

College Going in San Diego County

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Overview

Every year over 150 San Diego high schools graduate more than 30,000 seniors. Many of these graduates go on to enroll in college and attain a degree. The San Diego County Office of Education's (SDCOE) college-going report ¹ provides information for schools who share data with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to answer the following questions:

1. Where are students going to college?
2. What percentage of students enroll in college?
3. What percent of students are retained by these colleges?
4. What percent complete a degree in six years?

Data Background

There is an annual cycle of steps that support creating this report. In the fall, districts submit a list of the past year's graduates for each high school to the NSC. On the following February 15, SDCOE pulls data directly from the NSC to prepare this report. To receive a complete school report, the high school data must be error-free. Any errors in a district's graduates file contributes to errors contained in these reports including county averages. If you have questions about this report, please contact Shannon Coulter.

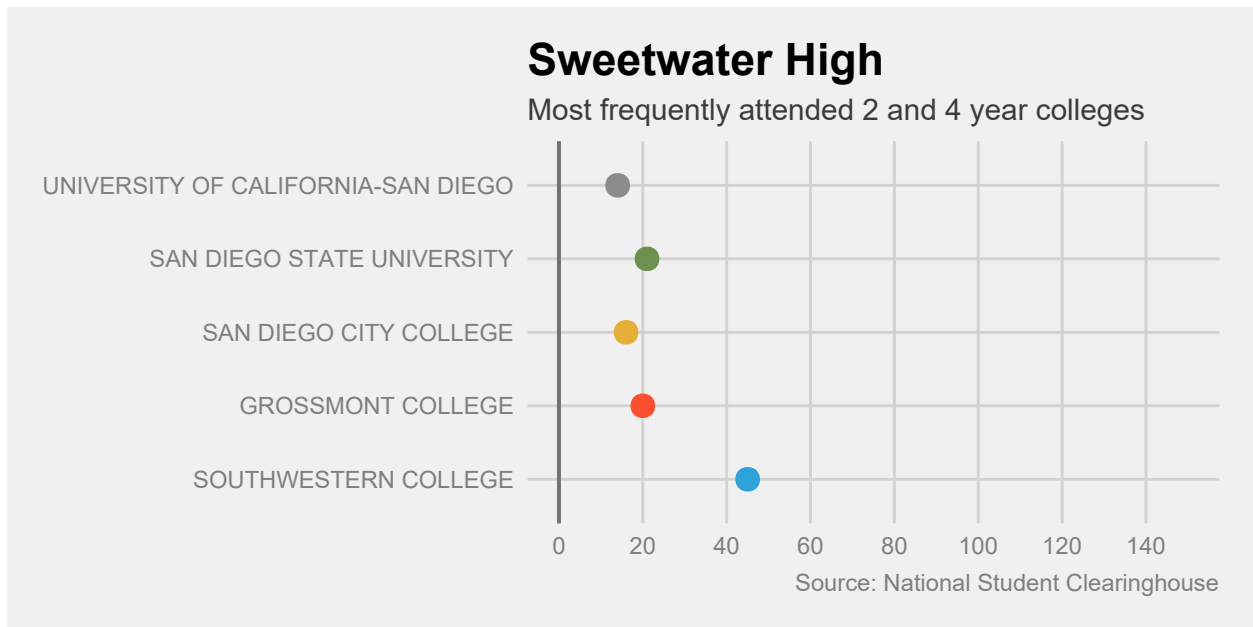
College-Going Rates

In 2020, local high schools reported approximately 26,514 high school graduates to the NSC; the NSC matched 15,964 of these graduates to enrollment records at over 1,900 colleges and universities. NSC records fluctuate annually depending on the districts who upload data to the NSC by November. The following graphs depict where these students enrolled, the percent enrolled, the percent of students from the class of 2019 who stayed at the college where they first enrolled, and the percent of students from the classes of 2013 and 2014 who completed a degree.

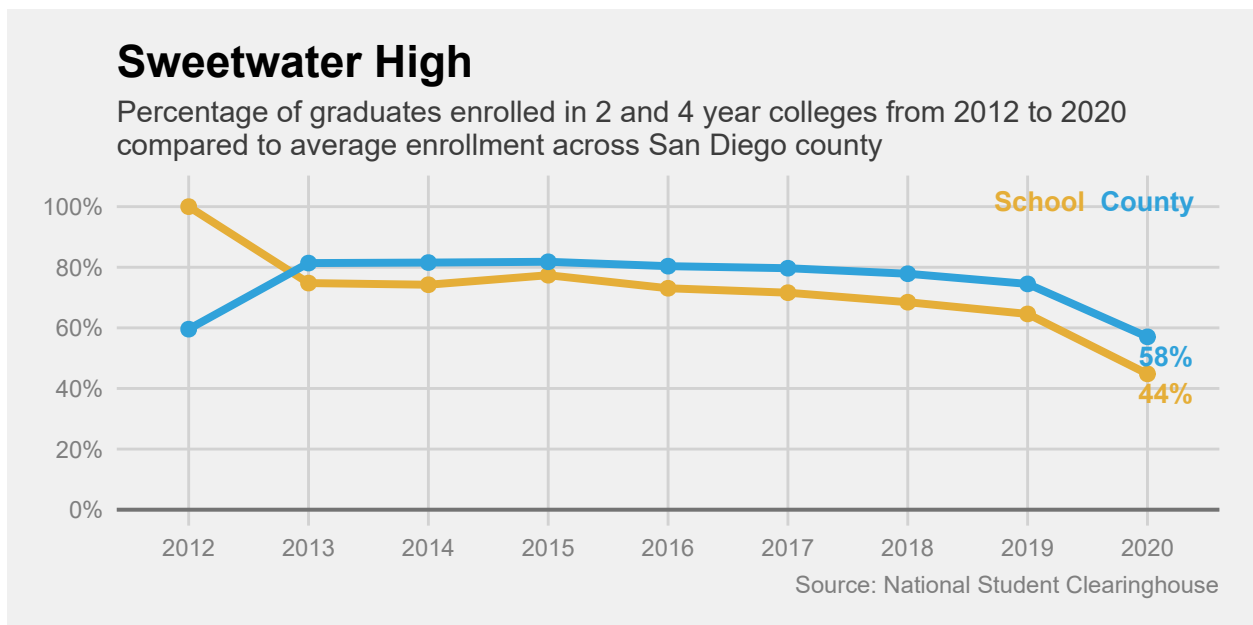
¹National Student Clearinghouse, 2012-2020.

College Enrollment

Students across San Diego County attend over 1,900 higher education institutions. Most students graduating from Sweetwater High attended the following institutions in 2020.

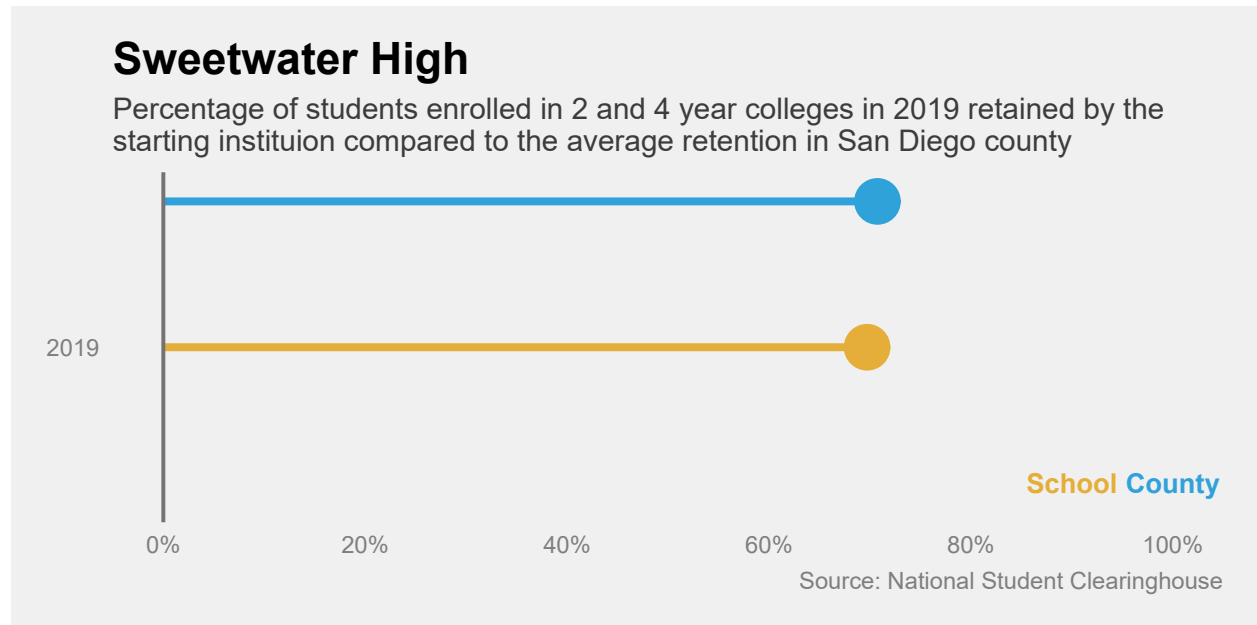


The next graph illustrates the percent of graduates from Sweetwater High enrolled in 2- or 4-year colleges between 2012 to 2020 compared to the average enrollment rates across San Diego county. San Diego County had a steep decline in college enrollment during the pandemic. *Note:* In cases with no school data, we show county averages only.



College Retention

This figure illustrates the percent of students who are retained by their starting institution. Retention is a key factor in college completion. The more students who remain at their starting institution, the more students graduate.



College Completion

The college graduation rates for the students who completed high school in 2013 and 2014 is about 20% countywide (i.e., a six-year graduation rate). *Note:* Colleges report graduation rates many different ways. This percentage might be higher if we count college graduates who completed high school after 2013 and 2014.

