Education Cabinet Data Workgroup

Longitudinal Data Pilot Research Project

Project Summary:

The goal of the project is to attempt to utilize data from the NC SchoolWorks System (NC P-20W System) to track outcomes of the three public high school graduate cohorts (2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016). Data from DPI were matched to the enrollment and completion data from NCCCS and UNC as well as to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records to generate post-graduation education and employment outcomes.

Data from DPI and UNC were extracted via the NC SchoolWorks System. NCCCS data were derived from information provided by NCCCS to the Common Follow-up System (CFS). Wage information were obtained via the link from NC SchoolWorks to the CFS. The list below provides information regarding data used in the analysis.

- NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI): High school enrollment and graduation data for the three high school cohort graduates (2014, 2015, and 2016). Selected data elements included student UID numbers, Local Education Agencies, school information, and some demographics.
- University of North Carolina System (UNC): Enrollment information including student UID, campus information, enrollment (career) level for 2015-2018 academic school years. The match of student's Social Security Number (SSN) to UID was done via the crosswalk provided by the UNC. The analysis includes enrollment in degree programs and does not include enrollment in short-term training programs as the UNC does not have a centralized data system to collect this information. Additional data on graduation and degrees awarded were supplemented by the CFS for the Sankey diagram in Figure 1.
- NC Community College System (NCCCS): Enrollment information including intended degree level, program of study and award for 2015-2018 academic school years was provided by the CFS. The data reflects student enrollment in curriculum programs including Applied Sciences, College Transfer, and General Education programs.
- NC Department of Commerce: Employment status was determined using UI wage information provided by the Division of Employment Security regarding individuals working in jobs covered by North Carolina's UI laws. Wage data for calendar quarters between Q1 2014 and Q4 2017 with corresponding student UIDs was obtained through NC SchoolWorks System. Wage information reflects total quarterly wages and is not available for individuals who work outside of North Carolina; are employed in North Carolina but not covered by North Carolina's UI laws (e.g., the self-employed, church and religious organization employees, summer camp employees, and other non-covered workers); are enrolled in the military; or are employed by the federal government.

Method for Matching Records:

Matching students across agencies was achieved by using UID assigned by DPI. When supplementary data was obtained from the CFS (which utilizes social security number as the major individual identifier), the SSN to UID crosswalk was applied.

Figure 1 - plots education pathway by year for the 2013-2014 public high school senior cohort. Note that total high school completion count includes those graduated between 2014 and 2018.

 Table 1 - follows education and employment outcomes by year for three public high school graduate cohorts.

Figure 2 - plots education and employment outcomes by year for 2013-2014 public high school graduate cohort.



1. High school completion for 2013-2014 seniors was determined based on their graduation status between 2014 and 2018 academic school years.

2. Students' post-secondary enrollment was determined based on their academic placement between July 2014 and June 2018.

3. NCCCS enrollment data may differ from this analysis after the completion of NCCCS' UID enhancement project. The data reflects student enrollment in curriculum programs including Applied Sciences, College Transfer, and General Education programs.

4. Academic credentials reflect awards earned as of December 2018 and may include duplicate counts, e.g. a student who earned Bachelor's and Associate's degrees will be reported twice under each outcome.

5. Students may be enrolled in continuing education or non-curriculum programs at NCCCS, short-term trainings at UNC, in-state private institutions, or out-of-state institutions. While NCCCS provides data for continuing education or non-curriculum programs, UNC doesn't have a centralized data collection for short-term trainings.

Count of Unique Students (Grade 12 or 13) Grade 12 Grade 13	HS Senior Cohorts (Grade 12 or 13)								
	Cohort 1: 2014 Seniors				Cohort 2: 2015 Seniors			Cohort 3: 2016 Seniors	
	104,647 103,238 1,409				106,805 105,177 1,630			107,712 106,098 1,616	
Count of Unique Graduates ¹	97,021	1 Year After	2 Years After	3 Years After	99,495	1 Year After	2 Years After	101,656	1 Year After
Enrolled in UNC or NCCCS - as % of all graduates		49,296 50.8%	44,899 46.3%	39,500 40.7%		49,849 50.1%	45,173 45.4%		48,989 48.2%
Enrolled in UNC or NCCCS and Employed in NC - as % of all graduates		36,025 37.1%	35,765 36.9%	32,022 33.0%		37,266 37.5%	36,286 36.5%		36 ,272 35.7%
Enrolled in NCCCS (Curriculum Programs Only) ² - as % of all graduates		28,219 29.1%	23,499 24.2%	16,986 17.5%		27,826 28.0%	22,975 23.1%		26,330 25.9%
Enrolled in NCCCS and Employed in NC - as % of all enrolled in NCCCS		21,831 77.4%	19,344 82.3%	14,247 83.9%		22,068 79.3%	19,087 83.1%		20,573 _{78.1%}
Enrolled in UNC - as % of all enrolled in NCCCS		2,538 9.0%	1,888 8.0%	1,616 9.5%		2,800 10.1%	2,062 9.0%		2,871 10.9%
Enrolled in UNC (Degree Programs Only) - as % of all graduates		23,615 24.3%	23,288 24.0%	24,130 24.9%		24,823 24.9%	24,260 24.4%		25,530 25.1%
Enrolled in UNC and Employed in NC - as % of all enrolled in UNC		16,054 68.0%	17,964 77.1%	19,072 ^{79.0%}		17,327 69.8%	18,887 77.9%		17,865 _{70.0%}
Enrolled in NCCCS - as % of all enrolled in UNC		2,538 10.7%	1,888 8.1%	1,616 6.7%		2,800 11.3%	2,062 8.5%		2,871 11.2%
Employed ³ - as % of all graduates		65,384 67.4%	69,506 71.6%	69,522 71.7%		69,064 69.4%	71,944 72.3%		70,148 69.0%
Enrolled in UNC or NCCCS and Employed in NC - as % of all employed		36,025 55.1%	35,765 51.5%	32,022 46.1%		37,266 54.0%	36,286 50.4%		36,272 51.7%
Employed and not Enrolled in UNC or NCCCS - as % of all employed		29,359 44.9%	33,741 48.5%	37,500 53.9%		31,798 46.0%	35,658 49.6%		33,876 48.3%
Enrolled in UNC or NCCCS or Employed in NC - as % of all graduates		78,655 81.1%	78,640 81.1%	77,000 79.4%		81,647 82.1%	80,831 81.2%		82,865 81.5%
Not Found in UNC or NCCCS or UI Wage data ⁴ - as % of all graduates		18,366 18.9%	18,381 18.9%	20,021 20.6%		17,848 17.9%	18,664 18.8%		18,791 18.5%

Table 1. Post Public High School Senior Year Outcomes

Source: LEAD analysis of data from the NC SchoolWorks System (DPI, UNC, and Employment data) and the Common Follow-up System (NCCCS data), 04/17/2019

1. Graduate cohort includes all students graduating in a given year even though some graduates may have not been enrolled in the same given year.

2. NCCCS enrollment data will differ from this analysis after the completion of NCCCS UID enhancement project. The data reflects student enrollment in curriculum programs including Applied Sciences, College Transfer, and General Education programs.

3. Employment status is based on the Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data and is not available for individuals who work outside of North Carolina; are employed in North Carolina but not covered by North Carolina's unemployment insurance laws (e.g., the self-employed, church and religious organization employees, summer camp employees, and other non-covered workers); are enrolled in the military; or are employed by the federal government.

4. Those not found in UNC or NCCCS or UI wage data may be enrolled in continuing education or other non-curriculum programs at NCCCS, in-state private institutions or out-of-state institutions or employed in establishments not covered by North Carolina UI laws including federal employment, military, and out of state establishments.



1. Includes seniors who were enrolled in 2013-2014 but have not graduated in that year. Some of them may have graduated in the later years.

2. Graduate cohort includes all students graduating in a given year even though some graduates may have not been enrolled in the same given year.

3. NCCCS enrollment data may differ from this analysis after the completion of NCCCS' UID enhancement project. The data reflects student enrollment in curriculum programs including Applied Sciences, College Transfer, and General Education programs.

4. Employment status is based on the Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data and is not available for individuals who work outside of North Carolina; are employed in North Carolina but not covered by North Carolina's unemployment insurance laws (e.g., the self-employed, church and religious organization employees, summer camp employees, and other non-covered workers); are enrolled in the military; or are employed by the federal government.

5. Those not found in UNC or NCCCS or UI wage data may be enrolled in continuing education or other non-curriculum programs at NCCCS, in-state private institutions or out-of-state institutions or employed in establishments not covered by North Carolina UI laws including federal employment, military, and out of state establishments.