

College Completion

Who graduates from college, who doesn't, and why it matters.

About this project

College Completion is a microsite produced by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to share data on completion rates in American higher education in a visually stimulating way. Our hope is that, as you browse around the site, you will find your own stories in the statistics and use the tools we provide to download data files; share charts through your own presentations; and comment, start conversations, or provide tips about this important topic.

This microsite is a tool to help you navigate a complex subject: which colleges do the best job of graduating their students. You can also [benchmark institutions](#) against their peers and find all the numbers you need to figure out why some colleges succeed while others fail. The site also offers plenty of links to resources for more information, as well as [past and current news coverage](#) of this topic.

A team of reporters, editors, designers, and technology developers at *The Chronicle* first built this site in March 2012. It was updated with new data in February 2015. The core team included Kimler Corey, Josh Keller, Brian O'Leary, and Alex Richards. The project was led by Ron Coddington and Scott Smallwood. We were also guided throughout the process by a board of advisers. We would like to thank them for their service and advice: MaryAnn Baenninger, president, College of Saint Benedict; John Cavanaugh, chancellor, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education; Bryon L. Grigsby, senior vice president and vice president for academic affairs, Shenandoah University; Rob Johnstone, dean of planning and research at Skyline College; Tod Massa, director of policy research and data warehousing at the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; Patrick Perry, vice chancellor, California Community Colleges; Vincent Tinto, distinguished university professor of education, Syracuse University.

We look forward to hearing your [feedback and suggestions](#).

Jeffrey J. Selingo

Editorial Director

The Chronicle of Higher Education

About the data

The institutions

This Web site examines data and trends at 3,800 degree-granting institutions in the United States (excluding territories) that reported a first-time, full-time degree-seeking undergraduate cohort, had a total of at least 100 students at the undergraduate level in 2013, and awarded undergraduate degrees between 2011 and 2013. It also includes colleges and universities that met the same criteria in 2010.

Graduation rates

NCES/IPEDS:

Graduation data from the National Center for Education Statistics' [Integrated Postsecondary Education System](#) is limited to tracking completions for groups of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students at the undergraduate level.

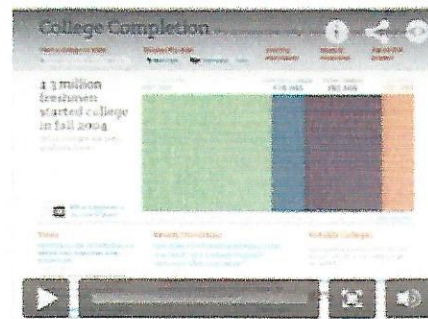
The groups examined typically first entered college six years earlier at four-year institutions and three years earlier at two-year institutions. Colleges report how many students completed their programs within 100 percent of normal time and within 150 percent of normal time. For students seeking a bachelor's degree or equivalent, this corresponds with graduation within four years and six years, respectively.

Institutions report these data based on the length of the program, which can vary for students seeking another type of degree or certificate.

It's important to note that graduation data do not contain information for students who drop out and re-enroll or complete a degree elsewhere.

Voluntary System of Accountability: Graduation and continued enrollment statistics come from the Voluntary System of Accountability's [Student Success and Progress rate](#). The numbers are based on student cohort data from the National Student Clearinghouse for first-time, full-time students and full-time transfer students. About half of four-year public institutions we examined have reported these data. Because it's linked to a particular student

Video tour of this site



Feedback

We'd like to hear from you about College Completion. What are your likes and dislikes?

[Email us feedback](#)

Download all data

The following data files include all 3,800 institutions in our survey. Data limited to particular colleges or states are available on the pages for each.

[All College Completion data](#) (11MB .zip)

[Data documentation](#) (text file)

The code for this project is available under an MIT open source license. See our [GIT repository](#).

Instead of an institution, these figures can show outcomes for students who enter and leave a particular college in a way traditional graduation rates cannot.

While there are similarities between the first-time, full-time completion measures that come from IPEDS and those that exist as part of the VSA, the rates will never completely align for reasons including variations in the time frame examined and the exact group of students—institutions are not penalized for students who cannot be successfully identified from National Student Clearinghouse records.

Race and ethnicity

Until 2009, the NCES classified students in seven ways: White, non-Hispanic; Black, non-Hispanic; American Indian/Alaskan Native; Asian/Pacific Islander; unknown race or ethnicity; and nonresident. In addition to creating a stronger separation between race and ethnicity categories, [two new race categories were created](#): Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (previously combined with Asian students) and students who belong to two or more races.

The new race classifications have not been adopted by all institutions—they are given the option to use the old categories, the new categories, or a mixture of the two.

Because of that, graduation data specific to race since 2008 may be affected by these differences in classification.

To match previous years, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander has been combined with Asian. Students reported as being of two or more races, nonresident, or unknown are included in totals but not shown separately.

At two-year institutions, the number of graduates within 100 percent of normal time is not available before 2009 and is never broken down by race or gender.

Efficiency measures

"Awards per 100 full-time undergraduate students" includes all undergraduate-level completions reported by the institution to the NCES: bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, and certificate programs of less than four years in length. Full-time-equivalent undergraduates are estimated from the number of credit hours taken at the institution in an academic year. To account for changes in enrollment, the resulting metric is a three-year average of data from 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Expenditure categories are slightly different depending on whether the institution is public, private non-profit, or private for-profit. The spending types considered to be educational in nature, either directly or indirectly, are: instruction, student services, academic support, institutional support, operations, and maintenance. Because separate spending figures are not available for only undergraduate students, the measure includes graduate degrees, post-master's certificates, and all doctorates.

In context

At four-year institutions, the graduation rates and percent rank shown are only for bachelor's-degree-seeking students.

The median estimated SAT score is derived from the 25th and 75th percentile scores for reading and math submitted to the institution by students in the 2013 entering class. For students submitting an ACT score, an approximate equivalent was generated based on a conversion formula for English and mathematics from ACT. The estimate is derived from all submitted tests—in some cases, admitted students submitted both. Score estimates and percent rank within sector are displayed for four-year publics and four-year private nonprofit institutions only, and at least 90 percent of incoming students must have submitted a score for it to be included.

Average student aid is equal to the total amount of grants, loans, and scholarships awarded by the institution, divided by the number of recipients in 2013.

Pell grant percentage corresponds with the total share of undergraduates receiving a Pell grant.

Endowment figures are based on values at the end of 2013 calendar year, divided by the total number of enrolled full-time-equivalent students that year.

Full-time faculty members are full-time employees focused on instruction, research, and/or public service, excluding employees who explicitly work for a medical school.

User Agreement

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In addition, this site is financed by support provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the purpose of providing comparative information concerning higher education in the U.S. and providing a forum for commenting and opinion sharing on that information. The site may not be used to post partisan political statements supporting or opposing specific legislation or candidates for public office. All statements and materials posted on the site reflect the views of the individual contributors and do not reflect the views of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation or *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Some of the icons on the site are designed by [Glyphish](#).

College Completion

Who graduates from college, who doesn't, and why it matters.

Southwestern College (Kan.)

Winfield, Kansas

4-year private not-for-profit

1,358 undergraduates

sckans.edu

In Context

This chart shows how this college compares with all 4-year private not-for-profit colleges in the U.S.



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Compare to Peers

Showing 1–10 of 20

Peer group

KS 4-year Private not-for-profit

Metric

completions per undergraduate

College	Completions per 100 FTE undergraduates
1 Southwestern College (Kan.)	37.3
2 Friends University	34.6
3 Baker University	34.2
4 MidAmerica Nazarene University	30.4
5 Cleveland Chiropractic College of Kansas City	29.1
6 University of Saint Mary	22.7
7 McPherson College	22.3
8 Kansas Wesleyan University	22.2
9 Manhattan Christian College	21.9
10 Tabor College	21.5

College Completion

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Southwestern College (Kan.)

Winfield, Kansas

4-year private not-for-profit

1,358 undergraduates

sckans.edu

Compare to Peers

Showing 1–10 of 20

Peer group

KS 4-year Private not-for-profit

Metric

graduation rates

College	% graduating in six years
5 Southwestern College (Kan.)	52.9%
1 Benedictine College	59.2%
2 MidAmerica Nazarene University	55.3%
3 Tabor College	54.2%
4 University of Saint Mary	53.0%
6 Bethel College (Kan.)	52.8%
7 Baker University	52.0%
8 Barclay College	50.0%
9 Newman University	49.6%
10 McPherson College	49.3%

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Winfield, Kansas

4-year private not-for-profit

1,358 undergraduates

sckans.edu

Compare to Peers

Showing 11–20 of 20

Peer group

Metric

KS 4-year Private not-for-profit

graduation rates

College	% graduating in six years
5 Southwestern College (Kan.)	52.9%
11 Kansas Wesleyan University	42.7%
12 Sterling College (Kan.)	42.4%
13 Central Christian College of Kansas	40.0%
14 Bethany College (Kan.)	39.1%
15 Ottawa University	33.5%
16 Friends University	32.4%
17 Manhattan Christian College	27.0%
18 Cleveland Chiropractic College of Kansas City	0
19 Donnelly College	N/A
20 Wright Career College	N/A

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Southwestern College (Kan.)

Winfield, Kansas

4-year private not-for-profit

1,358 undergraduates

sckans.edu

Compare to Peers

Showing 1–10 of 20

Peer group

KS 4-year Private not-for-profit

Metric

student aid

College	Student aid avg. per undergraduate recipient
14 Southwestern College (Kan.)	\$9,901 <input type="text"/>
1 Ottawa University	\$17,611 <input type="text"/>
2 Bethany College (Kan.)	\$14,714 <input type="text"/>
3 Bethel College (Kan.)	\$13,708 <input type="text"/>
4 Newman University	\$13,496 <input type="text"/>
5 McPherson College	\$13,143 <input type="text"/>
6 Kansas Wesleyan University	\$13,096 <input type="text"/>
7 Tabor College	\$13,058 <input type="text"/>
8 Benedictine College	\$13,051 <input type="text"/>
9 Sterling College (Kan.)	\$11,966 <input type="text"/>
10 Baker University	\$11,706 <input type="text"/>

College Completion

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Winfield, Kansas

4-year private not-for-profit

1,358 undergraduates

sckans.edu

Compare to Peers

Showing 1–10 of 20

Peer group

KS 4-year Private not-for-profit

Metric

educational spending per comple

College	Educational spending per completion
20 Southwestern College (Kan.)	\$29,978 <input type="text"/>
1 Ottawa University	\$287,451 <input type="text"/>
2 McPherson College	\$100,874 <input type="text"/>
3 Bethel College (Kan.)	\$99,855 <input type="text"/>
4 Wright Career College	\$91,488 <input type="text"/>
5 Bethany College (Kan.)	\$84,875 <input type="text"/>
6 Manhattan Christian College	\$82,449 <input type="text"/>
7 Donnelly College	\$71,600 <input type="text"/>
8 Cleveland Chiropractic College of Kansas City	\$70,937 <input type="text"/>
9 Tabor College	\$70,234 <input type="text"/>
10 Benedictine College	\$65,575 <input type="text"/>

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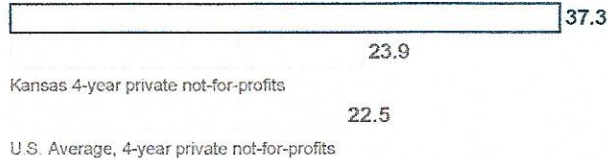
sckans.edu

Efficiency

Completions per 100 students

A ratio which shows the total number of undergraduate-level completions (degrees and certificate programs of at least one year in length) per total 100 full-time equivalent undergraduates, based on total credit hours taken. It's the three-year average for 2011, 2012, and 2013, and includes all undergraduate students, not only the first-time, full-time ones.

37.3



Educational spending per completion

Estimated educational spending (expenses related to instruction, student services, academic support, institutional support, operations and maintenance) per academic award in 2013. Includes all certificates and degrees.

\$29,978

