

MIRO Analysis Brief

Graduation Rates Analysis



Mānoa Institutional Research Office (MIRO)

2500 Campus Road, Hawai'i Hall 107, Honolulu, HI 96822

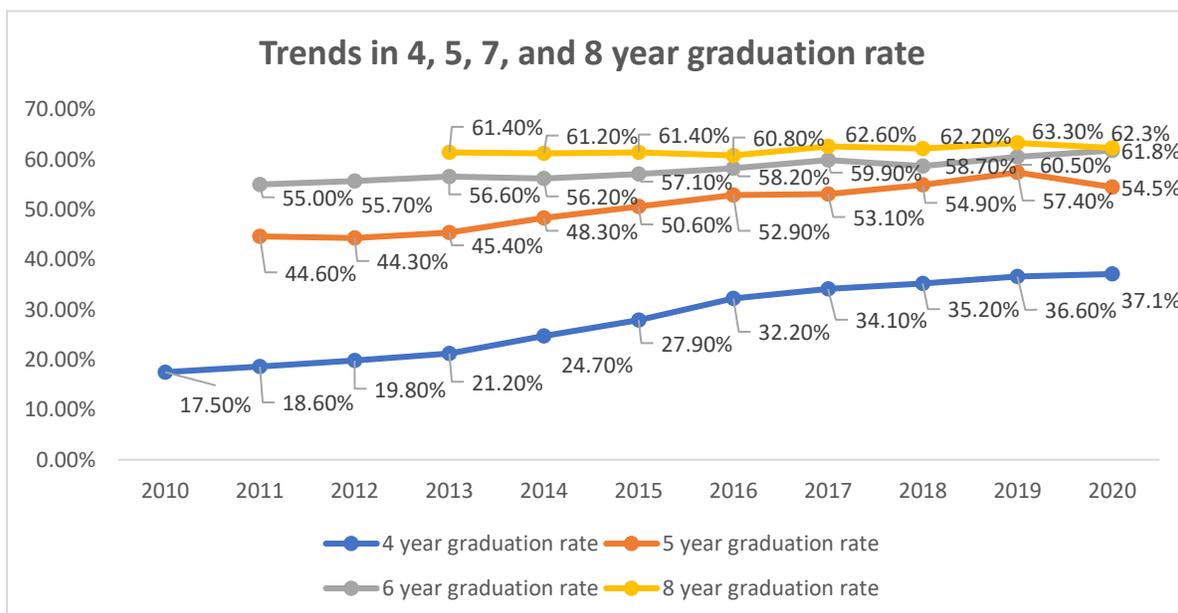
<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/>

Published October 2020

Graduation rate is calculated as a percentage of students in a given cohort who graduate within a specified period of time. According to the federal government’s data collection system — the “Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System” (IPEDS), college students’ graduation rates are measured based on the first-time, full-time freshmen cohort, which is formed by incoming undergraduate students who attend college for the first time (no prior college experience) and have a full-time credit load during their first semester. In higher education, the 4, 5, 6, and 8-year points are typically used to measure a first-time, full-time cohort’s graduation rate.

The following graph shows rapid growth in 4-year graduation rates among first-time, full-time cohort students at UH Mānoa. From year 2010 to 2020, UH Mānoa’s 4-year graduation rate increased significantly from 17.5% (cohort 2006) to 37.1% (cohort 2016). To be specific, 17.5% of first-time, full-time cohort students who entered UH Mānoa in fall 2006 earned a bachelor’s degree within 4 years, whereas 37.1% of first-time, full-time cohort students who entered UH Mānoa in fall 2016 earned a bachelor’s degree within 4 years. A significant higher graduation rate indicates a rapid rise in students graduating on time.

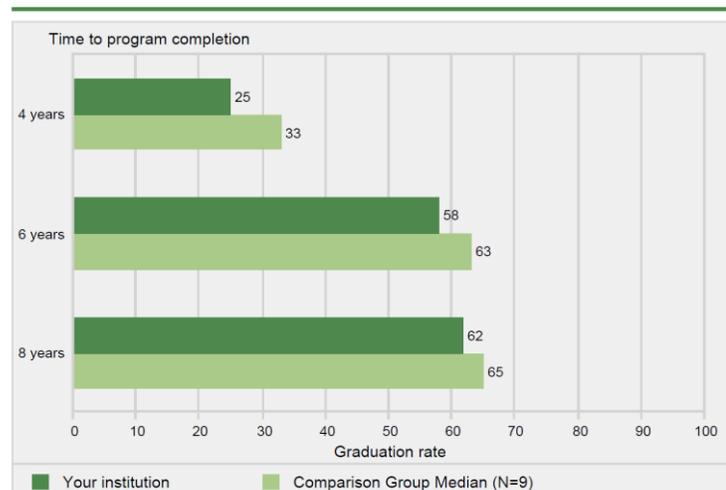
The 5-year graduation rate has risen from 44.6% in 2011 (cohort 2006) to 54.5% in 2020 (cohort 2015) - a total of 9.9 percentage points, or a 22% increase. The 6-year graduation rate shows a slight increase of 5.2 percentage points from 2013 (cohort 2007) to 2020 (cohort 2014), or a 9.2% of increase. The 8-year graduation rate decreased from last year’s 63.3% to this year’s 62.3% (cohort 2012).



To put UH Mānoa's graduation rates in perspective, peer institutions' graduation rates are provided using IPEDS' 2019 Data Feedback Report (DFR). Figure 14 of the DFR report provides the median graduation rates (cohort 2010) of UH Mānoa's 9 peer institutions. According to this report, the median of peer institutions' 4-year graduation rates is 33%, the 6-year graduation rate is 63%, and the 8-year graduation rate is 65%. The following graph shows UH Mānoa's 2010 cohort (same cohort as the peers' data) as having an 25% 4-year graduation rate, a 58% 6-year graduation rate, and a 62% 8-year graduation rate. As shown earlier, UH Mānoa's current graduation rates for 4-, 6-, and 8-years are **37.1%**, **61.8%**, and **62.3%** respectively.

For readers' information, UH Mānoa's peer list was created in 2012 and has been used in the IPEDS Data Feedback Report for peer analysis. MIRO's analyst used cluster analysis and IPEDS data to identify 9 peer institutions. Click [here](#) to review the method used to identify peer institutions.

Figure 14. Bachelor's degree graduation rates of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates within 4 years, 6 years, and 8 years: 2010 cohort



NOTE: The 4-, 6-, and 8-year graduation rates are calculated using the number of students who completed a bachelor's or equivalent degree from a cohort of students who entered the institution seeking a bachelor's or equivalent degree. For details, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group. Medians are not reported for comparison groups with less than three values.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS): Winter 2018-19, 200% Graduation Rates component.

For more information, visit MIRO Persistence webpage

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/persistence/>

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact MIRO miro@hawaii.edu