



Evaluation Matters

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Results of the Senior Exit Survey, 2017

1. What is the purpose of this report?

This report examines the results of the Senior Exit Survey, which is administered annually to all graduating high school students, pursuant to state requirements. The Senior Exit Survey in its eighth administration replaces the Graduate Exit Interview. The fourfold purpose of this study is to explore seniors': (a) postsecondary plans, (b) the credentials they plan to acquire, (c) the institutions they plan to attend, and (d) the fields of study they choose to pursue.

2. Which populations were targeted for this survey?

All twelfth-grade students enrolled in traditional and charter high schools within the District were included, except those enrolled in special education centers, the educational alternative outreach program, the juvenile justice center, and centers for special instruction.

3. How were the data for this report collected and analyzed?

Data to conduct this analysis were obtained from responses to the Senior Exit Survey, an online survey administered through Survey Gold 8.0. The survey was accessed through links provided on the districts' main Web page and on the Student Portal between March 20 and June 8, 2017. Selected open-ended "other" responses were assigned into categories. The analysis of the survey data was otherwise limited to descriptive statistics.

4. To what extent did students respond to the survey?

Overall, 84.2 percent of targeted seniors (n=21,762) responded to the survey, representing 90.7% of the students (n=19,665) who attended the traditional schools and 50.5% of the students (n=2,097) who attended the charter schools. This high rate of return indicates that the results obtained may be generalized to all high school seniors in the M-DCPS.

- Traditional-school response rates ranged from a low of 0.0% to a high of 100.0% and averaged 89.7%.
- Charter-school response rates ranged from a low of 0.0% to a high of 100.0% and averaged 56.2%.

5. What do seniors plan to do upon competing high school?

Survey items were developed to determine the credentials seniors planned to acquire and the branches of the service that they planned to join. Table 1 lists the number and percent of students who reported planning to earn the following educational credentials as their ultimate educational goal by Armed Service Status.

Table 1. Highest Credential Senior Plan to Attain by Armed Service Status

Highest Credential Planned	Armed Service Status			
	Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%
Advanced, Doctoral, or higher (e.g., J.D. (Lawyer), M.D., Ph.D.)	5,644	27.8	253	17.8
Master (e.g., M.A., M.B.A., M.F.A., M.S.)	6,817	33.5	367	25.8
Bachelor (e.g., B.A. B.B.A., B.F.A., B.S, B.T.)	5,555	27.3	387	27.2
Associate degree	1,033	5.1	78	5.5
Certificate(s)/license(s) in a skilled trade(s)/vocation(s)	902	4.4	57	4.0
None	386	1.9	283	19.9
Total	20,337	100.0	1,425	100.0

- 88.6% of Non-Serving and 70.8% of Serving seniors reported planning to earn a Bachelor or higher degree.
- An additional 5.1% of Non-Serving and 5.5% of Serving seniors reported planning to earn an Associate degree, while 4.4% of Non-Serving and 4.0% of Serving seniors reported planning to earn a certificate/license.
- 1.9% of Non-Serving and 19.9% of Serving seniors reported not planning to earn a credential.

6. What institutions do seniors plan to attend?

Table 2 lists the number and percent of seniors who reported planning to attend each of the following institutions by armed services status within degree-granting authority, followed by the pace at which they reported planning to pursue their studies.

- Of the seniors who indicated they would be furthering their education, 42.6% of Non-Serving and 28.2% of Serving seniors reported planning to attend Miami-Dade College, while 19.1% and 15.8%, respectively, reported planning to attend Florida International University.
- Of the seniors who indicated they would be furthering their education, 65.7% of Non-Serving seniors reported planning to do so on a full-time basis, 19.0% reported planning to do so part-time, and 13.5% reported being unsure at what pace they would do so.
- Over 80% of Serving seniors reported planning to pursue their studies upon completing high school while they were Serving, implying that military service and education are not mutually exclusive pursuits. Although, most reported planning to attend local institutions like their Non-Serving counterparts, over 10% reported planning to attend academies traditionally associated with a specific branch of the service.

Table 2 Institution of Attendance/Status

Institutions	Armed Service Status			
	Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%
(Awards Bachelor or higher degree)				
Miami Dade College	8,503	42.6	322	28.2
Florida International University	3,810	19.1	181	15.8
University of Florida	698	3.5	19	1.7
Florida State University	590	3.0	39	3.4
University of Central Florida	481	2.4	20	1.8
Broward College	404	2.0	23	2.0
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	333	1.7	16	1.4
University of Miami ^a	254	1.3	19	1.7
Bethune-Cookman University ^a	223	1.1	25	2.2
Barry University ^a	207	1.0	4	0.4
Dade Medical College ^a	169	0.8	15	1.3
Florida Atlantic University	164	0.8	6	0.5
Santa Fe College	151	0.8	5	0.4
University of South Florida	106	0.5	6	0.5
City College ^a	98	0.5	13	1.1
Tallahassee Community College	98	0.5	3	0.3
American University ^{ab}	96	0.5	18	1.6
Art Institutes (all locations) ^a	96	0.5	9	0.8
Florida Memorial University ^a	93	0.5	13	1.1
Florida Gulf Coast University	92	0.5	2	0.2
Nova Southeastern University ^a	90	0.5	1	0.1
Valencia Community College	86	0.4	4	0.4
Johnson and Wales University ^a	67	0.3	6	0.5
St. Thomas University ^a	64	0.3	5	0.4
Full Sail University ^a	48	0.2	--	--
New York University ^{ab}	48	0.2	1	0.1
Boston University ^{ab}	47	0.2	5	0.4
Florida National College ^a	46	0.2	--	--
Keiser University ^a	45	0.2	5	0.4
Harvard University ^{ab}	35	0.2	3	0.3
New World School of the Arts	35	0.2	2	0.2
Advanced Software Analysis (ASA) Institute ^{ab}	33	0.2	5	0.4
Cornell University ^{ab}	33	0.2	--	--
University of North Florida	33	0.2	--	--
Florida Institute of Technology ^a	32	0.2	5	0.4
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University ^a	31	0.2	7	0.6
Florida Southwestern University	31	0.2	3	0.3
Miami International University of Art and Design ^a	31	0.2	2	0.2

(table continues)

Table 2, continued

Institutions	Armed Service Status			
	Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%
(Awards Bachelor or higher degree, cont'd)				
Duke University ^{ab}	30	0.2	4	0.4
Boston College ^{ab}	26	0.1	1	0.1
University of California ^b	26	0.1	4	0.4
University of Michigan ^b	26	0.1	1	0.1
University of Pennsylvania ^b	26	0.1	1	0.1
College of Central Florida	25	0.1	5	0.4
Johns Hopkins University ^{ab}	25	0.1	1	0.1
Airforce Academy ^b	16	0.1	99	8.7
Naval Academy ^b	--	--	24	2.1
(Does not award Bachelor or higher degree)				
George T. Baker Aviation	76	0.4	6	0.5
Robert Morgan Educational Center	66	0.3	1	0.1
Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center	65	0.3	2	0.2
Beauty Schools of America ^a	55	0.3	2	0.2
Miami Lakes Educational Center	40	0.2	2	0.2
Universal Technical Institute ^a	30	0.2	4	0.4
Other	2,204	11.1	188	16.5
Full time	13,458	67.5	--	--
Part time	3,793	19.0	--	--
Unsure	2,700	13.5	--	--
Total	19,945	100.0	1,142	100.0

Note. Institutions are public unless otherwise marked. Cells with fewer than 25 students are included in "Other" unless otherwise indicated.

^a Private non-profit/for profit institution. ^b Out-of-state institution.

7. What fields of study do seniors plan to pursue?

Survey items were developed to determine the fields seniors planned to pursue and the evidence of mastery they planned to acquire while doing so.

Majors represent the students' principal area of concentration maintained through the attainment of their ultimate credential. Table 3 lists the number and percent of seniors who reported planning to pursue the following majors by armed services status.

- Business Management Accounting, Finance planned by 12.2% of the respondents who reported they would be furthering their education, was the most popular choice of Non-Serving seniors; while Nursing, planned by 7.9% was the second most popular.
- Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science planned by 15.8% of respondents who reported they would be furthering their education, was the most popular choice of Serving seniors; while Business Management Accounting, Finance, planned by 8.0% was the second most popular choice; and Nursing, planned by 6.7%, was the third most popular choice.

Table 3. Major Fields of Study

Majors	Armed Service Status			
	Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%
Business, Management, Accounting, Finance, and Support Services	2,437	12.2	91	8.0
Nursing	1,586	7.9	76	6.7
Biology, Biochemistry, Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,353	6.8	48	4.2
Medicine, Medical Technology, Radiology, and Related Services	1,263	6.3	50	4.4
Engineering, Engineering Technologies, and Related Fields	1,156	5.8	80	7.0
Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science	1,154	5.8	180	15.8
Visual Arts, Performing/Theater Arts, Fine Arts, Graphic Design, and Related Fields	1,005	5.0	22	1.9
Psychology, Cognitive Science, and Neuroscience	773	3.9	25	2.2
Computer Science, Information Systems, Network, and Support Services	732	3.7	40	3.5
Health Professions and Related Programs	626	3.1	24	2.1
Law, Legal Professions, and Related Fields	487	2.4	20	1.8
Advertising, Marketing, and Public Relations	452	2.3	28	2.5
Journalism, Communication, Film/Broadcasting, Television, and Support Services	434	2.2	4	0.4
Computer/Video Game Development and Design	417	2.1	17	1.5
Animal Health and Veterinary Science	393	2.0	18	1.6
Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, and Related Services	386	1.9	13	1.1
Education	385	1.9	7	0.6
Sports and Athletic Training	371	1.9	25	2.2
Architecture and Related Services	316	1.6	15	1.3
Political Science, Politics, and Public Administration	271	1.4	13	1.1
Computer Technology, Drafting, and Support Services	268	1.3	18	1.6
Pharmacy and Pharmacology	242	1.2	6	0.5
Culinary Services, Cosmetology, Hairstyling, Personal, and Related Services	241	1.2	18	1.6
Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Support Services	239	1.2	4	0.4
Fire Protection, Administration/Technology, Paramedics/EMT, and Related Fields	227	1.1	23	2.0
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	214	1.1	26	2.3
Aviation, Avionics, and Aerospace Technology	213	1.1	62	5.4
Anatomy and Physiology	188	0.9	12	1.1
Economics	161	0.8	10	0.9
Apparel Design, Fashion, and Merchandising	151	0.8	5	0.4
Hospitality and Tourism	151	0.8	5	0.4
English, English Literature, and Letters	129	0.6	4	0.4
Law Enforcement, Security and Homeland Security and Related Fields	129	0.6	45	3.9
Physical Sciences, Chemistry, and Related Fields	105	0.5	4	0.4
Social Work	105	0.5	4	0.4
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	84	0.4	10	0.9
Dietetics and Nutrition	78	0.4	3	0.3
Marine Science and Fisheries	78	0.4	4	0.4
Construction Trades	65	0.3	2	0.2

(table continues)

Table 3, continued

Majors	Armed Service Status			
	Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%
Mathematics and Statistics	64	0.3	3	0.3
Social Sciences	63	0.3	1	0.1
Exercise Science, Physiology	55	0.3	6	0.5
History	52	0.3	9	0.8
Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies and Humanities	49	0.2	2	0.2
Mental Health and Counseling	46	0.2	3	0.3
Serving Technologies and Applied Sciences	46	0.2	29	2.5
Science Technologies/Technicians	43	0.2	3	0.3
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	41	0.2	--	--
Conservation and Wildlife	39	0.2	1	0.1
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	34	0.2	1	0.1
Natural Resources and Conservation	31	0.2	--	--
Human Services	29	0.1	2	0.2
Philosophy and Religious Studies	23	0.1	2	0.2
Other	271	1.4	19	1.7
Total	19,951	100.0	1,142	100.0

Industry Certifications provide evidence of mastery in a discipline, and are earned beginning in high school. Table 4 lists the number and percent of seniors who reported planning to acquire each of the listed industry certifications/certification types by armed service status.

- Over 40% of the Non-Serving and over 50% of the Serving seniors who reported they would be furthering their education, reported planning to earn one or more industry certifications.
- Medical Administrative Assistant, Computer Operating Systems, and Web Design were planned acquisitions of similar percentages of both the Non-Serving and Serving seniors who reported they would be furthering their education.
- Among the Serving seniors who reported they would be furthering their education, Automotive Technician and Emergency Medical Technician were the most popular industry certifications.
- Culinary Arts, Network Management, and Pharmacy Technician were the choices of around 11% of both Non-Serving and Serving seniors who reported they would be furthering their education.

Table 4. Industry Certifications/Certification Types

	Armed Service Status			
	Non-Serving		Serving	
	N	%	n	%
(Industry Certifications/Certification Type)				
Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA)	2,063	24.8	148	24.0
Computer Operating Systems (e.g., Windows, Apple, Linux)	1,767	21.3	134	21.8
Web Design/Publishing	1,319	15.9	86	14.0
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	1,280	15.4	148	24.0
Computer Aided Design (e.g., AutoCAD)	979	11.8	66	10.7
Culinary Arts/Management	971	11.7	85	13.8
Networking/Network Administration	969	11.7	71	11.5
Pharmacy Technician	937	11.3	61	9.9
Automotive Technician	891	10.7	162	26.3
EKG Technician (CET)	643	7.7	40	6.5
Veterinary Assistant (CVA)	583	7.0	50	8.1
Front Desk Supervisor	560	6.7	33	5.4
Food Protection Manager (ServSafe)	510	6.1	50	8.1
Bookkeeping	321	3.9	20	3.2
Other	331	4.0	14	2.3
(Acquisition Planned)				
Yes	8,313	41.7	616	53.9
No	11,638	58.3	526	46.1
Total	19,951	100.0	1,142	100.0

8. In which branch of the armed services did seniors plan to enlist?

Table 5 lists the branch of the armed services that seniors indicated that they would be joining upon completing high school by educational persistence status.

Table 5. Armed Service Branch

Branch	Education Persistence			
	Furthering		Not-Furthering	
	N	%	n	%
Army	283	24.8	74	26.1
Air Force	280	24.5	42	14.8
Marines	253	22.2	78	27.6
Navy	214	18.7	48	17.0
Coast Guard	67	5.9	18	6.4
National Guard	26	2.3	8	2.8
Other	19	1.7	15	5.3
Total	1,142	100.0	283	100.0

- Around half of the Serving seniors reported planning to join either the Army or the Marines, with similar percentages choosing each branch regardless of educational persistence status.
- Seniors who reported they would be furthering their education reported planning to join the Airforce more often their counterparts who did not.

9. Why did seniors not plan to further their education?

Table 6 lists the number and percentage of seniors who gave each of the following reasons by armed service status.

Table 6. Reasons Seniors Gave for not Furthering their Education Upon Completing High School

Reasons	Armed Service Status			
	Non-Serving		Serving	
	n	%	n	%
Don't need it for what I want to do	70	18.1	15	5.3
Not interested	62	16.1	12	4.2
Don't feel academically ready	48	12.4	6	2.1
Plan to make some money first	44	11.4	6	2.1
Prefer to work only	37	9.6	10	3.5
Will defer till later	34	8.8	216	76.3
Not graduating, disabled, special education	18	4.7	--	--
Family obligations	14	3.6	1	0.4
Too expensive	14	3.6	3	1.1
Applied but was not accepted	3	0.8	1	0.4
Prefer military training	1	0.3	11	3.9
Other	41	10.6	2	0.7
Total	386	100.0	283	100.0

- Over three-quarters of the Serving seniors who reported they would not be furthering their education reported planning to do so after serving, suggesting that military service may be functioning as a springboard to postsecondary education for those students.
- Among the Non-Serving seniors who reported they would not be furthering their education, lack of interest (i.e., *not interested* or *don't need*) was cited as a reason by 34.2%, followed by wanting to work (i.e., *plan to make money first* or *prefer to work*) by 21.0%, and lack of preparation (*don't feel academically ready* or *applied but not accepted*) by 13.2%.
- Among the Non-Serving seniors who reported they would not be furthering their education, expense and family obligations were each cited by 3.6%.

10. What are the principal conclusions of this report?

This report presented the results of the eighth annual administration of the Senior Exit Survey, which explored seniors' postsecondary plans, the credentials they plan to acquire, the institutions they plan to attend, and the fields of study they choose to pursue. More than 80% of graduating seniors completed the survey and more than 95% of Non-Serving and 75% of Serving respondents reported planning to complete an Associate or higher degree. Once considered mutually exclusive pursuits, more than 80% of seniors joining the armed services reported they would be furthering their education while serving.

Most Non-Serving and Serving seniors who reported they would be furthering their education reported planning to attend a college in Florida. Among Non-Serving seniors, Business Management Accounting, Finance was the most popular choice of major of students who reported they would be furthering their education, while among Serving seniors, Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensic Science was the most popular. Most Serving seniors who reported not planning to further their education, reported planning to do so after serving, suggesting military service may be functioning as a springboard to postsecondary education.