

# A Look Back at the Fall 2005 Cohort

---

## Introduction

In the Fall semester of 2005, 335 newly admitted students began classes at Hilbert College. This summary report profiles that entering class and follows up on their known statuses six years later in the Fall of 2011. The data for this report were obtained from PowerCampus databases retrieved through the ACCESS and ARGOS interfaces. Appreciation goes to Derise Hedges, Database Administrator/Developer, and Kate Munroe, Executive Director of Retention, for their meticulous work in defining the Fall 2005, First-Time-College cohort, an important subset of this report.

The statistically prototypical student matriculating in the Fall of 2005 could be described as a white female in her early 20s, enrolled as a full-time commuter student. She has an almost equal likelihood of being either a First-Time-College student, or transferring from another institution as a second semester freshman or first semester sophomore. Like the vast majority of her peers in the Fall of 2005, she intends to work toward a bachelor's degree, most likely in Criminal Justice, Forensic Science Investigation, Business Administration or Economic Crime Investigation. She probably did not report SAT scores in her admission application. Of those who did, the average total score (Math + Verbal) was 924.5.

Being a white female, enrolled full-time, she has a fairly good chance of fulfilling her dream. For this group of women, 61.1% have since graduated, most having earned a bachelor's degree. This is compared with an overall 47.8% six-year graduation rate among all 335 students and a 39.4% six-year graduation rate for the 165 First-Time-College students entering in the Fall of 2005.

She had about a one in three chance of receiving a scholarship during her first year at Hilbert and about a one in six chance of playing collegiate sports her first year.

In their first semester at Hilbert, these women had an average GPA of 2.88, slightly higher than the average for all entering students (2.65). Like most other students, our prototypical group of women did somewhat better academically during their second semester, raising the average GPA to 3.06 (2.83 for all students).

## The Fall 2005 Cohort

The Fall 2005 cohort is comprised of 335 students who matriculated during the fall semester of that year. As detailed in the attached tables, 60% of those students are female, 80.6% self-identified as white, and 49.3% were enrolled as first-time-college students. Another 30.4% enrolled as transfer students and 18.8% were admitted under articulation agreements, mostly from local community

colleges. Eighty-six percent were enrolled as full-time students taking 12 or more credit hours during their first semester while 10.4% enrolled part-time (6-9 credit hours) and 3.9% enrolled in only one course (“Less Than Part-Time”). About 75% of the Fall 2005 cohort attended as commuter students, with 25% residing on campus. Twenty-seven percent (26.9%) received some form of scholarship aid; most in the form of either an Academic Excellence Scholarship or President’s Scholarship. Just under 17% played a varsity sport during their first year at Hilbert. The average age at admission was slightly less than 23 years, reflecting the numbers of students who matriculated with transfer credits and under articulation agreements thereby being somewhat older than the traditional first-time college student with an average age of between 18 and 19 years.

The average total number of credits earned by this cohort was 64.67 within an average of 4.86 terms attended and with a mean cumulative GPA of 2.60. The mean GPA in the first semester at Hilbert was 2.65; in the second semester the mean GPA was 2.83. For those who have not graduated, the average number of credits earned is 33 with a cumulative GPA of 2.02.

Forty-one students (12.2%) have uncleared Holds preventing re-registration. The majority of those Holds are classified as financial (73.2%) with the remaining 26.8% being for a variety of administrative reasons.

## Graduates

From all 335 students in this cohort, 160 or 47.8% have earned a degree from Hilbert College. Of those 160, 13.1% earned an Associate Degree and 86.9% earned a Bachelor’s Degree. Eleven students, or 7% of the graduates, continued on to earn a second Hilbert degree. Thirty-four graduates (21.3%) graduated with Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude honors. Reflecting the two subpopulations of articulation/transfer students and first-time-college students, just under half of these graduates earned their degrees within two years while 90% had earned their degree by 2009.

Compared to the overall cohort, those who graduated were slightly more likely to be female (61.1% vs. 60%) and more likely to self-report ethnicity as white (90% vs. 80.6%). Graduates were also less likely to have matriculated as a First-Time-College student than the overall cohort (40.6% vs. 49.3%). [The subset of First-Time-College students is examined in greater detail later in this report].

Graduates were more likely to have been a full-time student (92% vs. 86%) and somewhat less likely to have been a residential student (20.6% vs. 25.2%). The higher proportion of commuters among those who graduated may again reflect the higher numbers of transfer and articulation students who are a few years older and less likely to live on campus.

While 16.7% of those enrolling in the Fall of 2005 were listed on a varsity sport roster during their first year of college, only 11.3% of graduates had played sports during their first year.

In general there appears to be remarkable consistency between the degree and curriculum indicated at the time of admission and those earned at graduation. Less than one in five (29/160 or 18.1%) students graduated with a degree in a curriculum other than that which they indicated intent at the time of admission and most of those who did change majors did so within the same Division (e.g., switching from Criminal Justice to Forensic Science Investigation).

Somewhat surprisingly, the average SAT total score was slightly lower for those who graduated (905.1) than for the total 2005 cohort (924.5). However, first and second semester GPA were considerably higher for graduates (3.12 and 3.15 respectively) than for the cohort as a total (2.65 and 2.83).

## **First-Time-College Students**

Among the total Fall 2005 cohort, 165 students (49.3%) were classified as first-time-college students. Of these FTCs, 56.4% are female, 78.8% self-reported their ethnicity as white, and 95.2% enrolled as full-time students. The average age at admission was 18.8 years. A higher percentage were residential students at least during their first year of college (42.1% compared with 24.8% of the total cohort). Also a higher percentage of FTCs received scholarships than among the total cohort (50.9% vs. 26.9%) and they were more likely to play varsity sports during their first year (26.7% vs. 16.7%).

Compared to the total Fall 2005 cohort, FTC students were somewhat less likely to have graduated six years later (39.4% compared to 47.8% for the total cohort). Also their academic performance during the first two semesters was somewhat lower (GPAs of 2.46 and 2.54 respectively) when compared to that of the total cohort (2.65 and 2.83 respectively). Many had come to their first semester at Hilbert with at least some college credits earned either while in high school or in the summer prior to matriculation (average = 2.39 credit hours). Interestingly, those FTC students who have graduated were more likely to have received college credit for more than one course prior to matriculating (average number of transferred credits = 4.31).

Among those FTCs who have graduated, there is no significant difference in gender compared with all FTCs (male = 44.6% vs. 43.6%) although as with the cohort as whole those listing their ethnicity as white were more likely to have graduated (89.2% graduated FTCs vs. 78.8% for all FTCs). Graduating and non-graduating FTCs were equally likely to be enrolled full-time (95.4% vs 95.2%), slightly less likely to be a residential student (38.3% vs. 42.1%) and less likely to have played varsity sports during their first year (20.0% vs. 26.7%). They were significantly more likely to have received scholarship aid than for the FTC subgroup as a whole (64.6% vs. 50.9%).

Not surprisingly, those FTCs who have graduated had much better GPAs during their first two semesters than did FTCs as a whole (2.96 vs. 2.49 for the first semester and 3.01 vs. 2.54 for the second semester).

