

## Graduation Rate Training

**First-Time student:** Students attending WSU as their first higher education institution after exiting High School

**Transfer student:** Students attending WSU for the first-time, but have attended another higher education institution after exiting High School before enrolling at WSU

**IPEDS**- The Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System provides data for postsecondary education in the United States. For example, data on the number of students enrolled, financial aid used, staff employed, dollars expended, degrees and certificates awarded, etc. Reporting to federally operated IPEDS is mandatory for all institutions that participate in any Federal financial assistance programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965

**IPEDS Outcome Measures:** The completion (graduation) rate for all entering degree-seeking, undergraduate students, including non-first time students (i.e., transfer) and part-time students. This measure has been incorporated by WSU as a Key Performance Indicator and as a measure in the Amplified Strategic Plan.

**IPEDS Graduation Rate:** While this data collection includes several graduation rates, WSU has historically focused on the completion (graduation) rate of full-time, first-time, bachelor degree-seeking, undergraduate students. This measure focuses on students who complete a bachelor degree within a 150% of normal time (6 years).

**90+ Credit Completion:** Used to determine the number of students at the institution who graduate within two years of earning 90 credit hours. Used to understand if the graduation completion categories are up, down, or even compared to the same time the previous year. Aggregated at the institutional, college, or department level and is a desired outcome within the Amplified Strategic Plan.

**Amplified Strategic Plan:** In 2020, Weber State University engaged in a strategic planning process. Over the course of a year, faculty, staff, students and other key stakeholders helped inform and craft a new strategic plan for the university. In March 2021, the WSU Board of Trustees approved the following plan, which will guide the institution through 2026.

## **Other key terms (Used in Enrollment, Retention, & Persistence Training)**

**WSU all student retention rate:** Used for the WSU KPI (Key Performance Indicators) and the Amplified Strategic Plan. Focuses on all first-time students enrolling in the fall semester and used for internal reporting purposes.

**IPEDS Retention:** Fall to fall retention of first-time, full-time, bachelor degree-seeking students

**Persistence:** Semester to semester enrollment of all matriculated, degree seeking students. Reported on fall to spring enrollment or a spring to fall basis. Used to track multiple success outcomes in enrollment and graduation.

**Overall Headcount:** Distinct count of every student enrolled in a credit bearing class for the term. Includes undergraduate, graduate, and non-matriculated students. This number is typically taken on the 3rd Friday of the semester at 5:00 pm.

**Matriculated, Degree-Seeking Student:** matriculated students have exited high school and are formally admitted to WSU; and degree-seeking students are seeking a certificate, associates, bachelor, or graduate degree.

**High School and Non-Matriculated:** a student who is either dual enrolled in High School or has chosen to enroll and is not actively pursuing a degree.

**Continued Enrollment:** a student who is re-enrolling in the next fall or spring semester; continuing their studies and was enrolled in the prior Fall or Spring semester.

**Stop Out:** a student who has neither re-enrolled nor has graduated. This will sometimes be displayed as "Potential Stop Out"

**Graduated & Exited:** a student who has graduated during the same term and has not re-enrolled in the next fall or spring semester.

**Returning Student:** students who previously "stopped out" in a prior fall or spring semester, and are now re-enrolling.

**Student Credit Hour (SCH):** Is a measure of the total instructional footprint. It is calculated by taking the number of students enrolled in a course section multiplied by the credit hour weight in the course. Example: If 20 students enroll in a 3 credit hour course

Student Credit Hours (SCH) = Student Enrolled X Credit Hours Weight

Student Credit Hours (SCH) = 20 X 3 = 60 SCH

**Full Time-Equivalent (FTE):** Is a measure of the total instructional footprint and is aligned to finance. It is derived from the SCH. It takes the SCH and divides the value by a given weight based on Undergraduate (15 credits) and Graduate levels (10 credits). Example: For a undergraduate subject code has 10 courses offered with 1500 SCHs

$$\text{Full Time Equivalent (FTE)} = \text{Total SCH} / 15 \text{ Credits (Undergraduate)}$$
$$\text{Student Credit Hours (SCH)} = 1500 \times 15 = 100.0 \text{ FTE}$$

**Budget-Related:** When courses are being supported by state tax funding. Budget-Related data is often used by WSU and state policy makers to understand how the institution is growing, staying the same size, or shrinking.

**Self-Support:** the course is being paid for by some other means other than the state tax supported budget, such as a grant or other revenue stream.