



Special Report

**Retaining Graduates of
South Carolina Public Colleges and Universities**

What happens to graduates of South Carolina's colleges and universities? Do most stay in South Carolina or do they leave for other states once they earn their degrees? With significant investments being made in higher education, particularly through merit-based student financial aid programs intended to encourage enrollment and graduation from the state's colleges, and the critical need for increased numbers of college graduates in South Carolina, these questions deserve evaluation. To date, however, data have not been available to address these questions on a statewide basis. This report explores these questions by comparing South Carolina college graduates to South Carolina drivers' licenses status five years after graduation. Baseline information is provided that addresses the following:

- 1) Are graduates from South Carolina's colleges and universities staying in the state after graduation?
- 2) How does the percentage staying in South Carolina vary for college graduates who are initially from South Carolina as compared to those from other states?
- 3) Are there any noticeable differences by gender and race/ethnicity or by degree level or discipline?
- 4) Do scholarship recipients stay in South Carolina after graduation?
- 5) Where do graduates of the state's colleges locate in South Carolina five years after graduation?

To examine these questions, the patterns of graduates from two cohorts, 1996-97 and 2001-02, and their retention in South Carolina as of 2002 and 2007, respectively, are considered. While it would have been preferred to address the questions for graduates of public and independent colleges and universities, data limitations have resulted in narrowing the present inquiry to graduates of South Carolina's public colleges and universities. In future years, data will become available to enable a more complete examination of all South Carolina graduates whether from public or independent colleges and universities.

Highlights

Of the 2001-02 public college & university graduates:

- 68% remained in SC as of 2007.
- 79% of all "native" SC graduates remained in SC as of 2007 -- 72% for Research Institutions, 76% for 4-Yr Comprehensive Teaching Institutions, 82% for two-year USC regional campuses, and 85% of technical college graduates.
- 71% of females and 65% of males remained in SC as of 2007.
- Overall, those earning certificate, diploma, or associate degrees are more likely to remain in SC than those earning a bachelor's degree. Bachelor's degree recipients are more likely to remain than master's level, and master's level more likely than doctoral-level graduates. Graduates earning first professional degrees (i.e., law, medicine, pharmacy) remained in SC at rates similar to bachelor's recipients. Considering only "native" SC graduates -- 86% of those earning certificate/diploma remain in South Carolina, 83% associate's, 74% bachelor's, 75% master's, 64% doctoral, and 66% first professional.
- 67% of graduates who received Palmetto Fellows scholarships and 77% of LIFE scholarship recipients remained in SC in 2007.
- Not surprisingly, graduates tend to locate in the larger counties in the Upstate, Midlands, and Lowcountry regions of SC.

This study represents the first state-level migration study of college graduates in South Carolina. Commission staff is most appreciative of the willingness of the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles to participate in this study since it would not otherwise have been possible to complete.

Overall, the data reveal that a large percentage of graduates from the state's public colleges and universities are remaining in South Carolina after graduation. Patterns from the two groups of graduates considered are largely similar. Generally, significant increases or decreases over the two periods are not evident.

As South Carolina works harder to improve its competitiveness in the new knowledge-based economy, particularly through an emphasis on increasing the state's educational levels, these data should prove useful as baseline information. Given data limitations inherent to this analysis (e.g., lack of information on independent college graduates), future studies will help provide a better picture of whether efforts to increase the numbers of South Carolinians who enter and graduate from college are being successful as evidenced by increasing educational attainment of South Carolina's population.

The Study and Methodology

This study is an attempt to replicate for South Carolina a study conducted recently by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education in which information on college graduates was matched to state drivers' license records five years after graduation to determine the percentages of graduates who remained in the state.

The data in this analysis are from a data match of information on all public college graduates, regardless of degree level, available from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) with drivers' license records maintained by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Two cohorts of graduates are considered: a group of 26,090 graduates from South Carolina public colleges and universities in fiscal year (FY) 1996-97 and a second group of 28,464 graduates during FY 2001-02. For each group, all graduates with the exception of those identified by DMV as deceased are included. Graduates are considered to have remained in the state if they have an active South Carolina driver's license five years after graduation.

The 1996-97 graduates of South Carolina's public colleges and universities are matched against drivers' license records in 2002. The 2001-02 graduates are matched against drivers' license records in 2007. For a graduate to be classified as remaining or living in South Carolina after graduation, the driver's license match returned an "active in-state" status as of 2002 for the 1996-97 graduates and 2007 for the 2001-02 graduates. *(See Appendix A for descriptive statistics by sector by institution for each group of graduates.)*

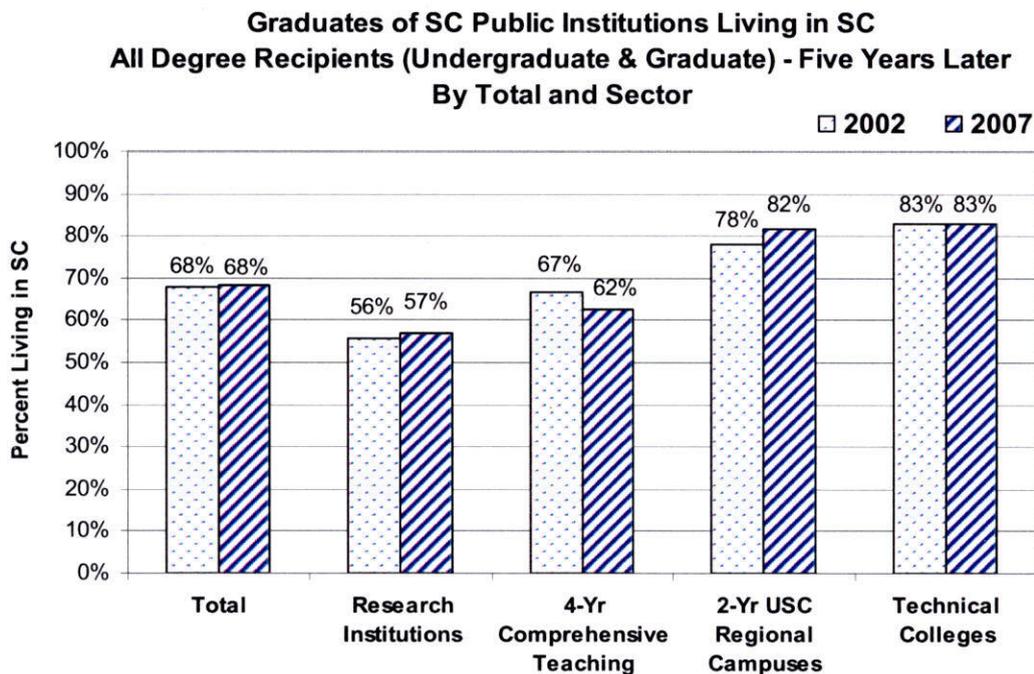
The data are examined based on variables available in CHE's Management Information System (CHEMIS). The "sector" or type of institution (i.e., research, comprehensive four-year teaching, two-year regional campuses of the University of South Carolina, and technical colleges) is considered. Other variables include: gender and race/ethnicity of graduates, residency status of graduates as defined by "geographic origin" or the state of origin of the graduate upon initial entry into college, degree level, and discipline information. Finally, the location of graduates who remained in South Carolina five years after graduation is examined by considering the county of record as indicated in the DMV drivers' license records.

Data on graduates include only those graduating from one of South Carolina's 33 public colleges and universities. For the time periods selected, complete data on the CHEMIS system are not available for graduates of South Carolina's independent colleges. The data for the independent colleges have been collected on CHEMIS since 2002-03, so data from independent colleges can be considered in future analyses.

All Graduates and Percentages Remaining in South Carolina

The data in Chart 1 show the percentages of graduates who remained in South Carolina following graduation and are displayed by institutional sectors for the two groups of graduates considered. For each cohort of graduates considered, 68% of graduates remained in South Carolina following graduation. As one would expect, differences are evident across sectors. For example, the two-year institutions (two-year regional campuses and technical colleges) which are regional community-based colleges whose students are predominately from South Carolina have the highest percentages. (See Appendix A for data by institution by sector.)

Chart 1, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Graduates of SC Public Institutions Remaining in SC Five Years Later, as of 2002 and 2007



Graduates Native to SC upon College Entry and Those from Other States

Chart 2 displays data showing the rate at which “native” South Carolinians remained in the state five years after graduation. Native South Carolinians are defined as those who are from South Carolina upon initial college enrollment. *(See Appendix B for data by institution by sector.)*

Chart 3 displays the data for those who are originally from “out-of-state” (i.e., from outside of South Carolina upon initial college enrollment). Again, the data are shown aggregated for all institutions and by sector.

As seen in Chart 2, 79% of native South Carolinians remained in South Carolina five years later. The percentages are similar across the two cohorts of native SC graduates. Chart 3 reveals that in addition to South Carolinians who are remaining in the state many students from other states are also remaining. Twenty-three percent of students who came from out-of-state and graduated in 1996-97 and 20% of those graduates in 2001-02 remained in South Carolina. While it would be expected that students from other states would leave South Carolina in greater numbers than native South Carolinians, follow-up studies of future cohorts should assist in determining whether efforts to improve the economy and job market are helping retain greater numbers of the state’s college graduates whether originally from South Carolina or not.

Chart 2, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Native South Carolinians Who Graduated from SC Public Institutions and Remained in SC Five Years Later, as of 2002 and 2007

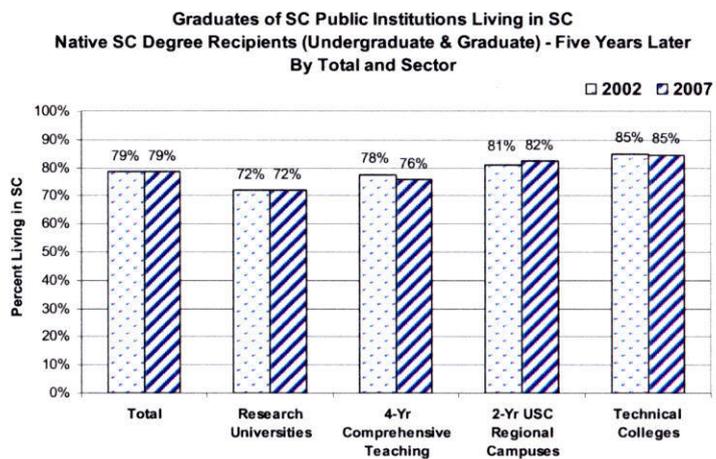
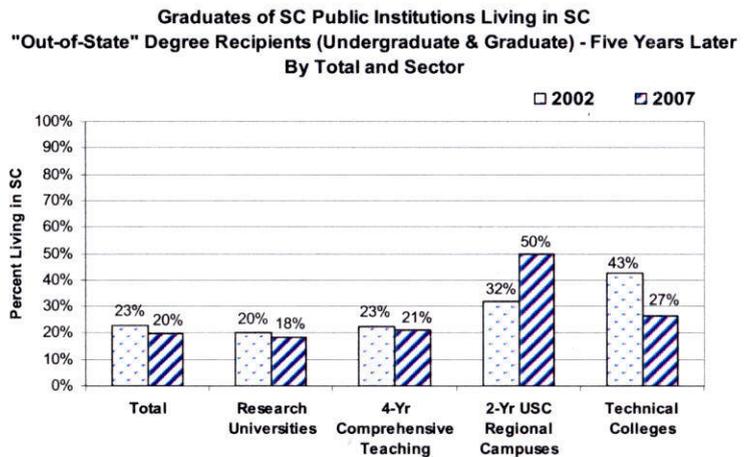


Chart 3, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Graduates Originally from Other States Who Graduated from SC Public Institutions and Remained in SC Five Years Later, as of 2002 and 2007



Differences by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

The data in Chart 4 show that females are only slightly more likely than males to remain in South Carolina after graduation. Chart 5 below provides information as to the patterns for graduates by race/ethnicity. African American non-Hispanic graduates are the most likely to remain in the state following graduation and are followed closely by White non-Hispanic graduates and American Indian or Alaskan Natives. (See Appendix C for additional data.)

Chart 4, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Graduates of SC Public Institutions Remaining in SC Five Years Later, as of 2002 and 2007, by Gender

**Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC
All Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later
By Gender**

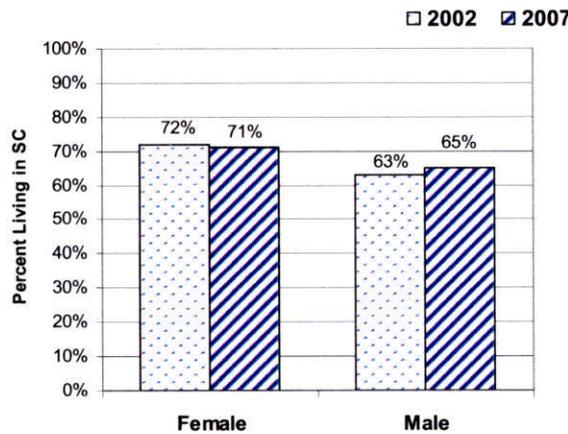
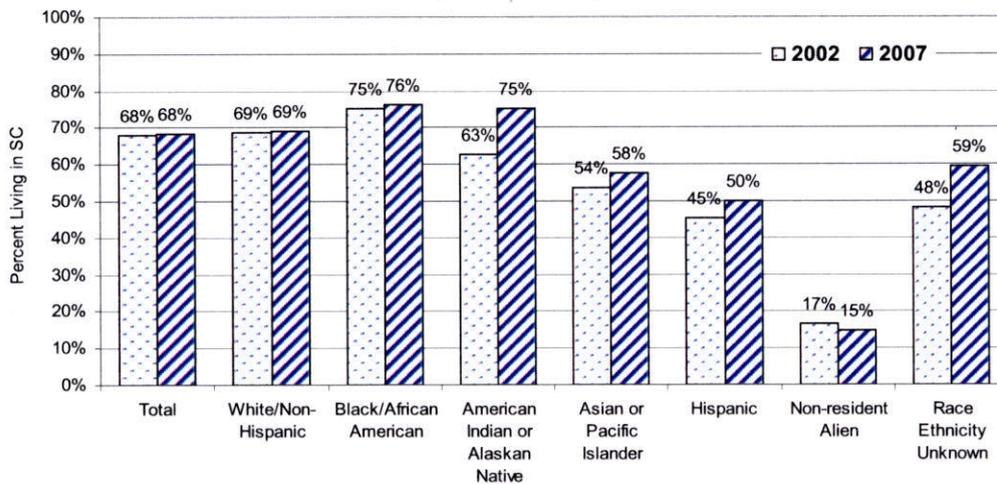


Chart 5, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Graduates of SC Public Institutions Remaining in SC Five Years Later, as of 2002 and 2007, by Race/Ethnicity

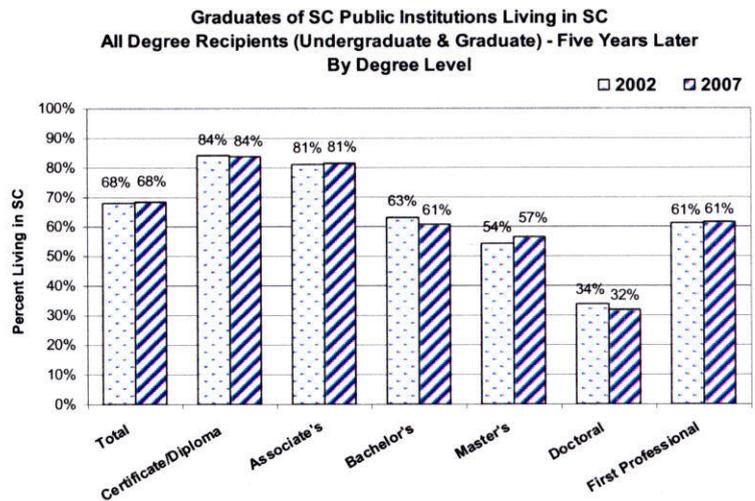
**Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC
All Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later
By Race/Ethnicity**



Variations by Degree Level

Graduates at different degree levels are staying in South Carolina following graduation at varying rates. The data shown in Chart 6 for all graduates reveal, as one might expect, that those earning certificate, diploma, or associate degrees are more likely to remain in the state than those who complete a bachelor's degree. Bachelor's degree recipients are more likely to remain in the state than master's level, and master's level more likely than doctoral-level graduates. For those earning first professional degrees (i.e., law, medicine, pharmacy), the percentage remaining in South Carolina is similar to bachelor's degree recipients. Charts 7 and 8 display data for native South Carolinians and out-of-state South Carolinians, separately. Not surprisingly, out-of-state students (Chart 8) are remaining in South Carolina at much lower percentages than native SC students (Chart 7) at all degree levels. For native South Carolina graduates, a strong percentage of doctoral as well as first professional students are remaining in the state. (See Appendix D for additional data.)

**Chart 6, 1996-97 and 2001-02
Graduates of SC Public
Institutions Remaining in SC
Five Years Later, as of 2002
and 2007, by Degree Level**



**Chart 7, 1996-97 and 2001-02
Native South Carolinians Who
Graduated from SC Public
Institutions and Remained in
SC Five Years Later, as of 2002
and 2007, by Degree Level**

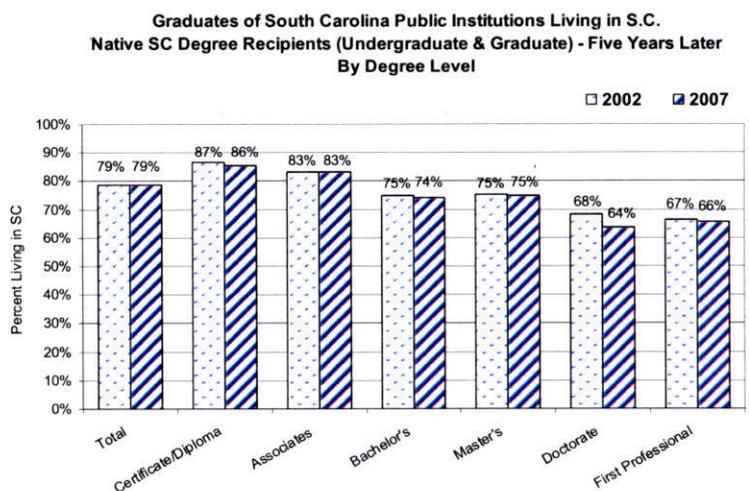
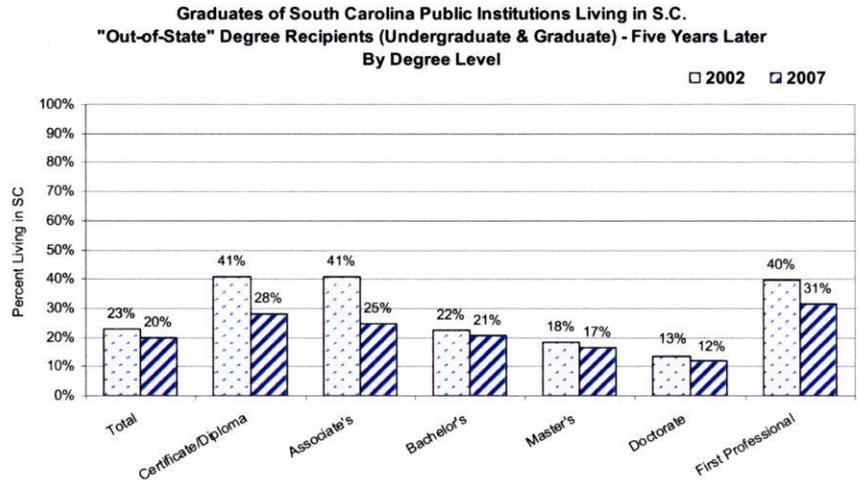


Chart 8, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Graduates Originally from Other States Who Graduated from SC Public Institutions and Remained in SC Five Years Later, as of 2002 and 2007, by Degree Level



Differences by Graduates' Disciplines

During the 2007 legislative session, legislation passed to encourage more students to enroll in math, computer science or information technology, sciences, engineering, science or math education, and health care majors through scholarship supplements for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarship recipients. The intent of the scholarship supplements is to increase the production of graduates in these disciplines so as to enhance South Carolina's competitiveness in the new, knowledge-based economy. Consequently, data are reported by graduates' disciplines. Charts 9, 10, and 11 show the data by discipline for all graduates, for bachelor's degree recipients, and for graduate degree recipients (inclusive of master's, doctoral, and first professional), respectively. Data are grouped by discipline using the two-digit federal code for Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP Code). Disciplines not indicated in the titles are included in "Other." (See Appendix E for additional data and Appendix F for a listing of disciplines by each grouping shown in the charts below).

Chart 9, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Graduates of all SC Public Institutions Remaining in SC Five Years Later, as of 2002 and 2007, by Discipline

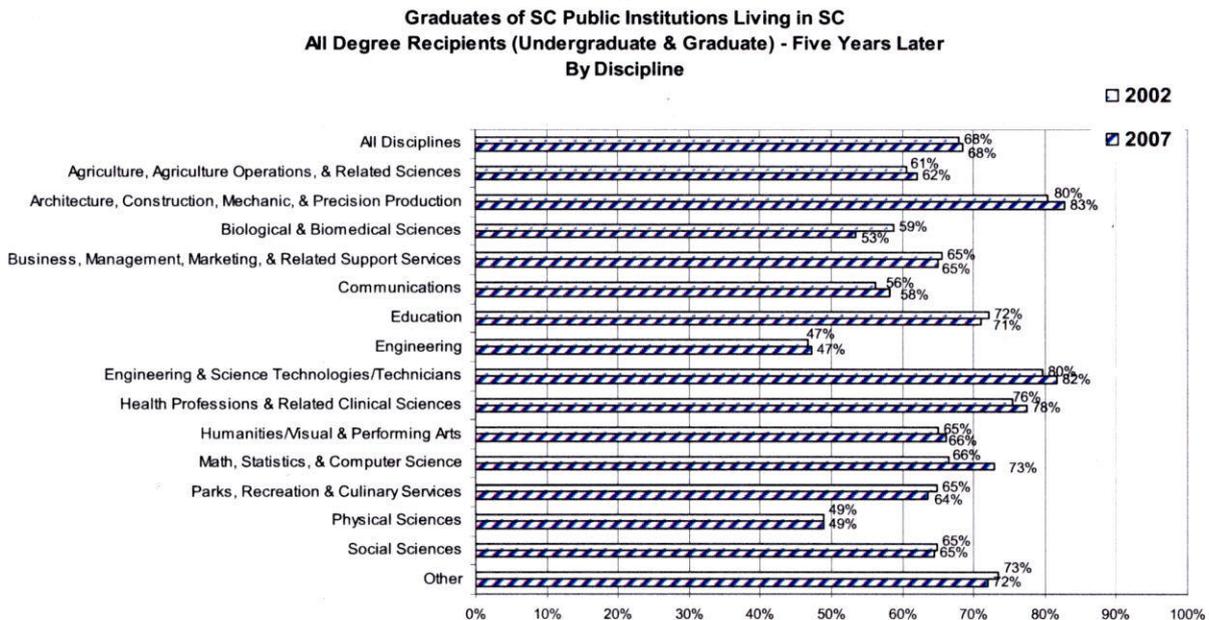


Chart 10, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Bachelor's Degree Recipients of SC Public Institutions Remaining in SC Five Years Later, as of 2002 and 2007, by Discipline

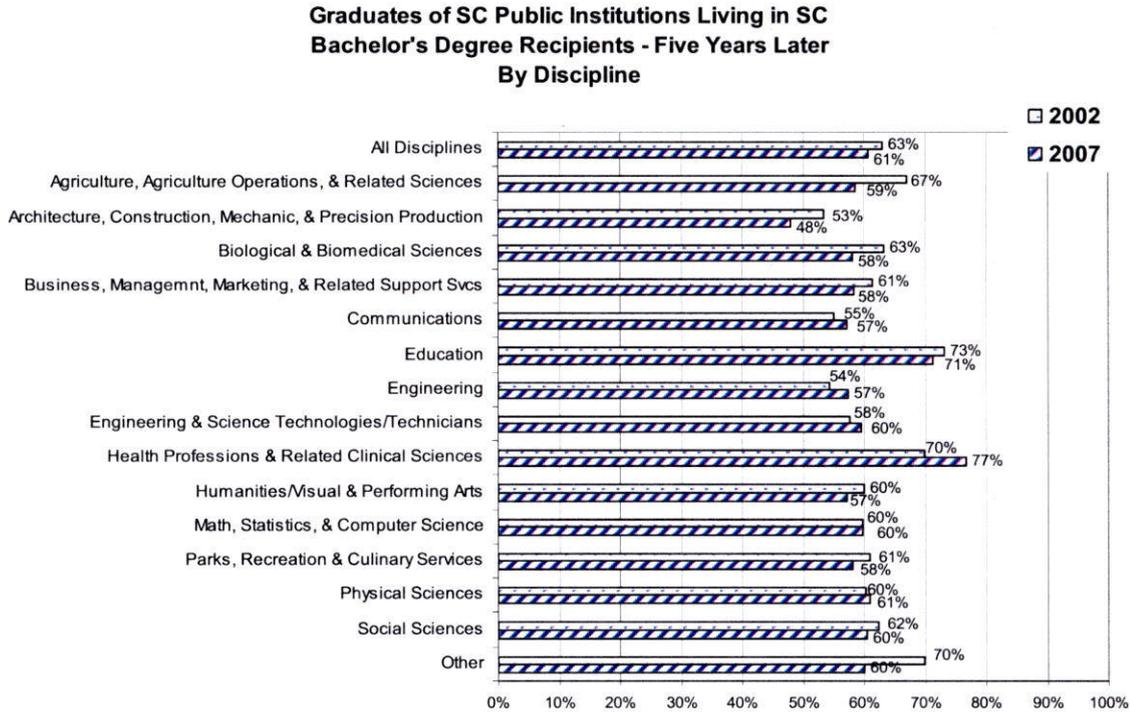
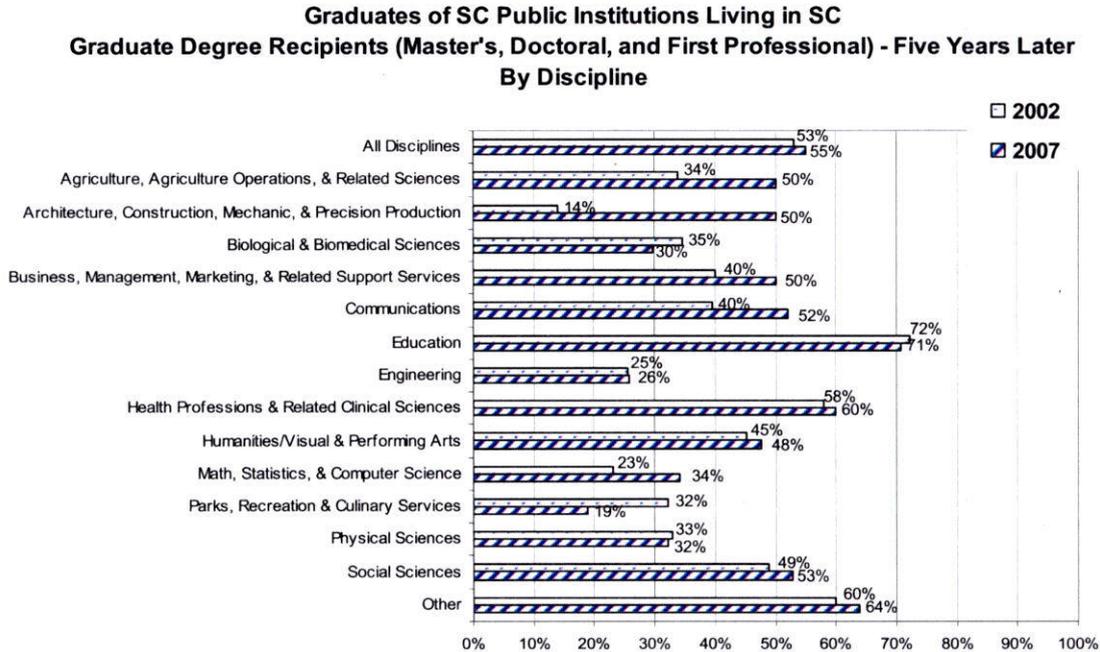


Chart 11, 1996-97 and 2001-02 Graduate Degree Recipients of SC Public Institutions Remaining in SC Five Years Later (as of 2002 and 2007), by Discipline



Undergraduates Receiving State-supported Scholarships or Grants

South Carolina has been investing significantly in merit-based student financial aid programs. These programs encourage more South Carolina students who have performed well in high school to enroll in and graduate from the state's colleges and universities. Over the past five years alone, the state has provided almost \$750 million in awards through two of these programs, Palmetto Fellows scholarships and LIFE scholarships. For FY 2006-07, 4,846 Palmetto Fellows scholarships totaling \$31,410,350 were awarded. For LIFE in FY 2006-07, 29,838 scholarships totaling \$134,337,002 were awarded.

The Palmetto Fellows scholarship program began in 1988. The program is intended to attract the state's best and brightest to South Carolina colleges and universities. In order to earn these awards, students graduating from high school must score at least 1200 on the SAT (or 27 on the ACT), rank in the top 6% of their high school class, and have at least a 3.5 high school grade point average (GPA) on SC's uniform grading scale or alternatively score at least 1400 SAT (or 32 on the ACT), and have at least a 4.0 high school GPA on SC's uniform grading scale. To continue receiving the award once in college, Palmetto Fellows recipients must earn each year the requisite credit hours and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Funding was limited in the early years of the program; as a result, only the 2001-02 graduates who earned Palmetto Fellows during their undergraduate enrollment are considered in the analysis that follows.

LIFE scholarships began in 1998. Funding was significantly expanded in 2002 with the establishment of the South Carolina Education Lottery. Students may earn awards as freshmen provided they meet two of the three following criteria: at least 1100 SAT (or 24 ACT), at least a 3.0 high school GPA on SC's uniform grading scale, or high school class rank in the top 30%. To maintain the award during college, students must earn requisite credit hours each year and maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA inclusive of all courses. The LIFE scholarship may also be earned by those students who did not meet the requirements as freshmen but did meet continuing eligibility requirements subsequent to their first year. Data for only the 2001-02 graduates who earned LIFE during their undergraduate enrollment are considered in the analysis that follows.

As has been the case in this analysis, only students from public colleges and universities are considered. Data on graduates of independent colleges have only been collected in recent years and therefore CHE data could not be matched with DMV records for these institutions.

What do the data show?

A total of 372 Palmetto Fellows recipients are identified among the 2001-02 graduates of public colleges and universities. Of these, 250 (67%) remained in South Carolina five years later in 2007. While this percentage is greater than 61% found for all 2001-02 bachelor's degree recipients who remained in the state as of 2007, it falls below 74% for 2001-02 bachelor's degree recipients who are initially from South Carolina.

	2001-02 Graduates of SC Public Institutions		
	Palmetto Fellows Recipients	Palmetto Fellows Recipients Living in SC in 2007	Percent to Total
Research Institutions	272	173	64%
4-Yr Comprehensive Teaching	100	77	77%
Total	372	250	67%

Overall, 77% of the 2001-02 graduates of public colleges and universities who received LIFE remained in South Carolina as of 2007. The table at right shows the data by institutional sector for the population of LIFE students considered.

	2001-02 Graduates of SC Public Institutions		
	LIFE Recipients	LIFE Recipients Living in SC in 2007	Percent to Total
Research Institutions	1,951	1,438	74%
4-Yr Comprehensive Teaching	1,351	1,040	77%
2-Yr USC Regional Campuses	138	116	84%
Technical Colleges	601	536	89%
Total	4,041	3,130	77%

The following table compares data for native South Carolinians who remained in the state five years after graduation to those graduates who received LIFE awards. Each institutional sector's percentage for the LIFE recipients is above that of the native South Carolinians who graduated in 2001-02 and remained as of 2007.

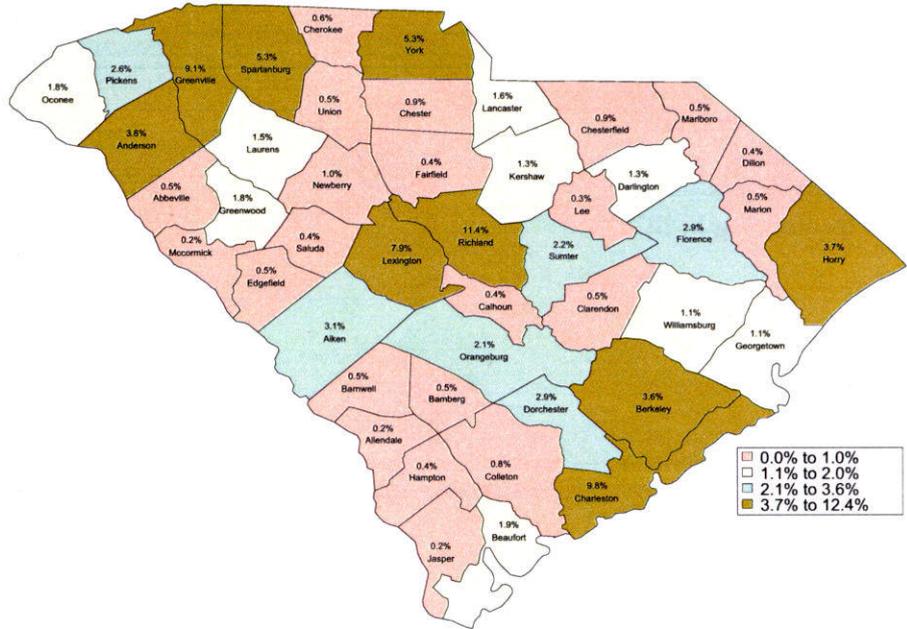
	2001-02 Graduates of SC Public Institutions	
	Percent Living in SC as of 2007	
	LIFE Recipients	All Native SC Graduates
Research Institutions	74%	72%
4-Yr Comprehensive Teaching	77%	76%
2-Yr USC Regional Campuses	84%	82%
Technical Colleges	89%	85%
Total	77%	79%

While data limitations do not permit a definitive answer to the question of whether the merit-based recipients are staying in South Carolina, the results are promising in that high percentages of merit scholarship recipients are staying in South Carolina. These data provide baseline results that can be used for comparison purposes in subsequent studies.

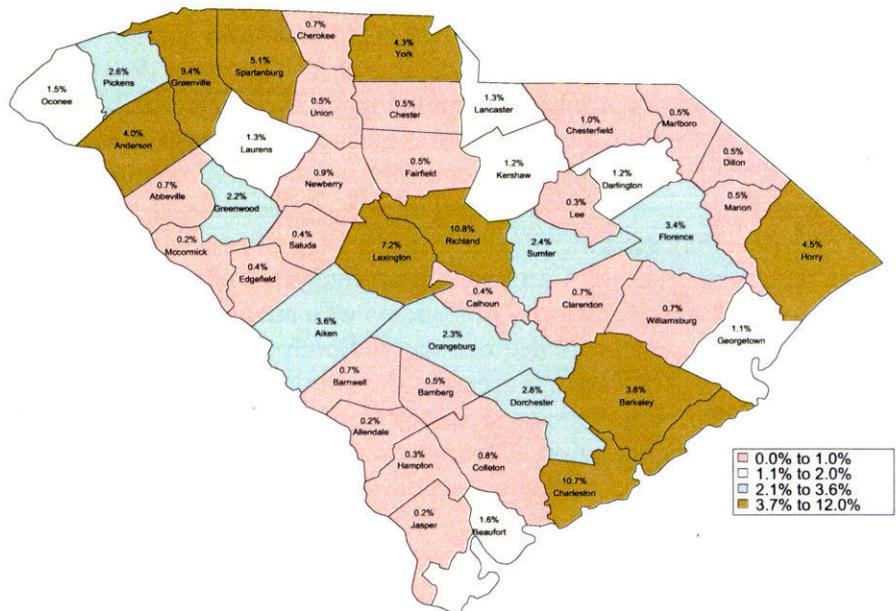
Migration

The DMV data enabled an examination by county of residence of those graduates with active driver's licenses. The following two maps show the percentage of 1996-97 and 2001-02 graduates living in South Carolina five years after graduation by county. While previous comparisons in this report for in-state (native SC) and out-of-state (non-native) students are based on the geographic origin of students upon entry into higher education, the distribution of the graduates as illustrated by the following maps is based on information in the DMV records and represents the current location of the graduates. As expected, graduates tend to locate in the larger counties in the Upstate, Midlands, and Lowcountry regions of South Carolina. As has been the case with most other analyses, the pattern is similar for the two cohorts of graduates.

Percentage Distribution of 1996-97 Graduates of SC Public Institutions Remaining in SC as of 2002 by SC County

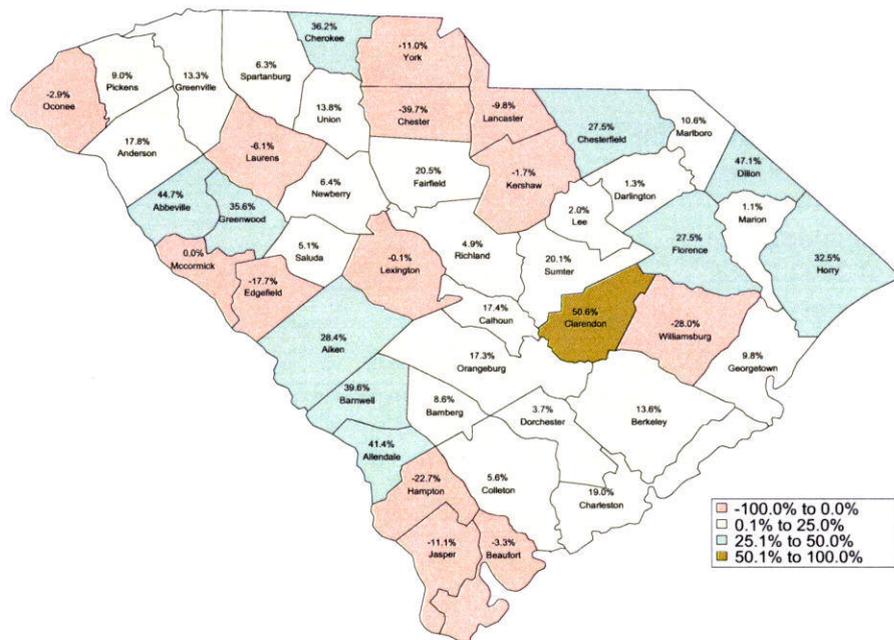


Percentage Distribution of 2001-02 Graduates of SC Public Institutions Remaining in SC as of 2007 by SC County



The subsequent map displays the percent change in data over the two periods of graduates (i.e., from 1996-97 to 2001-02). Thirteen counties show no change or a decreased percentage in the numbers of graduates remaining in the county five years after graduation. Most counties, however, show increases. The highest increase is in Clarendon which has a percentage change of 51%. Ten counties have percentage changes ranging from 25% to 50% and the remaining 22 have percent increases up to 25%.

**Percent Change
by County over
2002 and 2007 for
Graduates from
SC Public
Institutions
Remaining in SC**



Conclusion

In the coming years, South Carolina must significantly increase the education level of its citizenry to improve the state’s competitiveness in the knowledge-based economy. The 2000 Census data indicate, South Carolina is in the bottom quarter of states for the percentage of the population with bachelor’s degrees or higher – 21.5% of the state’s population aged 25-64 has a bachelor’s degrees or higher as compared to 26.5% nationally. Several statewide initiatives are underway in South Carolina that are intended to increase ultimately the numbers of high school graduates and to encourage college enrollment and graduation.

These data indicate a significant majority of graduates at the bachelor’s degree level and beyond are remaining in South Carolina at least five years after graduation. As expected, the data also confirm that a large majority of students who attend two-year colleges and earn certificates, diplomas and associate’s degrees stay in South Carolina after graduation. Additionally, students receiving state scholarships are also remaining in South Carolina after graduation as evidenced by 67% of Palmetto Fellows recipients and 77% of LIFE recipients who remained in the state five years after graduation. Generally and with limited exceptions, the pattern across the two groups of graduates considered is similar.

The methodology employed here provides a useful mechanism for considering statewide whether graduates of the state’s colleges and universities are remaining in South Carolina. Of course, studies examining the migration of graduates over longer periods of time than what is considered here are of interest. Additionally, subsequent studies of graduates will be important in better understanding the success of initiatives that are underway. These initial data will allow comparisons to later groups of graduates in order to gauge retention in the state. Subsequent studies will provide a more complete picture given the data limitations inherent in this study (e.g., the inability to consider independent college graduates). The CHE plans to conduct future studies like the present one in order to continue building an understanding of the contribution of South Carolina’s colleges and universities in increasing the state’s education level.

Appendix A

Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC All Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later

Institutions by Sector	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	All	Living in SC as of 2002	% to Total	All	Living in SC as of 2007	% to Total
Research Institutions						
Clemson University	3,538	1,823	52%	3,693	1,923	52%
USC Columbia	5,940	3,445	58%	5,528	3,253	59%
Medical University of SC	741	443	60%	739	481	65%
Sub Total	10,219	5,711	56%	9,960	5,657	57%
4-Yr Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities						
The Citadel	675	376	56%	606	333	55%
Coastal Carolina University	583	344	59%	722	362	50%
College of Charleston	1,705	986	58%	1,961	1,057	54%
Francis Marion University	506	410	81%	512	389	76%
Lander University	432	363	84%	418	318	76%
South Carolina State University	798	550	69%	820	520	63%
USC Aiken	575	410	71%	549	364	66%
USC Beaufort	72	35	49%	72	44	61%
USC Upstate	558	465	83%	691	540	78%
Winthrop University	962	628	65%	1,004	667	66%
Sub Total	6,866	4,567	67%	7,355	4,594	62%
Regional Campuses of USC						
USC Lancaster	130	109	84%	136	115	85%
USC Salkehatchie	102	88	86%	90	79	88%
USC Sumter	155	102	66%	160	117	73%
USC Union	36	32	89%	47	42	89%
Sub Total	423	331	78%	433	353	82%
Technical Colleges						
Aiken Tech	274	207	76%	458	358	78%
Central Carolina Tech	337	256	76%	426	352	83%
Denmark Tech	193	163	84%	273	234	86%
Florence-Darlington Tech	434	391	90%	662	581	88%
Greenville Tech	1,147	968	84%	1,639	1,345	82%
Horry-Georgetown Tech	498	370	74%	655	496	76%
Midlands Tech	1,267	1,092	86%	1,509	1,247	83%
Northeastern Tech	142	134	94%	216	183	85%
Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech	326	294	90%	343	294	86%
Piedmont Tech	579	519	90%	857	777	91%
Spartanburg Community College	428	381	89%	554	487	88%
Tech College of the Lowcountry	233	128	55%	269	169	63%
Tri-County Tech	519	443	85%	635	565	89%
Trident Tech	1,329	1,014	76%	1,614	1,286	80%
Williamsburg Tech	187	176	94%	116	100	86%
York Tech	689	582	84%	490	407	83%
Sub Total	8,582	7,118	83%	10,716	8,881	83%
Total	26,090	17,727	68%	28,464	19,485	68%

Appendix B

Graduates of South Carolina Public Institutions Living in SC Native SC¹ Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later

Institutions by Sector	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	Native SC	Native SC Graduates Living in SC in 2002	% to Total	Native SC	Native SC Graduates Living in SC in 2007	% to Total
Research Institutions						
Clemson University	2,196	1,586	72%	2,454	1,736	71%
USC Columbia	4,213	3,066	73%	4,040	2,950	73%
Medical University of SC	600	408	68%	637	455	71%
Sub Total	7,009	5,060	72%	7,131	5,141	72%
4-Yr Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities						
The Citadel	461	342	74%	392	294	75%
Coastal Carolina University	394	302	77%	432	306	71%
College of Charleston	1,258	869	69%	1,234	872	71%
Francis Marion University	470	402	86%	460	374	81%
Lander University	401	353	88%	391	314	80%
South Carolina State University	683	531	78%	667	503	75%
USC Aiken	480	390	81%	446	349	78%
USC Beaufort	69	35	51%	61	43	70%
USC Upstate	518	450	87%	638	528	83%
Winthrop University	749	581	78%	821	630	77%
Sub Total	5,483	4,255	78%	5,542	4,213	76%
Regional Campuses of USC						
USC Lancaster	124	107	86%	135	114	84%
USC Salkehatchie	97	86	89%	89	79	89%
USC Sumter	143	100	70%	151	112	74%
USC Union	34	30	88%	46	42	91%
Sub Total	398	323	81%	421	347	82%
Technical Colleges						
Aiken Tech	237	200	84%	413	352	85%
Central Carolina Tech	332	255	77%	416	345	83%
Denmark Tech	185	161	87%	265	233	88%
Florence-Darlington Tech	423	386	91%	653	580	89%
Greenville Tech	1,063	917	86%	1,557	1,331	85%
Horry-Georgetown Tech	430	354	82%	615	483	79%
Midlands Tech	1,230	1,067	87%	1,475	1,232	84%
Northeastern Tech	139	133	96%	214	183	86%
Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech	322	290	90%	338	290	86%
Piedmont Tech	567	513	90%	848	773	91%
Spartanburg Community College	415	375	90%	551	487	88%
Tech College of the Lowcountry	222	127	57%	264	168	64%
Tri-County Tech	475	432	91%	614	559	91%
Trident Tech	1,262	981	78%	1,576	1,274	81%
Williamsburg Tech	187	176	94%	116	100	86%
York Tech	668	570	85%	486	407	84%
Sub Total	8,157	6,937	85%	10,401	8,797	85%
Total	21,047	16,575	79%	23,495	18,498	79%

¹ Native SC includes those graduates who reported being from South Carolina upon college entry

Appendix C

**Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC
All Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later
By Gender**

Gender	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	All	Living in SC as of		All	Living in SC as of	
		2002	% to Total		2007	% to Total
Male	10,712	6,696	63%	11,457	7,472	65%
Female	15,378	11,031	72%	17,007	12,013	71%
Total	26,090	17,727	68%	28,464	19,485	68%

**Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC
All Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later
By Race/Ethnicity**

Gender	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	All	Living in SC as of		All	Living in SC as of	
		2002	% to Total		2007	% to Total
White/Non-Hispanic	20,053	13,807	69%	20,455	14,111	69%
Black/African American	4,498	3,388	75%	6,013	4,583	76%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	67	42	63%	73	55	75%
Asian or Pacific Islander	383	205	54%	425	245	58%
Hispanic	186	84	45%	295	148	50%
Non-resident Alien	741	123	17%	833	123	15%
Race Ethnicity Unknown	162	78	48%	370	220	59%
Total	26,090	17,727	68%	28,464	19,485	68%

Appendix D

Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC All Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later By Award Level

Award Level	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	All	Living in SC as of 2002	% to Total	All	Living in SC as of 2007	% to Total
Certificate/Diploma	3,694	3,109	84%	5,105	4,276	84%
Associate's	5,529	4,488	81%	6,236	5,082	81%
Bachelor's ¹	11,632	7,335	63%	12,435	7,553	61%
Master's ²	4,278	2,319	54%	3,666	2,074	57%
Doctoral	398	134	34%	433	138	32%
First Professional	559	342	61%	589	362	61%
Total	26,090	17,727	68%	28,464	19,485	68%

Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC Native SC ³ Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later By Award Level

Award Level	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	Native SC	Native SC Graduates Living in SC in 2002	% to Total	Native SC	Native SC Graduates Living in SC in 2007	% to Total
Certificate/Diploma	3,505	3,032	87%	4,948	4,232	86%
Associate's	5,243	4,371	83%	6,039	5,033	83%
Bachelor's ¹	9,001	6,745	75%	9,304	6,903	74%
Master's ²	2,704	2,029	75%	2,519	1,884	75%
Doctoral	146	100	68%	166	106	64%
First Professional	448	298	67%	519	340	66%
Total	21,047	16,575	79%	23,495	18,498	79%

Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC "Out of State" ⁴ Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later By Award Level

Award Level	1996-97			2001-02		
	"Out-of-State" Graduates	"Out-of-State" Graduates Living in SC in 2002	% to Total	"Out-of-State" Graduates	"Out-of-State" Graduates Living in SC in 2007	% to Total
Certificate/Diploma	189	77	41%	157	44	28%
Associate's	286	117	41%	197	49	25%
Bachelor's ¹	2,631	590	22%	3,131	650	21%
Master's ²	1,574	290	18%	1,147	190	17%
Doctoral	252	34	13%	267	32	12%
First Professional	111	44	40%	70	22	31%
Total	5,043	1,152	23%	4,969	987	20%

¹ Includes Bachelor's, Post-Bachelor's Certificates

² Includes Master's, Post-Master's Certificates, Specialists

³ Native SC includes those graduates who reported being from South Carolina upon college entry

⁴ "Out-of-State" includes graduates who reported being from states outside of South Carolina upon college entry

Appendix E

Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC All Degree Recipients (Undergraduate & Graduate) - Five Years Later, by Discipline

Discipline	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	All Degree Recipients	Living in SC as of 2002	% to Total	All Degree Recipients	Living in SC as of 2007	% to Total
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, & Related Sciences	325	197	61%	282	175	62%
Architecture, Construction, Mechanic, & Precision Production	1,276	1,025	80%	1,577	1,305	83%
Biological & Biomedical Sciences	1,082	637	59%	1,012	541	53%
Business, Management, Marketing, & Related Support Services	4,480	2,934	65%	5,482	3,565	65%
Communications	498	280	56%	708	412	58%
Education	2,923	2,111	72%	2,243	1,595	71%
Engineering	1,097	513	47%	1,009	477	47%
Engineering & Science Technologies/Technicians	812	647	80%	802	655	82%
Health Professions & Related Clinical Sciences	4,291	3,241	76%	4,605	3,569	78%
Humanities/Visual & Performing Arts	3,395	2,207	65%	3,919	2,590	66%
Math, Statistics, & Computer Science	922	613	66%	1,431	1,044	73%
Parks, Recreation & Culinary Services	332	215	65%	533	339	64%
Physical Sciences	323	158	49%	284	139	49%
Social Sciences	2,687	1,740	65%	2,891	1,866	65%
Other	1,647	1,209	73%	1,686	1,213	72%
All Disciplines	26,090	17,727	68%	28,464	19,485	68%

Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC All Bachelor Degree Recipients - Five Years Later, by Discipline

Discipline	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	All Bachelor's Degree Recipients	Living in SC as of 2002	% to Total	All Bachelor's Degree Recipients	Living in SC as of 2007	% to Total
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, & Related Sciences	176	118	67%	152	89	59%
Architecture, Construction, Mechanic, & Precision Production	75	40	53%	75	36	48%
Biological & Biomedical Sciences	917	580	63%	847	492	58%
Business, Management, Marketing, & Related Support Services	2,229	1,368	61%	3,041	1,771	58%
Communications	406	224	55%	611	349	57%
Education	1,359	995	73%	1,165	831	71%
Engineering	788	429	54%	686	394	57%
Engineering & Science Technologies/Technicians	59	34	58%	109	65	60%
Health Professions & Related Clinical Sciences	1,003	702	70%	759	582	77%
Humanities/Visual & Performing Arts	1,804	1,081	60%	1,949	1,115	57%
Math, Statistics, & Computer Science	335	200	60%	403	241	60%
Parks, Recreation & Culinary Services	187	114	61%	289	168	58%
Physical Sciences	189	114	60%	166	101	61%
Social Sciences	1,793	1,118	62%	1,853	1,121	60%
Other	312	218	70%	330	198	60%
All Disciplines	11,632	7,335	63%	12,435	7,553	61%

Graduates of SC Public Institutions Living in SC All Master's & Doctoral Degree Recipients - Five Years Later, by Discipline

Discipline	1996-97 Graduates			2001-02 Graduates		
	All Graduate Degree Recipients	Living in SC as of 2002	% to Total	All Graduate Degree Recipients	Living in SC as of 2007	% to Total
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, & Related Sciences	62	21	34%	30	15	50%
Architecture, Construction, Mechanic, & Precision Production	36	5	14%	36	18	50%
Biological & Biomedical Sciences	165	57	35%	165	49	30%
Business, Management, Marketing, & Related Support Services	760	305	40%	776	389	50%
Communications	43	17	40%	50	26	52%
Education	1,542	1,114	72%	1,078	764	71%
Engineering	302	77	25%	323	83	26%
Health Professions & Related Clinical Sciences	504	314	62%	532	342	64%
Humanities/Visual & Performing Arts	261	118	45%	197	94	48%
Math, Statistics, & Computer Science	112	26	23%	88	30	34%
Parks, Recreation & Culinary Services	31	10	32%	37	7	19%
Physical Sciences	134	44	33%	118	38	32%
Social Sciences	442	216	49%	418	221	53%
Other	282	129	46%	249	135	54%
All Disciplines	4,676	2,453	52%	4,097	2,211	54%

Appendix F, Listing of Category of Disciplines as Classified by Two-Digit CIP Code

Discipline Category	CIP Code	Discipline/(Major)
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, & Related Sciences		
	01.0000	Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, & Related Sciences
Architecture, Construction, Mechanic, & Precision Production		
	04.0000	Architecture and Related Services
	46.0000	Construction Trades
	47.0000	Mechanic & Repair Technologies/Technicians
	48.0000	Precision Production
Biological & Biomedical Sciences		
	26.0000	Biological & Biomedical Sciences
Business, Management, Marketing, & Related Support Services		
	52.0000	Business, Management, Marketing, & Related Support Services
Communications		
	09.0000	Communication, Journalism, & Related Studies
	10.0000	Communications Technologies/Technicians & Support Services
Education		
	13.0000	Education
Engineering		
	14.0000	Engineering
Engineering & Science Technologies/Technicians		
	15.0000	Engineering Technologies/Technicians
	41.0000	Science Technologies/Technicians
Health Professions & Related Clinical Sciences		
	51.0000	Health Professions & Related Clinical Sciences
Humanities/Visual & Performing Arts		
	05.0000	Area, Ethnic, Cultural, & Gender Studies
	16.0000	Foreign Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics
	23.0000	English Language & Literature/Letters
	24.0000	Liberal Arts & Sciences, General Studies, & Humanities
	38.0000	Philosophy & Religious Studies
	39.0000	Theology & Religious Vocations
	50.0000	Visual & Performing Arts
	54.0000	History
Math, Statistics, & Computer Science		
	11.0000	Computer & Information Sciences & Support Services
	27.0000	Mathematics & Statistics
Parks, Recreation & Culinary Services		
	12.0000	Personal & Culinary Services
	31.0000	Parks, Recreation, Leisure & Fitness Studies
Physical Sciences		
	40.0000	Physical Sciences
Social Sciences		
	19.0000	Family & Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences
	42.0000	Psychology
	44.0000	Public Administration & Social Service Professions
	45.0000	Social Sciences
Other		
	03.0000	Natural Resources and Conservation
	22.0000	Legal Professions & Studies
	25.0000	Library Science
	29.0000	Military Technologies
	30.0000	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies
	43.0000	Security & Protective Services
	49.0000	Transportation & Materials Moving



NEWS

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Having a well-educated, highly skilled workforce is critical to South Carolina's competitiveness in today's knowledge economy. The collective contributions of our colleges and universities in providing a talented and educated workforce are central to the state's long-term success and prosperity. The state's ability to retain the graduates of its colleges and universities is one vitally important factor in raising the state's educational levels.

A special report "**Retaining Graduates of South Carolina's Public Colleges and Universities,**" released today at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's monthly meeting explores the retention of South Carolina's public college and university graduates. The report provides an initial statewide look at the numbers of graduates who remain in South Carolina, and the results are very encouraging. South Carolina is retaining a significant majority of its college graduates five years after graduation.

To conduct the study, the Commission collaborated with the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles and matched information on college graduates from academic years 1996-97 and 2001-02 to drivers' license records five years after graduation. Graduates were considered to have remained in South Carolina if matched to an "active" South Carolina license. Also examined were differences by type of college, graduates' state of origin upon initial college enrollment, degree level, gender, race/ethnicity, discipline, and the county of residence of graduates who remained in the state. Because of limitations for the timeframes considered in data collected centrally at the Commission, only graduates of public colleges and universities are included. Data are now being collected that will enable future consideration of graduates of independent colleges and universities, as well.

For both groups of graduates (undergraduate and graduate), 68% of graduates remained in South Carolina five years later. Of those originally from South Carolina, 79% remained. Of those in the 2001-02 cohort of graduates who were initially from South Carolina, 86% of those earning certificate/diploma remained in South Carolina after five years, 83% associate's, 74% bachelor's, 75% master's, 64% doctoral, and 66% first professional.

The state's undergraduate scholarships have been attracting more South Carolinians to the state's colleges and universities. While the timeframe of this study pre-dates significant expansions of the state's undergraduate scholarship programs, information is included on the 2001-02 graduates who had received a merit scholarship. The positive news is that, like all graduates, significant numbers of students who had benefited from these scholarship programs are also remaining after graduation as evidenced by the 67% of the Palmetto Fellows recipients and 77% of LIFE recipients who remained in the state as of 2007.

The data in this new report provide baseline information that can be used in the future to better understand whether initiatives now underway are paying off in increased education levels for South Carolina.

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director of the Commission, commented, "Higher education is the best investment a state can make to improve its economy. Retaining a high proportion of our graduates, as we are now doing, is a huge boost to South Carolinians' quality of life. Although we're proud of this success, we're going to work very hard to improve since the future well-being of the state and its citizens depends on it."

The complete report is available on the Commission's website at www.che.sc.gov.