



COLLEGE COMPLETION



A Guide to Understanding the Data in the Indiana College Completion Reports



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
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COMPLETION



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The **Data At-a-Glance** page pulls key figures from the individual campus reports so that readers may more easily understand the comprehensive statewide completion picture.

All of the numbers on the summary page are for full-time students. While some of the campus-level reports convey part-time statistics, this summary focuses on the group with the highest success rates.

*This is the **narrowest** definition of completion. It represents the students that graduate on time with the degree type originally sought at the original campus.*

*This is the **broadest** definition of completion. It represents the students that complete at any campus, with any degree, within an extended time frame.*

State-Level Completion Data

Building a Completion Rate							The Completion GAP		
STATEWIDE	CAMPUS Completion Rate			STUDENT Completion Rate			HIGH	LOW	GAP
	Students who Complete On-Time (same campus)	Students who Complete Late (same campus)	Total Campus Completion Rate	Students who Transfer and Complete OR Complete Other Degree Type	Total Student Completion Rate	Highest-Performing Racial/Ethnic Group	Lowest-Performing Racial/Ethnic Group	Difference between Highest and Lowest Group	
Two-Year Colleges	5.1%	+ 15.2%	= 20.3%	+ 7.9%	= 28.2%	38.3%	14.2%	24.1%	
Four-Year Colleges	29.5%	+ 26.2%	= 55.7%	+ 12.9%	= 68.6%	74.9%	44.4%	30.5%	

*We have differentiated between **campus** success and **student** success. Campuses should be “credited” with the success of students that graduate at that campus. However, if students find a different path to success, we count that toward the student success rate (but not the campus success rate)*

*The GAP numbers listed here match to the **broadest** definition of completion on each campus report. The GAP is calculated as the difference between the two columns to the left.*



The **Completion Dashboard** shows the completion picture broken by time and transfer status.

This chart provides more detail for building the full completion rate.

1. Start with students finishing on time at the same campus with the degree originally sought. (The narrowest definition of completion)

3. Moving over within each row gives students **more places** to complete and incorporates **changes in degree type** sought (e.g., start seeking bachelor's and change to associate's.)

Total Completion is the sum of "same campus..." and "different campus..."

2. Moving down within each column gives students **more time** to complete. Not surprisingly, the completion rates go up as more time is allowed

TIME TO COMPLETION	Same Campus and Degree Level	Different Campus or Degree Level	Total Completion
Complete within 4 years	29.5%	4.8%	34.2%
Complete within 6 years	52.5%	10.4%	62.9%
Complete within 8 years	55.7%	12.9%	68.6%

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

4. End with students completing anywhere, with any degree, within any timeframe (the broadest definition of completion)

Can these numbers be added? It depends.

Within a ROW, yes. You will see that adding column 1 to column 2 equals column 3. For example, in the 8 year row, $55.7\% + 12.9\% = 68.6\%$. **Within a COLUMN, no.** As you move down in the chart, the numbers incorporate the percentages above (meaning, they have already been added up). For example, in the total completion column, the 68.6% rate includes students completing in 4 and 6 years as well. The 62.9% rate for 6 year completion includes the on time graduates listed in the top column.



The **Completion Dashboard** for two-year institutions shows the same information, but broken down between full-time and part-time students. (Four-year college reports only show full-time due to lack of data for those cohorts. The 2015 College Completion Report will include part-time information for all institutions.)

TIME TO COMPLETION	Same Campus and Degree Level		Different Campus or Degree Level		Total Completion	
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME
Complete within 2 years	5.1%	1.4%	1.3%	0.6%	6.4%	2.0%
Complete within 4 years	16.4%	8.0%	3.9%	2.5%	20.3%	10.5%
Complete within 6 years	20.3%	14.3%	7.9%	4.7%	28.2%	18.9%

Can these numbers be added? No. See below for an explanation.

Represents certificate or associate's seeking students starting in fall 2007

*The **full-time** completion rates are the number of full-time students that **complete** divided by the number of full-time students that **enroll**.*

*The **part-time** completion rates are the number of part-time students that **complete** divided by the number of part-time students that **enroll**.*

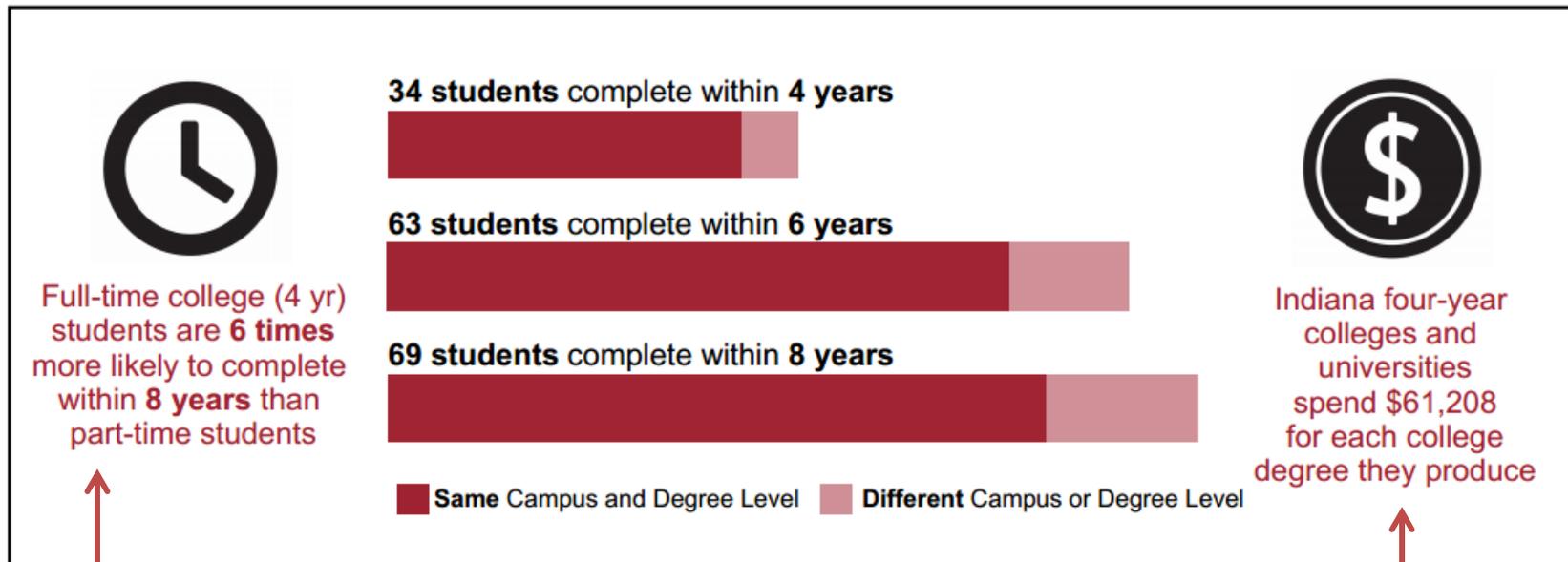
What about a **TOTAL** completion rate that include full-time and part-time students? You can't calculate it without knowing the underlying numbers. In general the total completion rate that blends full-time and part-time will be somewhere in between the two. Here is a simple example:

Full-Time	$\frac{\text{\# of full-time students that complete}}{\text{\# of full-time students that enroll}}$	$\frac{250}{1000}$	= 25%
Part-Time	$\frac{\text{\# of part-time students that complete}}{\text{\# of part-time students that enroll}}$	$\frac{50}{500}$	= 10%
All Students	$\frac{\text{\# of all students that complete}}{\text{\# of all students that enroll}}$	$\frac{300}{1500}$	= 20%



The **Completion Pipeline** of the completion dashboard portrays the same information as above, but as a bar chart. The bar chart reports the full-time students only.

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



Based on bachelor's seeking students starting in fall 2005

*This statistic, meant to reinforce the importance of full-time enrollment, compares the probability that a full-time student completes against the probability that a part-time student does. Note that this refers to the **extended time span**, so even after allowing time for part-timers to “catch up” on their coursework, part-timers are still more likely to drop out or still be enrolled after 8 years. This comes from a state-level analysis, so it will be the same statistic for each campus report and is not specific to behavior on that particular campus.*

*This figure IS **campus-specific** and was submitted by campuses. The Commission’s strategic plan calls on colleges to **set targets** for reducing the cost per degree by 2025.*



The **Completion Gap** section breaks apart the numbers on the front to look at the differences between student populations, with a focus on the completion gaps for underrepresented populations.

The box on the left represents an **income-based** achievement gap. We have analyzed students who receive need-based financial aid, which serves as a proxy for economic challenges. The box on the right represents a racial/ethnic achievement gap. Such gaps are commonly understood to result from economic disadvantages, inadequate preparation in K-12 and lack of peer groups, mentors and other consistent support structures on campus.

COMPLETION	Same Campus and Degree Level
within 4 years	29.5%

These numbers compare apples-to-apples with the **narrowest** definition of completion. Note that the 29.5% for all students matches the figure on the opposite page.

These numbers compare apples-to-apples with the **broadest** definition of completion. Note that the 68.6% for all students matches the figure on the opposite page.

Total Completion
34.2%
62.9%
68.6%

INCOME	COMPLETION RATE	
	Same Campus Same Degree on time	Any Campus Any Degree within 8 yrs
ALL STUDENTS	29.5%	68.6%
FRANK O'BANNON	20.4%	66.5%
SCHOLARS (21st Century)	14.5%	52.2%
PELL	16.5%	53.9%
FEDERAL LOAN	25.4%	65.2%

Frank O'Bannon and 21st Century Scholars are Indiana's need-based financial aid programs.

RACE/ETHNICITY	COMPLETION RATE	
	Same Campus Same Degree on time	Any Campus Any Degree within 8 yrs
ASIAN	32.9%	74.9%
BLACK	10.8%	44.4%
HISPANIC	19.1%	59.0%
WHITE	31.0%	70.7%
OTHER	30.8%	66.2%

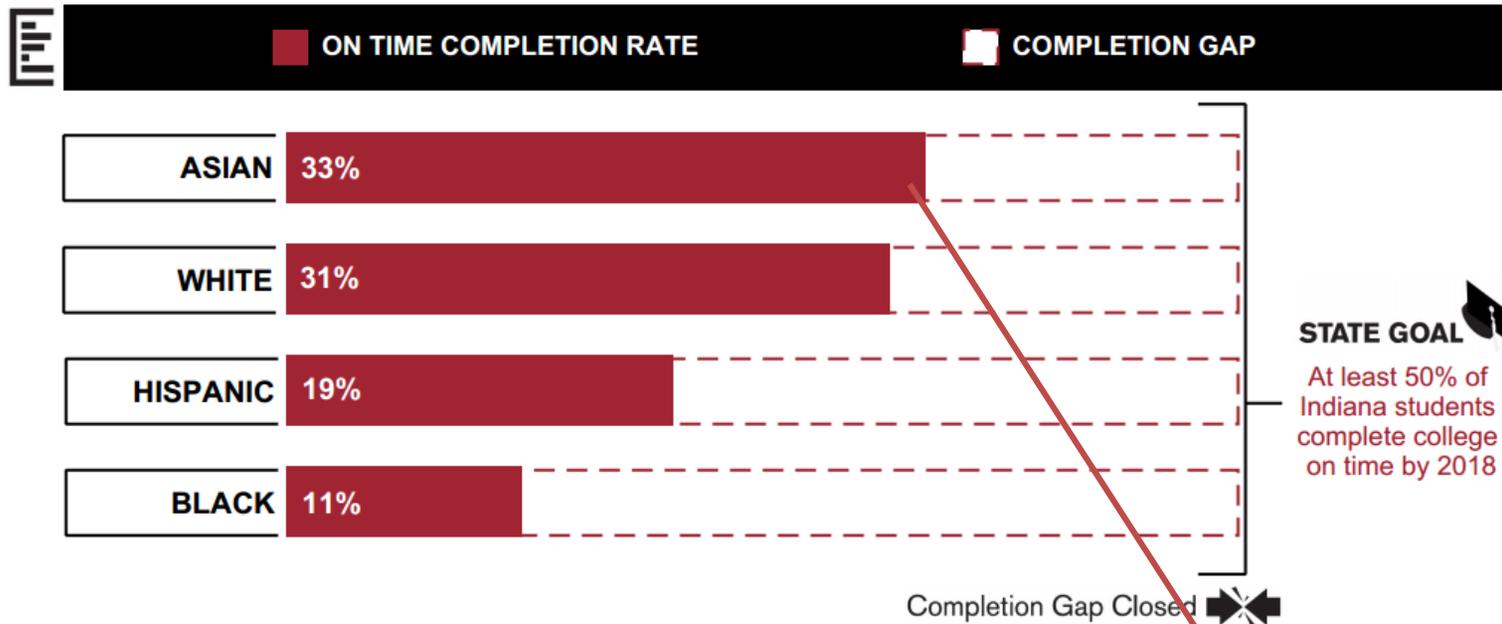
Other includes Native American/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Multiracial, and undeclared.



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The second section of the **Completion Gap** page shows the on time completion figures from above in a bar chart and compares them against the statewide overall goal that Indiana colleges and universities achieve an on time completion rate of 50 percent by 2018.



These numbers are directly from the left column of the Race/Ethnicity Chart above. Note that the numbers are rounded in the bar chart. For example, the 33% on time rate for Asian students is the same as the 32.9% in the chart, but rounded to the nearest percentage.

RACE/ETHNICITY	COMPLETION
	Some Campus Some Degree on time
ASIAN	32.9%
BLACK	10.8%
HISPANIC	19.1%
WHITE	31.0%
OTHER	30.8%

Abstract by Mike Anderson/Mike Miller, Mike Miller