



# Dual Enrollment Students are More Likely to Enroll in Postsecondary Education

**Fast Fact #79**

**Jim Horne, Commissioner**

**February 2004**

**J. David Armstrong, Jr., Chancellor**

**Abstract.** High school students who enroll in community college Dual Enrollment programs are enrolling in colleges and universities at rates significantly higher than students who do not enroll in these accelerated articulation programs. Moreover, Hispanic and African American students who took Dual Enrollment courses are enrolling in higher education at higher rates than whites or any other ethnic group. Our research indicates that students who took at least one Dual Enrollment course enrolled in higher education at a rate of 63.9%, compared to an enrollment rate of 55.4% for all high school graduates (including those who took accelerated programs such as Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or others). For African Americans who took Dual Enrollment, 69.7% enrolled in colleges while only 44.9% of the overall African American population enrolled in higher education. For Hispanic students, 68.5% of Dual Enrollment students enrolled in college while only 54.3 percent of the entire Hispanic student high school group enrolled. (All data are for enrollment in colleges and universities in the 2001-2002 academic year.) Clearly, accelerated programs in high schools, like Dual Enrollment, AP, IB, and others, provide students with advanced course work that prepares them for college enrollment.

**The purpose of the Dual Enrollment (DE) program is to (1) broaden the scope of high school curricular options, (2) increase the depth of high school study, and (3) shorten the time to college degree.** One tenet of the success of the DE program is the rate at which seniors enrolled in DE then enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Without the enrollment in a postsecondary institution where a student can obtain a degree, the program is unsuccessful. Therefore, the enrollment rates of DE students from high school to a postsecondary institution need to be calculated. This can then be contrasted against the enrollment rates of all high school graduates to determine if dual enrollment students are more likely to enroll in a postsecondary institution, thus leading to the success of the DE program.

**Overall, DE students are enrolling at a higher rate in the Florida Community College System (FCCS) than high school students.** In fact, there is a difference of 2.3% in the overall enrollment rate in 2000-01 and a difference of 4.3% in the overall enrollment rate in 2001-02 (see Table I). The same is true if enrollment rates are disaggregated by race/ethnicity. Exceptions are Asian DE students in 2000-01 and 2001-02, and 2001-02 students who did not report their ethnicity. These students enrolled at a slightly lower rate than all high school graduates the same year. American Indian DE students in 2001-02 had an enrollment rate 1.5 times that of all high school graduates that same year.

**The total enrollment rate to any postsecondary institution was higher for senior Dual Enrollment students than for all high school graduates for 2001-02.**

**Table I**  
**Rates of Dual Enrollment Students and High School Graduates**  
**Enrolling in the FCCS, 2000-01 and 2001-02**

Race/Ethnicity	Dual Enrollment Enrollment Rate		High School Graduates Enrollment Rate	
	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02
African American	35.4%	37.2%	31.2%	29.3%
American Indian	47.7%	46.8%	36.7%	29.6%
Asian	28.9%	30.3%	31.8%	31.3%
Hispanic	38.7%	39.7%	37.6%	37.5%
White	38.0%	38.5%	36.1%	34.4%
NR/Other	35.6%	30.2%	33.6%	30.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37.5%</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>	<b>33.7%</b>

Source: FCCS Student Data Base

Graph I shows that the enrollment rates of DE students (37.5% and 38.0% for 2000-01 and 2001-02, respectively) increased slightly over the two years whereas the enrollment rates of all high school graduates (35.2% and 33.7% for 2000-01 and 2001-02, respectively) decreased by 1.5%.

**Graph I**  
**Rates for Dual Enrollment Students and**  
**High School Graduates Enrolling in the FCCS, 2000-01 to 2001-02**  
 Error! Not a valid link.

*Dual Enrollment students may choose to enroll in a college or university rather than a community college.* Therefore, enrollment rates into the State University System (SUS) must also be considered (see Table II). The Dual Enrollment program had the same impact on students enrolling in colleges and universities as it did on students enrolling in community colleges. In 2001-02, 26% of DE students enrolled in the SUS compared to 22% of high school graduates.

The racial breakdown shows that the rate of DE African American students attending SUS institutions is higher than the rate of African American high school graduates. There is a substantial difference for Hispanic students as well. However, Asian and American Indian students are completely the opposite; the percentage of high school graduates (40.5% and 26.9%, respectively) enrolling in the SUS is higher than DE students (27.2% and 19.1%, respectively) enrolling in the SUS. It is assumed that Asian students who began their postsecondary education in four-year institutions and had Dual Enrollment credits are choosing to attend either private institutions within the state or institutions outside of Florida, and therefore, were not found as part of the tracking procedures used by the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP). The figures for American Indians are high because they have fewer students overall. Hence, the difference in the percentages may appear more substantial than they really are.

**Table II**  
**Rates of Dual Enrollment Students and**  
**High School Graduates Enrolling in the SUS, 2001-02**

Race/Ethnicity	Dual Enrollment	High School Graduates
----------------	-----------------	-----------------------

FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGES & WORKFORCE EDUCATION



	Enrollment Rate <sup>a</sup>	Enrollment Rate <sup>b</sup>
African American	32.5%	15.6%
American Indian	19.1%	26.9%
Asian	27.2%	40.5%
Hispanic	28.8%	16.8%
White	24.8%	24.3%
NR/Other	27.8%	28.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>

Source: <sup>a</sup>FCCS Student Data Base and <sup>b</sup>Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP)

*In conclusion, the total enrollment rate to any postsecondary institution was higher for senior DE students than for all high school graduates for 2001-02.* Table III shows the overall enrollment rate was almost 9% higher for DE students than for all high school graduates. The enrollment rate for Asian DE students is lower than the enrollment rate for all Asian high school graduates. The same is true for those whose race is unknown. However, for all other racial categories the DE students' enrollment rate is higher than the high school graduates' enrollment rate. The enrollment rate for African American DE students is almost twice that for all African American high school graduates.

**Table III**  
**Rates of Dual Enrollment Students and High School Graduates**  
**Enrolling in Any Postsecondary Institution, 2001-02**

Race/Ethnicity	Dual Enrollment Enrollment Rate <sup>a</sup>	High School Graduates Enrollment Rate <sup>b</sup>
African American	69.7%	44.9%
American Indian	66.0%	56.5%
Asian	57.6%	71.8%
Hispanic	68.5%	54.3%
White	63.3%	58.7%
NR/Other	58.0%	58.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.9%</b>	<b>55.4%</b>

Source: <sup>a</sup>FCCS Student Data Base and <sup>b</sup>Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP)

For more information on the impact of Dual Enrollment on high performing students, please contact Dr. Pat Windham via telephone at (850) 245-9482 or via e-mail at [Pat.Windham@fldoe.org](mailto:Pat.Windham@fldoe.org).

Office of the Chancellor  
 Florida Community Colleges and Workforce Education  
 Florida Department of Education  
 325 W. Gaines Street, Room 1314  
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400  
 (850) 245-0407  
[www.flboe.org/cc](http://www.flboe.org/cc)