

2007 Senior Survey

Highlights

Planned Activities after High School



This document provides highlights of the Class of 2007 Senior Survey. The survey was administered to high school graduates during the spring of their senior year. Approximately 6,400 seniors participated in the survey, representing 84 percent of all public and private Vermont high school graduates.

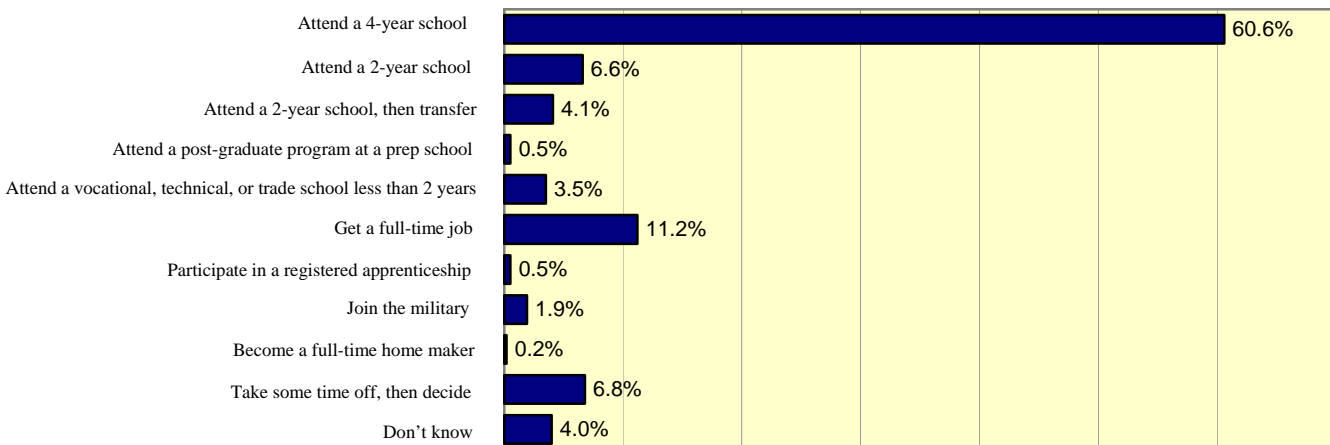
Highest Planned Level of Educational Attainment

The survey asked students to report the highest level of education they plan to complete. Two-thirds of the graduates planned to obtain bachelor's, master's, or professional degrees. Almost 8 percent planned to complete an associate's degree, and 6 percent planned to complete a specialized training program. Six percent reported that a high school education was the highest level of education they planned to complete. Twelve percent were undecided about their education plans.

Plans after High School

In recent years, most graduates reported planning to attend a four-year college after high school. In 2007, nearly 61 percent of graduates planned to attend a four-year college. About 11 percent planned to get a full-time job, and almost 11 percent planned to attend a two-year school. In 2005, 60.1 percent of graduates planned to attend a four-year college, while in 1997, 57.1 percent of graduates planned to attend a four-year college.

Vermont High School Class of 2007 Plans after High School



Aspiration

There are different ways to measure aspiration, or the percentage of seniors who plan to continue their education within six months of high school graduation. One defines the aspiration rate as the proportion of high school graduates who plan to enroll in any type of education or training program at any level of enrollment intensity (full-time, part-time, or less). Using this measurement, the aspiration rate of the Vermont High School Class of 2007 is 76.1 percent. If the aspiration rate is limited to graduates who plan to enroll as full- or part-time students at a two- or four-year school, the aspiration rate is 63.1 percent.

When Post High School Plans Were Made

Typically, the majority of graduates who plan to continue their education after high school make those plans relatively early in their educational career. In contrast, the majority of graduates who do not plan to continue their education finalize their plans in their junior or senior year of high school.

Grade in Which Post-High School Plans Were Made

Non-continuers	Continuers	Grade in Which Plans Were Made
n/a	68.9%	I have always known I would continue my education after high school
8.1%	3.3%	6 th grade or earlier
2.5%	1.6%	7 th grade
5.5%	3.1%	8 th grade
8.9%	6.4%	9 th grade
12.5%	4.8%	10 th grade
21.0%	6.3%	11 th grade
41.4%	5.7%	12 th grade

Future Education Plans for Non-continuers

Almost 24 percent of the high school Class of 2007 did not plan to continue their education within six months of high school graduation. Of this group, almost 61 percent planned to continue their education at a later point. About 38 percent of graduates who did not continue their education immediately after high school planned to enroll in the spring or fall of 2008.

School Location by State

Of the students who planned to continue their education immediately after high school, about 83 percent planned to attend a school in Vermont, elsewhere in New England, or New York. Almost 46 percent planned to attend a Vermont school. About 12 percent planned to attend in New York, 10 percent planned to attend in Massachusetts, and 6.5 percent planned to attend in New Hampshire. In 2005, 43.4 percent of graduates planned to attend a Vermont school; in 1997, 47.7 percent of graduates planned to attend a Vermont school.

Planned Enrollment by Region

Percent	Region	States (sorted in descending order of enrollments)
45.7%	Vermont	
24.5%	Remaining New England States	MA, NH, ME, CT, RI
14.6%	Northeast	NY, PA, NJ
6.8%	Mid-Atlantic and South	FL, VA, NC, SC, DC, GA, MD, WV, KY, DE, TN, LA, AL, AR
4.2%	Southwest and West	CO, CA, AZ, MT, TX, WA, UT, OR, WY, ID, OK, NM, HI, NV,
3.0%	Midwest	OH, IL, MI, IN, MN, WI, IA, MO, KS
1.2%	Foreign country	

Most Important Reason in Deciding Post-High School Plans

Graduates were asked the most important reason in their decision to continue or not continue their education immediately after high school. Below are the top five reasons for each group of graduates.

Non-Continuers: Most Important Reason for Not Continuing Education

Percent	Reason
19.7%	Need a break from school
13.0%	Want to work to support myself
9.2%	Unsure of plans/goals
8.8%	Need to work to support myself
7.4%	Want to travel
7.4%	Can't afford to continue my education

Continuers: Most Important Reason for Continuing Education

Percent	Reason
17.8%	Learn more about things that interest me
15.8%	Make more money
15.3%	Obtain more education
14.9%	Get a better job
14.3%	Job I want specifically requires it

Most Important Factor in School Selection

Graduates who planned to continue their education were asked the most important factor in choosing the school they planned to attend.

Most Important Factor in School Selection

Percent	Reason
24.5%	It offers the best education in my field of interest
10.4%	It has a very good academic reputation
9.4%	It is affordable
8.4%	Its graduates get good jobs
5.6%	It offers unique education programs