

# Student Achievement at Southwestern University

Southwestern University is committed to helping all students attain their educational and professional goals. Degree completion, the pursuit of graduate and professional education, and full-time employment after graduation are among the student achievements we feel help establish the value of a Southwestern University education.

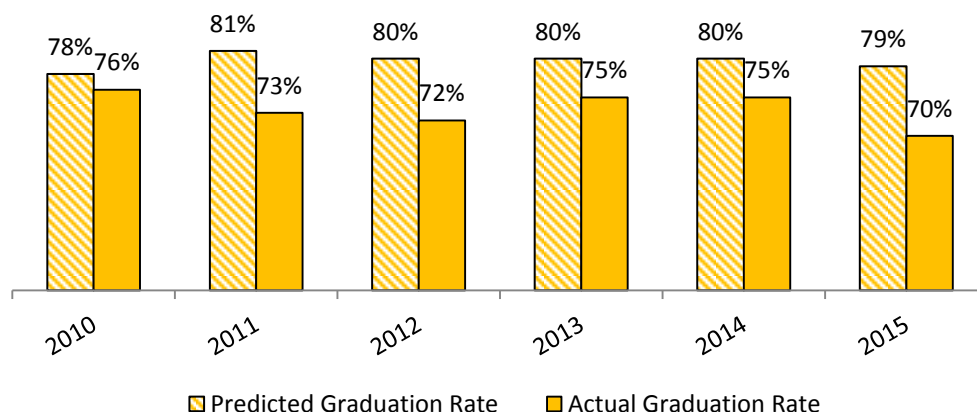
Southwestern has set goals for student achievement and tracks institutional success towards these goals. These institutional goals include the retention and graduation of current students as well as the rates of continuing education, full-time employment (including salary) of recently graduates. The following information is published to provide prospective students, parents, and others with accessible and useful information about student achievement at Southwestern University.

## Goals for Undergraduate Student Achievement

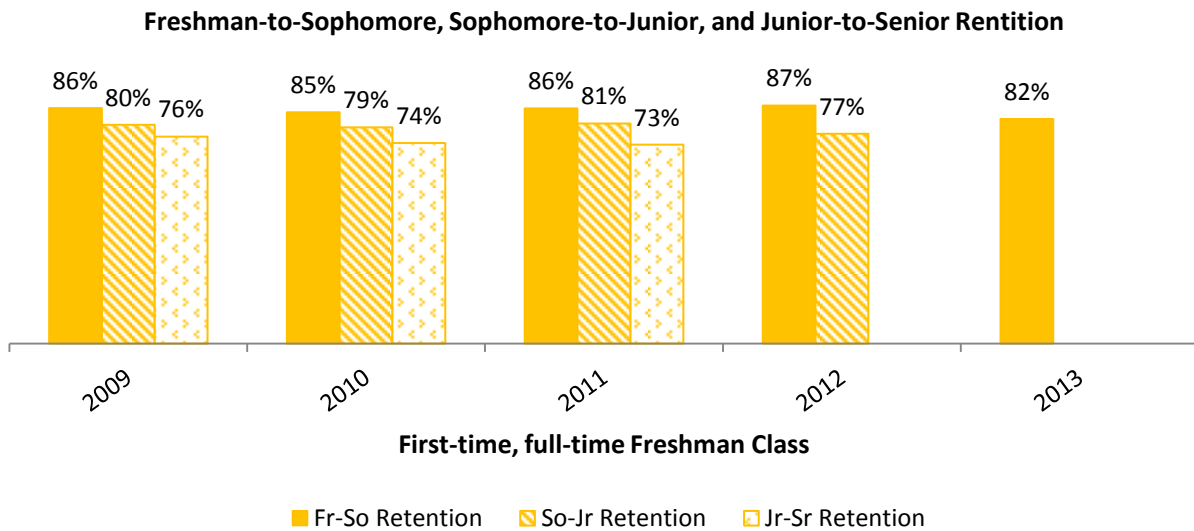
**Retention and Graduation Rates.** One of the primary goals of any undergraduate student is the completion of his or her baccalaureate degree. Southwestern endeavors to see that all students have the opportunity to achieve this goal and tracks students outcomes for degree completion (graduation) as well as year-to-year progress towards degree completion (retention) as a measure of undergraduate student achievement.

**Institutional Goals.** Southwestern seeks to close the current gap between its actual six-year graduation rate and the predicted six-year graduation rate calculated as part of the annual *U.S. News Best Colleges* ranking.

**Goal Achievement:** Southwestern has recently seen an increase in the difference between its predicted and actual graduation rates and is engaged in recruitment, curriculum, and advising initiatives to raise retention rates between the freshman-sophomore, sophomore-junior, and junior-senior years.



Source: US News Best Colleges Rankings data, Office of Institutional Research



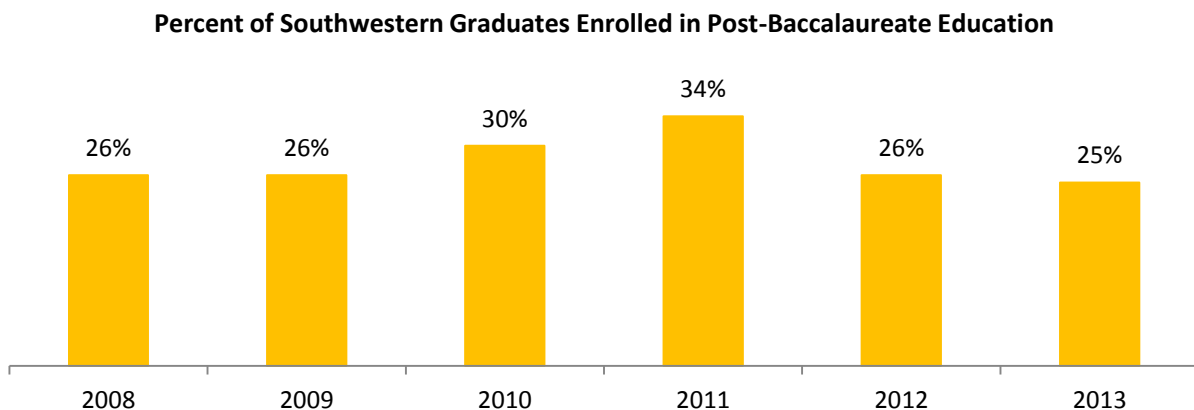
Source: Office of Institutional Research

## Goals for Post-Graduate Student Achievement

**Pursuit of post-Baccalaureate Education.** As an exclusively undergraduate, liberal arts institution, Southwestern seeks to foster a commitment to life-long learning among students, including the pursuit of post-Baccalaureate academic and professional education. Through its nationally recognized Office of Career Services, Southwestern annually tracks the enrollment of recent graduates in post-graduate studies.

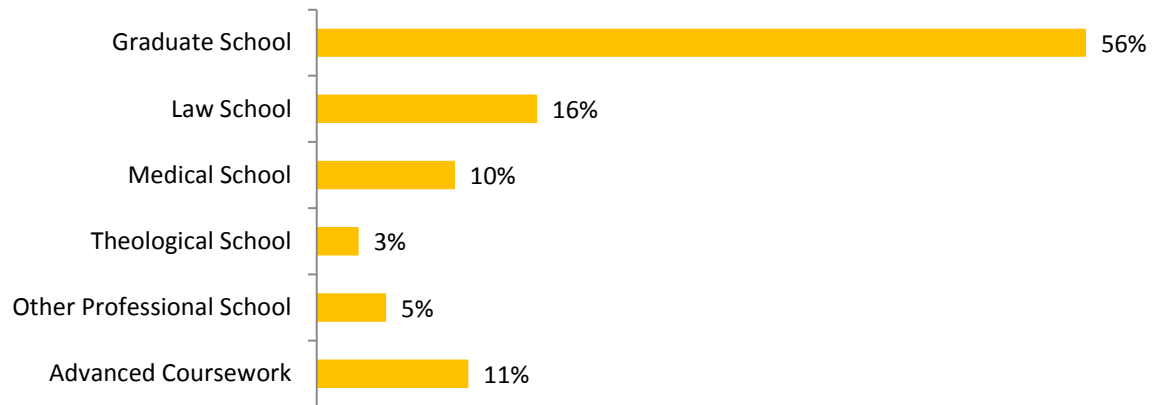
**Institutional Goals.** Southwestern seeks to have at least one-in-four of its students pursue post-Baccalaureate education upon completing their undergraduate degree.

**Achievement.** On average 28% of Southwestern 2008-2013 graduates report pursuing graduate study within the first year of completing their degree. Of these graduates, over half are enrolled in graduate programs in the humanities, natural and social sciences, 16% in law school, and 10 in medical school.



Source: Annual "First-Destination" Survey, Office of Career Services

#### Areas of Post-Graduate Study by Southwestern Alumni, 2003-2013



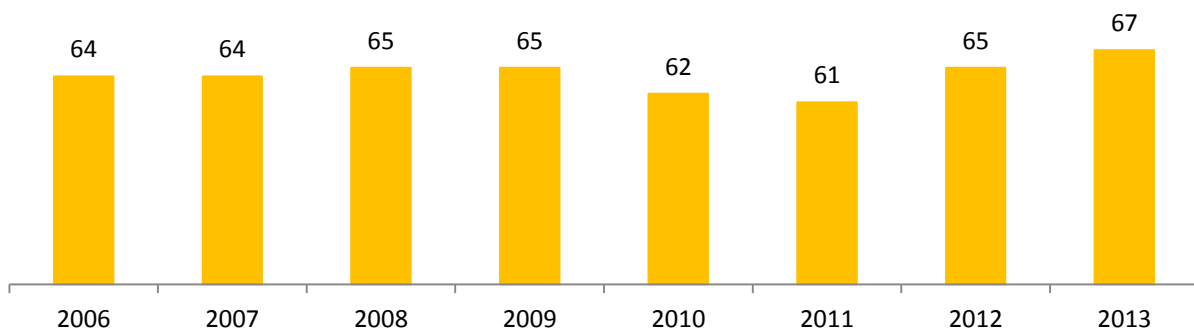
Source: Annual "First-Destination" Survey, Office of Career Services

**Employment after college.** The majority of Southwestern students seek to enter the workforce full-time upon graduation. Southwestern seeks to assist these students in the attainment of this goal through its nationally recognized Office of Career Services, successful internship programs, and active alumni networks around the country. Rates of employment and current salary of recent graduates are tracked annually by the Office of Career Services.

**Institutional Goals.** Southwestern seeks to maintain high rates of full-time employment among recent graduates.

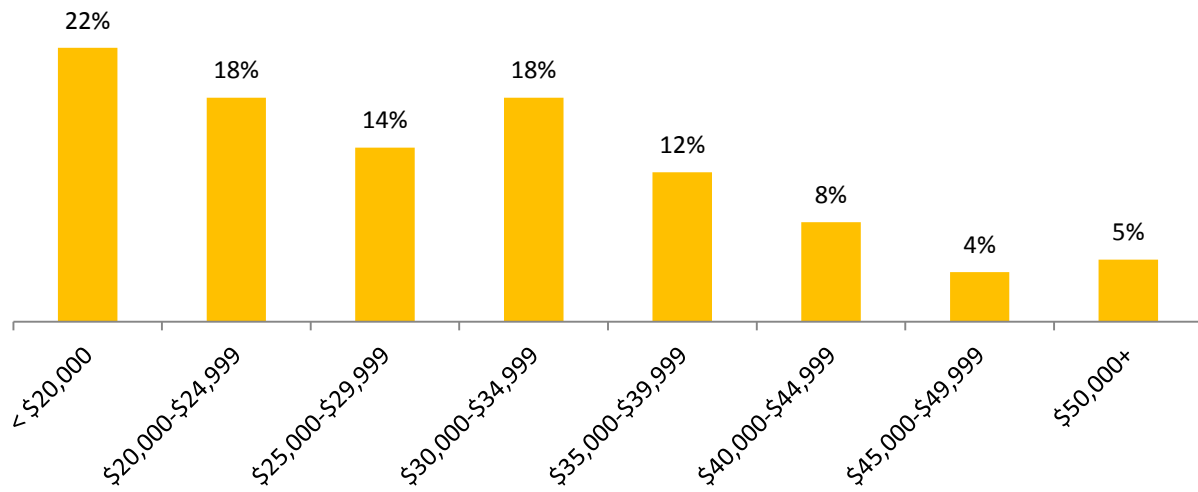
**Achievement.** Currently 64% of Southwestern 2008-2013 graduates report being employed full-time. Of these graduates, currently 47% report an annual salary at or above \$30,000.

#### Percent of Southwestern Graduates Employed Full-Time, 2006-2013



Source: Annual "First-Destination" Survey, Office of Career Services

### Average Annual Salary of Southwestern Graduates, 2000-2013



Source: Annual "First-Destination" Survey, Office of Career Services