

Performance Measure Results: 2006-07

Background

The 2006-07 performance measures for the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement (McNair) program are measurable educational outcomes for the projects funded by the program. The following provides an introduction, description of the methodology and terms used to calculate and analyze the three-year graduate school enrollment rates of McNair projects, and a summary of the findings. The table provides the actual data and results of the analyses for each grantee and for the program. The analyses are based on the data provided by the grantees in the annual performance reports for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 and are not the result of a rigorous, independent evaluation of the McNair program. Data, therefore, should be interpreted with caution given various reporting issues as described in the section below on data constraints.

Introduction

The Department is committed to continually improving its management of programs and improving the educational outcomes of students. Improvements are guided by monitoring and assessing performance, improving the data used for these assessments, collaborating with stakeholders, implementing recommendations, and re-assessing performance. Providing data to the public is a key element in promoting improvement and collaborating with stakeholders.

Since the TRIO McNair program prepares upper-class undergraduate students for doctoral studies, the primary performance measure is the graduate school enrollment rate of program participants. Our goal is to show, for each McNair project, the number of McNair participants receiving a bachelor's degree (BA) and who subsequently enroll in graduate school anytime during the three academic years following attainment of their BA. Although this methodology will not capture all program successes, research data indicate that a substantial number of individuals who pursue graduate degrees begin their graduate programs within three years of receiving their BA.¹ Thus, the three-year timeframe is a reasonable measurement for comparing program outcomes among projects. To report performance information on all currently funded McNair grantees, this analysis reflects the current four-year grant cycle that began in 2003-04. For this reason, we are able to, for the first time, show the three-year graduate school enrollment of McNair participants, based on BA attainment.

Table 1 shows the three-year graduate school enrollment rates for those McNair participants who received their BA in 2003-04 and enrolled in graduate school in 2004-05 (one-year rate) and/or 2005-06 (two-year rate) and/or 2006-07 (three-year rate).

¹ Nevill, S.C., and Chen, X. (2007). *The Path Through Graduate School: A Longitudinal Examination 10 Years After Bachelor's Degree* (NCES 2007-162). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, p. 18.

For additional information regarding how the graduate school enrollment rate results were calculated, please refer to the *Methodology* section.

Selected Findings

The data in Table 1 is organized alphabetically by grantee name and shows all McNair grantees funded in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 (179 grantees). Please note the last column, "Newly Funded Grantee in 2003-04**," identifies grantees that were not previously funded. For some of these grantees, we could not calculate the one, two, or three-year graduate school enrollment rate because these grantees did not have any 2003-04 BA recipients in the first year of the project. This is not an unusual situation for new grantees, as many McNair grantees begin working with undergraduate students when they are sophomores and juniors, and may not serve seniors during the first year of the grant.

➤ *Graduate School Enrollment Rate*

- Of the 179 McNair projects that were funded in 2003-04, 168 (94 percent) projects provided data that resulted in the calculation of the three-year graduate school enrollment rate. (*See Limitation of Data and Findings for a more detailed explanation.*)
- The overall cumulative three-year graduate school enrollment rate for those McNair participants who received their BA in 2003-04 is 69.7 percent (Table 1).
- Of the McNair projects where a rate was calculated, 60 percent were above the three-year graduate enrollment rate (69.7 percent). The rate for these projects was 82 percent.
- The remaining projects (40 percent) had a three-year graduate enrollment rate of 54 percent.

Limitation of Data and Findings

➤ *Graduate School Enrollment Rate*

- A total of 179 McNair projects were funded in 2003-04. Of these, 39 projects (22 percent) were first funded in 2003-04.
- Of the thirty-nine newly funded grantees, 11 (6 percent) did not have any 2003-04 BA recipients; therefore, graduate school enrollment rates could not be calculated.
- One project was discontinued in 2005-06 (University of Montana/Missoula) and one other project (Xavier University) did not provide data in 2004-05 as a result of Hurricane Katrina, however, both projects are included in the overall three-year rate.
- As noted previously, there is no comparison for the three-year graduate school enrollment since this is the first year that sufficient data was available to calculate the three year rate.

Methodology

➤ *Graduate School Enrollment Rates:*

➤ *Student Cohort:*

- Comprised of participants who received a baccalaureate degree in 2003-04 and had not reported a bachelor's degree completion in a previous reporting period..

➤ *2004-05 Graduate School Enrollment Rate Calculation*

- **For the one-year rate of the 2003-04 cohort**, divide the number of students enrolling in graduate school in 2004-05 by the number of students receiving a BA in 2003-04 and multiply by 100.
- **For the two-year cumulative rate of the 2003-04 cohort**, divide the number of students enrolling in graduate school in 2004-05 and 2005-06 (i.e., within two years after receiving a BA) by the number of students receiving a BA in 2003-04 and multiply by 100. Please note, this is a cumulative rate that includes in the numerator students who enrolled in graduate school one and two years after receiving a BA (i.e., enrolled in graduate school in 2004-05 and/or 2005-06).
- **For the three-year cumulative rate of the 2003-04 cohort**, divide the number of students enrolling in graduate school in 2004-05, 2005-06, and/or 2006-07 (i.e., within three years after receiving a BA) by the number of students receiving a BA in 2003-04 and multiply by 100. Please note, this is a cumulative rate that includes in the numerator students who enrolled in graduate school one, two, and three years after receiving a BA (i.e., enrolled in graduate school in 2004-05, 2005-06, and/or 2006-07).