

Ridgewater College

Student Right-To-Know Graduation and Transfer-Out Rates

What is Student Right-To-Know?

Student Right-To-Know is a federal law that requires all colleges and universities to disclose certain information to students. This handout provides the information that a college must provide to students on graduation rates and transfer-out rates for full-time students seeking degrees at Ridgewater College.

What is a graduation rate and what is a transfer-out rate?

Federal regulations specify how to calculate the graduation and transfer rates. The rates come from a study of Ridgewater students who started at the college in the fall of 2012. The study includes all first-time students who enrolled full-time that fall and were seeking to earn a degree, diploma or certificate at the college. The **graduation rate** is the percentage of these students who graduated from Ridgewater within three years. The **transfer-out rate** is the percentage of these students who did not graduate from Ridgewater, but instead transferred to another college or university within three years.

What do I need to know about these rates?

These rates do not report on all students at Ridgewater. The 626 first-time, full-time students in the study were 15 percent of all students enrolled at Ridgewater in fall of 2012.

What are the graduation and transfer-out rates for Ridgewater students and how do they compare to rates for other colleges?

- The **graduation rate** for Ridgewater was 41 percent.
- The **transfer-out rate** for Ridgewater was 15 percent.
- The combination of the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate for Ridgewater was 56 percent. The national average combined rate for similar colleges was 40 percent.

Why don't more Ridgewater students graduate or transfer in three years?

- Since Ridgewater has an “open door” mission, many new students need to take “developmental” courses to improve their reading, writing or math skills before taking other college courses;
- Students who switch from full-time to part-time enrollment or “stop out” for one or more semesters are more likely to take more than three years to graduate;
- Some students take jobs before they graduate;
- Other students delay their education for personal, family or financial reasons.

Disaggregated Student Right-to-Know Graduation and Transfer-Out Rates			
Ridgewater College	Graduation Rate	Transfer-out Rate	Combined Rate
Total Cohort	41%	15%	56%
Race Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*
Black or African American	13%	50%	63%
Hispanic of any race	24%	11%	36%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*	*	*
Nonresident Alien	*	*	*
Two or more races	*	*	*
Unknown race and ethnicity	*	*	*
White	44%	14%	58%
Gender			
Female	40%	15%	54%
Male	42%	15%	57%
Financial Aid			
Pell Grant Recipient	35%	14%	49%
Received neither Pell nor Subsidized Stafford Loans	50%	19%	70%
Received Subsidized Stafford Loans, but no Pell	46%	10%	56%

* Suppressed to protect student privacy.

Due to rounding, percentages may not always appear to add up.