



SPECIAL **RECOGNITION** AWARD

GRAYSON COLLEGE: 'CONNECT. COMMIT. COMPLETE.'

Grayson College is reaching new levels of student success with substantive gains in four-year completion rates and narrowing equity gaps for Latinx students and students receiving Pell Grants.

About Grayson College

Located approximately 75 miles north of Dallas near the Oklahoma border, Grayson College makes it its mission to help students connect to the college and their career, commit to their studies, and complete what they start. Since Grayson joined the ATD Network in 2014, the college has embraced a whole system change process, including a focus on clearer pathways for students that has resulted in students graduating a full year sooner with an average of 21 fewer credits.

According to the U.S. Department of Education Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), the college's fall 2020 enrollment was 4,066, with a demographic makeup



Grayson College

Joined the ATD Network: **2014**

ATD Leader College: **2018**

Leader College of Distinction: **2019**

that mirrors the community it serves (68 percent white, 9 percent Black, 15 percent Hispanic/Latino, and 4 percent American Indian/Alaska Native). Like most community colleges, Grayson College is dealing with the impact of COVID-19, with many students delaying college after high school and others unable to continue due to economic challenges as well as access to technology and broadband. "Simply put," said Grayson President Dr. Jeremy McMillen, "our hearts hurt for the disruption brought on by the pandemic."



THE RESULTS

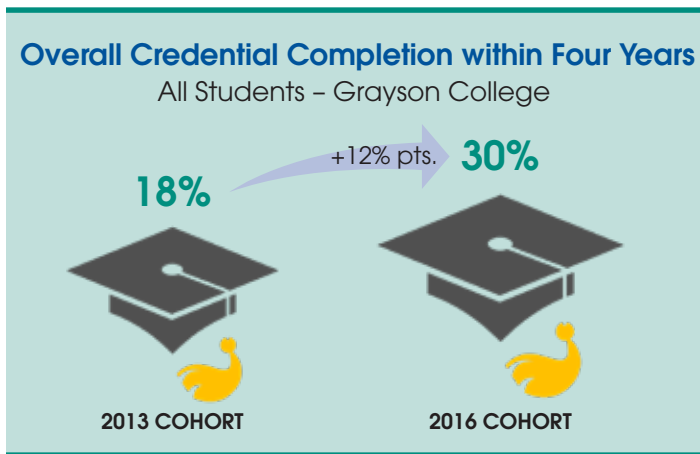
Working closely with ATD, Grayson College leadership aligned its strategic planning and data analysis work with a clear eye on bolstering student success at the course, program, and college completion levels, resulting in significant gains in each area.

- The college increased its overall **four-year completion rate** from 18 percent among the fall 2012 cohort to 30 percent among the fall 2016 cohort, a 12 percentage point

increase. These improvements also include narrowing equity gaps, most notably for students receiving Pell Grants and Hispanic students. The four-year completion gap

between students receiving Pell Grants (30 percent) and those not receiving Pell Grants (29 percent) was narrowed by 15 percentage points, while the gap between white students (31 percent) and Hispanic students (33 percent) was narrowed by 3 percentage points.

- The college increased the overall **percentage of attempted credits that were successfully completed** within a single academic year from 68 percent among the fall 2017 cohort to 73 percent among the fall 2020 cohort, a 4 percentage point increase. Grayson also narrowed the equity gap between white students (77 percent) and Hispanic students (72 percent) on this metric, reducing the gap by 2 percentage points.
- The college has continued its work to increase success in gateway courses during students' first year. Overall, **the completion rate for both English and math gateway courses** increased from 13 percent among the fall 2017 cohort to 26 percent among the fall 2020 cohort, a 13 percentage point increase. Gateway completion equity gaps have narrowed as well, with the gap in gateway English completion between Pell Grant recipients (66 percent) and non-Pell Grant recipients (70 percent) decreasing by 13 percentage points.



LOOKING AHEAD

As it responds to the challenges of the last two years, Grayson College continues to build on its successes, with a particular emphasis on promoting more equitable access to the college. Responding to the high percentage of high school students who delayed college during the pandemic, Grayson created the GC Connect Scholarship for students who had not transitioned to college, resulting in nearly 500 students restarting their postsecondary journey. With the support of Greater Texas Foundation and the College Board, Grayson is now working to launch the Texoma Promise program, which the college projects will support 85 percent of all high school graduates in its service area.

In addition, the college is working to further close equity gaps for racially minoritized students, particularly male students who identify as Black or Latinx. The college is also working to increase the percentage of Grayson students who transfer and complete a bachelor's degree. These efforts, along with a broad range of services, are positioning Grayson to create more equitable, vibrant futures for its students.

As President Millen notes: "We are not at the end of our journey. We will continue to evolve. We know we have many miles ahead if we are to achieve our mission, which is, simply stated, student success."



Achieving the Dream™

LEARN MORE ABOUT ACHIEVING THE DREAM, INC.

Visit www.AchievingtheDream.org
or contact us at info@AchievingtheDream.org or call (240) 450-0075
Follow us on Twitter @AchieveTheDream