

Southwest Minnesota State University Student Right-To-Know Graduation and Transfer-Out Rates

What is Student Right-To-Know?

Student Right-To-Know is a federal law that requires all colleges and universities to disclose certain information to students. This handout provides the information that a university must provide to students on graduation rates and transfer-out rates for full-time students seeking degrees at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU).

What is a graduation rate and what is a transfer-out rate?

Federal regulations specify how to calculate the graduation and transfer rates. The rates come from a study of SMSU students who started at the university in the fall of 2011. The study includes all first-time students who enrolled full-time that fall and were seeking to earn a degree at the university. The **graduation rate** is the percentage of these students who graduated from SMSU within six years. The **transfer-out rate** is the percentage of these students who did not graduate from SMSU, but instead transferred to another college or university within six years.

What do I need to know about these rates?

These rates do not report on all students at Southwest Minnesota State University. The 405 first-time, full-time students in the study were 6 percent of all undergraduate students enrolled in fall of 2011.

What are the graduation and transfer-out rates for Southwest Minnesota State University students and how do they compare to rates for other universities?

- The **graduation rate** for SMSU was 45 percent.
- The **transfer-out rate** for SMSU was 39 percent.
- The combination of the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate was 84 percent. The national average combined rate for similar universities was 73 percent.

Why don't more Southwest Minnesota State University students graduate or transfer in six years?

- Some students take jobs before they graduate;
- Students who switch from full-time to part-time enrollment or “stop out” for one or more semesters are more likely to take more than six years to graduate;
- Other students delay their education for personal, family or financial reasons.

Disaggregated Student Right-to-Know Graduation and Transfer-out Rates			
Southwest Minnesota State University	Graduation Rate	Transfer-out Rate	Combined Rate
Total Cohort	45%	39%	84%
Race Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*
Black or African American	*	*	*
Hispanic of any race	*	*	*
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*	*	*
Nonresident Alien	*	*	*
Two or more races	*	*	*
Unknown race and ethnicity	*	*	*
White	48%	37%	85%
Gender			
Female	48%	39%	87%
Male	42%	38%	80%
Financial Aid			
Pell Grant Recipient	40%	39%	78%
Received neither Pell nor Subsidized Stafford Loans	50%	39%	88%
Received Subsidized Stafford Loans, but no Pell	46%	40%	86%

* Suppressed to protect student privacy.

Due to rounding, percentages may not always appear to add up.