Traditional college graduation rates - which only account for students starting and finishing at the same campus - are a good indicator of a college’s effectiveness. Yet, a closer look at Indiana’s completion challenge reveals a more complex picture with many students taking longer to graduate, transferring to other colleges and earning other degrees and credentials. These graduates are also an important part of Indiana’s completion picture.

### The Completion Dashboard

**Time to Completion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Same Campus and Degree Level</th>
<th>Different Campus or Degree Level</th>
<th>Total Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete within 4 years</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete within 6 years</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete within 8 years</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Represents bachelor’s seeking students starting in fall 2005 as full-time students.

**For every 100 students who start college as full-time students...**

- **15 students** complete within 4 years
- **43 students** complete within 6 years
- **52 students** complete within 8 years

Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis spends $46,351 for each college degree it produces.*

The longer it takes for students to earn a degree, the less likely they are to graduate at all. The costs add up as well. An extra year of college costs a Hoosier student nearly $50,000 in extra tuition, lost wages and related costs while also increasing the college’s total expenses for each degree it produces. Getting more students through the completion pipeline faster is a key strategy toward meeting Indiana’s education attainment goal.
Disparities in college completion rates exist at all levels of Indiana’s higher education system. Indiana’s statewide four-year college on-time graduation rate is 31 percent for the White students, 19 percent for the Hispanic students and 11 percent for the Black students. Overcoming this challenge is essential to offering all Hoosiers a higher quality of life and providing the state with a stronger economy and workforce.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has set a goal of cutting the state’s college completion achievement gap in half by the year 2018 and eliminating it entirely by 2025. Indiana’s colleges and universities also have set targets for narrowing the completion gap on their campuses and are being encouraged to share successful strategies that may be replicated and scaled by other colleges across the state.

All above disaggregations are for bachelor’s seeking students starting in fall 2005 as full-time students.
DATA SOURCES
Cohorts were created using data submitted by Indiana public institutions to CHE through the CHE Data Submission System (CHEDSS). Cohorts were tracked longitudinally using subsequent data submitted by public institutions through CHEDSS and further augmented by enrollment and completion data obtained from the National Student Clearinghouse.

Spending per degree production is sourced from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Calculation methodology is from the Delta Cost Project.

DATA ELEMENT DEFINITIONS
The cohort throughout the report includes students enrolling as first-time Bachelor's degree-seeking students in the fall of 2005 with full-time status (12 credit hours or more) as of census date.

The Completion Dashboard
Same Campus and Degree Level: represents students in cohort who completed a degree at the same level initially sought at the same university system at which they initially enrolled.

Different Campus or Degree Level: represents students in cohort who completed a degree at a lower level than initially sought at the same university system at which they initially enrolled OR completed any degree at any other public institution in Indiana, or at a private or for-profit college/university in Indiana or elsewhere in the United States, provided the college or university participates in the National Student Clearinghouse.

Total Completion: represents students in cohort who completed any degree at any public institution in Indiana, or at a private or for-profit college/university in Indiana or elsewhere in the United States, provided the college or university participates in the National Student Clearinghouse. This is a combination/sum of the above two completion categories.

Spending Per Degree Production: represents the total expenditures for education and related expenses divided by total completions in a year. Education and related expenses is \[ \text{total instruction expenditures} + \text{total student service expenditures} + (\text{education share} \times (\text{total academic support expenditures} + \text{total institutional support expenditures} + \text{total instruction, research, public service, academic support, student services, and institutional support shares of operation and maintenance of plant})) \]. Education share is \( \frac{\text{total instruction expenditures} + \text{total student services expenditures}}{\text{total instruction expenditures} + \text{total student services expenditures} + \text{total research expenditures} + \text{total public service expenditures}} \). Data is from FY 2011-2012.

Full-Time/Part-Time Comparison: for all students in state of Indiana enrolling in a 4 year public institution as first-time Bachelor's degree-seeking students in the fall of 2005; represents a ratio of the odds that a student starting as a full-time student (enrolled in 12 or more credit hours as of census date) completes any degree at any campus within 8 years over the odds that a student starting as a part-time student (enrolled in less than 12 credit hours as of census date) completes any degree at any campus within 8 years.

The Completion Gap
Disaggregations
Note that only cohorts having 10 or more students included are reported.

Frank O'Bannon: includes any students who were identified as receiving a Frank O'Bannon grant any time in their academic career.

Scholars: includes any students who were identified as receiving a 21st Century Scholar grant any time in their academic career.

Pell: includes any students who were identified as receiving a Pell grant in their first year of enrollment.

Federal Loan: includes any students who were identified as receiving a federal loan in their first year of enrollment.

Race/Ethnicity Categories: a student is assigned to a race/ethnicity category based on his/her race/ethnicity as reported in the first year in which the student enrolled.

Completion Rate:

Same Campus Same Degree on time: represents students in cohort who completed, within 4 years, a degree at the same level initially sought at the same university system at which they initially enrolled.

Any Campus Any Degree within 8 yrs: represents students in cohort who completed, within 8 years, any degree at any public institution in Indiana, or at a private or for-profit college/university in Indiana or elsewhere in the United States, provided the college or university participates in the National Student Clearinghouse.