

**RESEARCH BRIEF**

**First-Time in College Students who Enrolled at NOVA Within  
One Year of Graduation from High School: Fall 2018**

**Introduction**

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) regularly monitors and evaluates eight critical measures of student achievement. One of these measures, enrollment, refers to the headcount of students enrolled in credit courses; students enrolled in courses that are part of a vocational or educational program, including those enrolled in off-campus centers; and high school students taking college courses for credit.

NOVA sets enrollment targets each year with respect to the overarching goals set forth in the College's most recent strategic plan: every student succeeds, every program achieves, and every community prospers. To this end, NOVA tracks several areas related to enrollment including enrollment of first-time college students from NOVA's service region, continued enrollment of existing students, enrollment of dual-enrolled high school students, and the enrollment of students who transfer into NOVA from another two- or four-year institution.

**In This Brief**

This Brief examines the **draw rate** of students from public high school divisions in NOVA's service area in Fall 2018. The draw rate is the rate at which recent graduates from public high schools in the Northern Virginia area attended NOVA in the fall term following graduation from high school. Additionally, this brief shows the number of students who enroll from each public school division as well as the most popular program in which recent high school graduates enroll. This information will assist College leadership with a better understanding of Northern Virginia school divisions with the greatest potential for new enrollments at NOVA.

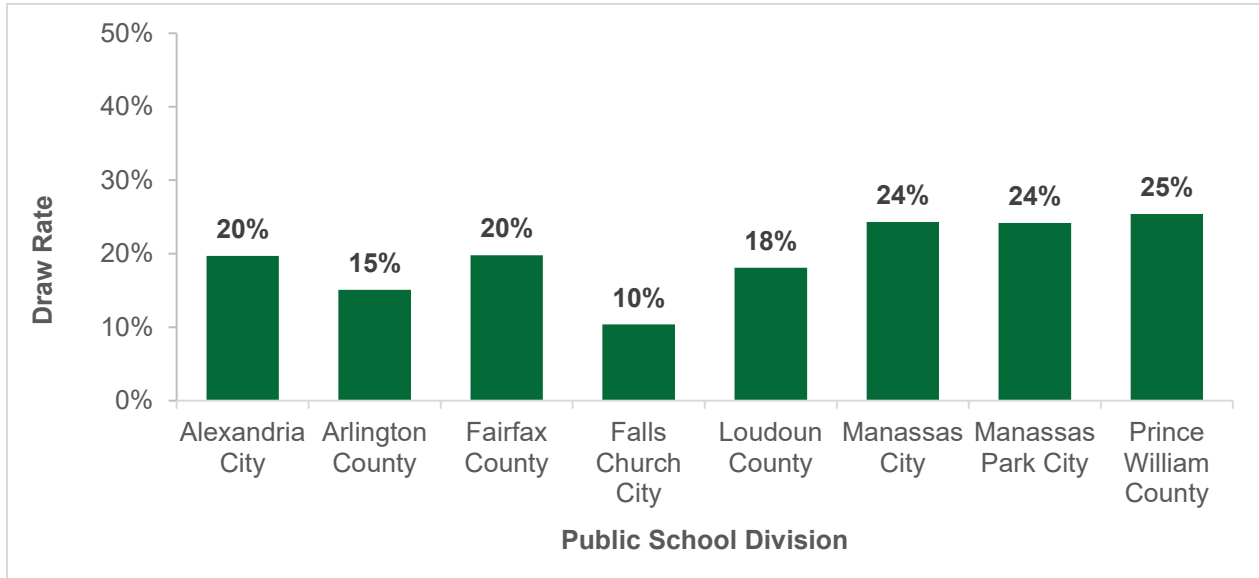
**Key Findings**

- The highest draw rate of recent high school graduates was from Prince William County Public Schools, in which 25 percent of graduates enrolled at NOVA.
- The highest number of recent graduates who enrolled at NOVA was from Fairfax County Public Schools, in which over 2,000 students from this division enrolled at NOVA.
- The most popular degree program for recent high school graduates was General Studies, A.S.

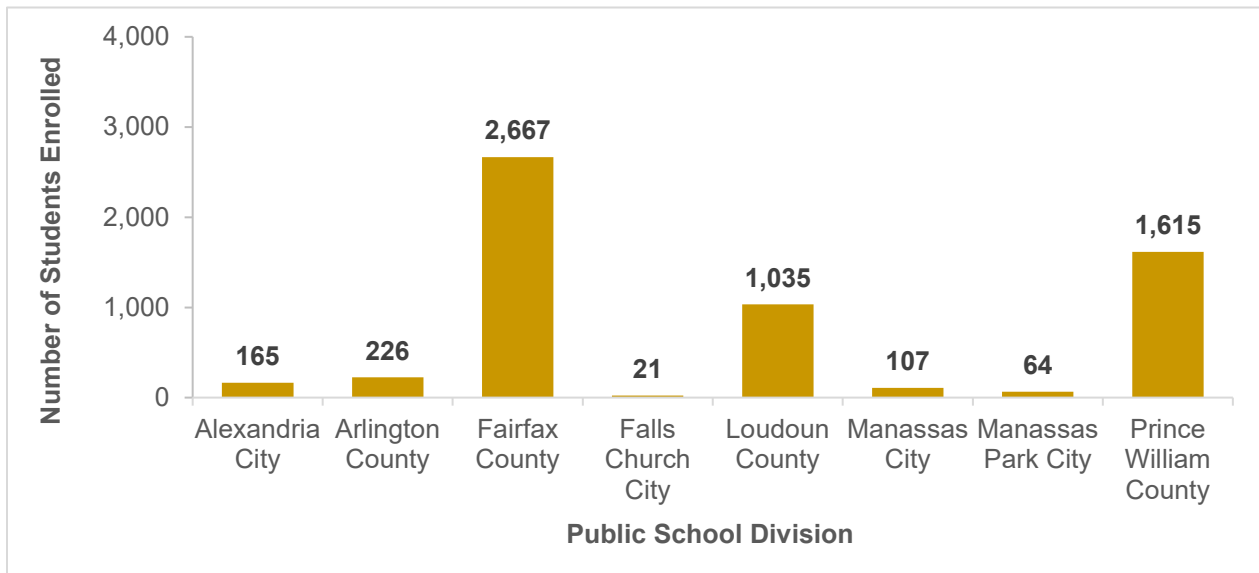
**Enrollment At NOVA After High School from NOVA’s Service Region**

- In Fall 2018, the public school division in NOVA’s service area with the highest draw rate was Prince William County Public Schools (PWCPS). Approximately 25 percent of high school graduates from PWCPS enrolled at NOVA following high school. (Figure 1)
- In Fall 2018, the public school division with the highest number of students enrolling at NOVA was Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Over 2,000 FCPS graduates enrolled at NOVA in the year following high school graduation. (Figure 2)

**Figure 1. Draw Rate from NOVA’s Service Area by Public School Division: Fall 2018**



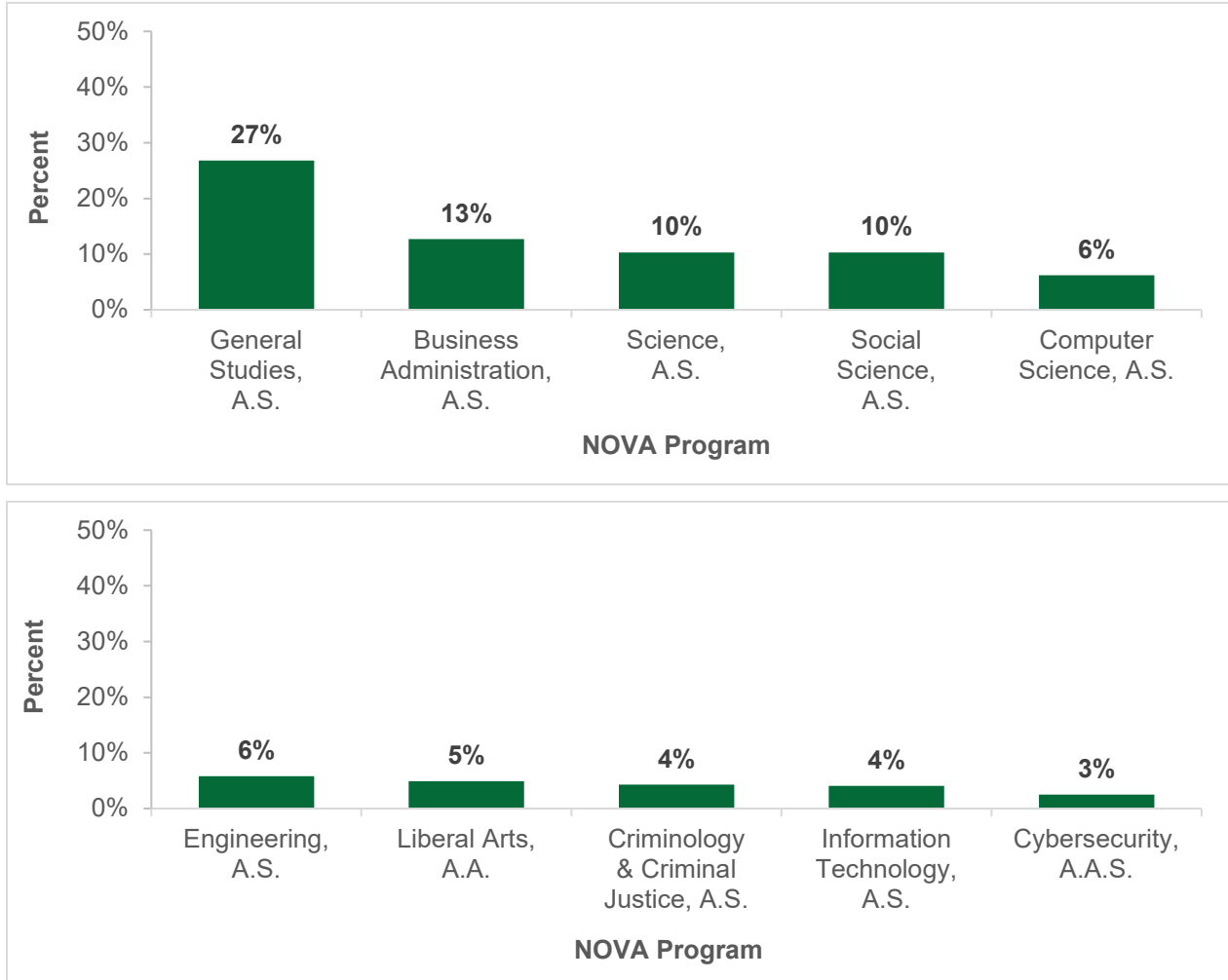
**Figure 2. Number of Students Enrolled from NOVA’s Service Area by Public School Division: Fall 2018**



### Most Popular Programs for Recent High School Graduates

- In Fall 2018, recent high school graduates who enrolled at NOVA most commonly enrolled in a General Studies A.S. degree program. Approximately 27 percent of all recent high school graduates enrolled at NOVA were enrolled in this program.
- Other popular programs for recent high school graduates include A.S. degree programs in Business Administration (13 percent), Science, and Social Science (10 percent, each).

**Figure 3. Top Ten Most Popular NOVA Programs for Recent High School Graduates from NOVA’s Service Area: Fall 2018**



## Appendix: Data Tables

**Table 1. Number of High School Graduates, Number Enrolled at NOVA, and Draw Rate from NOVA's Service Area by Public School Division: Fall 2014 through Fall 2018**

Public School Division	13-14 Total Grads	Fall 2014 at NOVA		14-15 Total Grads	Fall 2015 at NOVA		15-16 Total Grads	Fall 2016 at NOVA		16-17 Total Grads	Fall 2017 at NOVA		17-18 Total Grads	Fall 2018 at NOVA		4-Yr Rate Change
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%	
Alexandria City	685	146	21.3	703	168	23.9	728	174	23.9	767	168	21.9	838	165	19.7	-1.6
Arlington County	1,368	264	19.3	1,438	256	17.8	1,489	253	17.0	1,453	248	17.1	1,496	226	15.1	-4.2
Fairfax County	12,992	2,772	21.3	12,934	2,762	21.4	13,289	2,816	21.2	13,150	2,481	18.9	13,483	2,667	19.8	-1.5
Falls Church City	183	16	8.7	168	17	10.1	187	15	8.0	199	25	12.6	201	21	10.4	1.7
Loudoun County	4,515	998	22.1	4,639	1,012	21.8	5,023	991	19.7	5,528	1,043	18.9	5,710	1,035	18.1	-4.0
Manassas City	467	116	24.8	455	122	26.8	457	107	23.4	478	104	21.8	440	107	24.3	-0.5
Manassas Pk City	160	42	26.3	185	65	35.1	218	56	25.7	230	64	27.8	264	64	24.2	-2.1
Prince William Co.	5,682	1,508	26.5	5,769	1,568	27.2	5,852	1,550	26.5	6,022	1,549	25.7	6,361	1,615	25.4	-1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,052</b>	<b>5,862</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>26,291</b>	<b>5,970</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>27,243</b>	<b>5,962</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>27,827</b>	<b>5,682</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>28,793</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>-2.0</b>

Note: The draw rate represents the rate at which recent graduates from public high schools in the Northern Virginia area attended NOVA in the fall term following graduation from high school. Sources: PeopleSoft, OIR Census files, and Virginia Department of Education High School Graduates and Completers Report: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov>

**Table 2. Most Popular NOVA Programs for Recent High School Graduates from NOVA's Service Area: Fall 2014 through Fall 2018**

NOVA Program	Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
General Studies, AS	1,454	24.8	1,513	25.3	1,875	31.4	1,927	33.9	1,580	26.8
Business Admin, AS	695	11.9	808	13.5	724	12.1	636	11.2	749	12.7
Science, AS	620	10.6	660	11.1	683	11.5	567	10.0	606	10.3
Social Sciences, AS	781	13.3	780	13.1	687	11.5	581	10.2	604	10.3
Computer Science, AS	321	5.5	372	6.2	336	5.6	303	5.3	364	6.2
Engineering, AS	361	6.2	362	6.1	316	5.3	316	5.6	344	5.8
Liberal Arts, AA	495	8.4	477	8.0	365	6.1	346	6.1	288	4.9
Criminology & Criminal Justice, AS	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	252	4.3
Information Tech, AS	243	4.1	228	3.8	253	4.2	251	4.4	239	4.1
Cybersecurity, AAS	2	<0.1	50	0.8	61	1.0	96	1.7	146	2.5
Business Management, AAS	98	1.7	64	1.1	44	0.7	56	1.0	57	1.0
Fine Arts, AA/AAA	165	2.8	168	2.8	161	2.7	150	2.6	16	0.3
<i>All Other (including Not Placed)</i>	627	10.7	488	8.2	457	7.7	453	8.0	655	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,862</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,970</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,962</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,682</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Programs are sorted in descending order by enrollment in Fall 2018.