

MIRO Analysis Brief

Graduation Rates Analysis



Mānoa Institutional Research Office (MIRO)

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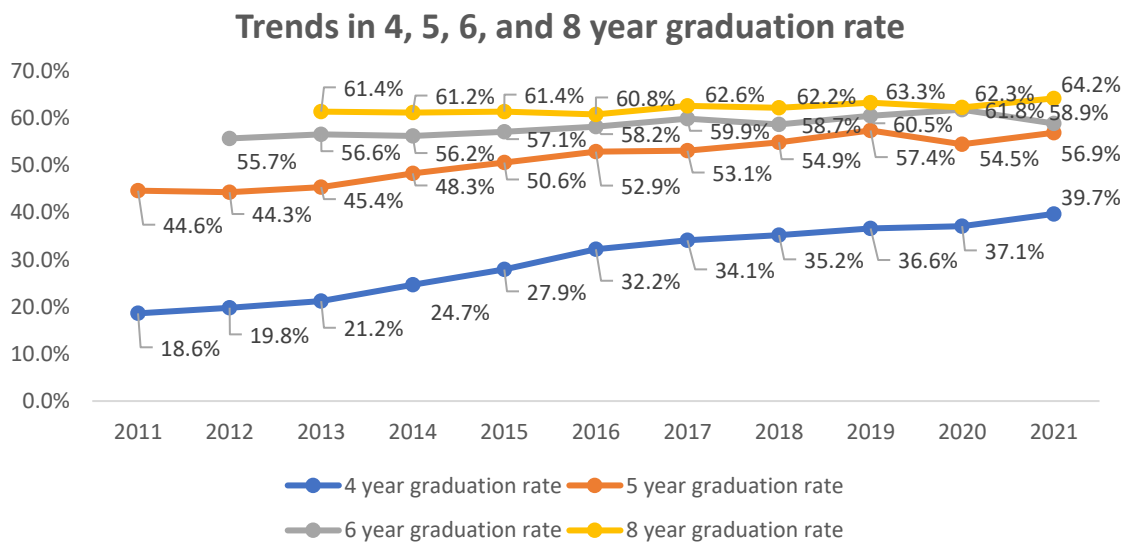
<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/>

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Graduation rate is a key measure of student success. It is calculated as a percentage of students who entered colleges in a cohort and then graduated 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 cohorts, which are formed by incoming undergraduate students who attend college for the first time and have a full-time credit load during their first semester. In higher education, the first-time, full-time cohort’s graduation rate is measured by four-year, five-year, six-year, and eight-year time periods.

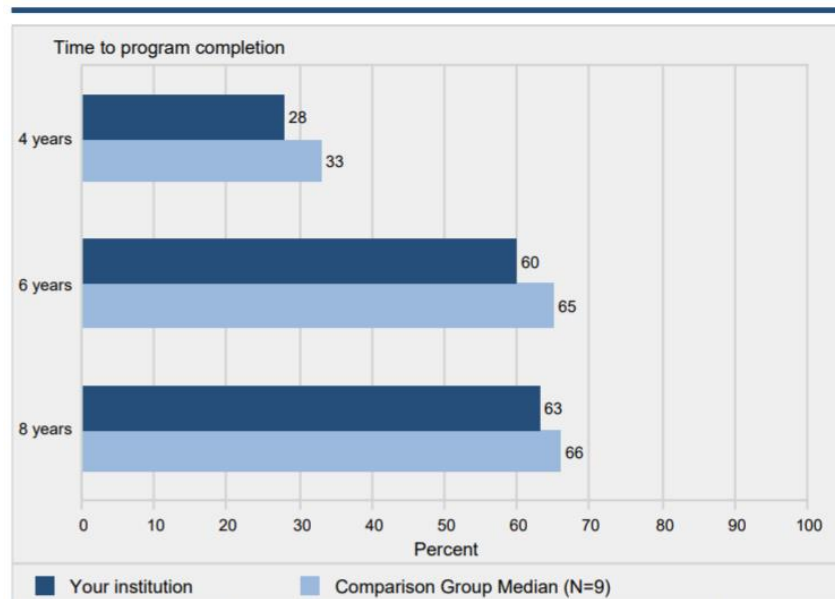
The following graph shows rapid growth in four-year graduation rates among first-time, full-time cohort students at UH Mānoa. From 2011 to 2021, UH Mānoa’s 4-year graduation rate increased significantly from 18.6% (cohort 2007) to 39.7% (cohort 2017). To be specific, 18.6% of first-time, full-time cohort students who entered UH Mānoa in fall 2007 earned a bachelor’s degree within 4 years, whereas 39.7% of first-time, full-time cohort students who entered UH Mānoa in fall 2017 earned a bachelor’s degree within 4 years. A significantly higher graduation rate indicates a rapid growth of students graduating on time.

The 5-year graduation rate rose from 44.6% in 2011 (cohort 2006) to 56.9% in 2021 (cohort 2016), an increase of 12 percent points. The 6-year graduation rate rose from 55.7% in 2012 (cohort 2006) to 58.9% in 2021 (cohort 2015), an increase of 3 percent points. The 8-year graduation rate increased from last year’s 62.3% (cohort 2012) to this year’s 64.2% (cohort 2013) by 1 percent point. The latest four, six, and eight year graduation rates in 2021 are **39.7%**, **58.9%**, and **64.2%** respectively.



To put UH Mānoa’s graduation rates in perspective, peer institutions’ graduation rates are provided using IPEDS’ 2020 Data Feedback Report (DFR). The graph below provides the median graduation rates (cohort 2011) of UH Mānoa’s nine peer institutions. According to the report, the median graduation rates of the peer institutions’ are 33% for four years, 65% for six years, and 66% for eight years. As for UH Mānoa’s 2011 cohort, it has a 4-year graduation rate of 28%, a 6-year graduation rate of 60%, and an 8-year graduation rate of 63%.

Figure 15. Bachelor’s degree graduation rates of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates within 4 years, 6 years, and 8 years: 2011 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 2019-20, 200%¹ 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

¹ UH Mānoa’s [peer institution list](#) was created in 2012.