

Measure #4: Graduation – Four Year and Six Year

Value: Stimulating Intellectual Growth
Standard: Efficiency
Sources: Fall student data files (freeze submission), Completions files

Sub-Measures:	
Number of Students who Graduated in Four Years – Overall	
Percent of Students who Graduated in Four Years – Overall	
Number of Students who Graduated in Four Years – Black	
Percent of Students who Graduated in Four Years – Black	
Number of Students who Graduated in Four Years – White (Cheyney only)	
Percent of Students who Graduated in Four Years – White (Cheyney only)	
Number of Students who Graduated in Four Years – Hispanic	
Percent of Students who Graduated in Four Years – Hispanic	
Number of Students who Graduated in Six Years – Overall	
Percent of Students who Graduated in Six Years – Overall	
Number of Students who Graduated in Six Years – Black	
Percent of Students who Graduated in Six Years – Black	
Number of Students who Graduated in Six Years – White (Cheyney only)	
Percent of Students who Graduated in Six Years – White (Cheyney only)	
Number of Students who Graduated in Six Years – Hispanic	
Percent of Students who Graduated in Six Years – Hispanic	

Description of Sub-Measures: The sub-measures are: Number and Percent of Students who Graduated in Four Years (Overall, Black, and Hispanic); Number and Percent of Students who Graduated in Six Years (Overall, Black, and Hispanic). For Cheyney University, White students are used instead of Black.

Notes: The measure includes all first-time, full-time (12 credits or more), baccalaureate degree-seeking freshmen in the cohort; includes fall, spring, and summer commencements. Students must have graduated with a bachelor's degree by August 2010 to be counted as having graduated within the time frame. The measure excludes transfers. Students are included in the cohort whose first enrollment is the previous summer or the current fall. Non-resident aliens and students who have an unknown or multi-racial ethnicity are excluded from ethnicity sub-measures. High school students who take college courses in high school are still first-time when they enroll in college following their high school graduation. Black and Hispanic ethnic categories are in accordance with federal data reporting guidelines. For changes in ethnicity, see explanation in definitions below. Exclusions are also described in the definitions section below.

Benchmark: National Cluster (Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange) by SAT selectivity, based on fall 2010 average SAT score, and Carnegie classification

Benchmark Source: Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange

Desired Direction: For this measure, values above the baseline, benchmark, and System performance target are the desired outcome.

Definitions:

Cohort Year: The year that a full-time student enters college for the first time. For the State System, students who attend university summer sessions prior to the fall cohort year as first-time students or who enter with advanced standing are counted as first-time freshmen on fall reports.

Degree-seeking Students: Students enrolled in courses for credit that are recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award. For this measure, only students who are seeking a bachelor's degree are included.

Ethnic/Racial Categories: Categories used to describe groups to which individuals belong, identify with, or belong in the eyes of the community. A person may be counted in only one racial/ethnic group. The groups used to categorize U.S. citizens, resident aliens, and other non-citizens are: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Non-resident alien, Multi-racial and Unknown.

Ethnicity Changes: Because an increasing number of students are refusing to indicate an ethnicity when they apply to college, or select more than one ethnicity, statistics of students by race now include unknown and multi-racial categories. Some of these students will inform the university of their actual race once they have enrolled; others will change their racial designation later in college. In order to maximize the accuracy of ethnicity data, universities have the option of updating student ethnicity. Original files submitted will not be changed to reflect these ethnicity changes. Graduation rates are calculated based on the ethnicity recorded for the graduation, and the cohort is also changed in cases where ethnicity changed. In the case of universities changing students into the Unknown or Multi-racial categories, which were not options when the cohort was set, these students will be tracked following their original ethnic classification until the cohorts contain the new codes.

First-time Freshman: An entering freshman who has never attended any postsecondary educational institution. This includes students enrolled in the fall term who entered the institution in the prior summer term as well as students who took college classes prior to high school graduation. The definition also includes students who entered with advanced standing.

Exclusions from the Cohort: Students who are deceased, serving in the armed forces, foreign aid, on official church missions or are permanently disabled, may be excluded from the graduation cohort by universities if they supply evidence of one of these conditions (e.g., death certificate, military order, letter). Exclusions were first used for State System universities starting with the 1997 cohort for six year graduation rates, the 1999 cohort for four year graduation rates, and the 2003 cohort for second year retention rates. Once a student is excluded from the cohort, they are permanently removed from cohort calculations from that point forward, even if they return from their time of service.

Graduation Rate: The total number of graduated cohort students divided by the total number of the cohort within the period of measurement. Graduation rates are calculated separately by degree level. Note: Universities are not permitted to report estimated graduation dates on completions files.

Official Enrollment Reporting Date: End of 15th day of class.

Program Level: A structure that organizes academic programs according to degree level. For graduation rates, only baccalaureate (level H) students are included.