UW-Madison Progress to Degree Measures for New Freshmen

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 within 6 years, by year.

Metrics:
- 4-year graduation rate: 57%
- 5-year graduation rate: 82%
- 6-year graduation rate: 85%

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: Bachelor’s degree recipients in 2015-16 who started at UW-Madison as new freshmen.

Metrics:
- Average: 4.07 calendar years (8 fall/spring semesters = 3.74 years)
- Median: 3.74 years
- Mode: 3.74 years