87%	81%	83%	84%	85%
	%LT	8%	10%	10%	10%	7%	4%	5%	10%	8%	8%	5%	8%	5%	11%	3%	3%	3%	7%	5%	3%
	%TOTAL	92%	92%	95%	90%	94%	92%	91%	88%	85%	88%	90%	84%	90%	92%	90%	90%	84%	90%	89%	88%
GSEAS Students	Total #	251	273	260	372	346	409	297	371	319	382	472	427	467	409	461	443	432	6391	2212	1336
All	%OT	86%	81%	85%	86%	84%	78%	80%	77%	76%	79%	78%	86%	86%	82%	83%	81%	87%	82%	84%	84%
	%LT	12%	14%	8%	6%	7%	11%	10%	14%	9%	12%	10%	5%	4%	6%	3%	5%	1%	8%	4%	3%
	%TOTAL	97%	95%	93%	92%	91%	89%	90%	91%	86%	91%	89%	92%	90%	88%	87%	86%	88%	90%	88%	87%
GSOIS Students	Total #	273	243	290	301	320	358	352	352	330	340	377	369	349	361	360	303	309	5587	1682	972
All	%OT	91%	89%	86%	87%	78%	86%	84%	87%	86%	86%	82%	83%	85%	87%	85%	84%	92%	86%	87%	87%
	%LT	5%	6%	7%	6%	7%	4%	6%	2%	4%	6%	10%	5%	5%	4%	6%	4%	2%	5%	4%	4%
	%TOTAL	96%	95%	93%	93%	85%	91%	89%	89%	91%	92%	92%	88%	90%	91%	91%	88%	94%	91%	91%	91%
SIGS Students	Total #	102	124	182	211	205	220	249	269	299	309	309	286	290	272	264	207	283	4081	1316	754
(0 DL Programs)	%OT	92%	90%	88%	87%	81%	84%	89%	87%	86%	76%	80%	79%	77%	72%	77%	80%	76%	81%	76%	78%
	%LT	4%	4%	3%	5%	7%	6%	3%	4%	6%	12%	9%	11%	14%	15%	12%	7%	4%	8%	11%	8%
	%TOTAL	96%	94%	91%	92%	88%	90%	92%	91%	92%	89%	89%	91%	91%	87%	89%	87%	81%	89%	87%	85%

By Resident/Distance Learning

	School	Grad On-Time/Grad	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2002-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018
NPS Resident		Total #	764	700	856	948	935	1060	950	925	927	907	1059	955	934	937	905	774	886	15422	4436	2565
		%OT	90%	88%	88%	88%	87%	88%	90%	90%	89%	85%	85%	88%	87%	85%	86%	86%	88%	87%	86%	87%
		%LT	6%	8%	6%	6%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	8%	8%	6%	7%	8%	7%	5%	3%	6%	6%	5%
		TOTAL	96%	96%	93%	93%	93%	93%	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	94%	94%	93%	93%	91%	91%	93%	92%	92%
Resident	GSBPP	GSBPP Total	172	134	172	186	201	215	204	149	171	138	178	165	165	196	162	156	178	2942	857	496
		%OT	90%	92%	91%	92%	92%	94%	94%	92%	95%	91%	93%	96%	93%	92%	92%	95%	93%	93%	93%	93%
		%LT	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	3%	2%	4%	2%	7%	2%	2%	4%	6%	4%	2%	2%	4%	3%	3%
	GSEAS	GSEAS Total	221	208	214	253	241	279	198	219	177	176	233	214	209	185	188	185	175	3575	942	548
		%OT	89%	82%	86%	86%	88%	87%	91%	84%	89%	88%	91%	94%	92%	90%	91%	88%	94%	89%	91%	91%
		%LT	10%	16%	7%	7%	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%	6%	3%	2%	6%	3%	4%	2%	6%	3%	3%	3%
		TOTAL	99%	98%	93%	93%	93%	93%	96%	97%	95%	94%	97%	97%	95%	96%	94%	91%	96%	95%	94%	94%
	GSOIS	GSOIS Total	269	234	288	298	288	346	299	288	280	284	339	290	270	284	291	226	250	4824	1321	767
		%OT	91%	89%	86%	87%	86%	89%	88%	91%	89%	90%	83%	87%	89%	89%	86%	85%	92%	88%	88%	88%
		%LT	5%	6%	7%	6%	7%	5%	7%	2%	5%	5%	11%	6%	7%	5%	8%	3%	6%	6%	5%	5%
	SIGS	SIGS Total	102	124	182	211	205	220	249	269	299	309	309	286	290	272	264	207	283	4081	1316	754
		%OT	92%	90%	88%	87%	81%	84%	89%	87%	86%	76%	80%	79%	77%	72%	77%	80%	76%	81%	76%	78%
		%LT	4%	3%	3%	5%	7%	6%	3%	4%	6%	12%	9%	11%	14%	15%	12%	7%	4%	8%	11%	8%
		TOTAL	96%	94%	91%	92%	88%	90%	92%	91%	92%	89%	89%	91%	91%	87%	89%	87%	81%	89%	87%	85%
NPS DL	School	Grad On-Time/Grad	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2002-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018
		Total #	88	124	117	206	276	277	319	369	371	454	446	520	534	469	548	482	474	6074	2507	1504
		%OT	66%	71%	75%	73%	68%	64%	67%	64%	63%	72%	71%	69%	79%	74%	80%	78%	78%	72%	78%	79%
		%LT	20%	14%	17%	13%	10%	14%	11%	15%	11%	12%	11%	9%	5%	9%	3%	2%	2%	9%	5%	3%
DL	GSBPP	GSBPP Total	54	50	69	84	139	135	167	153	179	192	169	228	197	168	206	147	158	2495	876	511
		%OT	69%	58%	70%	55%	79%	77%	76%	68%	61%	73%	77%	61%	78%	69%	83%	78%	68%	72%	76%	77%
		%LT	19%	24%	20%	24%	11%	6%	8%	13%	13%	9%	8%	13%	6%	17%	3%	4%	5%	10%	7%	4%
	GSEAS	GSEAS Total	30	65	46	119	105	130	99	152	142	206	239	213	258	224	273	258	257	2816	1270	788
		%OT	60%	78%	83%	85%	74%	56%	57%	60%	61%	72%	66%	79%	81%	76%	78%	76%	82%	73%	79%	79%
		%LT	23%	6%	13%	5%	10%	24%	21%	22%	13%	16%	15%	8%	6%	5%	4%	6%	0%	10%	4%	3%
	GSOIS	GSOIS Total	4	9	2	3	32	12	53	64	50	56	38	79	79	77	69	77	59	763	361	205
		%OT	75%	89%	100%	100%	3%	8%	60%	67%	72%	66%	74%	66%	72%	78%	80%	83%	90%	70%	80%	83%
		%LT	25%	11%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	3%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%
SIGS		SIGS Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		%OT																				
		%LT																				
		TOTAL	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Percentages might not sum to total due to rounding

Res = Resident OT = On Time Graduation

DL= Distance Learning LT = Late Graduation

Curric = Curriculum