

Student Success: Credits-to-degree and Graduation Rates

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Systemwide Progress Toward Achieving Credits-to-Degree Targets

Class	Average Credits
1994-95	145
1995-96	144
1996-97	143
1997-98	142
1998-99	140
1999-00	139
2000-01	137
2001-02	136

- Achieved 2000-01 Goal of 140 credits in 1998-99
- Credits-to-degree have continued to decline

Institutional Progress Toward Achieving Credits-to-Degree Targets

Surpassed		Achieved		Did Not Achieve
Green Bay	(135)	Eau Claire	(140)	Whitewater (140)
La Crosse	(141)	Oshkosh	(144)	
Madison	(125)	Parkside	(139)	
Milwaukee	(141)			
Platteville	(147)			
River Falls	(136)			
Stevens Point	(141)			
Stout	(142)			
Superior	(136)			

Numbers in parenthesis are average credits-to-degree for 2001-02 graduates

Systemwide Progress Toward Achieving Retention Targets

Cohort	Actual	Target
1994	76.6%	
1995	77.6%	
1996	78.2%	
1997	78.5%	
1998	78.5%	
1999	78.7%	78.4%
2000	78.8%	78.9%
2001	79.5%	79.5%
2002		80.3%
2003		81.1%
2004		82.0%

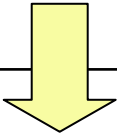
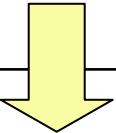
➤ System progress toward targets on schedule

Note: Retention rates are for students retained at the institution where they started

Institutional Progress Toward Achieving Retention Targets

Exceeded Target	Achieved Target	Mixed Progress
Green Bay	Eau Claire	Parkside
La Crosse	Madison	Platteville
Milwaukee	Oshkosh	River Falls
Stevens Point	Whitewater	Stout
Superior		

Systemwide Progress Toward Achieving Graduation Rate Targets

Cohort	Actual	Target
1989	59.9%	
1990	57.6%	
1991	56.9%	
1992	58.5%	
1993	59.5%	
1994	59.3%	59.0%
1995	60.5%	60.5%
1996	61.9%	60.7%
1997		61.0%
		
2004		64.0%

- System progress toward targets ahead of schedule

Note: Graduation rates are for students graduating anywhere in the system

Institutional Progress Toward Achieving Graduation Rate Targets

Exceeded Target	Achieved Target	Mixed Progress
Eau Claire	Green Bay	Oshkosh
La Crosse	Madison	Parkside
Milwaukee	Platteville	River Falls
Stevens Point		Stout
Whitewater		Superior

Six-Year Graduation Rates at Institution Where Started Full-time New Freshmen

	Six-Year Graduation Rates					
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
UW System	51.7%	52.7%	53.0%	53.3%	54.8%	55.8%
National*	47.6%	47.6%	47.9%	48.2%		

* Public four-year institutions

Bachelors Degree Awarded

Class	Degrees
1976-77	16,395
1981-82	17,545
1986-87	19,762
1991-92	20,585
1996-97	19,625
2001-02	21,304

- Bachelors degrees awarded in 2001-02 at an all-time high
- UW System on track to create 1,000 additional degree recipients from each entering class

Institutional Plans for Achieving Retention and Graduation Targets

- There is no silver bullet – improving retention and graduation rates requires a variety of approaches
- Success requires commitment of entire campus community
- The goal is to help students to succeed, not to change a number

Advising and Career Planning

- Integrate academic and career counseling
- Use technology to supplement advising
- Advising tailored to the needs of specific groups, e.g., education majors, undeclared students, students in residence halls
- Peer advising/mentoring
- Increased support for faculty advising

Early Contacts and Orientation

- Expand orientation programs
- Link orientation to advising
- Integrate advice about college expectations into recruiting
- Expand orientation for parents
- Establish early contacts with faculty
- Programs to integrate students into social and academic life of the campus

Freshman Year Experience

- Expand freshman seminars
- Freshman year courses for professional programs
- Residence hall programs, e.g., interest groups, learning communities
- Increased attention to freshman instruction
- Freshman mentoring

Intrusive Interventions

- Programs for students at risk, e.g., tutoring, advising, mentoring
- Reach out to students in transition
- Monitoring academic progress of freshmen
- Developmental discipline
- Reach out to students in financial difficulty

Excess Credits Policy

- Current approach focuses on average credits
- Alternative approach focuses on students with more than 165 credits

Class	Average Credits	Students Taking > 165 Credits
1993-94	145	3,300
2001-02	136	1,900

Policy Components

- Institutions will review the requirements for all programs which require more than 130 credits
- Each institution will develop a process to identify and counsel students who are progressing in a manner that will result in their accumulating excess credits
- Starting in 2004, all students with more than 165 credits (or 30 credits more than required for their degree) will be assessed a surcharge equal to 100% of regular resident tuition