UW-Madison Progress to Degree Measures

Graduation Rates

**Definition:** Cumulative percentage of a new freshman cohort who have graduated by a specified time period. It is typically measured at four, five, and six calendar years from entrance.

**Population:** Graduates who started as new freshmen and graduated (entrance cohort).

**Metrics:**
- 4-year graduation rate: 51%
- 5-year graduation rate: 81%
- 6-year graduation rate: 84%

Note: After 6 years, some new freshman cohort members have left UW-Madison and graduated from another institution or are still enrolled.

Time-to-Degree

**Definition:** Number of calendar years that elapsed between the start of a student’s first term as a new freshman and graduation (commencement date).

**Population:** Graduates who started as new freshmen and graduated within six calendar years (degree cohort).

**Metrics:**
- Average: 4.1 calendar years
  (8 fall/spring semesters = 3.74 years)
- Median: 3.74 years
- Mode: 3.74 years