

Postgraduate College Attendance for UMass Boston Bachelor's Degree Recipients AY 2004-2005 to AY 2007-2008 Graduates

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Executive Summary

The Office of Institutional Research and Policy Studies (OIRP) used the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to identify schools that recent UMass Boston bachelor's degree recipients have attended after receiving their degrees from UMass Boston. To be included, students must only be enrolled in at least one course. The NSC information we currently have access to does not speak to matriculation or degree status, only enrollment. Other limitations of the data are discussed later in this report. Key findings are that:

- About 15% of UMass Boston bachelor's degree recipients continue their education immediately after receiving their degrees
- As time passes more students continue their education
 - Over 35% of the earliest cohort we looked at, AY 2004-2005 graduates, had attended a two-year or four-year college by July 1, 2009
- UMass Boston is the most popular choice for continuing education after the bachelor's degree
 - About 25% to 32% of students continuing their education chose UMass Boston as their first school
- About 10% to 15% of students who continued their education chose a two-year school as their first school after graduation from UMass Boston
- About 10% of the students from the AY 2004-2005 cohort who continued their education did not start until fall 2008 or later.

Recommendation

If we are not already doing so, UMass Boston should consider marketing our graduate programs to our bachelor's degree recipients as many as four to five years after graduation. Our current fee structure may make us less attractive than alternatives such as community colleges for students who want to acquire a specific new skill or to take a refresher course in some subject to prepare them for graduate school or the various graduate school examinations like the GRE, MCAT, or LSAT.

Narrative

The information we received from the NSC is not comprehensive because not all colleges belong to the Clearinghouse. In addition, because of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations, we can only search for our previous

students by name and date of birth, and not by social security number. Students who change names for whatever reason would not be located in the NSC files. This would include changes of last name due to marriage or choice, using a slightly different first name (e.g. Tom or Tomas rather than Thomas), adding or eliminating a middle initial, or adding or eliminating a suffix (JR, SR, III, or IV). While the NSC is unlikely to misidentify the students it locates, it is very likely to fail to locate a number of students who are active in another college. Therefore, the figures we report should be considered undercounts of the number of students who attend another college after graduation from UMass Boston with a bachelor's degree.

Each Academic Year bachelor's degree cohort consists of students who graduated in August or December of the first year or in May or June of the second year. For example, the AY 2004-2005 cohort consists of students whose bachelor's degrees were awarded in August or December of 2004 or June of 2005. For the section about how soon students begin additional postsecondary education the next academic year is the fall of the second year of the AY cohort. For example, students in the AY 2004-2005 cohort are considered to have continued their postsecondary education in the next year if they started in fall 2005. Because schools use different calendars, we set a cutoff date for the fall semester as the end of November.

Even with the search limitations already noted, the NSC located a significant number of UMass Boston bachelor's degree recipients who continued their educations after receiving a degree from UMass Boston. Table 1 has details of the numbers and percent of graduates continuing their educations at a two or four-year school.

Of the 578 graduates in the AY 2004-2005 who attended a college after graduation, 296 (51.2%) were active in the academic year that began in fall 2008. Fifty-six of those students (9.7%) were entering postgraduate education for the first time. This suggests that UMass Boston should consider actively recruiting our bachelor's degree recipients for graduate work several years after graduation.

Table 1: Number and Percent of UMass Boston Bachelor's Degree Recipients Continuing Postsecondary Education

Graduation Cohort	Total in Cohort	Attended Any School by Fall 2008	Percent of Graduates Continuing Postsecondary Education
AY 2004-2005	1577	578	36.7%
AY 2005-2006	1606	509	31.7%
AY 2006-2007	1418	384	27.1%
AY 2007-2008	1505	307	20.4%

About 15% of UMass Boston bachelor's degree recipients continue their postsecondary education almost immediately after graduation. However, as time passes many other graduates continue their postsecondary education. Table 2 displays the details for the most recent cohorts.

Table 2: Percent of UMass Graduates Pursuing Additional Postsecondary Education, by Graduation Cohort and Time to First Attendance

Graduation Cohort	First Attendance in Additional Postsecondary Education Following Graduation from UMass Boston			
	By Next Academic Year	By Second Academic Year	By Third Academic Year	By Fourth Academic Year
AY 2004-2005	14.9%	24.2%	30.6%	35.1%
AY 2005-2006	13.0%	22.9%	29.7%	NA
AY 2006-2007	16.0%	24.3%	NA	NA
AY 2007-2008	17.7%	NA	NA	NA

UMass Boston graduates attend a wide variety of schools following the receipt of their bachelor's degrees. UMass Boston is the most popular school for continuing education by far. Of the 578 AY 2004-2005 degree recipients who attended a college after graduation, 171 attended UMass Boston at some point, many of them almost immediately after graduation.

Many students stayed in Massachusetts or the New England area for additional schooling, but others attend schools as far away as the University of Southern Mississippi, UCLA, the University of Michigan, and Walla Walla University. UMass Boston has graduates attending higher education institutions across the country. They attend institutions with missions as different as Harvard Medical School, the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

A surprising finding was that a number of UMass Boston graduates in each cohort attended a two-year college after receiving a bachelor's degree from UMass Boston. The students who attend a two-year school may be taking a refresher course in preparation for graduate school, trying to develop a specific skill, or simply pursuing a topic they find interesting. Appendix I which begins on Page 5 lists the number of UMass Boston graduates who attended each school by cohort.

Table 3: UMass Boston Bachelor's Degree Recipients' First Postgraduate Schools

Graduation Cohort	Number of Graduates Attending UMass Boston First	Percent of Continuing Students Attending UMass Boston First	Number of Students Attending a Two-Year School First	Percent of Continuing Students Attending a Two-Year School First
AY 2004-2005	143	24.7%	95	16.4%
AY 2005-2006	135	26.5%	52	10.2%
AY 2006-2007	118	30.7%	51	13.3%
AY 2007-2008	97	31.6%	28	9.1%

Conclusions

Although the NSC does not locate all of the students continuing their education because of search constraints or lack of participation by a number of schools, it found significant numbers of UMass Boston bachelor's degree recipients from the AY 2004-2005 to AY 2007-2008 cohorts continued their education after graduation from UMass Boston. Roughly one third of those students returned to UMass Boston in some student capacity.

While many of these students continue their education immediately after receiving the bachelor's degree, each year more students from each cohort we examined returned to a two-year or four-year college for at least one course. For example, as much as 10% of the AY 2004-2005 cohort of continuing students did not begin additional education until fall 2008 or later. This suggests that a graduate program marketing plan that targets our own bachelor's degree recipients several years after graduation might be worthwhile.

Currently, UMass Boston participates only in the NSC Student Tracker program. This tells us that a student is enrolled at a given institution, but not what major the student is pursuing nor whether a degree is attained. We are in the process of enrolling in the NSC Degree Verify program. That will give us the major and degree attainment information that will give us a better idea of what our graduates are doing as they continue their educations. As we get that information, additional reports will be forthcoming.

Appendix I: UMass Boston Graduates' Subsequent Colleges

Overall AY 2004-2005 Bachelor's Recipient Information	
Total Bachelor's Degree Recipients	1577
Number Subsequently Attending a College	578
Percent Subsequently Attending a College	37%
Four-Year Colleges	Number Attending as First College
University of Massachusetts Boston	143
Harvard University - Continuing Ed	22
Boston University	17
Simmons College - Grads	16
University of Massachusetts at Lowell	15
Boston College	14
Suffolk University	13
University of Phoenix	13
Cambridge College	11
Salem State College	11
Northeastern University	9
Northeastern University - Law/SPCS	8
Bentley University	7
Bridgewater State College	6
Lesley University	6
University of Massachusetts at Amherst	6
Brandeis University	5
Curry College	5
Fitchburg State College	5
Framingham State College	5
Eastern Nazarene College	4
Emmanuel College	4
New England School of Law	4
Suffolk University - Law	4
Emerson College	3
Johnson & Wales University	3
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	3
MGH Institute of Health Professions	3
Miami Dade College	3
New York University	3
Tufts University	3
University of Florida	3
CUNY Brooklyn College	2
CUNY Hunter College	2
Drexel University	2
Harvard Graduate School of Education	2
Keller Graduate School of Management	2
Kennesaw State University	2

Overall AY 2004-2005 Bachelor's Recipient Information continued	
Nova Southeastern University	2
Regis College	2
Simmons College	2
University of California-Berkeley	2
University of Maryland - University College	2
University of Rhode Island	2
Wheelock College	2
American International College	1
American University	1
Antioch University - New England	1
Argosy University - Twin Cities	1
Arizona State University	1
Assumption College	1
Baylor University - Law School	1
Bloomfield College	1
Boise State University	1
Bryant University	1
California Institute of Integral Studies	1
California State University - Dominguez	1
Central Washington University	1
Clark University	1
Culinary Institute of America	1
CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College	1
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.-Worldwide	1
Emory University	1
Endicott College-Masters Program	1
Florida State University	1
Gordon-Conwell Theological - Hamilton	1
Harvard - Kennedy School of Government	1
Indiana University South Bend	1
Institute of Transpersonal Psychology	1
Johns Hopkins University - Public Health	1
Lasell College	1
Life University	1
Massachusetts College of Art	1
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	1
Meharry Medical College	1
Newbury College	1
North Carolina State University	1
Northwestern University	1
Nyack College- Graduate	1
Pace University	1
Pace University- White Plains	1
Rhode Island College	1
Roger Williams University	1
School of the Museum of Fine Arts	1

Overall AY 2004-2005 Bachelor's Recipient Information continued	
Shenandoah University	1
Southern Connecticut State University	1
Southern New England School of Law	1
Southern New Hampshire University- Grad	1
Southern New Hampshire University- Grad	1
Springfield College	1
St Mary's University of San Antonio	1
Strayer University-Washington	1
Suffolk University - Masters Finance	1
Temple University	1
Texas A&M University, Kingsville	1
Texas Tech University, Lubbock	1
The Catholic University of America	1
The New School	1
Tui University	1
University of California-Extension	1
University of Colorado at Boulder	1
University of Colorado at Denver Health	1
University of Connecticut	1
University of Connecticut - Law	1
University of Denver - Colorado	1
University of Illinois @ Urbana	1
University of Illinois at Chicago	1
University of Maine, Farmington	1
University of Maryland - Baltimore	1
University of Maryland - College Park	1
University of Michigan-Medical	1
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	1
University of Mississippi	1
University of New England	1
University of New Hampshire	1
University of New Mexico	1
University of Southern California	1
University of Vermont & State Agricultural	1
University of Virginia	1
University of Maryland University College	1
Walla Walla University	1
Weber State University	1
West Chester University	1
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	1
Yale University	1
Total Attending a Four-Year School First	483
Two-Year Colleges	
Quincy College	26
Bunker Hill Community College	10

Overall AY 2004-2005 Bachelor's Recipient Information continued	
North Shore Community College	9
Massasoit Community College	8
Massachusetts Bay Community College	7
Middlesex Community College	4
Roxbury Community College	4
Caritas Laboure College	3
Bristol Community College	2
Capital Community College	2
American River College Los Rios CC Dist	1
Arkansas State University, Beebe	1
Berkshire Community College	1
Canada College	1
Cape Cod Community College	1
City College Of San Francisco	1
Community College Of Allegheny County	1
CUNY LaGuardia Community College	1
Fisher College-Continuing Studies	1
Glendale Community College	1
Gwinnett Technical College	1
Howard Community College	1
Lawrence Memorial Hospital, School Of N	1
Los Angeles City College	1
Northern Virginia Community College	1
San Diego Mesa College	1
Santa Monica College	1
SUNY Mohawk Valley Community College	1
Washtenaw Community College	1
William Rainey Harper College	1
Total Attending a Two-Year School First	95
Total Attending Any College After Graduating From UMass Boston	578

Overall AY 2005-2006 Bachelor's Recipient Information	
Total Bachelor's Degree Recipients	1606
Number Subsequently Attending a College	509
Percent Subsequently Attending a College	32%
Four-Year Colleges	Number Attending as First College
University of Massachusetts Boston	135
Harvard University - Continuing Education	24
Boston University	22
Cambridge College	14
Simmons College - Graduate School	14
Lesley University	13
Salem State College	13
Northeastern University	12
Suffolk University	12
Northeastern University - Law	11
Boston College	8
Fitchburg State College	7
Tufts University	6
Brandeis University	5
Bridgewater State College	5
University of Phoenix	5
Curry College	4
Simmons College	4
Wheelock College	4
Capella University	3
Eastern Nazarene College	3
Massachusetts College of Art	3
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	3
New England School of Law	3
New York University	3
Regis College	3
Springfield College	3
Suffolk University - Law	3
American University	2
Bentley University	2
Duke University Nursing	2
Emmanuel College	2
Endicott College-Masters Program	2
Florida State University	2
Franklin Pierce Law Center	2
Grand Canyon University	2
Ohio State University	2
Quinnipiac University	2
Roger Williams University	2

Overall AY 2005-2006 Bachelor's Recipient Information continued	
School of The Art Institute of Chicago	2
Southern New England School of Law	2
University of California Los Angeles	2
University of Central Florida	2
University of Chicago	2
University of Florida	2
University of Massachusetts Amherst	2
University of Massachusetts Lowell	2
Western Governors University	2
Alliant International University	1
Argosy University - Phoenix	1
Berklee College of Music	1
Case Western Reserve University	1
College of Saint Rose	1
Cornell University	1
CUNY Hunter College	1
CUNY Queens College	1
Delaware State University	1
Dickinson School of Law	1
Dominican University	1
Emerson College	1
Framingham State College	1
George Washington University	1
Goddard College	1
Harvard Graduate School of Education	1
Harvard Medical School	1
Howard University	1
Indiana University Bloomington	1
Keller Graduate School of Management	1
Lasell College	1
Long Island University	1
Loyola University Chicago	1
Mercyhurst College	1
MGH Institute of Health Professions	1
Montclair State University	1
Naropa University	1
Nichols College	1
North Carolina Central University	1
Nova Southeastern University	1
Pace University	1
Pace University- White Plains	1
Pacific School of Religion	1
Pennsylvania State University	1
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico	1
Pratt Institute	1
Princeton University	1

Overall AY 2005-2006 Bachelor's Recipient Information continued	
Providence College	1
Roosevelt University	1
Rutgers - The State University of NJ - New Brunswick	1
Rutgers - The State University of NJ - Newark	1
Saint Francis University	1
Saint Joseph's College	1
Sam Houston State University	1
School of Museum of Fine Arts	1
Seattle University	1
Southern Connecticut State University	1
Southern New Hampshire University	1
SUNY Binghamton	1
SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology	1
Temple University	1
Texas State University	1
The Evergreen State College	1
The University of Memphis	1
Troy University	1
Tulane University	1
University of California Extension	1
University of Cincinnati	1
University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences	1
University of Louisiana	1
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	1
University of New England	1
University of Oregon, Main Campus	1
University of Rhode Island	1
University of Southern Maine	1
University of Southern Mississippi - Hattiesburg	1
University of Texas Arlington	1
University of Wisconsin	1
Virginia State University	1
Walden University	1
Wayne State University	1
Yale University	1
Total Attending a Four-Year School First	457
Two-Year Colleges	
Austin Community College	1
Baltimore City Community College	1
Bunker Hill Community College	14
City College of San Francisco	1
Community College of Allegheny	1
Community College of Philadelphia	1
Fisher College-Continuing Studies	1
Front Range Community College	1

Overall AY 2005-2006 Bachelor's Recipient Information continued	
Massachusetts Bay Community College	3
Massasoit Community College	6
Middlesex Community College	1
NHTI - Concord's Community College	2
North Shore Community College	4
Quincy College	7
Quinsigamond Community College	3
Roxbury Community College	3
Valencia Community College	1
Yavapai College	1
Total Attending a Two-Year School First	52
Total Attending Any College After Graduating From UMass Boston	509

Overall AY 2006-2007 Bachelor's Recipient Information	
Total Bachelor's Degree Recipients	1418
Number Subsequently Attending a College	384
Percent Subsequently Attending a College	27%
Four-Year Colleges	Number Attending as First College
University of Massachusetts Boston	118
Harvard University - Continuing Ed	23
Boston University	14
Northeastern University	11
Salem State College	11
Simmons College - Grads	10
Cambridge College	9
Northeastern University - Law/Spcs	8
Suffolk University	6
Suffolk University - Law	6
Tufts University	6
Boston College	5
Lesley University	5
Brandeis University	3
New England School of Law	3
University of Massachusetts at Amherst	3
University of New England	3
Bridgewater State College	2
CUNY Brooklyn College	2
Curry College	2

Overall AY 2006-2007 Bachelor's Recipient Information continued	
Eastern Nazarene College	2
Fitchburg State College	2
Massachusetts College of Art	2
Springfield College	2
University of Cincinnati	2
University of Massachusetts at Lowell	2
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	2
University of Michigan-Central Campus	2
University of Phoenix	2
Vanderbilt University	2
Alliant International University	1
American International College	1
Andover Newton Theological	1
Andrews University	1
Argosy University - Honolulu	1
Becker College	1
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology	1
Brenau University	1
Brown University	1
California State University - Fullerton	1
California State University - Northridge	1
Charleston School of Law	1
Clark University	1
Columbus State University	1
Drexel University	1
Duquesne University	1
Emerson College	1
Emmanuel College	1
Florida Atlantic University	1
Golden Gate University	1
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary	1
Harvard Graduate School of Education	1
Jacksonville University	1
Johnson & Wales University	1
Liberty University	1
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	1
MGH Institute of Health Professions	1
New York University	1
Newbury College	1
Norwich University-Branch 81	1
Ohio State University	1
Pepperdine University	1
Portland State University	1
Regis College	1
Regis University-Semesters	1
Roger Williams University	1

Overall AY 2006-2007 Bachelor's Recipient Information continued	
North Seattle Community College	1
North Shore Community College	4
Northern Essex Community College	2
Quincy College	11
Quinsigamond Community College	1
Roxbury Community College	3
San Diego Miramar College	1
Springfield Technical Community College	1
Total Attending a Two-Year School First	51
Total Attending Any College After Graduating From UMass Boston	384

Overall AY 2007-2008 Bachelor's Recipient Information	
Total Bachelor's Degree Recipients	1505
Number Subsequently Attending a College	307
Percent Subsequently Attending a College	20%
Four-Year Colleges	Number Attending as First College
University of Massachusetts Boston	97
Harvard University - Continuing Ed	24
Simmons College - Grads	15
Northeastern University - Law/SPCS	11
Boston University	9
Cambridge College	7
University of Massachusetts at Lowell	6
Boston College	5
Northeastern University	5
Suffolk University - Law	5
Curry College	3
MGH Institute of Health Professions	3
New England School of Law	3
Salem State College	3
Suffolk University	3
Tufts University	3
Alliant International University	2
American International College	2
Brown University	2
George Washington University	2
Lesley University	2
Tulane University	2

Overall AY 2007-2008 Bachelor's Recipient Information, continued	
University of Maryland - University Col	2
University of Phoenix	2
University of Rhode Island	2
Western Governors University	2
American University	1
Anna Maria College	1
Arizona State University	1
Assumption College	1
Bridgewater State College	1
Chapman University-Orange	1
Claremont Graduate University	1
Clark University	1
College of William & Mary	1
CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice	1
Drexel University	1
East Carolina University	1
Eastern Nazarene College	1
Emmanuel College	1
Franklin Pierce University	1
Harvard Divinity School	1
Harvard Graduate School of Education	1
Hofstra University	1
Indiana University Bloomington	1
Massachusetts College of Art	1
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	1
Massachusetts Maritime Academy	1
Mercy College	1
Multnomah Bible College And Biblical Se	1
New Mexico State University-Main	1
Providence College	1
Regis College	1
Regis University-Semesters	1
Rutgers -The State University of NJ	1
Saint Joseph's College of Maine	1
San Diego State University	1
Savannah College of Art & Design	1
School For International Training	1
St Johns University	1
Strayer University-Washington	1
SUNY Downstate Health Science Center	1
Temple University	1
The New School	1
University of California - Riverside	1
University of California-Extension	1
University of California-San Diego	1
University of Hawaii at Manoa	1

Overall AY 2007-2008 Bachelor's Recipient Information, continued	
University of Maryland - Baltimore	1
University of Massachusetts at Amherst	1
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	1
University of New England	1
University of New Hampshire	1
University of North Carolina-Wilmington	1
University of Tennessee	1
University of Washington - Seattle	1
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	1
University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh	1
Vanderbilt University -Med School	1
Walden University	1
Wheelock College	1
Wingate University	1
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	1
Total Attending a Four-Year School First	279
Two-Year Colleges	
Bunker Hill Community College	3
Caritas Laboure College	1
Delgado Community College	1
Eastern Nazarene College	1
Massachusetts Bay Community College	1
Massasoit Community College	2
Middlesex Community College	1
Northern Essex Community College	1
Parkland College	2
Quincy College	11
Roxbury Community College	3
Springfield Technical Community College	1
Total Attending a Two-Year School First	28
Total Attending Any College After Graduating From UMass Boston	307