

2008-2009 Carroll County Graduates - What are they doing after graduation?

This summary of what our Carroll County graduates are doing after high school was prepared as a result of the Aligning Education to Careers interest in the topic. The chart below is a snapshot in time. It is more reflective of what students plans are than what they successfully achieve in the 4-6 years after high school since college graduation data is not available at the school district level. The information is from the NH Department of Education website.

After graduation choices of Carroll County Graduates 2008-2009 Source: NH Dept. of Education	% Carroll County	% NH	Rank out of NH's10 counties
Total continuing their education	69.1%	73.6%	6
Entering 4 year college or university	47.8%	51%	5
Entering education program – less than 4 year	21.3 %	22.6%	6
Employed	25.1%	16.7%	2
Joined Armed forces	2.4%	3.4%	10

In 2008-2009 fewer of Carroll County's young people enrolled in college or joined the armed forces and more entered the workforce than the state average. The overall rate of college participation is 69% with a range of 65% - 79% across the county's schools. Of particular interest is the chart below which shows a marked difference in the rate of young men entering college compared to the rate of females especially, at the 4-year college or university level. Though this follows the national trends, it is notable that at 32.1%, 12% more of Carroll County males entered the workforce upon graduation compared to 20.3% for the state.

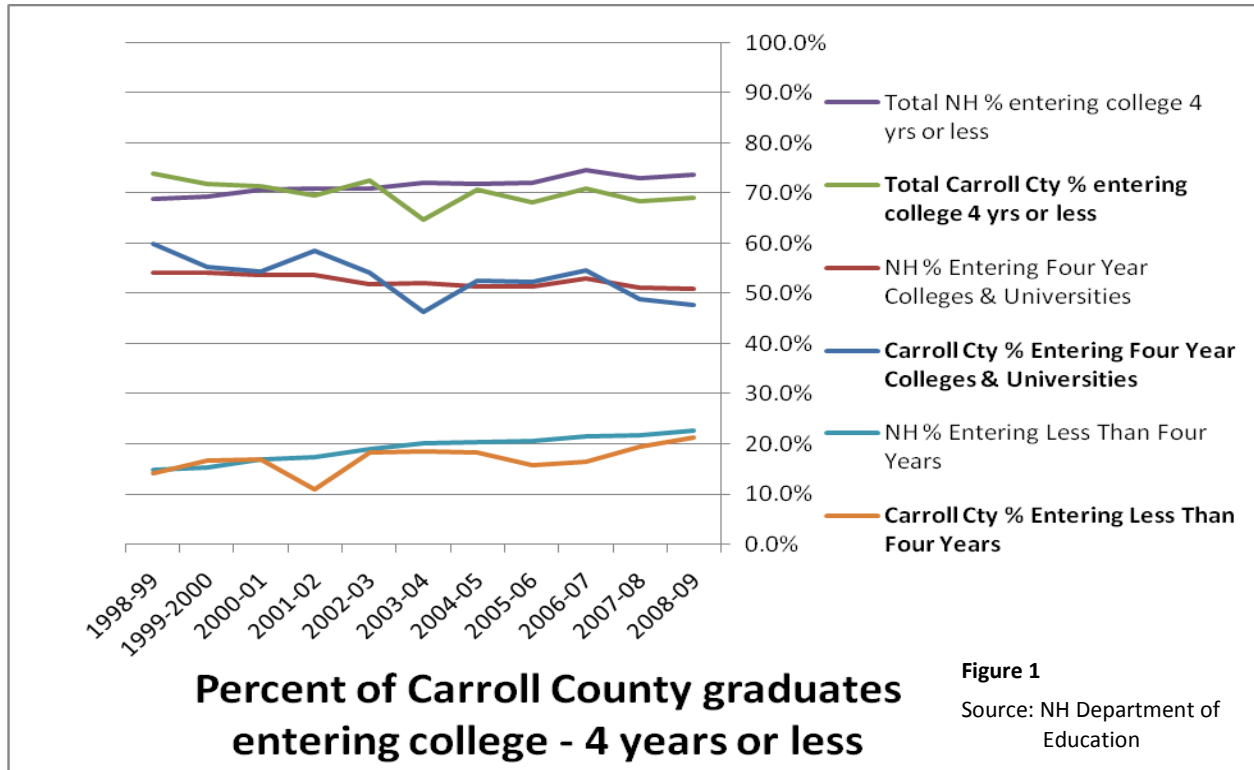
After Graduation by Gender 2008-2009 Source: NH Dept. of Education	% male Carroll	% male NH	% female Carroll	% female NH
Total entering education	59.9	66.6	78.5	80.8
Entering 4 year college or university	37.3	44.8	58.5	57.4
Entering education program – less than 4 year	22.6	21.8	19.9	23.4
Employed	32.1	20.3	17.9	13.1
Joined Armed forces	.4	1.8	0	1.1

Also of interest is looking at the trends of NH and Carroll County college enrollments over time. You can see in Figure 1 below that the trends for both the state of NH and Carroll County is for fewer students to enroll in 4-years colleges and more to enroll in 2-year colleges. We do not know the reason for this though one factor could be that the rate of college tuition increases has outpaced the rate of inflation over the past 10-20 years. Given that lifetime earnings increase significantly the more college education a person succeeds in obtaining, it is a trend to pay attention to.

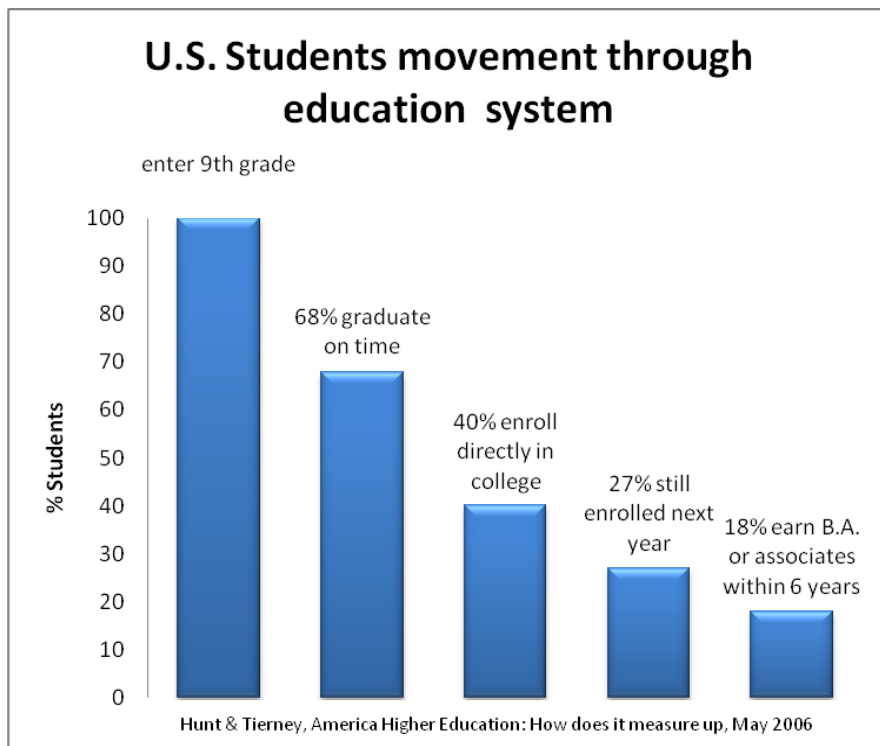
Also of note is that while the overall college attendance rate in NH has risen over the past 10 years, Carroll County's has declined, moving from tied for the first place ranking in 1998-99 to 6th in 2008-2009.

Though we don't have college completion rates for our school districts and counties, we do have some information that can help us understand what the college completion landscape looks like for our NH

and Carroll County students. According to FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) our State University and Community College graduation rates range from 10%-71%. For our two year community



colleges the graduation rates range from 10%-37% while the 4-year colleges graduate students at a higher rate; UNH at 71%, Keene at 46% and Plymouth at 52%. Private schools range from



45% (New England College to 95% (Dartmouth). We do know that more students are using our community colleges as a less expensive option of launching their college careers and it is unclear how students transferring from a community college into a 4-year program are accounted for in the previous figures.

Nationally, the research shows that of 100 students entering 9th grade, only 18 of them obtain an

associates or B.A. within 6 years of graduation.¹

“Only about a third of U.S. high school students graduate ready for college today, and the rates are much lower for poor and minority students. Forty percent of all students who enter college must take remedial courses. And while no hard data are readily available, it is estimated that one out of every two students who start college never complete any kind of postsecondary degree.”²

¹ National Center on Education and the Economy, Tough Choices or Tough Times, Jossey-Bass:2008. Executive summary available at <http://skillscommission.org/executive.htm>

² Wagner, Tony, The Global Achievement Gap, Basic Books:2008