



INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS PRESENTS:



CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT WINTHROP DATA

**LIFE'S UNCERTAIN VOYAGE:
GRADUATION RATES**

MARCH 25, 2026

www.winthrop.edu/ie/ssp



Department of IE Staff

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Agenda

- Introduction to the Student Success Partners Series
- Graduation Data
- Door Prize Drawing
- Table Conversations
- Large Group Conversation
- Wrap-up
- Next Year





Student Success Partners: Conversations about Winthrop Data

Data Transparency

Student Success

Conversations

Partners





About the Data

Maria Linn, Director of Institutional Research





Why do we track graduation rates?

IMPROVEMENT:

- On-time degree completion
- Academic preparedness
- Student satisfaction
- Student engagement
- Recruiting strategies
- Program mix
- Financial health

ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Strategic plan/KPI metric
- House Ways & Means budget presentation
- State Accountability Report performance measure
- College rankings
- Federal & state reporting
- Institutional accreditation





How are Graduation Rates Calculated?

- Based on the cohort of students who enter an institution during the fall semester as first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students.
 - “Full-time” means enrolled in 12 or more credit hours on entering.
 - “First-time” means enrollment after completion of a high school diploma/GED.
 - Students who enter an institution for the first time during the summer prior to their first fall are also included in the fall cohort.
 - An individual student’s cohort year cannot change.
- Rate is calculated as the total number of completers within 100% (4-year) or 150% (6-year) of normal program time divided by the cohort base, minus any allowable exclusions.
 - *Allowable exclusions:* death, severe disability, service in the armed forces, service with a foreign aid service of a foreign government, service in official church mission





A note on comparison data

Graduation rate is the % who graduate from the SAME institution

- Focus is on institution's success

College completion rate is the % who graduate from ANY institution (term used by National Student Clearinghouse)

- Focus is on student's success
- Relies on tracking data from the National Student Clearinghouse





Graduation Rate Fact Book Table

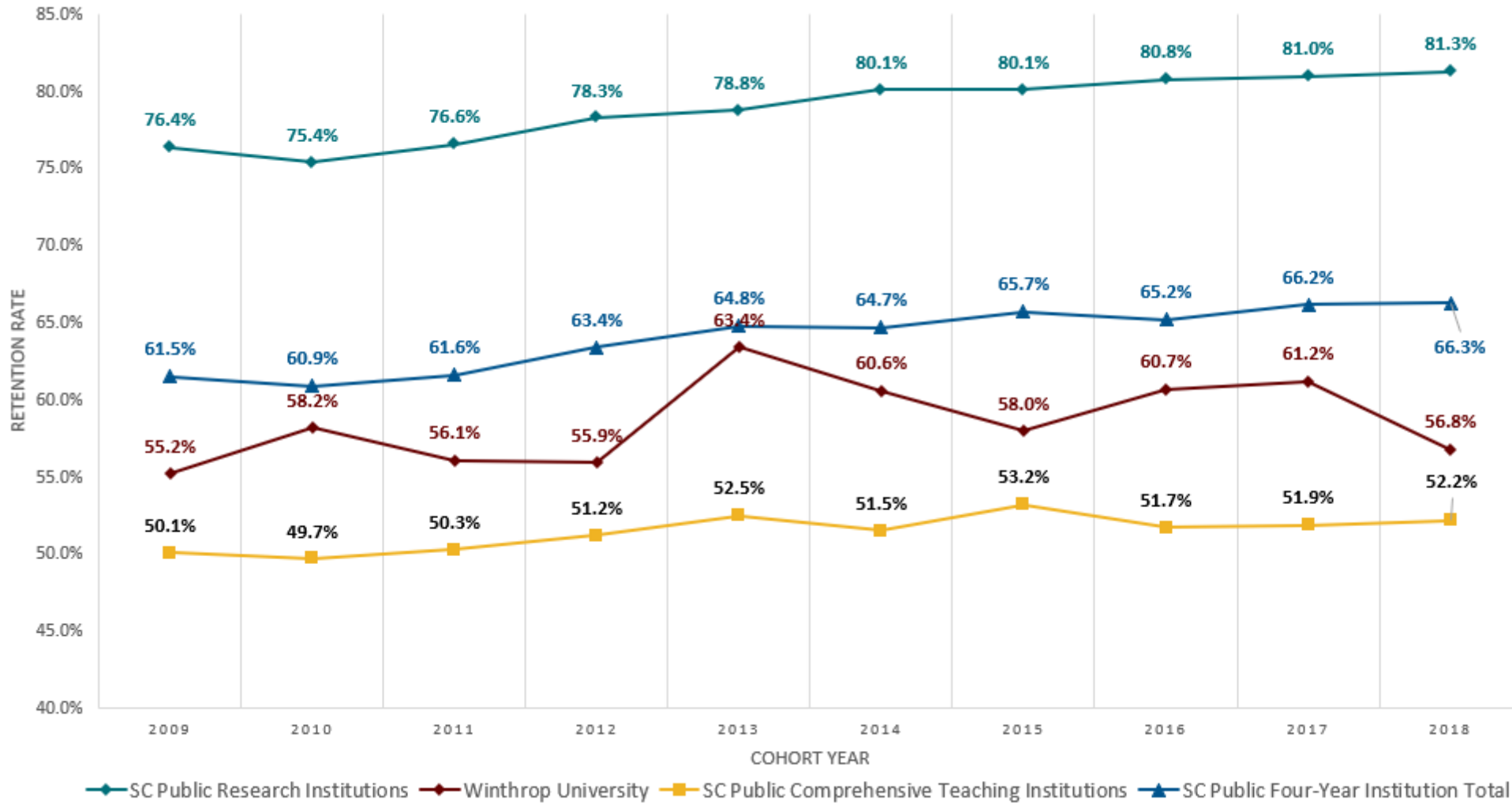
Winthrop University
 Fall-to-Fall First-Time, Full-Time Freshman Graduation and Continuation Rates - All Students
 Cohort Year 2015 - 2024

Cohort Year	Head-count	% Cont to 2nd Yr	% Cont to 3rd Yr	% Grad in 3 Yrs	% Cont to 4th Yr	% Grad in 4 Yrs	% Cont to 5th Yr	% Grad in 5 Yrs	% Cont to 6th Yr	% Grad in 6 Yrs	% Cont to 7th Yr	% Grad in 7 Yrs	% Cont to 8th Yr	% Grad in 8 Yrs	% Cont to 9th Yr	% Grad in 9 Yrs	% Cont to 10th Yr	% Grad in 10 Yrs	% Cont to 11th Yr
2015	1086	73.2%	65.4%	1.5%	61.5%	45.8%	13.9%	58.2%	3.0%	58.2%	0.6%	58.5%	0.6%	59.0%	0.4%	59.2%	0.0%	59.3%	0.0%
2016	1068	76.6%	68.2%	2.3%	63.5%	48.5%	14.6%	58.6%	3.4%	60.9%	0.9%	61.6%	0.7%	62.3%	0.1%	62.3%	0.2%		
2017	1046	74.7%	67.0%	3.6%	61.3%	51.4%	11.3%	60.2%	1.9%	61.2%	0.7%	61.6%	0.6%	61.7%	0.2%				
2018	988	69.8%	63.7%	3.0%	57.2%	45.6%	12.7%	54.9%	2.5%	57.0%	1.0%	57.2%	0.5%						
2019	1071	69.9%	59.0%	3.0%	51.8%	41.1%	11.4%	50.0%	2.6%	51.6%	0.9%								
2020	957	67.9%	57.5%	5.1%	50.6%	42.6%	10.5%	49.1%	2.9%										
2021	817	67.0%	57.9%	3.7%	54.1%	44.4%	10.5%												
2022	707	72.8%	63.2%	5.7%	54.2%														
2023	864	73.8%	66.0%																
2024	896	74.1%																	





Six-Year Graduation Rate Trends



Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Statistical Abstract, 47th Edition 2025





Comparison Institutions

SC Public Research Institutions

Research Institutions
Clemson
USC Columbia

SC Public Comprehensive Teaching Institutions

Comprehensive Teaching Institutions
The Citadel
Coastal Carolina
College of Charleston
Francis Marion
Lander
SC State
USC Aiken
USC Beaufort
USC Upstate
Winthrop

SC Public Four-Year Institution Total

Research Institutions
Clemson
USC Columbia
Research Subtotal
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions
The Citadel
Coastal Carolina
College of Charleston
Francis Marion
Lander
SC State
USC Aiken
USC Beaufort
USC Upstate
Winthrop
Comprehensive Subtotal
Public Four-Year Institutions Total





**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Table 3.1: Graduation Rates for Public Four-Year Institutions
First-Time, Full-Time Undergraduates Entering in Fall 2019**

	Total Cohort	Bachelor's Cohort	Cohort Exclusions	Bachelor's Cohort Received Bachelor's Degree			% Associates Cohort Received Bachelor's within 150% ¹	Bachelor's Cohort Received Bachelor's Degree			150% ¹ Graduation Rate
				in 4 years	in 5 years	in 6 years		in 4 years	in 5 years	in 6 years ²	
Research Institutions											
Clemson	3,928	3,928		2,765	575	81		70.4%	85.0%	87.1%	87.1%
USC Columbia	6,279	6,279		4,418	417	89		70.4%	77.0%	78.4%	78.4%
Research Subtotal	10,207	10,207	0	7,183	992	170	0.0%	70.4%	80.1%	81.8%	81.8%
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions											
The Citadel	646	646		476	20	7		73.7%	76.8%	77.9%	77.9%
College of Charleston	2,046	2,046	1	1,139	160	35		55.7%	63.5%	65.2%	65.2%
Coastal Carolina	2,301	2,301	2	980	214	46		42.6%	51.9%	53.9%	53.9%
Winthrop	1,073	1,073		441	95	17		41.1%	50.0%	51.5%	51.5%
Lander	943	943		340	107	26		36.1%	47.4%	50.2%	50.2%
USC Aiken	556	556		147	74	20		26.4%	39.7%	43.3%	43.3%
USC Upstate	881	881		256	94	30		29.1%	39.7%	43.1%	43.1%
USC Beaufort	440	440		131	27	10		29.8%	35.9%	38.2%	38.2%
Francis Marion	706	706		155	80	31		22.0%	33.3%	37.7%	37.7%
SC State	359	359	1	49	43	19		13.7%	25.7%	31.0%	31.0%
Comprehensive Subtotal	9,951	9,951	4	4,114	914	241	0.0%	41.4%	50.5%	53.0%	53.0%
Public Four-Year Institutions Total	20,158	20,158	4	11,297	1,906	411	0.0%	56.1%	65.5%	67.5%	67.5%

¹150% Graduation Rate includes students who received Bachelor's six years through August 2025.

²Six Year Graduation Rate may differ from the 150% Graduation Rate because it includes only initial Bachelor's degree students.





**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Table 3.2: Graduation Rates for Four-Year Public Institutions**

Ten-Year Trends for Percent of First-Time, Full-Time Undergraduates Graduating within 150% of Program Time

	Cohort Fall 2010 Reported through August 2016	Cohort Fall 2011 Reported through August 2017	Cohort Fall 2012 Reported through August 2018	Cohort Fall 2013 Reported through August 2019	Cohort Fall 2014 Reported through August 2020	Cohort Fall 2015 Reported through August 2021	Cohort Fall 2016 Reported through August 2022	Cohort Fall 2017 Reported through August 2023	Cohort Fall 2018 Reported through August 2024	Cohort Fall 2019 Reported through August 2025
Research Institutions										
Clemson	80.9%	82.1%	82.8%	83.4%	84.8%	85.0%	84.9%	87.8%	86.2%	87.1%
USC Columbia	71.7%	73.0%	74.9%	75.8%	76.8%	76.8%	77.9%	76.7%	78.2%	78.4%
Research Subtotal	75.4%	76.6%	78.3%	78.8%	80.1%	80.1%	80.8%	81.0%	81.3%	81.8%
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions										
The Citadel	69.4%	73.3%	71.1%	73.9%	70.9%	72.1%	68.9%	71.3%	73.8%	77.9%
Coastal Carolina	41.7%	42.2%	43.7%	46.8%	45.9%	51.0%	47.9%	50.7%	48.0%	53.9%
College of Charleston	69.2%	69.2%	71.4%	65.3%	65.6%	66.9%	64.4%	64.8%	65.7%	65.2%
Francis Marion	40.2%	37.3%	39.4%	43.1%	43.9%	42.9%	39.1%	42.4%	43.4%	37.7%
Lander	42.9%	42.4%	42.7%	44.8%	48.8%	53.3%	44.9%	48.8%	49.8%	50.2%
SC State	36.3%	36.0%	33.7%	35.1%	29.6%	30.4%	33.7%	29.4%	36.4%	31.0%
USC Aiken	42.6%	40.6%	39.3%	38.4%	40.2%	42.3%	42.4%	39.4%	39.9%	43.3%
USC Beaufort	23.6%	27.3%	31.9%	30.2%	33.4%	28.9%	38.0%	38.2%	33.3%	38.2%
USC Upstate	42.2%	42.6%	44.0%	47.7%	46.7%	46.5%	42.4%	42.0%	42.4%	43.1%
Winthrop	58.2%	56.1%	55.9%	63.4%	60.6%	58.0%	60.7%	61.2%	56.8%	51.5%
Comprehensive Subtotal	49.7%	50.3%	51.2%	52.5%	51.5%	53.2%	51.7%	51.9%	52.2%	53.0%
Public Four-Year Institutions Total	60.9%	61.6%	63.4%	64.8%	64.7%	65.7%	65.2%	66.2%	66.3%	67.5%





What's available & where?

Student Consumer Information (Public)

Fact Book (F/S only)

- Student Outcomes

- Retention Rates
- Graduation and Continuation Rates**

Overall Graduation and Continuation Rates (PDF - 180 KB)

Graduation and Continuation Rates by Race/Ethnicity (PDF - 314 KB)

Graduation and Continuation Rates by Gender (PDF - 183 KB)

Graduation and Continuation Rates by Pell Eligibility (PDF - 369 KB)

- Fact Books (PDF's average size - 130 KB)

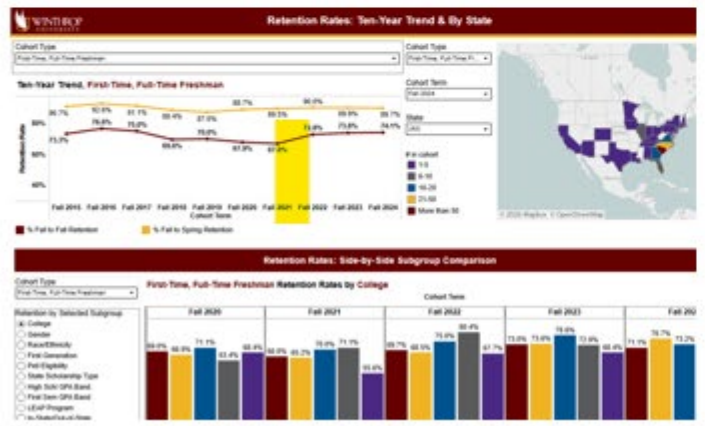
- CURRENT YEAR

- 2025-26 Fact Book

- ENROLLMENT DATA
- NEW STUDENT DATA
- STUDENT OUTCOME DATA**

Fall Credit Hour Production	Undergraduate Degrees Conferred by Year	Retention Rates - Overall
Spring Credit Hour Production	Undergraduate Degrees Conferred by Semester & Concentration	Retention Rates by Gender
Summer Credit Hour Production	Graduate Degrees Conferred by Year	Retention Rates by Race/Ethnicity
	Graduate Degrees Conferred by Semester & Concentration	Retention by Pell Eligibility
		Graduation Rates - Overall
		Graduation Rates by Gender
		Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity
		Graduation Rates by Pell Eligibility

Dashboard (F/S only)

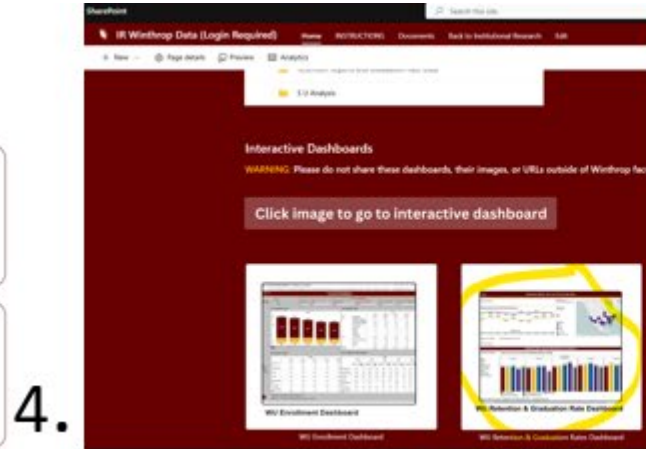




Let's Navigate to the Dashboard

URL: www.winthrop.edu/ie/sharepoint-site

Or click through from www.winthrop.edu:





Dashboard Tips & Tricks

- Preferred browsers are Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome.
- Zoom settings may need to be adjusted (67% works well for most). Click refresh after adjusting for best results.
- Navigate using the gray tabs along the top of the dashboard.
- Use the Cohort Type filter to choose whether to view **freshman** or **transfer** and **full-time** or **part-time** cohorts.
- Hover your cursor over the graphs to see tooltips containing additional information, including cohort sizes.
- Be mindful of population sizes when viewing data, using filters, and comparing subgroups. The smaller the sample size, the less reliable and valid the data will be.
- The top graph on the Persistence & Graduation Rates dashboard shows overall rates. Use the radio button on the bottom graph to compare overall data with various subgroups.





Discussion

Reflecting on what surprised you and what you learned about the data presented today,

1. What are some of Winthrop's strengths in graduating students on time?
2. What are some opportunities for Winthrop to improve our graduation rates?





Wrap-Up

- **Thank you** for attending! **Coaster** is our departing gift to you.
- Feel free to take the **handouts** with you for future reference.
- Please, complete an **evaluation form** – on paper or scan the QR code.





Stay tuned. We'll be back in 2026-27!
Use the evaluation form to:
Send ideas for next year's session!
Volunteer to share your data!

