

RESEARCH BRIEF

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Four-Year Graduation Rates by Initial Degree Program Placement at the Loudoun Campus: Fall 2010 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

This Research Brief examines data on how many students at the Loudoun Campus earned a degree within four years from the program in which they originally enrolled at NOVA. The data presented are for three cohorts of first-time in college (FTIC) students (Fall 2010, Fall 2011, and Fall 2012 cohorts) who were program placed in an A.A. or A.S. degree program in their first semester at NOVA.

Overall, the data shows that among Loudoun Campus FTIC students who enrolled in an A.A. or A.S. program in their first term, 24 to 27 percent earned a credential of some kind (degree or certificate) within four years. However, between five and 14 percent earned a degree from the program in which they initially enrolled (Figure 1).

- From Fall 2010 to Fall 2012, 24 to 28 percent of students who initially enrolled in an A.A. degree program earned some kind of credential (degree or certificate) within four years. However, only five to 10 percent of students who enrolled in an A.A. degree program in their first semester actually earned an A.A. degree within four years.
- Over the same time period, 10 to 14 percent of Loudoun Campus students who enrolled in an A.S. degree program in their first semester earned an A.S. degree within four years (24 to 26 percent earned any degree or certificate).

Figure 1. Four-Year Graduation Rate by Initial Degree Program Placement at the Loudoun Campus: Fall 2010 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

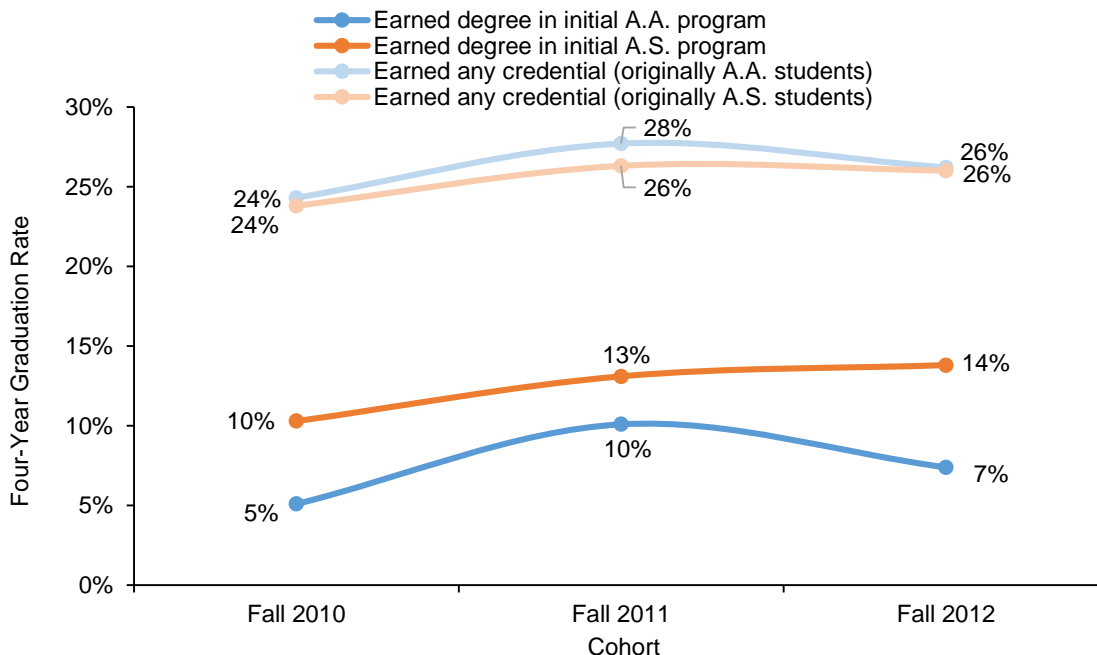


Figure 2 examines only the Fall 2012 cohort in order to compare the overall four-year graduation rate of Loudoun Campus FTIC students by program and the graduation rate among students who earned a degree in the same program in which they initially enrolled.

- Some degree programs had high graduation rates but relatively low percentages of students who earned a degree in the program they selected in their first term. For example, although students who initially enrolled in the Engineering A.S. degree program had high graduation rates relative to students in other programs (34 percent), only 13 percent of these students actually went on to earn an Engineering A.S. degree.
- Similarly, students who initially enrolled in the Liberal Arts A.A. program had a graduation rate of 31 percent, but only 10 percent earned a Liberal Arts A.A. degree.
- In contrast, 22 percent of Loudoun Campus students who initially enrolled in the Business Administration program actually earned an A.S. degree in Business Administration.

Figure 2. Four-Year Graduation Rate by Initial Degree Program Placement at the Loudoun Campus: Fall 2012 Cohort

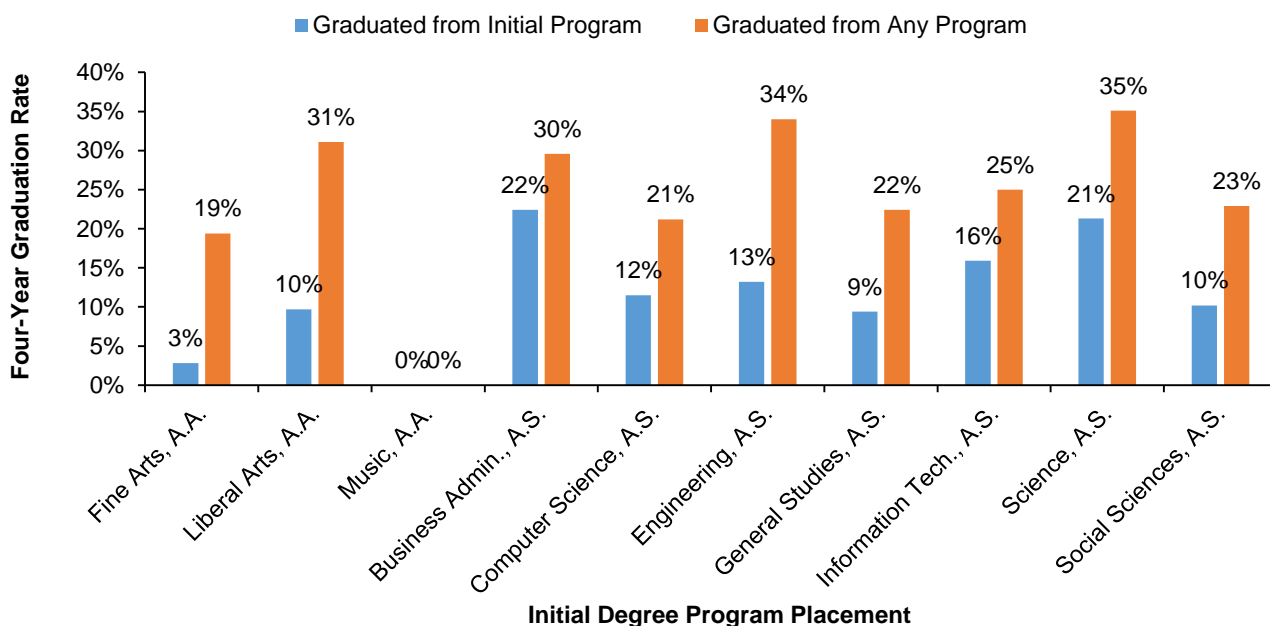


Table 1. Four-Year Graduation Rate by Initial Degree Program Placement at the Loudoun Campus: Fall 2010 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Initial Program Placement	Fall 2010				Fall 2011				Fall 2012						
	FTIC	Graduated w/in 4 Years		Graduated from Initial Program		FTIC	Graduated w/in 4 Years		Graduated from Initial Program		FTIC	Graduated w/in 4 Years		Graduated from Initial Program	
		#	%	#	%		#	%	#	%		#	%	#	%
Fine Arts, A.A.	17	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	24	4	16.7%	3	12.5%	36	7	19.4%	1	2.8%
Liberal Arts, A.A.	107	29	27.1%	6	5.6%	114	34	29.8%	11	9.6%	103	32	31.1%	10	9.7%
Music, A.A.	12	3	25.0%	1	8.3%	10	3	30.0%	1	10.0%	10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Subtotal A.A. Degrees	136	33	24.3%	7	5.1%	148	41	27.7%	15	10.1%	149	39	26.2%	11	7.4%
Business Administration, A.S.	52	10	19.2%	6	11.5%	66	22	33.3%	16	24.2%	125	37	29.6%	28	22.4%
Computer Science, A.S.	38	7	18.4%	2	5.3%	47	11	23.4%	3	6.4%	52	11	21.2%	6	11.5%
Engineering, A.S.	19	4	21.1%	2	10.5%	39	10	25.6%	6	15.4%	53	18	34.0%	7	13.2%
General Studies, A.S.	300	73	24.3%	35	11.7%	281	54	19.2%	23	8.2%	299	67	22.4%	28	9.4%
Information Technology, A.S.	19	7	36.8%	3	15.8%	29	13	44.8%	10	34.5%	44	11	25.0%	7	15.9%
Science, A.S.	50	14	28.0%	7	14.0%	76	24	31.6%	12	15.8%	94	33	35.1%	20	21.3%
Social Sciences, A.S.	73	16	21.9%	2	2.7%	75	27	36.0%	10	13.3%	118	27	22.9%	12	10.2%
Subtotal A.S. Degrees	551	131	23.8%	57	10.3%	613	161	26.3%	80	13.1%	785	204	26.0%	108	13.8%
Total A.S. & A.A. Degrees	687	164	23.9%	64	9.3%	761	202	26.5%	95	12.5%	934	243	26.0%	119	12.7%