

GRADUATION RATES

KEY POINTS IN THIS SECTION

- Graduation rates at Minnesota four-year institutions have remained steady. In 2014, 46 percent of first-time, full time undergraduates graduated within four years and 63 percent graduated within six years.
- At Minnesota two-year institutions, the combined rate of students transferring to another institution or graduating within three years was 50 percent.

Graduation rates measure whether students are completing their studies and institutional effectiveness in facilitating student completion. High graduation rates may indicate appropriately targeted student recruitment, effective campus communication and scheduling, strong instruction and advising, and accessible student support services. Other variables, such as the academic preparation of students, colleges' admissions selectivity, student demographics and financial support, also influence graduation rates.

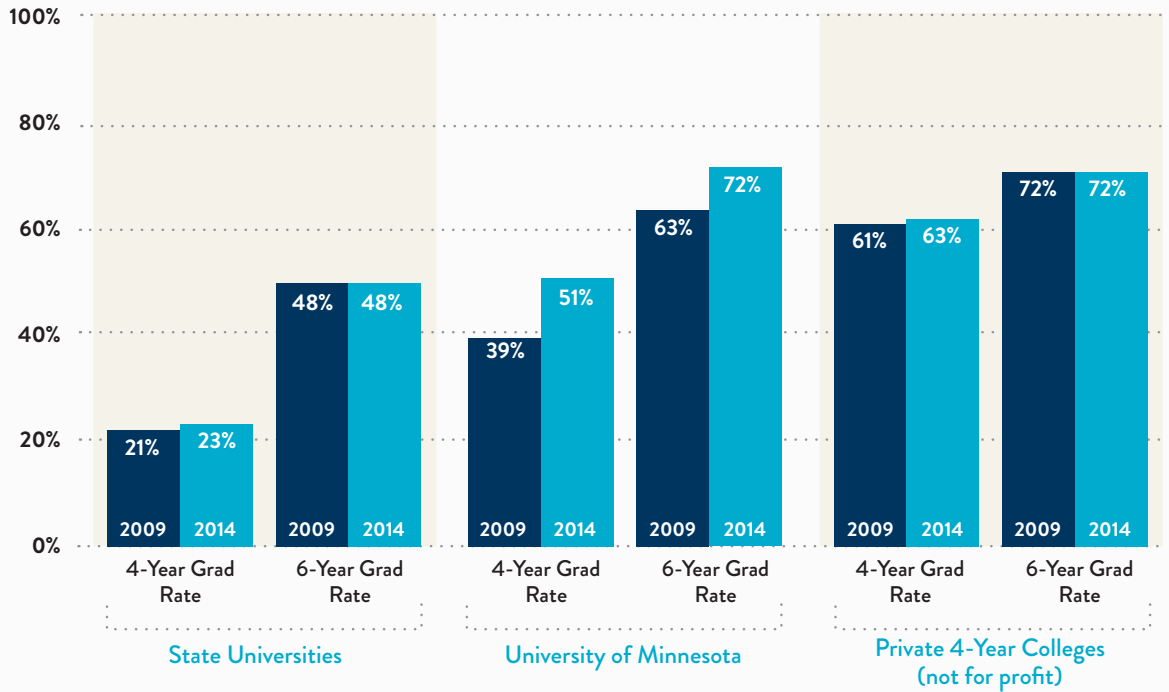


Graduation rates at Minnesota four-year institutions vary by institution and type.

In 2014, 46 percent of Minnesota undergraduates seeking a bachelor's degree graduated within four years and 63 percent graduated within six years. When comparing individual institutions across the state however, there is a great deal of variation. The six-year graduation rates, in 2014, range from:

- 48 percent to 78 percent at University of Minnesota campuses
- 34 percent to 57 percent at state universities
- 46 percent to 93 percent at private not-for-profit institutions.

6-Year Graduation Rates Increasing at the University of Minnesota, 2009 and 2014



SOURCE: Department of Education, IPED Graduation Rate Survey



The University of Minnesota combined campuses made the greatest stride in improving their graduation rates, with the greatest increase occurring at the Twin Cities campus.

The six-year graduation rate for the combined campuses increased from 44 percent in 2009 to 72 percent in 2014; while the Twin Cities campus six-year rate increased from 47 percent to 78 percent. Generally the highest graduation rates are within the private not-for-profit institution sector. Now only six Minnesota private colleges have higher six-year graduation rates than the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

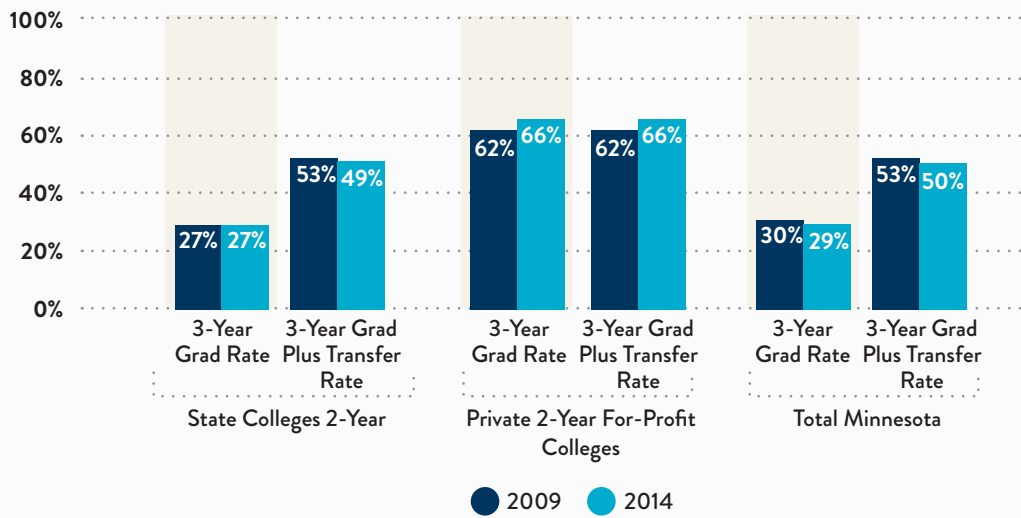
**TOP 10 MINNESOTA INSTITUTION
6-YEAR GRADUATION RATE, 2014**

Carleton College	93%
Macalester College	90%
Saint Olaf College.....	89%
Gustavus Adolphus College	81%
College of Saint Benedict	81%
Saint John's University	80%
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	78%
Bethel University.....	74%
Concordia College at Moorhead	72%
University of Saint Thomas	72%

Combined graduation and transfer rates at two-year colleges were 50 percent.

Minnesota's two-year institutions offer a variety of programs. Students can enroll in technical/occupational programs culminating in a certificate or associate degree while others enroll in a liberal arts/transfer curriculum preparing them to complete a bachelor's degree at a four-year institution. The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, offered at Minnesota's state colleges, is specially designed for students wishing to transfer to a four-year institution; students may transfer before receiving an associate degree.

Minnesota 3-Year Graduation Rates Gradually Declined at 2-Year Institutions, even when Transfer Rates are Included, 2009 and 2014



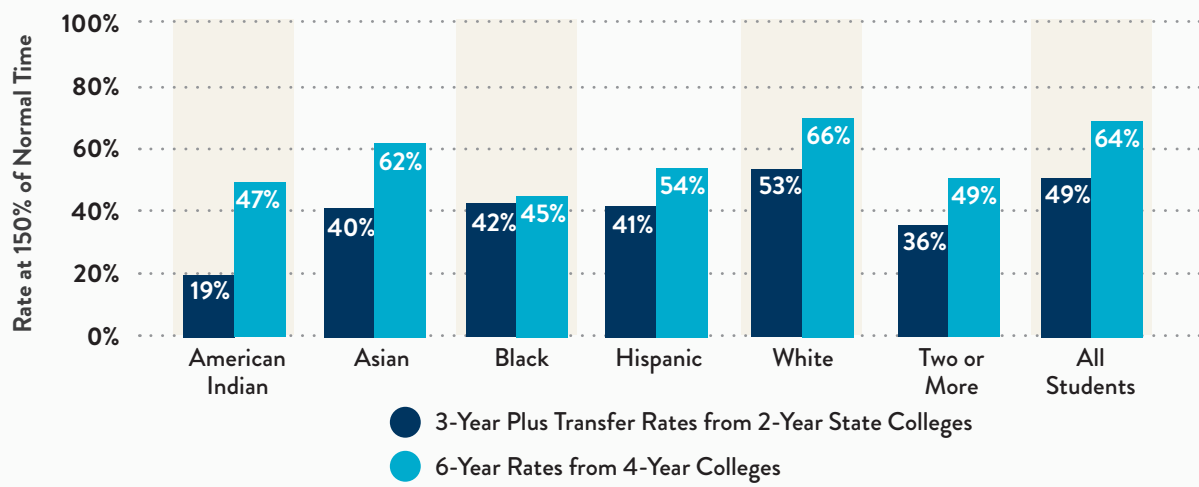
SOURCE: Department of Education, IPED Graduation Rate Survey

Note: Private 2-Year for-profit colleges include only six institutions with 776 students in cohort; compared to 14,153 students in the state college 2-Year cohort. Private 2-Year for-profit colleges do not report transfer-out data.

DATA SUGGESTS

Graduation rates from two-year institutions should include transfer-out rates to more accurately reflect student outcomes.

Minnesota Graduation Rates Varied by Race, but were Higher at 4-Year Institutions, 2014



SOURCE: Department of Education, IPED Graduation Rate Survey

Note: First-time, full-time undergraduates entering college in 2008 at Minnesota 4-Year institutions and 2011 at Minnesota 2-Year institutions and graduating from the same institution, or transferring to another institution (2-Year colleges only) by 2014.



DATA SUGGESTS
Students of color are not graduating at the same rates as White students, even though their graduation rates are higher from four-year than two-year colleges.

ABOUT GRADUATION RATES

The 2014 data¹ reflects the graduation rates of first-time, full-time degree-seeking undergraduates who began at a four-year institution in fall 2008 or at a two-year institution in fall 2011. Only students completing their degree or other award at the same institution were included in the graduation rate.

Students who transfer negatively impact an institution's graduation rate. Overall, about 10 percent of all undergraduates statewide transferred to another institution in fall 2014. Institutions are classified as four-year or two-year institution by the highest level of undergraduate program offered. This classification determines which student cohort is used to track a graduation rate.

¹<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=754>