

STUDENTS RUN LA



CLASS OF 2020 SENIOR SURVEY RESULTS

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Methodology

Each year, Students Run LA (SRLA) collects graduation information on its senior class.

On March 8, 2020, 618 SRLA seniors completed the 2020 Los Angeles Marathon. Just five days later, on March 13th, the Superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District announced that students would no longer be attending school in person. Charter school organizations and private schools made similar decisions.

As a result, SRLA relied solely on seniors completing the SRLA Senior Survey online. A unique link was sent to each senior that included a personalized survey that asked questions about plans after high school and how those plans may have changed as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis.

Because SRLA could not ask teachers to follow up with their students in-person, the response rate to the SRLA Senior Survey this year (76.5%) was significantly down as compared to last year (97.4%). Nonetheless, the SRLA Senior Survey results provide a good snapshot on the plans of SRLA seniors before and after the COVID-19 health crisis.

Please reach out to Christine Pajak at christine@srla.org with any questions on this report.

Overall Statistics SRLA Class of 2020

Historically, SRLA has reported a 99% graduation rate with 95% of those graduates having plans to attend college in the fall. The expectations of SRLA seniors before the COVID-19 health crisis closely match these historical results.

	Number	Percentage
High School Graduation		
Seniors Graduating High School	463	97.9%
Seniors Not Graduating High School	5	1.1%
Seniors Not Sure if Graduating High School	5	1.1%
Plans for College Before the COVID-19 Health Crisis		
Seniors with plans to attend college	445	94.1%
Seniors with no plans to attend college	13	2.7%
Seniors who did not know / not sure about college plans	15	3.2%
1st Generation in Family with College Plans Pre-COVID-19		
1st generation college student - Yes	325	75.4%
1st generation college student - No	106	24.6%
1st generation college student - Don't know	14	

The COVID-19 health crisis disrupted life for everyone in Los Angeles. SRLA surveyed the Class of 2020 between April and early June 2020 when many colleges had not yet announced their plans for the fall semester. Not surprisingly, the number of seniors still planning to attend college in the fall dropped; however, the percentage of students who reported to be among the first-generation in their families to go to college largely remained the same. More than 5% of students reported being uncertain of their post-high school plans.

	Number	Percentage
Post-COVID-19 Plans		
Still planning to attend the same college	381	
Decided to switch where I would attend college	42	
Originally did not plan to attend college but will now attend college	4	
Subtotal - Planning to attend college	427	90.3%
No longer planning to attend college	2	
Still joining the military	6	
Originally did not plan to join the military but now will join the military	1	
Subtotal - Planning to join the military	7	1.5%
Still attending a trade school	2	
Originally did not plan to attend a trade school but now will go to a trade school	1	
Subtotal - Planning to attend a trade school	3	0.6%
Still planning to make up credits and graduate high school at a later date	1	
I don't know. Covid-19 is making things confusing and the decision process difficult.	15	
I don't know. I am still trying to figure things out.	10	
Subtotal - Planning is uncertain	25	5.3%
None of the above	8	1.7%
1st Generation in Family with College Plans Post-COVID-19		
1st generation college student - Yes	312	75.0%
1st generation college student - No	104	25.0%
1st generation college student - Don't know	11	

Statistics by Gender SRLA Class of 2020

Historically, female SRLA seniors report plans to attend college at higher rates than their male peers. In 2019, nearly 98% of SRLA female graduates reported having plans to attend college as compared to just 90% of male graduates. Once again, a larger percentage of SRLA women than men report plans to attend college. Similarly, a larger percentage of women than men report being among the first-generation of their families to attend college.

	Female	Male
High School Graduation		
Seniors Graduating High School	232	231
Seniors Not Graduating High School	4	1
Seniors Not Sure if Graduating High School	1	4
Total	237	236
Graduation Rate by Gender	97.9%	97.9%
Plans for College Before the COVID-19 Health Crisis		
Seniors with plans to attend college	227	218
Seniors with no plans to attend college	6	7
Seniors who did not know / not sure about college plans	4	11
Total	237	236
Plans for College Before the COVID-19 Health Crisis by Gender	95.8%	92.4%
1st Generation in Family with College Plans Pre-COVID-19		
1st generation college student - Yes	175	150
1st generation college student - No	49	57
1st generation college student - Don't know	3	11
Known 1st generation college by Gender	77.1%	68.8%

It appears, however, that the COVID-19 health crisis had a greater impact on the college plans of SRLA female graduates. A larger number of women than men are no longer planning to attend college. Before the COVID-19 health crisis, 227 female seniors had plans to attend college but, now, only 211 plan to attend. In contrast, the number of male seniors planning to attend college dropped by only 2.

	Female	Male
Post-COVID-19 Plans		
Still planning to attend the same college	184	197
Decided to switch where I would attend college	26	16
Originally did not plan to attend college but will now attend college	1	3
Subtotal - Planning to attend college	211	216
No longer planning to attend college	1	1
Still joining the military	4	2
Originally did not plan to join the military but now will join the military	1	
Subtotal - Planning to join the military	5	2
Still attending a trade school	1	1
Originally did not plan to attend a trade school but now will go to a trade school	1	
Subtotal - Planning to attend a trade school	2	1
Still planning to make up credits and graduate high school at a later date		1
I don't know. Covid-19 is making things confusing and the decision process difficult.	9	6
I don't know. I am still trying to figure things out.	4	6
Subtotal - Planning is uncertain	13	12
None of the above	5	3
1st Generation in Family with College Plans Post-COVID-19		
1st generation college student - Yes	164	148
1st generation college student - No	46	58
1st generation college student - Don't know	1	10
Known 1st generation college by Gender	77.7%	68.5%

Statistics by Ethnicity SRLA Class of 2020

The SRLA Class of 2020 is similar to the demographic breakdown of prior graduating classes.

	Asian	Black	Latinx	White	Other	Total
High School Graduation						
Seniors Graduating High School	30	7	393	22	11	463
Seniors Not Graduating High School	0	0	5	0	0	5
Seniors Not Sure if Graduating High School	0	0	5	0	0	5
Graduation Rate by Ethnicity	100.0%	100.0%	97.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Plans for College Before the COVID-19 Health Crisis						
Seniors with plans to attend college	28	7	380	20	10	445
Seniors with no plans to attend college	1	0	10	1	1	13
Seniors who did not know / not sure about college plans	1	0	13	1	0	15
Plans for College Before the COVID-19 Health Crisis by Ethnicity	93.3%	100.0%	96.7%	90.9%	90.9%	100.0%
1st Generation in Family with College Plans						
1st generation college student - Yes	16	3	297	5	4	325
1st generation college student - No	11	3	72	14	6	106
1st generation college student - Don't know	1	1	11	1	0	14
Known 1st generation college by Ethnicity	57.1%	42.9%	78.2%	25.0%	40.0%	524

It appears that the COVID-19 health crisis had a greatest impact on the plans of Latinx students, with more than 30 students no longer having plans to attend college. As Latinx students make up the largest cohort of SRLA students, this is not a surprising result.

Post-COVID-19 Plans	Asian	Black	Latinx	White	Other	Total
Still planning to attend the same college	27	7	324	16	7	381
Decided to switch where I would attend college	2		35	2	3	42
Originally did not plan to attend college but will now attend college			3	1	0	4
Subtotal - Planning to attend college	29	7	362	19	10	427
No longer planning to attend college			2			2
Still joining the military	1		4		1	6
Originally did not plan to join the military but now will join the military			1			1
Subtotal - Planning to join the military	1	0	5	0	0	7
Still attending a trade school			1	1		2
Originally did not plan to attend a trade school but now will go to a trade school			1			1
Subtotal - Planning to attend a trade school	0	0	2	1	0	3
Still planning to make up credits and graduate high school at a later date			1			1
I don't know. Covid-19 is making things confusing and the decision process difficult.			14	1		15
I don't know. I am still trying to figure things out.			10			10
Subtotal - Planning is uncertain	0	0	24	1	0	25
None of the above			7	1		8

As reported above, the number of seniors still planning to attend college in the fall dropped as a result of COVID-19; however, the percentage of students who reported to be among the first-generation in their families to go to college largely remained the same across all demographics.

1st Generation in Family with College Plans	Asian	Black	Latinx	White	Other	Total
1st generation college student - Yes	16	3	284	5	4	312
1st generation college student - No	12	3	69	14	6	104
1st generation college student - Don't know	1	1	9	0	0	11
Known 1st generation college by Ethnicity	55.2%	42.9%	78.5%	26.3%	40.0%	