

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 2016. 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 478 first-time, full-time students in the study were 7 percent of all undergraduate students enrolled in fall of 2016.

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 41 percent.
- The **transfer-out rate** for SMSU was 31 percent.
- The combination of the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate was 72 percent. The national average combined rate for similar universities was 74 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

By Total Cohort

| Southwest Minnesota State University | Graduation Rate | Transfer-out Rate | Combined Rate |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Total Cohort | 41% | 31% | 72% |

By Race Ethnicity

| Race Ethnicity | Graduation Rate | Transfer-out Rate | Combined Rate |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| American Indian or Alaska Native | * | * | * |
| Asian | * | * | * |
| Black or African American | 14% | 42% | 56% |
| Hispanic of any race | 18% | 59% | 77% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | * | * | * |
| U.S. Nonresident | 21% | 19% | 40% |
| Two or more races | 40% | 32% | 72% |
| Unknown race and ethnicity | 36% | 27% | 64% |
| White | 51% | 29% | 81% |

By Gender

| Gender | Graduation Rate | Transfer-out Rate | Combined Rate |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Female | 46% | 32% | 77% |
| Male | 35% | 30% | 65% |

By Financial Aid

| Financial Aid | Graduation Rate | Transfer-out Rate | Combined Rate |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Pell Grant Recipient | 33% | 31% | 65% |
| Received neither Pell nor Subsidized Stafford Loans | 44% | 29% | 73% |
| Received Subsidized Stafford Loans, but no Pell | 49% | 34% | 83% |

* Suppressed to protect student privacy.

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