

RESEARCH BRIEF

**Characteristics of First-Time in College Students Who Enrolled
At NOVA More Than One Year after Graduation from High School**

Introduction

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) regularly monitors and evaluates eight critical measures of student achievement. One of these measures, enrollment, refers to the headcount of students enrolled in credit courses; students enrolled in courses that are part of a vocational or educational program, including those enrolled in off-campus centers; and high school students taking college courses for credit.

NOVA sets enrollment targets each year with respect to the overarching goals set forth in the College's most recent strategic plan: every student succeeds, every program achieves, and every community prospers. To this end, NOVA tracks several areas related to enrollment including enrollment of first-time in college students from NOVA's service region, continued enrollment of existing students, enrollment of dual-enrolled high school students, and the enrollment of students who transfer into NOVA from another two- or four-year institution.

In This Brief

This Brief examines the characteristics of first-time in college (FTIC) students who first enrolled at NOVA more than one year following graduation from high school. This information will assist College leadership with a better understanding of students who do not enroll in College immediately following high school.

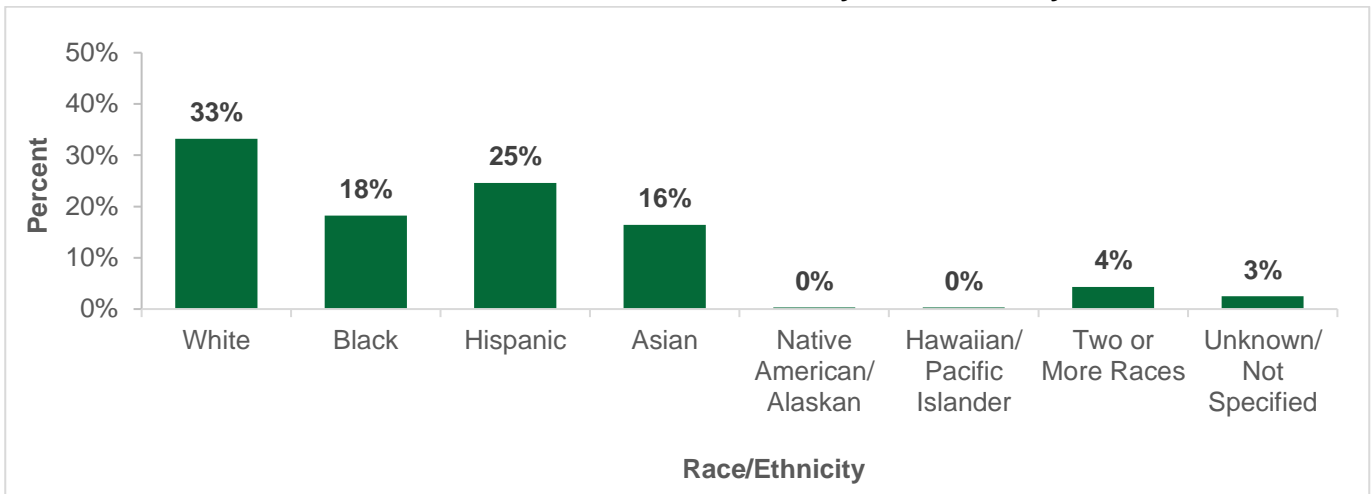
Key Findings (Fall 2018)

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Around one-third (33 percent) of FTIC students who were not recent high school graduates were white students. And 25 percent were Hispanic.
- **Gender:** More than half of FTIC students who were not recent graduates were male students.
- **Military Status:** Nearly 11 percent FTIC students who were not recent graduates were in some way affiliated with the military (e.g., active duty, veteran, dependent, spouse, etc.).
- **NOVA Campus:** A plurality (26 percent) of FTIC students who were not recent graduates enrolled at the Annandale Campus.
- **Program Placement:** The most popular major for FTIC students who were not recent high school graduates was the General Studies, A.S. degree program (19 percent).

FTIC Students (>1 Year after High School) by Race/Ethnicity (Figure 1)

- In Fall 2018, one-third of FTIC students who enrolled at NOVA more than one year after graduating from high school identified as white (33 percent).
- Additionally, among students who were not recent graduates, one-in-four students identified as Hispanic, 18 percent identified as black, and 16 percent identified as Asian.

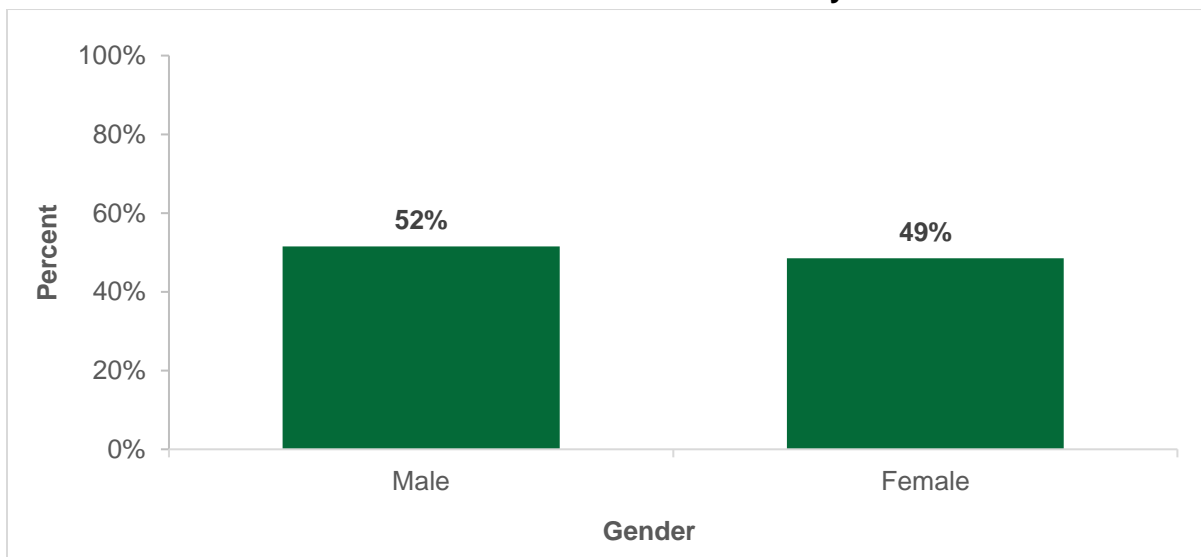
Figure 1. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2018



FTIC Students (>1 Year after High School) by Gender (Figure 2)

- In Fall 2018, 52 percent of FTIC students who enrolled at NOVA more than one year after graduating from high school were male.

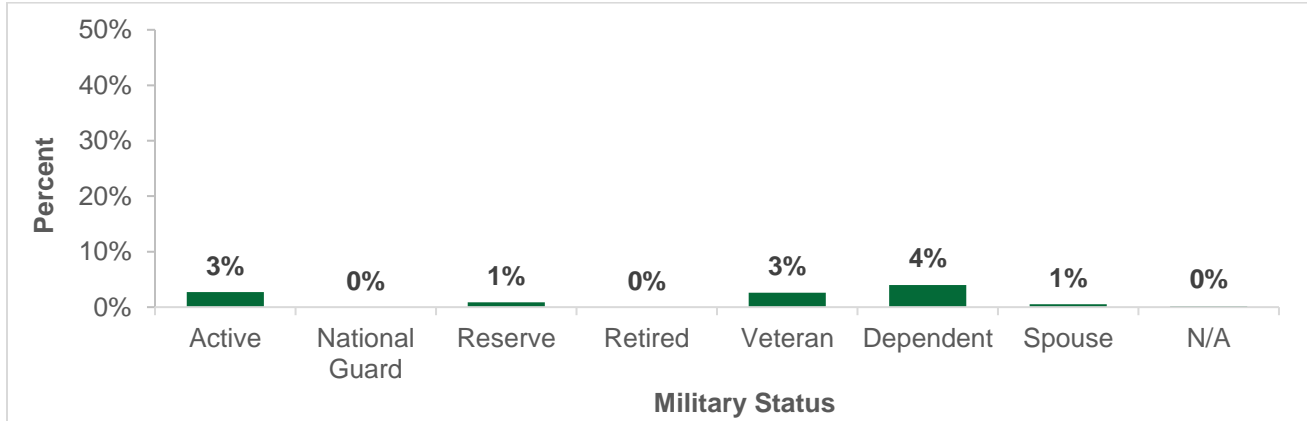
Figure 2. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Gender: Fall 2018



FTIC Students (>1 Year after High School) by Military Status (Figure 3)

- In Fall 2018, the large majority of FTIC students who enrolled at NOVA more than one year following graduation from high school had no prior military service nor were the spouse or dependent of military personnel.
- However, among FTIC students who were not recent high school graduates, three percent were active military, three percent were veterans, and four percent were a dependent.

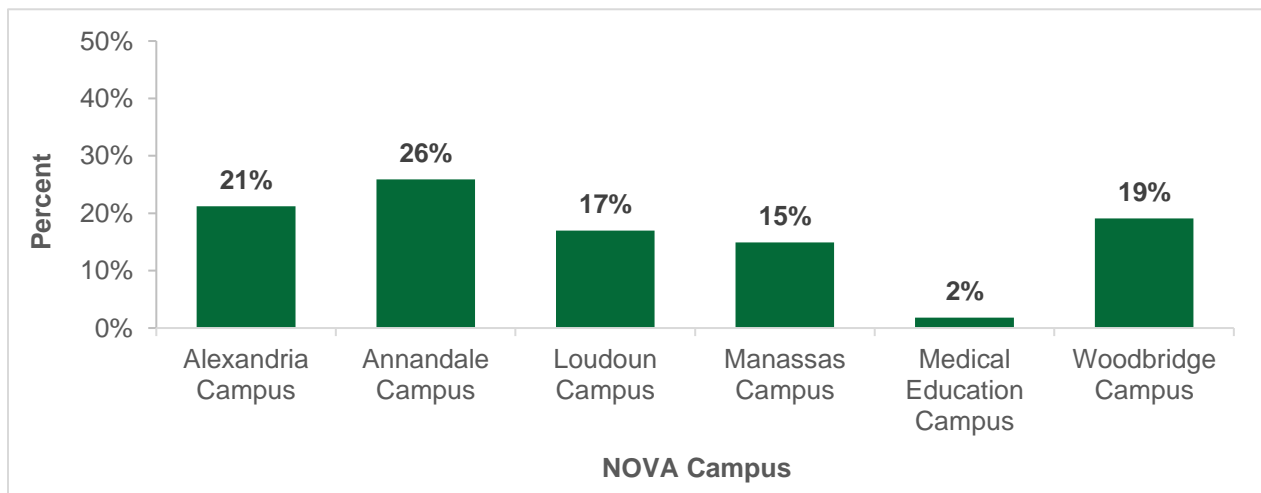
Figure 3. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Military Status: Fall 2018



FTIC Students (>1 Year after High School) by NOVA Campus (Figure 4)

- In Fall 2018, a plurality (26 percent) of FTIC students who enrolled at NOVA more than one year after high school enrolled at the Annandale Campus.
- A 21 percent enrolled at the Alexandria Campus. Only two percent enrolled at the Medical Education Campus, which enrolls primarily second-year students.

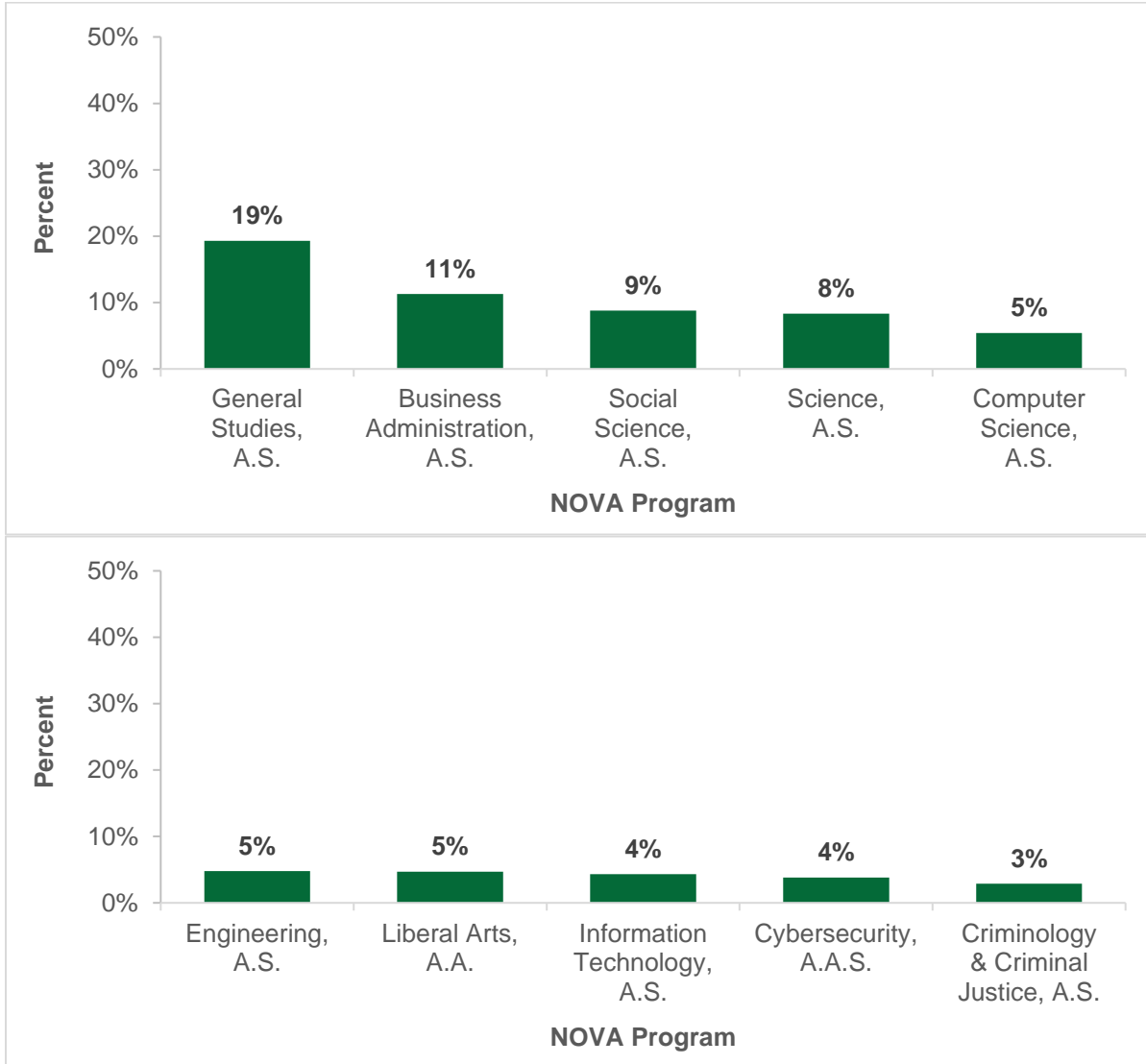
Figure 4. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by NOVA Campus: Fall 2018



FTIC Students (>1 Year after High School) by Top 10 Majors (Figure 5)

- In Fall 2018, nearly one-in-five FTIC students who enrolled at NOVA more than one year following high school graduation were enrolled in the General Studies A.S. degree program.
- Other popular programs for FTIC students who were not recent graduates included Business Administration, A.S (11 percent); Social Science, A.S. (9 percent); Science, A.S. (8 percent); and Computer Science, A.S. (5 percent).

Figure 5. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Military Status: Fall 2018



Appendix: Data Tables

Table 1. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Campus: Fall 2014 through Fall 2018

Campus	Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alexandria	790	25.0	801	25.5	639	22.6	596	21.6	598	21.2
Annandale	861	27.2	764	24.3	712	25.2	657	23.8	729	25.9
Loudoun	436	13.8	464	14.8	428	15.1	455	16.5	478	17.0
Manassas	438	13.9	467	14.8	421	14.9	439	15.9	421	14.9
Medical Education	68	2.2	58	1.8	57	2.0	59	2.1	52	1.8
Woodbridge	568	18.0	591	18.8	569	20.1	554	20.1	539	19.1
Total	3,161	100.0	3,145	100.0	2,826	100.0	2,760	100.0	2,817	100.0

Note: Excludes students who graduated high school within one year prior to enrollment at NOVA and dual enrolled students.

Table 2. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2014 through Fall 2018

Race/Ethnicity	Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	1,058	33.5	1,092	34.7	1,002	35.5	954	34.6	936	33.2
Black	711	22.5	689	21.9	538	19.0	541	19.6	514	18.2
Hispanic	725	22.9	699	22.2	630	22.3	661	23.9	694	24.6
Asian	455	14.4	425	13.5	451	16.0	407	14.7	463	16.4
Native American/Alaskan	10	0.3	6	0.2	7	0.2	7	0.3	9	0.3
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	22	0.7	13	0.4	16	0.6	9	0.3	9	0.3
Two or More Races	121	3.8	151	4.8	107	3.8	128	4.6	122	4.3
Unknown/Not Specified	59	1.9	70	2.2	75	2.7	53	1.9	70	2.5
Total	3,161	100.0	3,145	100.0	2,826	100.0	2,760	100.0	2,817	100.0

Note: Excludes students who graduated high school within one year prior to enrollment at NOVA and dual enrolled students.

Table 3. First-Time in College Students who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Gender: Fall 2014 through Fall 2018

Gender	Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	1,668	52.8	1,720	54.7	1,471	52.1	1,422	51.5	1,452	51.5
Female	1,493	47.2	1,425	45.3	1,355	47.9	1,338	48.5	1,365	48.5
Total	3,161	100.0	3,145	100.0	2,826	100.0	2,760	100.0	2,817	100.0

Note: Excludes students who graduated high school within one year prior to enrollment at NOVA and dual enrolled students.

Table 4. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Military Status: Fall 2014 through Fall 2018

Military Status	Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Active	92	2.9	122	3.9	85	3.0	78	2.8	76	2.7
National Guard	8	0.3	17	0.5	4	0.1	2	0.1	1	0.0
Reserve	45	1.4	36	1.1	38	1.3	27	1.0	25	0.9
Retired	15	0.5	23	0.7	15	0.5	21	0.8	0	0.0
Veteran	89	2.8	72	2.3	58	2.1	86	3.1	72	2.6
Dependent	224	7.1	223	7.1	221	7.8	247	8.9	114	4.0
Spouse	41	1.3	39	1.2	35	1.2	35	1.3	14	0.5
N/A	31	1.0	5	0.2	8	0.3	7	0.3	6	0.2
No Military Service	2,616	82.8	2,608	82.9	2,362	83.6	2,257	81.8	2,509	89.1
Total	3,161	100.0	3,145	100.0	2,826	100.0	2,760	100.0	2,817	100.0

Note: Excludes students who graduated high school within one year prior to enrollment at NOVA and dual enrolled students.

Table 5. First-Time in College Students Who Graduated High School More Than One Year Prior to NOVA Enrollment by Program Placement: Fall 2014 through Fall 2018

Program	Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
General Studies, A.S.	748	23.7	734	23.3	689	24.4	647	23.4	545	19.3
Business Administration, A.S.	293	9.3	353	11.2	338	12.0	304	11.0	319	11.3
Social Sciences, A.S.	216	6.8	269	8.6	240	8.5	229	8.3	247	8.8
Science, A.S.	217	6.9	230	7.3	211	7.5	235	8.5	235	8.3
Computer Science, A.S.	139	4.4	183	5.8	156	5.5	159	5.8	152	5.4
Engineering, A.S.	140	4.4	169	5.4	149	5.3	126	4.6	136	4.8
Liberal Arts, A.A.	253	8.0	213	6.8	183	6.5	175	6.3	132	4.7
Information Tech, A.S.	145	4.6	108	3.4	135	4.8	129	4.7	122	4.3
Cybersecurity, A.A.S.	2	0.1	49	1.6	58	2.1	83	3.0	106	3.8
Criminology & Criminal Justice, A.S.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	82	2.9
Career Studies, Certificate	105	3.3	81	2.6	57	2.0	58	2.1	72	2.6
Business Management, A.A.S.	142	4.5	90	2.9	70	2.5	70	2.5	47	1.7
Accounting, A.A.S.	23	0.7	31	1.0	24	0.8	30	1.1	39	1.4
Communication Design, A.A.S.	9	0.3	11	0.3	5	0.2	9	0.3	33	1.2
Visual Art, A.F.A.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	1.1
Early Childhood Development, A.A.S.	34	1.1	40	1.3	28	1.0	33	1.2	29	1.0
Information Systems Tech, A.A.S.	70	2.2	32	1.0	12	0.4	17	0.6	25	0.9
Cinema, A.F.A.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	0.8
Automotive Tech, A.A.S.	52	1.6	40	1.3	38	1.3	29	1.1	22	0.8
Engineering Tech, A.A.S.	27	0.9	28	0.9	22	0.8	18	0.7	16	0.6
Fine Arts, A.A.	47	1.5	56	1.8	42	1.5	58	2.1	15	0.5
Interior Design, A.A.S.	11	0.3	9	0.3	5	0.2	9	0.3	15	0.5
Music, A.A.	14	0.4	17	0.5	13	0.5	17	0.6	14	0.5

Program	Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Administration of Justice, A.A.S.	50	1.6	31	1.0	38	1.3	49	1.8	13	0.5
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, A.A.S.	17	0.5	18	0.6	10	0.4	15	0.5	13	0.5
Construction Management, A.A.S.	5	0.2	8	0.3	9	0.3	5	0.2	12	0.4
Marketing, A.A.S.	18	0.6	15	0.5	6	0.2	3	0.1	12	0.4
Photography, A.A.S.	8	0.3	12	0.4	6	0.2	5	0.2	12	0.4
Hospitality Management, A.A.S.	14	0.4	24	0.8	15	0.5	12	0.4	11	0.4
Music Record Technology, Certificate	8	0.3	1	<0.1	4	0.1	3	0.1	10	0.4
Paralegal Studies, A.A.S.	12	0.4	13	0.4	4	0.1	4	0.1	10	0.4
Biotechnology, A.A.S.	7	0.2	6	0.2	1	<0.1	6	0.2	7	0.2
Early Childhood Development, Certificate	6	0.2	2	0.1	9	0.3	3	0.1	6	0.2
Emergency Medical Services, A.A.S.	1	<0.1	1	<0.1	0	0.0	1	<0.1	6	0.2
Music, A.A.A.	2	0.1	7	0.2	6	0.2	3	0.1	6	0.2
Sub Abuse Rehab. Counselor, Certificate	6	0.2	6	0.2	2	0.1	4	0.1	6	0.2
Architecture, A.A.S.	13	0.4	8	0.3	13	0.5	15	0.5	5	0.2
Horticulture, A.A.S.	6	0.2	0	0.0	5	0.2	5	0.2	5	0.2
Culinary Arts, Certificate	7	0.2	5	0.2	1	<0.1	5	0.2	4	0.1
American Sign Language, A.A.S.	5	0.2	9	0.3	2	0.1	0	0.0	3	0.1
Bookkeeping, Certificate	0	0.0	1	<0.1	4	0.1	3	0.1	3	0.1
Contract Management., A.A.S.	3	0.1	1	<0.1	1	<0.1	6	0.2	3	0.1
Fine Arts, A.A.A.	12	0.4	12	0.4	13	0.5	5	0.2	3	0.1
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Certificate	2	0.1	2	0.1	1	<0.1	1	<0.1	2	0.1
Professional Writing, Certificate	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.1
Veterinary Tech, A.A.S.	3	0.1	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1
Administration of Justice, Certificate	1	<0.1	3	0.1	1	<0.1	3	0.1	1	<0.1
Dental Hygiene, A.A.S.	1	<0.1	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1
Multimedia Design, Certificate	1	<0.1	0	0.0	2	0.1	1	<0.1	1	<0.1
Nursing, A.A.S.	0	0.0	1	<0.1	1	<0.1	2	0.1	1	<0.1
Architect Draft, Certificate	2	0.1	3	0.1	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Contract Management., Certificate	2	0.1	1	<0.1	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dental Assisting, Certificate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0
Fire Science, A.A.S.	6	0.2	5	0.2	3	0.1	1	<0.1	0	0.0
General Education, Certificate	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Health Information Mgmt., A.A.S.	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meeting, Event, & Exhibit. Mgmt, Certificate	3	0.1	1	<0.1	1	<0.1	3	0.1	0	0.0
Physical Therapy Assistant, A.A.S.	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Radiography, A.A.S.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0
<i>Not Placed</i>	250	7.9	204	6.5	190	6.7	158	5.7	199	7.1
Total	3,161	100.0	3,145	100.0	2,826	100.0	2,760	100.0	2,817	100.0

Notes: Data is sorted in descending order by Fall 2018 enrollment. Excludes students who graduated high school within one year prior to enrollment at NOVA and dual enrolled students.