

**Harper College
Counts of International
Student Graduates**

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Introduction

As part of its program review process, the International Student Office (ISO) of Harper College was interested in assessing the number of students with an F1 visa that received a Harper degree or certificate, in an effort to gauge the ability of ISO to assist these students toward completion.

Data was obtained from Harper's Regent system of 37 students with F1 status between FY05 and FY07 that received a degree and/or certificate from Harper. It is important to note that not all students with F1 status during FY05 to FY07 graduated in that timeframe; some received degrees or certificates as early as spring 2002 and as late as fall 2007.

This report is organized into three parts including an Introduction, Results and Discussion, and a Summary.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Semester Breakdown of Degrees Awarded to International Students

Semester	Fiscal Year						
	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08
Summer	0	0	0	2	1	1	3
Fall	0	0	0	3	8	5	2
Spring	1	0	1	12	3	6	--
Annual	1	0	1	17	12	12	--

The clear majority of degrees and certificates (85%) were obtained during the examined time period (FY05 to FY07), though Harper degrees were awarded to F1 students in Spring FY02 and FY04 and five more degrees were awarded in Summer and Fall of FY08. No certificates were awarded before FY05 or after FY07. Nearly half of the degrees and certificates (49%) were awarded after the spring semester and 38 percent were awarded after the fall semester, which demonstrates that F1 students were content with acquiring degrees and certificates after alternate semesters (i.e., summer or fall) instead of the traditional end of the academic year.

Table 2: Number of Degrees and Certificates Earned by International Students

Deg/Certs Per Student	Degrees (N=31)		Certificates (N=12)	
	n	%	n	%
0	6	16.2	25	67.6
1	30	81.1	10	27.0
2	1	2.7	1	2.7
3+	0	0.0	1	2.7

Majorities of the F1 students received at least one degree (84%) but no certificates (68%), though 32 percent received at least one certificate (one F1 student acquired four certificates).

Table 3: International Student Degrees and Certificates Comparison (FY05-FY07)

FY05-FY07 Degrees	Certificates			
	0	1	2	3+
0	0	6	0	0
1	24	4	1	1
2	1	0	0	0

A majority of F1 students (65%) acquired one degree and no certificate, while 16 percent acquired one certificate and no degree from Harper. Since 84 percent of the F1 students obtained at least one degree, it is clear that the focus of these graduates was on acquiring degrees from Harper. Seven F1 students obtained multiple degrees and/or certificates; of these graduates, three received a degree and certificate in the same semester (all from the paralegal studies program).

Summary

In an effort to gauge the ability of Harper’s International Student Office (ISO) to assist students with an F1 visa toward acquiring degrees and certificates, the ISO was interested in assessing the number of students between FY05 and FY07 that received a Harper degree or certificate. In the examined time period (FY05-FY07), 37 F1 students acquired a degree and/or certificate from Harper. It is important to note that not all F1 students during FY05-FY07 graduated in that timeframe; some received degrees or certificates as early as spring 2002 and as late as fall 2007.

The majority of degrees and certificates (85%) were obtained by the F1 students during FY05 to FY07 time period, though two degrees were obtained as early as spring 2002 and 2004 and five more degrees were obtained as late as summer and fall 2007. No certificates were awarded before FY05 or after FY07. Nearly half of degrees and certificates (49%) were awarded after the spring semester and 38 percent were awarded after the fall semester, which demonstrates that F1 students are content with obtaining degrees and certificates after alternate semesters (i.e., summer or fall) instead of the traditional end of the academic year.

A clear majority the F1 students received at least one degree (84%) but no certificates (68%), though 32 percent received at least one certificate. Also of note, 65 percent of F1 students acquired one degree and no certificate, while 16 percent acquired one certificate and no degree from Harper. Seven F1 students obtained multiple degrees and/or certificates, where three graduates received a degree and certificate in the same semester (all from the paralegal studies program). With 84 percent of the F1 students between FY05 and FY07 obtaining at least one degree, it is clear that the focus of these graduates is on acquiring associate degrees from Harper either with the intention to transfer to four-year institutions or to broaden their career skills.