Student Achievement Metrics – SACSCOC Benchmarks

Murray State University (MSU) evaluates and publishes measures of student achievement. MSU disaggregates the chosen key success indicators to further establish accountability in the success of Low Income (LI) students. Outcomes for benchmark institutions are compiled from data available at the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Data Center. IPEDS does not collect LI data for every metric that MSU identifies as a key success indicator, preventing the calculation of a cohort median for some disaggregated metrics.

MSU goals and thresholds of acceptability: MSU compares our student achievement outcomes to the median outcomes of our SACSCOC benchmark institution group (see list below).

- Our **goal** is for the MSU outcomes to exceed the median outcomes of our benchmark institutions.
- The **threshold of acceptability** is for the MSU outcome to equal these median outcomes.

Graduation Rates (Outcome Measures; Based on Total Entering Students)

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Outcome Measures Graduation Rate	6YR	8YR	6YR	8YR	6YR	8YR	6YR	8YR	6YR	8YR
All Students	55%	58%	53%	54%	56%	58%	62%	63%	63%	64%
Benchmark Institution Median	48%	50%	47%	49%	50%	51%	51%	52%	TBA	TBA
Threshold	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	TBA	TBA
Low Income	44%	46%	39%	41%	41%	43%	49%	50%	47%	49%
Benchmark Institution Median	38%	40%	37%	40%	41%	42%	41%	44%	TBA	TBA
Threshold	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	TBA	TBA

*Data based on the IPEDS feedback report for the given year, or equivalent cohort for metric. The cohort includes full-time, first-time; part-time, first-time; full-time, non-first-time entering; and part-time, non-first-time entering students.

It is important to mention that we have set the Benchmark Institution Median categories as our threshold, which serves as a reference point for our performance evaluation. Our primary objective is to meet or exceed this benchmark, and we consider our goal achieved if our target surpasses the threshold. This approach helps us maintain a consistent and objective standard, which ensures that our performance is in line with the industry standards.

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Six-Year Graduation Rates of First-time, Full-time Baccalaureate-seeking Students

First enrolled	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**
Graduated by	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
All Students (Bachelor's Cohort)	56%	58%	60%	61%	60%
Benchmark Institution Median	46%	50%	52%	52%	TBA
Threshold	Met	Met	Met	Met	TBA
Low Income	41%	49%	47%	49%	45%
Benchmark Institution Median	40%	41%	42%	43%	TBA
Threshold	Met	Met	Met	Met	TBA

* Data from IPEDS Graduation Rates (GRS) survey.

First-Time, Full-Time Bachelor's Seeking Student Retention Rate (first to second year retention)

Retained Year	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Overall	75%	77%	76%	76%	78%
Benchmark Institution Median	70%	72%	73%	74%	TBA
Threshold	Met	Met	Met	Met	TBA
Low Income**	67%	69%	72%	68%	73%

* Data based on the IPEDS feedback report for given year (or equivalent cohort for derived metrics)
**Pell-recipient (low-income) data are not collected in the IPEDS retention survey, so comparison with benchmark institutions is not possible.

Student Achievement Metrics – SACSCOC Benchmarks

Degree Completion by Level—Number of Students Earning a Degree or Certificate

Degree Level	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Associate	23	25	23	17	26
Baccalaureate	1588	1480	1603	1561	1559
Total undergraduate*	1618	1525	1646	1603	1606
Benchmark Institution Median	1226	1159	1088	1063	TBA
Threshold	Met	Met	Met	Met	TBA
Master's	544	543	581	634	626
Doctoral	65	67	91	84	85
Total graduate*	618	627	691	735	741
Benchmark Institution Median	468	436	549	529	TBA
Threshold	Met	Met	Met	Met	TBA
Total all degrees*	2236	2152	2337	2338	2347
Benchmark Institution Median	1893	1594	1637	1591	TBA
Threshold	Met	Met	Met	Met	TBA

*Includes certificates, in addition to degree levels listed.
**Pell recipient (low-income) data are not collected in the IPEDS retention survey.

Definitions of groups included in the metrics:

- Low Income (LI) students are defined as recipients of Pell Grants.

SACSCOC Benchmark Institutions:

Arkansas Tech University	Nicholls State University
Arkansas State University	Northern Kentucky University
Campbell University	The University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
Eastern Kentucky University	The University of Tennessee-Martin
McNeese State University	The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Midwestern State University	University of Central Arkansas
Morehead State University	University of the Incarnate Word