

The Graduation Rate Dashboard

WASC Senior College and University Commission

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Agenda:

History

GRD Overview

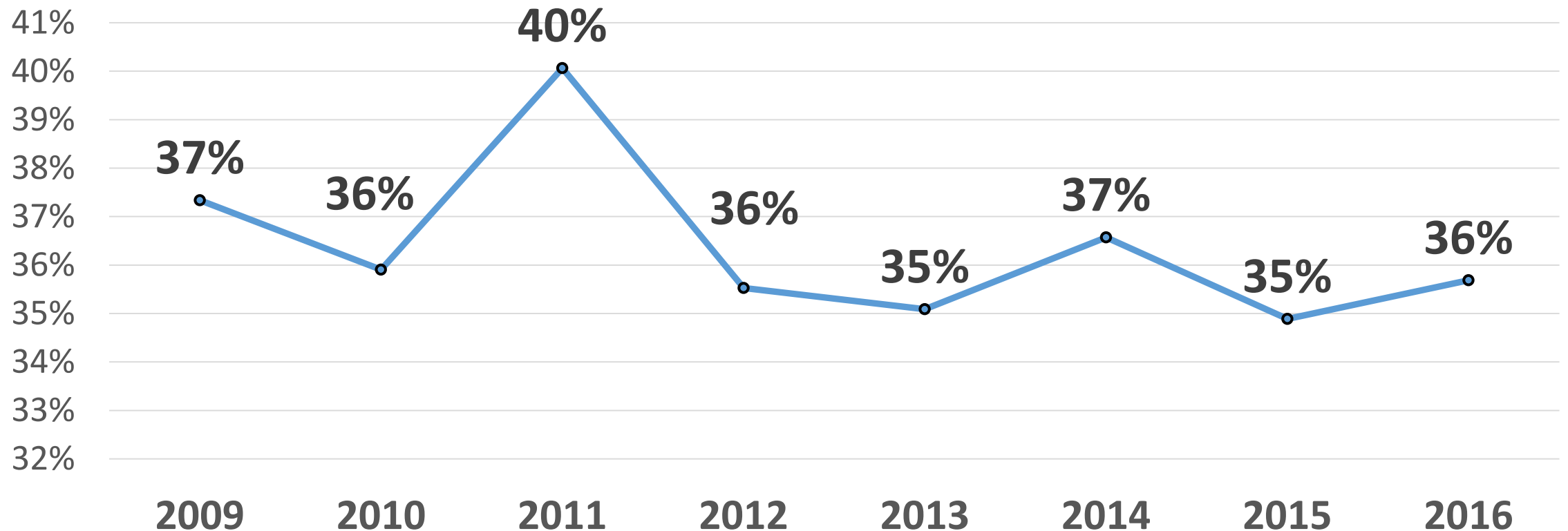
Use Cases

Comparative Data

Benchmarking




Discussion

Average Percentage of WSCUC Graduating Undergraduates in the IPEDS 6Yr FTFT Cohort



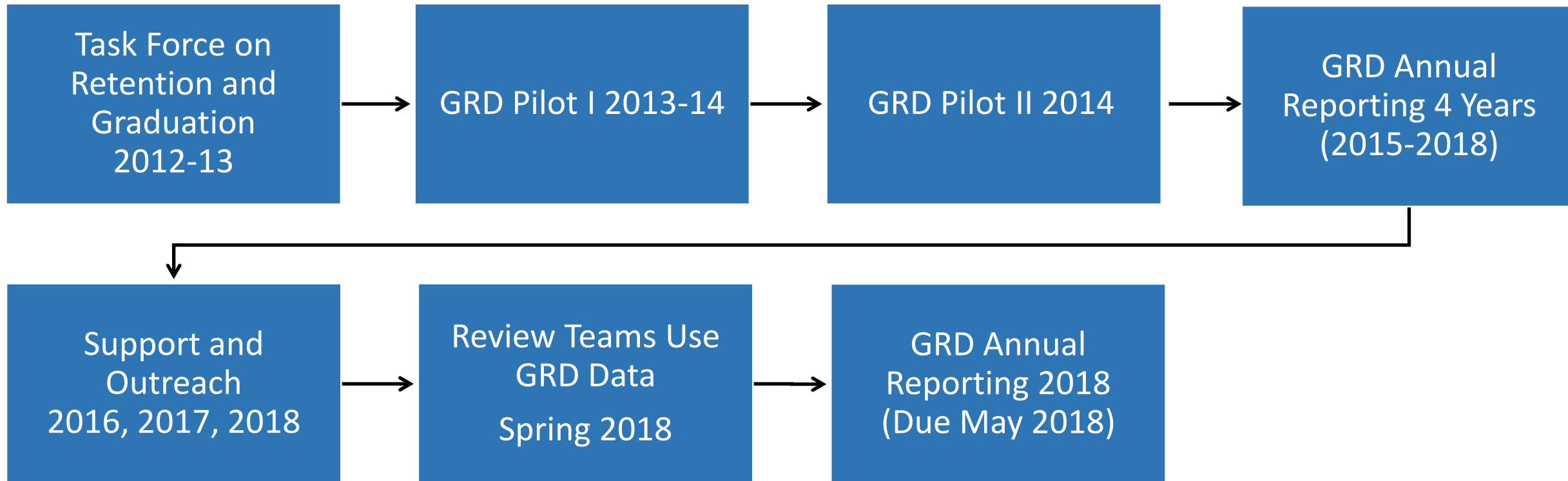
Source WSCUC GRD and IPEDS

What are the features of an ideal Student-Success Measurement System?

Ideal Features			
	IPEDS First-time Full-time Graduation Rates	National Student Clearinghouse WSCUC PILOT	Graduation Rate Dashboard
Measures Institutional Efficiency and Effectiveness and Student Success (Degree Attainment)	✓	✓	✓
of all Undergraduate Students	First-time Full-time students in credit bearing courses	First-time: Full-time or Part-time credit bearing courses	Degree Seeking Students
Regardless of Time to Degree	4 or 6 year cohort	4 or 6 year cohort	✓
In an Annually updated format	4 or 6 year offset for cohort	4 or 6 year offset for cohort	✓
Disaggregated data by Race, Ethnicity, Gender	✓	✗	✗
Accounts for Non-continuing Students	✗	✗	✓
Tracks Individual Students and Accounts for their Transfer Activity	✗	✓	✗
Allows for National Comparisons Using a Range of Filter Criteria	Based on Participating Institutions	Based on Participating Institutions	WSCUC Members
Provides Publicly Available Comparative Tools	✓	Private/Custom	✓
Gives Results in an Easy to Understand Graphical Format	✗	✗	✓
Expected completion rates are adjusted to the profile of students being served	Under construction	Under construction	Under construction

The GRD Timeline (so far)

This effort remains a strategic priority for the Commission



What is the Graduation Rate Dashboard?

6- data points

8- years of trend

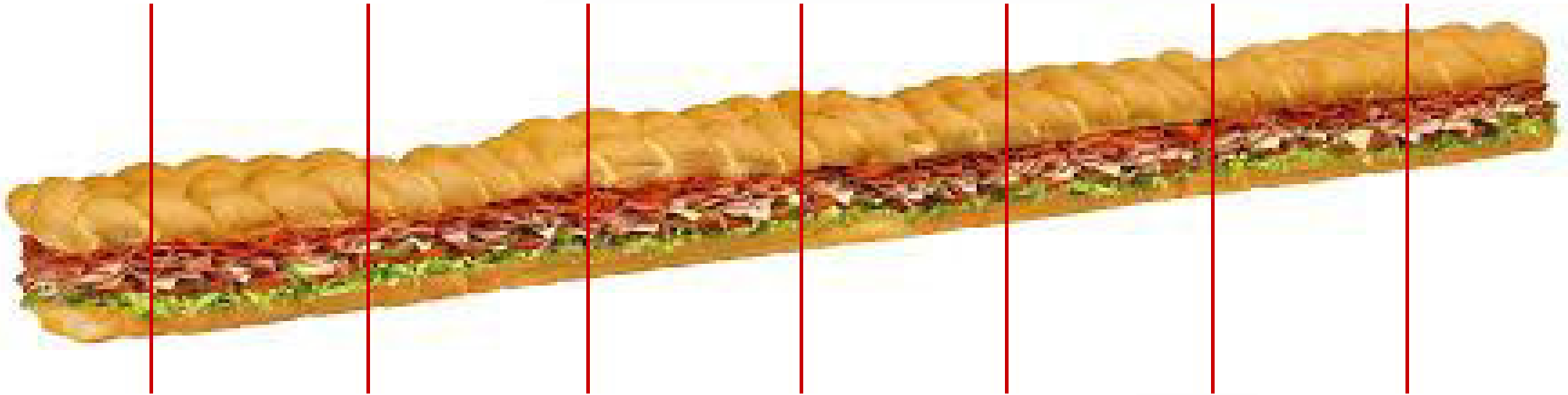
2 completion measures



How is this different than IPEDS?

~~Cohort~~

Student Success Year-to-Year



The 6 Data Points

1. Unduplicated headcount of undergraduate *degree seeking* students
2. Total of number of successfully completed undergraduate units awarded by the institution
3. Undergraduate *degree recipient* headcount
4. Cumulative total of successfully completed undergraduate units awarded by the institution to graduating students
5. Non-continuing student headcount
6. Total institutional units of non-continuing students



Unit Redemption Rate (URR)

The **unit redemption rate (URR)** is the proportion of units granted by an institution that are eventually 'redeemed' for an undergraduate degree from that institution.

Unit Redemption Rate *is not* Graduation Rate

College C, D, E, F: 4-year college; enroll 250 freshmen per year;
50 drop out, but at different points.

	College			
	C	D	E	F
Freshman enrolled	250	250	250	250
Sophomores enrolled	200	250	250	250
Juniors enrolled	200	200	250	250
Seniors enrolled	200	200	200	250
Average units taken per student	x 30	x 30	x 30	x 30
Total units granted (U)	25,500	27,000	28,500	30,000
Graduates per year	200	200	200	200
Average cumulative units per degree	x 120	x 120	x 120	x 120
Total units redeemed (R)	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Unit Redemption Rate (R/U)	94%	89%	84%	80%

Non-continuing students



Kayne West, The College Dropout
2004

Non-continuing students may include



- **Inactive**
- **Drop Out**
- **Stop Out**
- **Withdrawn**
- **(Transfer Out)**

Non-continuing students are those for the reporting year who:

- 1) Successfully completed at least one unit in the previous year**
- 2) Did not graduate with a degree by the end of the previous year or in this year**
- 3) Completed no units in this reporting year.**

A background image showing a group of graduates in black caps and gowns, some holding their caps high in the air, celebrating their graduation. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be the primary focus.

Absolute Graduation Rate (AGR)

The **absolute graduation rate (AGR)** is the proportion of undergraduate degree-seeking students entering an institution who eventually graduate from that institution.

Absolute Graduation Rate

	College			
	C	D	E	F
Freshman enrolled	250	250	250	250
Sophomores enrolled	200	250	250	250
Juniors enrolled	200	200	250	250
Seniors enrolled	200	200	200	250
Average units taken per student	x 30	x 30	x 30	x 30
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Total units redeemed (R)	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Unit Redemption Rate (R/U)	94%	89%	84%	80%
Ratio d	0.25	0.5	0.75	1

$$\text{Absolute Graduation Rate} = \frac{R}{R + \frac{(U - R)}{d}} = \begin{matrix} 80\% & 80\% & 80\% & 80\% \end{matrix}$$

The Graduation Rate Dashboard:

**Unit
Focused**

**'Sees' non-
continuing
students**

**Works on
multiple time
periods**

~~Cohort~~

[illegible]

GRD in Accreditation

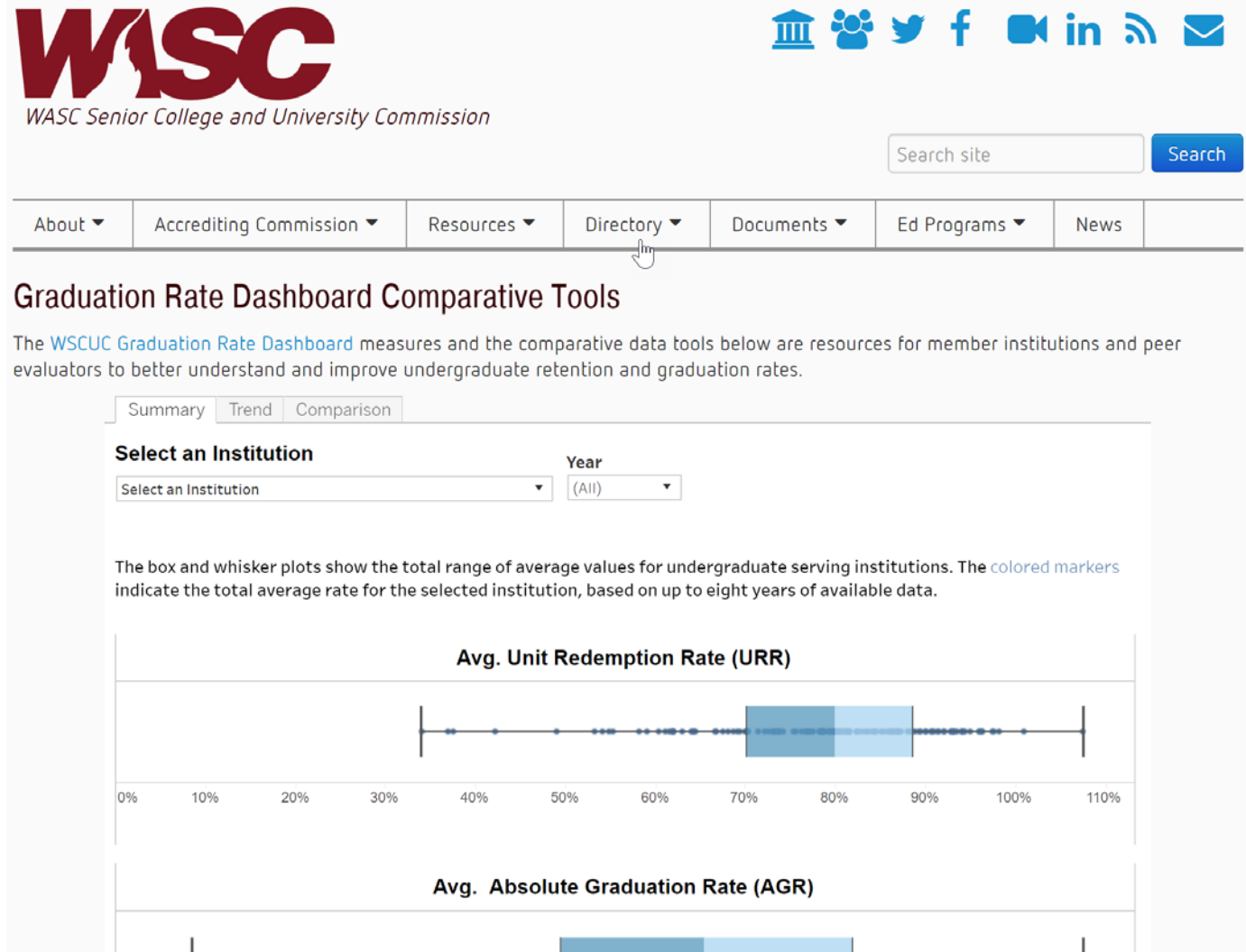
- Required annual reporting element
- Analyzed by staff during Mid-Cycle Reviews
- Required narrative element of student success component of the institutional self-study
- Shared & discussed with peer review teams
- Shared with the Commission
- Publicly available on wscuc.org

What we learned so far...

- Institutions that serve significant populations of non-traditional students appreciate the additional graduation measure.
- Understanding a new method can be hard and data production is a challenge for some institutions.
- Even high performing institutions benefit from looking at URR and Non-continuing students.

Comparative Data

www.wscuc.org/grdtools



Toward a Better Benchmark

- What are the estimate predicted retention/graduation rates using IPEDS and WSCUC GRD-reported data?
- What are the student characteristics that most impact the IPEDS and AGR and URR rates?
- Can we provide interactive tools for institutional comparison and analysis?



-DRAFT- Six-Year Graduation Rates: Actual vs Predicted Benchmark -DRAFT-

Group

Carnegie Classification
(Multiple Selections) ▼

Institution Name
All ▼

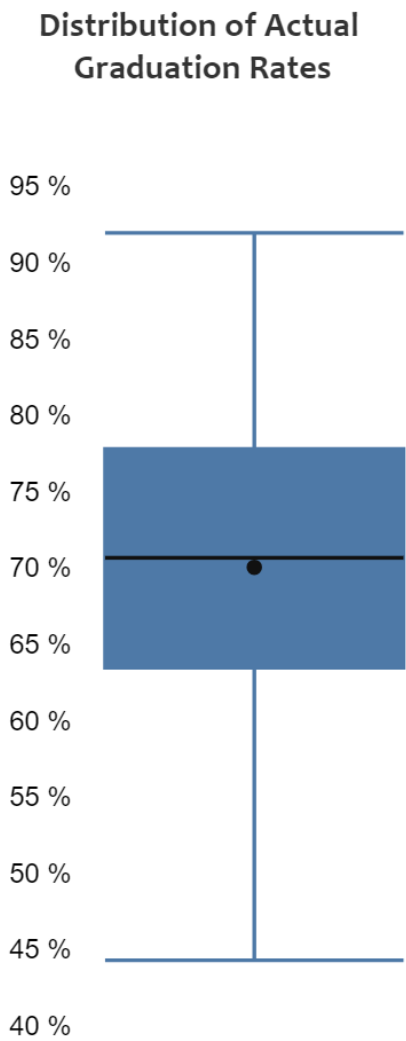
Affiliation
Other WSCUC Affiliation ▼

Enrollment
(Multiple Sele... ▼

Quartile Nation
All ▼

Quartile WASC
All ▼

Institution Name	Actual Grad Rate	Predicted Grad Rate	Actual vs Predicted Grad Rate
	92 %	84 %	8.5 %
	86 %	81 %	4.6 %
	85 %	75 %	10.3 %
	80 %	79 %	1.2 %
	78 %	78 %	0.3 %
	78 %	77 %	0.4 %
	73 %	70 %	3.3 %
	72 %	64 %	7.9 %
	71 %	75 %	-3.7 %
	70 %	70 %	0.2 %
	69 %	66 %	2.3 %
	68 %	65 %	3.4 %
	65 %	74 %	-8.7 %
University of La Verne	63 %	48 %	14.6 %
	60 %	46 %	13.5 %
	57 %	63 %	-6.5 %
	51 %	51 %	-0.3 %
	44 %	53 %	-8.2 %



Total No. of Institutions
18

Avg. Actual 6-YR Grad Rate
70.1 %

Avg. Predicted 6-YR Grad Rate
67.7 %

Actual vs Predicted
2.38

Institution Name

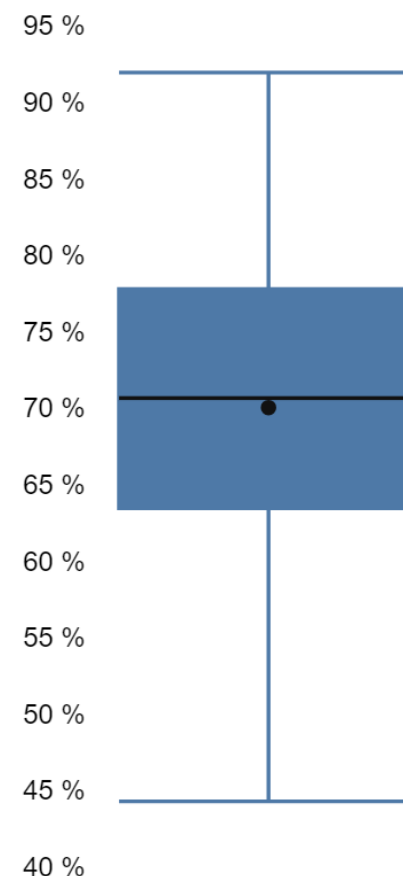
Search 🔍

Data Source
IPEDS, U.S. Public/Private (not-for-profit) four-year and above U.S. institutions (N=1,684). Three-year panel data are based on the 2008, 2009, and 2010 cohorts of First-Time, Full-Time Degree-Seeking Freshmen.
[Click Here for More Information](#)

Carnegie Classification (Multiple Selections) ▾	Institution Name All ▾	Affiliation Other WSCUC Affiliation ▾	Enrollment (Multiple Sele... ▾	Quartile Nation All ▾	Quartile WASC All ▾
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Institution Name	Actual Grad Rate	Predicted Grad Rate	Actual vs Predicted Grad Rate
University of La Verne	63 %	48 %	14.6 %
	60 %	46 %	13.5 %
	85 %	75 %	10.3 %
	92 %	84 %	8.5 %
	72 %	64 %	7.9 %
	86 %	81 %	4.6 %
	68 %	65 %	3.4 %
	73 %	70 %	3.3 %
	69 %	66 %	2.3 %
	80 %	79 %	1.2 %
	78 %	77 %	0.4 %
	78 %	78 %	0.3 %
	70 %	70 %	0.2 %
	51 %	51 %	-0.3 %
	71 %	75 %	-3.7 %
	57 %	63 %	-6.5 %
	44 %	53 %	-8.2 %
	65 %	74 %	-8.7 %

Distribution of Actual Graduation Rates



Total No. of Institutions
18
Avg. Actual 6-YR Grad Rate
70.1 %
Avg. Predicted 6-YR Grad Rate
67.7 %
Actual vs Predicted
2.38

Institution Name

Search



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[Click Here for More Information](#)

Resource Documents

- ✓ Use Cases
- ✓ Whitepaper
- ✓ Templates
- ✓ Definitions
- ✓ Source files

www.wscuc.org/grd

The screenshot shows the WSCUC Senior College and University Commission website. The header includes the WSCUC logo, social media icons, and a search bar. A navigation menu contains links for About, Accrediting Commission, Resources, Directory, Documents, Ed Programs, and News. The main content area is titled "About the Graduation Rate Dashboard" and explains that the GRD measures undergraduate retention and graduation rates. It includes a paragraph about the GRD's methodology and a link to "View Graduation Rate Comparative Tools". Below this is a "Videos" section with a video titled "An Explanation of the Graduation Rate Dashboard (Duration: 1hr)". A "Frequently Asked Questions - Graduation Rate Dashboard" section is also present, with a list of questions and an "[expand all]" link. The right sidebar features "Three Institutional Examples" and "Institutional Use Cases (Duration: 1hr)". The footer mentions "Reference Materials".

WSCUC
WASC Senior College and University Commission

Search site

About ▾ Accrediting Commission ▾ Resources ▾ Directory ▾ Documents ▾ Ed Programs ▾ News

About the Graduation Rate Dashboard

The Graduation Rate Dashboard (GRD) measures undergraduate retention and graduation rates, and its comparative data tools are resources for member institutions and peer evaluators to better understand and improve those rates.

The GRD is included as one element of a comprehensive analysis of student success conducted during the WSCUC institutional accreditation review process. The GRD was developed as a more inclusive method to identify the enrollment, retention and graduation patterns of all undergraduate students. The primary benefit of this methodology is that it accounts for all graduates regardless of how they matriculate (first-time or transfer, lower or upper division) or enroll (part-time, full-time, swirling), or what programs they pursue. Unique to the GRD is that it provides insight into the unit accumulation, redemption, and abandonment patterns of undergraduate students at the institutional level.

Recognizing the diversity among colleges and universities in the region, and the fact that no one metric answers all questions, WSCUC encourages the use of multiple measures of student success.

[View Graduation Rate Comparative Tools](#)

Videos

Unit Redemption Rate

An Explanation of the Graduation Rate Dashboard (Duration: 1hr)

Frequently Asked Questions - Graduation Rate Dashboard

[expand all]

- What is the Graduation Rate Dashboard? (GRD)
- Why was the GRD developed?
- How does the Graduation Rate Dashboard Work?
- How is the GRD used in accreditation reviews?
- Are the GRD measures the only completion measures the Commission references?
- How are the GRD measures different from IPEDS cohort based graduation rates?
- Are all WSCUC member institutions included?
- What is the source of the data for the GRD?

Three Institutional Examples

Actively sought out different types of institutions:

- University of California
- California State University
- Independent
- Creative and innovative ways to use the data at their institutions

Institutional Use Cases (Duration: 1hr)

Reference Materials

Discussion