

MIRO Analysis Brief

Graduation Rates Analysis



Mānoa Institutional Research Office (MIRO)

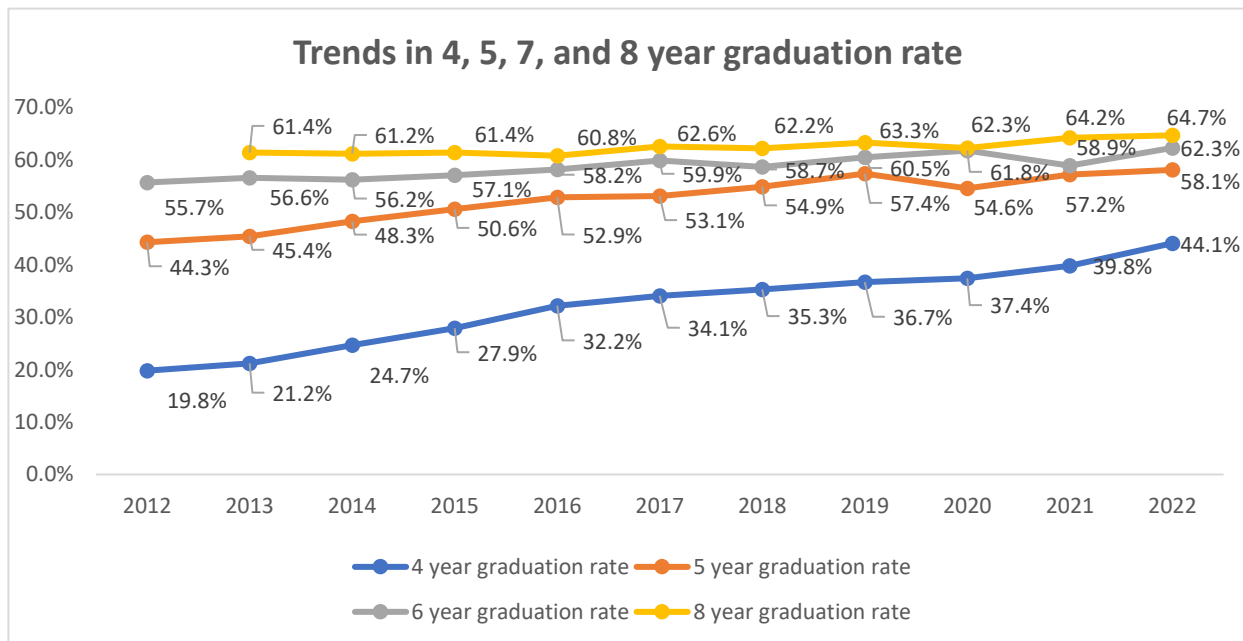
<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/>

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The graduation rate is the percentage of students in a cohort who graduate within a specified time period. 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 data points are typically used to measure first-time, full-time cohort’s graduation rates.

The following graph shows rapid growth in 4-year graduation rates among first-time, full-time cohort students at UH Mānoa. From years 2012 to 2022, UH Mānoa’s 4-year graduation rate increased significantly from 19.8% (cohort 2008) to 44.1% (cohort 2018) in 11 years. To be specific, 19.8% of first-time, full-time cohort students who entered UH Mānoa in fall 2008 earned a bachelor’s degree within 4 years, whereas 44.1% of first-time, full-time cohort students who entered UH Mānoa in fall 2018 earned a bachelor’s degree within 4 years. A significant higher graduation rate indicates a rapid rise in students graduating on time.

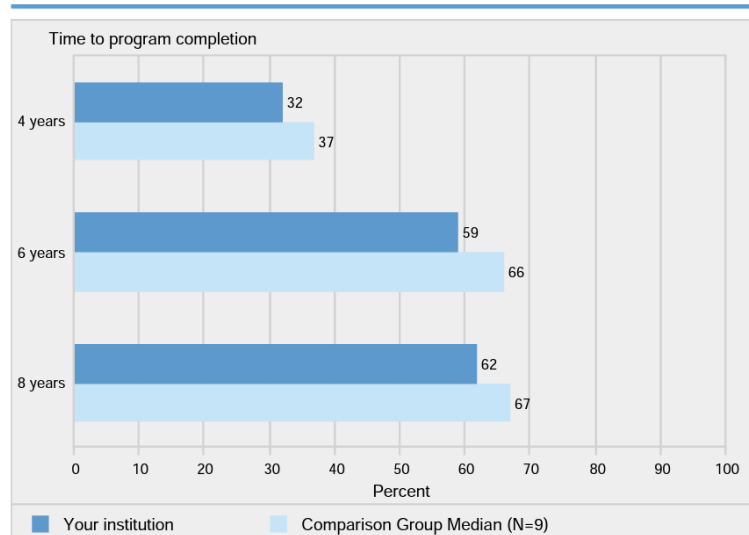
The 5-year graduation rate has risen from 44.3% in 2012 (cohort 2007) to 58.1% in 2022 (cohort 2017) - a total of 13.8 percentage points increased in 11 years. The 6-year graduation rate shows an increase of 6.6 percentage points from 2012 (cohort 2006) to 2022 (cohort 2016). The 8-year graduation rate increased from last year’s 64.2% to this year’s 64.7% (cohort 2014).



To put UH Mānoa’s graduation rates in perspective, peer institutions’ graduation rates are provided using IPEDS’ 2021 Data Feedback Report (DFR). Figure 16 of the DFR report provides the median graduation rates (cohort 2012) of UH Mānoa’s 9 peer institutions. According to this report, the median of peer institutions’ 4-year graduation rates is 37%, the 6-year graduation rate is 66%, and the 8-year graduation rate is 67%. The following graph shows that UH Mānoa’s 2012 cohort (same cohort as the peers’ data) has a 32% 4-year graduation rate, a 59% 6-year graduation rate, and a 62% 8-year graduation rate. As shown earlier, UH Mānoa’s latest graduation rates for 4-, 6-, and 8-years are **44.1%**, **62.3%**, and **64.7%** 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 16. Bachelor’s degree graduation rates of full-time, first-time bachelor’s degree-seeking undergraduates within 4 years, 6 years, and 8 years: 2012 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 2020-21, 200% Graduation Rates component.

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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