



# Research Note

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Vanessa Gonzalez Hernandez, PhD

## National Student Clearinghouse Characteristics of MDCPS Graduating Cohort of 2014-2015

### Graduation Cohort

This analysis was conducted on the cohort group of students who started 9th grade in the 2011-2012 academic year and who were expected to graduate in the 2014-2015 academic year. This cohort consisted of 22,639 students, 17,452 (77%) of which had data reported in the National Student Clearinghouse database. The National Student Clearinghouse is a non-profit organization responsible for collecting national college enrollment and degree information. In this report, first semester college characteristics by student performance ranking in high school, including top 5%, top 25% (which includes top 5% students) and all other students who graduated and had data reported in the National Student Clearinghouse database as of June 2018 were examined.

### Comparison by Performance Ranking

Table 1 illustrates the top five colleges attended by the top 5% of students in the 2014-2015 graduation cohort. The University of Florida was attended by 22% of students ranked in the top 5% in their first semester, as compared to all other students. In contrast, the majority (59%) of all other students attended Miami Dade College in their first semester. All five colleges were 4-year institutions in the state of Florida.

Table 1. Top 5 Colleges Attended by MDCPS Students – 2014-2015 Graduation Cohort

		Top 5%	All Other Students	Total
1	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	253 22%	317 2%	570 3%
2	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	238 21%	2022 12%	2260 13%
3	MIAMI DADE COLLEGE	148 13%	9662 59%	9810 56%
4	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI	74 7%	103 1%	177 1%
5	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	47 4%	229 1%	276 2%
	ALL OTHER COLLEGES	382 33%	3977 24%	4359 25%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1142</b>	<b>16310</b>	<b>17452</b>

For the following analyses, students were compared in 4 groups: students ranked in the top 5% upon graduation, students ranked in the top 25% (including the top 5%), all other students not ranked in the top 25%, and all students in total. The majority of students, regardless of performance ranking, attended a public college upon high school graduation as illustrated in Figure 1. However, a higher percentage (28%) of students ranked in the top 5% attended a private college as compared to all other students (7%), followed by students ranked in the top 25% (15%). The University of Miami was the private college most attended by students performing in the top 5%, as shown in Table 2. Additionally, the clear majority of all students attended a 4-year college, as opposed to a 2-year college, across all performance groups, as depicted in Figure 2. Only 1% of students ranked in the top 5% attended a 2-year college, as compared to 5% of all other students.

Table 2. Top 5 Private College Attended by MDCPS Students – 2014-2015 Graduation Cohort

		Top 5%	All Other Students	Total
1	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI	73	105	178
		23%	6%	9%
2	BOSTON UNIVERSITY	12	25	37
		4%	2%	2%
3	CORNELL UNIVERSITY	11	8	19
		3%	0%	1%
4	DUKE UNIVERSITY	10	4	14
		3%	0%	1%
5	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	9	3	12
		3%	0%	1%
	ALL OTHER PRIVATE COLLEGES	200	1475	1675
		63%	91%	87%
	<b>Total</b>	315	1620	1935

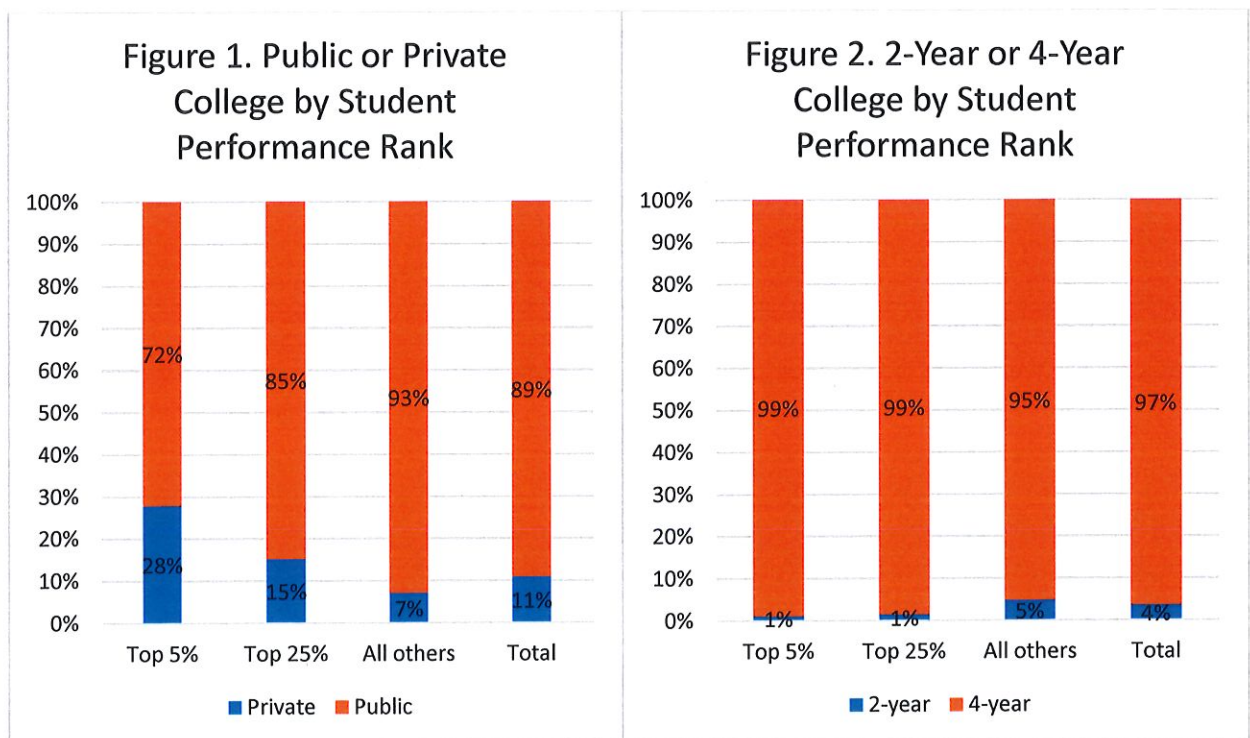


Figure 3 illustrates that the majority of students attended colleges in the state of Florida during their first semester. However, 22% of students ranked in the top 5% attended college outside of Florida, as compared to 12% of students ranked in the top 25% and 6% of all other students. Top ranked students were more likely to enroll full-time: 93% of students ranked in the top 5% and 83% of students ranked at the top 25% had full-time enrollment status during their first semester. In contrast, 22% of all other students and 15% enrolled half-time had a three-quarter time enrollment status during their first semester.

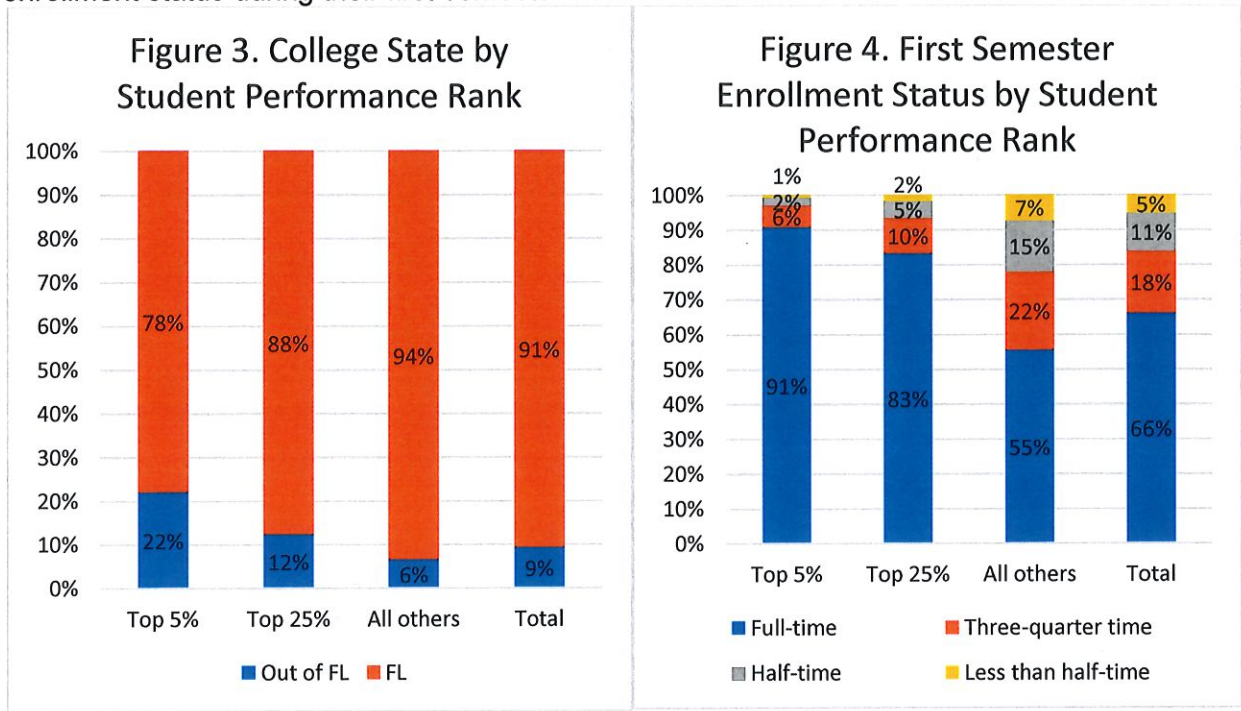
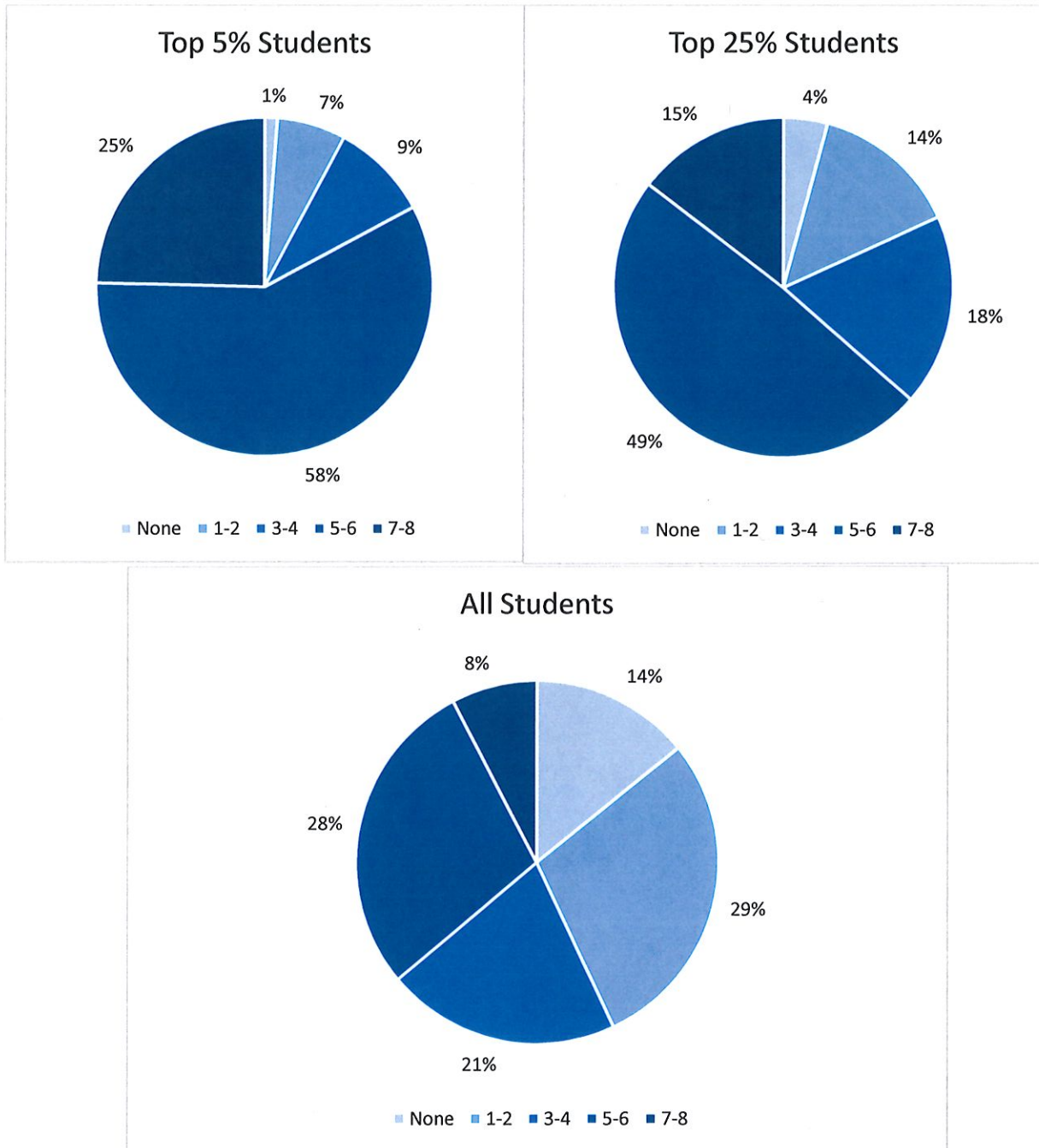


Figure 5 illustrates the number of full-time enrollments over a three-year period since high school graduation by student performance ranking. A full-time enrollment was defined as having a full-time status at any point during the three years, or having 2 half-time statuses, for an equivalent of one full-time enrollment. Generally, enrollments align within a fall, spring, or summer semester. However, different schools have different semester durations, which are not provided by the National Student Clearinghouse data. Eighty-three percent of students ranked in the top 5% had enrolled in 5-8 full-time enrollments. In contrast, 36% of students ranked in the top 25% had enrolled in as many full-time enrollments. Overall, 14% of all students had not enrolled full-time in the three-year time span at all, while the rest were evenly distributed amongst 1-6 full-time enrollments.

Figure 5. Number of Full Time Enrollments Over 3 Years by Student Performance Rank



Sources: National Student Clearinghouse June 2018 and 2014-2015 MDCPS Graduation File