



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## More Hoosiers are completing college, but too few from low-income and minority groups

By nearly every measure, more Indiana students are graduating from college, according to the 2016 College Completion Report released by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education today. Between 2012 and 2015, the number of students earning a bachelor's degree in four years improved by more than 5 percentage points—reaching 39.6 percent. Students earning associate degrees in two years increased by 4.4 percentage points over the same period, reaching 8.2 percent total.

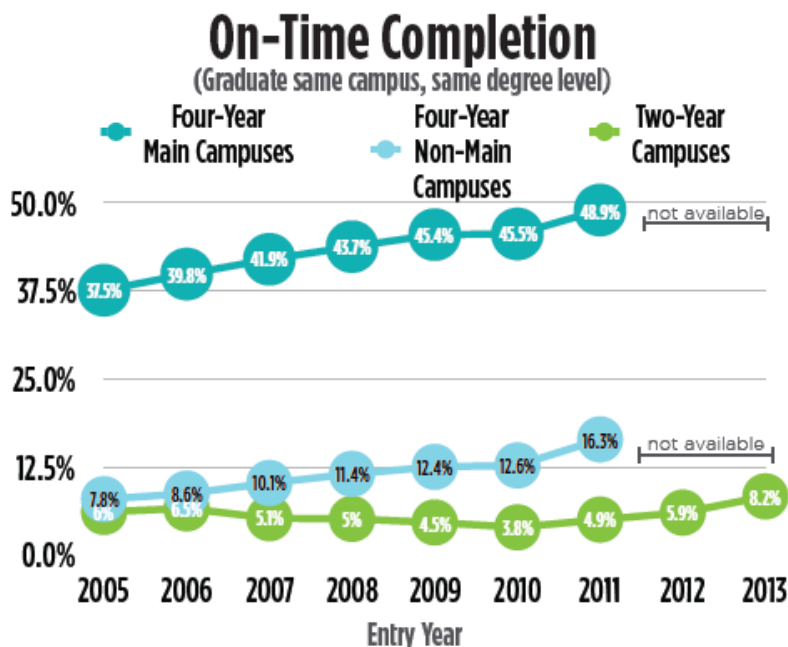
Extended-time (six-year) degree completion has also improved across campus types, reaching 66.5 percent at four-year and 29.3 percent at two-year colleges.

“It’s encouraging to see Indiana move the needle on college completion,” Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers said. “These gains coincide with significant efforts at the state and campus level to boost student support and reduce the time it takes students to complete degrees. With this momentum, Indiana must not relent in advancing state policies and campus-level practices that help students plan for and navigate their degree programs successfully.”

While on-time completion for minority students is improving at both four-year and two-year campuses, new achievement gap measures show significant progress is needed to reach equity. Overall, completion remains a challenge, even when accounting for students who take longer to graduate, attend part-time, transfer and change degree type.

### More Students are Graduating On-time and Within Six Years.

- Highest On-Time and Extended Completion: Indiana University Bloomington
- Largest Three-Year Extended Completion Gain: Purdue Calumet



### THREE-YEAR IMPROVEMENT

(percentage points)

+5.2  
main

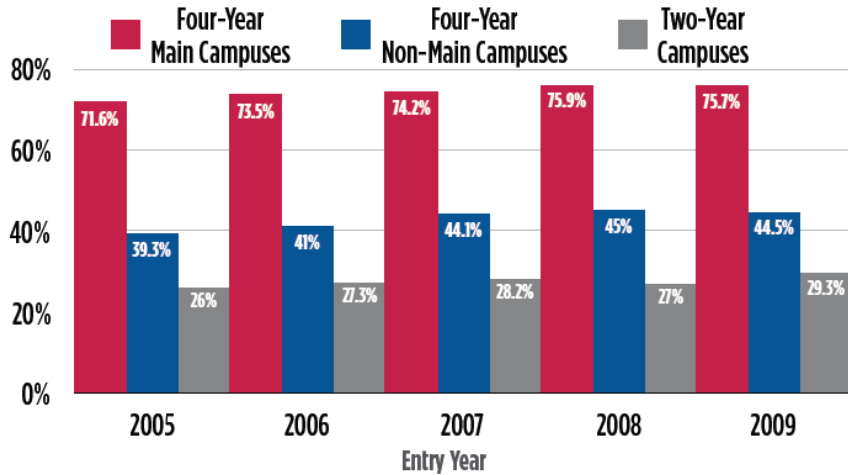
+4.9  
non-main

+4.4  
two-year



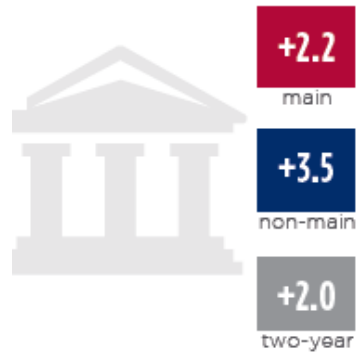
## Extended-Time Completion

(Graduate any campus, any degree level within 6 years)



## THREE-YEAR IMPROVEMENT

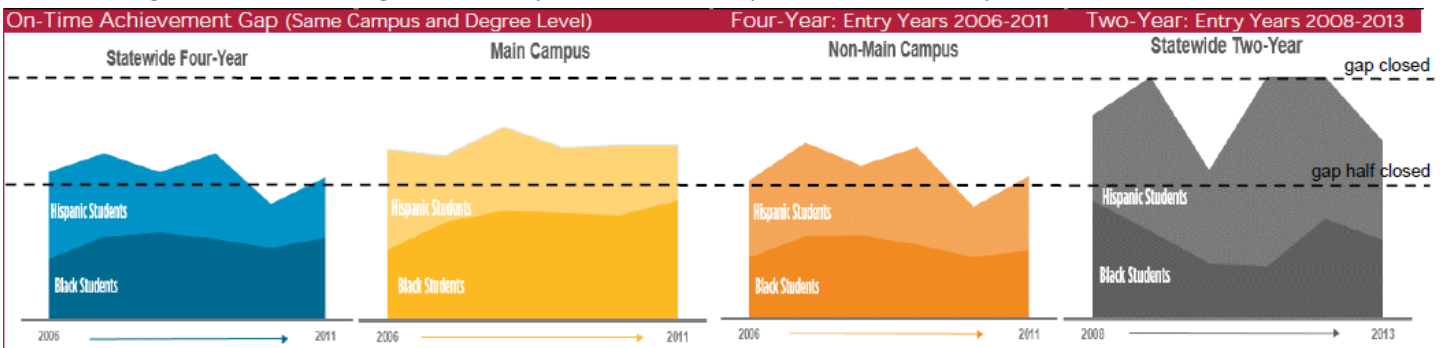
(percentage points)



### Black and Hispanic students are about half as likely as White students to graduate on time.

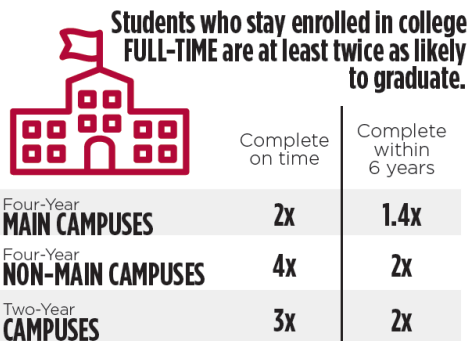
Between the Black and Hispanic minority student populations, Hispanic students are about twice as likely to graduate on time as Black students. Given additional time to complete, however, Black students graduate in higher numbers that outpace the Hispanic student population. Statewide achievement gap analyses for on-time completion show, on average, all campus types are making some progress in closing the achievement gap for Black students, while only two-year campuses are making progress toward closing the gap for Hispanic students.

- Closest to Closing the Minority Achievement Gap: Ball State University
- Largest Gains in Closing the Minority Achievement Gap: Indiana University South Bend



### Students who remain enrolled in college full-time are at least twice as likely to graduate as their peers who switch to part time.

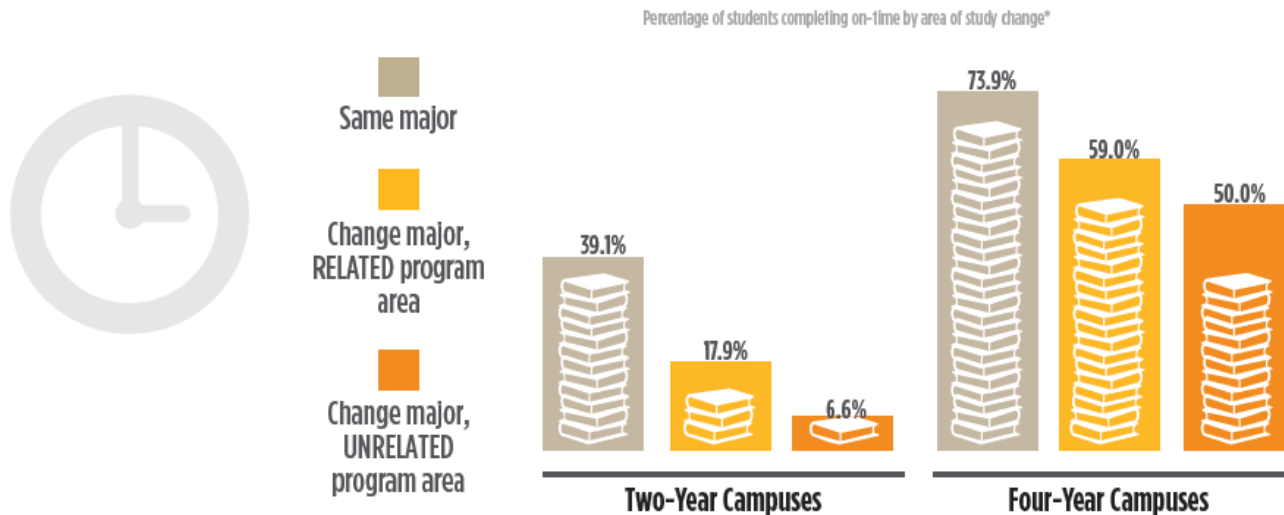
While full-time enrollment is not an option for all students, the data show it gives students the best chance of completing their degree programs—at all campus types, but especially at four-year non-main campuses and two-year colleges.



**Students who stay within a general area of study—even if they switch majors—graduate faster.**

Intentional planning for college saves students time and money. That’s why even if students aren’t sure of their precise career goals, it pays to stick to a general area of study (or group of similar college majors).

## Planning Matters: Students who change majors but stay within a RELATED program area are up to THREE times more likely to graduate on time.



### About Indiana’s College Completion Reports

This is the Commission’s third annual College Completion Report. The report includes the following tools and information:

- [Results Summary and Key Findings](#) (Includes all images above.)
- NEW: [Online Interactive Completion Dashboard](#)
- NEW: Statewide Achievement Gap Analyses
  - [Minority Achievement Gap](#)
  - [Low-Income Achievement Gap](#)
- [Data At-a-Glance](#)
- [Campus Reports](#)
- [Data Notes for the 2016 College Completion Report](#)

The Commission’s Completion Reports include both state-level and campus-specific data profiles. When comparing completion rates for different colleges, it is important to recognize that Indiana’s college campuses have different missions and serve different student populations.

The Indiana College Completion Report is one in a series of reports provided by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to clearly define Indiana’s progress preparing Hoosiers for college and the workforce. Along with the College Readiness Report and the Return on Investment Report, the College Completion Report helps inform educators, families and policymakers.

Data from the 2016 College Completion Report will be included in the Indiana College Value Index to be released this fall. In partnership with USA Funds, the Indiana College Value Index will be the nation’s first comprehensive measure of both the qualitative and quantitative value of higher education. [Learn more about the Indiana College Value Index here.](#)

Read all of the Commission’s reports as well as its Reaching Higher, Delivering Value strategic plan at [www.che.in.gov](http://www.che.in.gov).