

ACTION PLAN

Submitted by agency?	Yes
Timeline assigned?	No
Responsibility assigned?	No

Higher Education Institutions

Traditional data reporting for colleges and universities focuses on retention and graduation of full-time freshman cohorts. For instance, UNM's graduation rate of 53 percent in 2020 means that from the 2014 freshman class of full-time students, 53 percent of this cohort graduated within six years.

A large gap in the data – impacting two-year colleges more than four-year universities – surrounds the success of part-time freshman cohorts. Though reported to the federal government, public colleges and universities have not reported on part-time student outcomes to state policymakers. The legislative deliberation on the Governor's opportunity scholarship brought more attention to these gaps in data reporting. The proposed legislation sought to award financial scholarships to part-time students, for up to five years to compete a two-year degree.

Leadership from both DFA and LFC joined to restructure the data reporting framework for colleges and universities throughout the state two years ago.

Data Reporting on Part-time Students

Graduation rates for two-year community colleges trend lower than four-year universities. Community college administrators point to several factors but highlight the higher proportion of part-time students. On average, 70 percent of students attending two-year colleges in New Mexico are enrolled part-time. Part-time students reflect varied backgrounds: some may be adults returning to college campuses to learn new skills, some may be traditional college students, who have children or families they must support through full-time employment, some may need remedial work to develop skills necessary to be successful in college, some may be high school students who are earning college credits prior to high school graduation, or some may transfer to a four-year university before completing an associate degree. Regardless, the data reporting on this majority student population is limited. According to institutions, this student population moves in and out of full-time to part-time enrollment and many drop out of college prior to earning a credential.

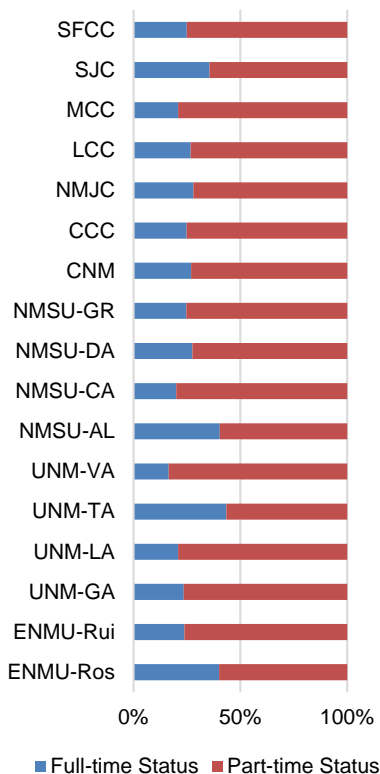
Graduation Rate: 300 Percent of Expected Time to Graduation, Part-time Students

Historically, colleges and universities provided little to no information on part-time student enrollment, retention, or completion. Now, the performance data reporting framework requires two-year colleges to report on part-time student graduation rates. Unlike conventional graduation rates for full-time students, two-year colleges report on the success of part-time students to earn a two-year credential within six years, or 300 percent of standard time.

Given the large share of part-time student enrollment, two year colleges are providing this data to enlighten policymakers on student outcomes for its largest component of student population.

Independent Community Colleges. The 2014 freshman cohort included more than 2,141 part-time students. Only 9.9 percent of the 2014 cohort, or 213 students, graduated within 6 years. Of note, the measure only reports on students who earn a two-year

Parttime v. Fulltime Students

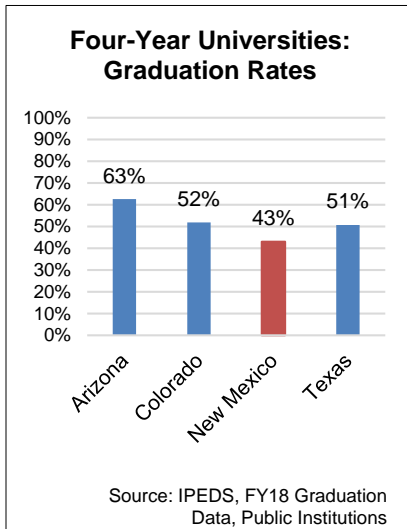


Source: IPEDS

PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

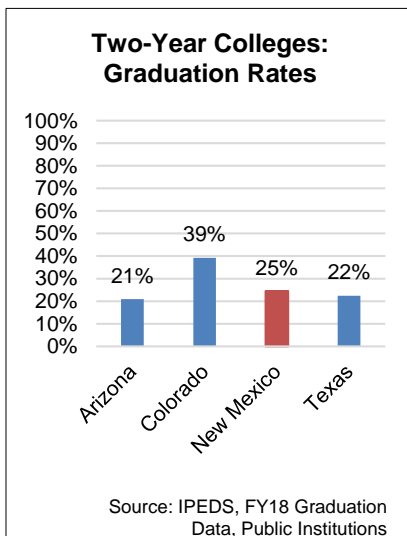
Higher Education Institutions Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2021

associate degree. Students in this cohort who earned a sub-baccalaureate certificate are not counted in the graduation rate. When included, the number of students who earned a certificate or degree jumps to 381 students, or a 17.8 graduation rate.



Measure: First-time, Part-Time Freshman 300 Percent Graduation Rate	Students in 2014 Cohort	Fall 2014 Cohort Target	Fall 2014 Grad Rate	Rating
Central NM Community College	1,268	15.3%	7.5%	R
Clovis Community College	195	10%	6%	R
Luna Community College	124	65%	27%	G
Mesalands Community College	69	45%	17.7%	Y
New Mexico Junior College	NR	50%	4%	R
San Juan College	271	18%	9.6%	R
Santa Fe Community College	214	15%	4.2%	R

Branch Community Colleges. The 2014 freshman cohort included more than 678 part-time students. Only 15.6 percent of the 2014 cohort, or 106 students, graduated within 6 years. As with community colleges, the measure only reports on students who earn a two-year associate degree. When including students who earned a sub-baccalaureate certificate, the number of students who earned a certificate or degree jumps to 381 students, or a 17.8 graduation rate.



Measure: First-time, Part-Time Freshman 300 Percent Graduation Rate	Students in 2014 Cohort	Fall 2014 Cohort Target	Fall 2014 Grad Rate	Rating
ENMU - Roswell	N/R	30%	12%	Y
ENMU - Ruidoso	N/R	30%	33%	G
NMSU - Alamogordo	26	15%	11.5%	Y
NMSU - Carlsbad	24	10%	19%	Y
NMSU - Dona Ana CC	211	10%	26%	G
NMSU - Grants	26	15%	17%	Y
UNM - Gallup	73	7%	9.6%	R
UNM - Los Alamos	145	1%	12%	Y
UNM - Taos	32	5%	3%	R
UNM - Valencia	141	5.5%	9.9%	R

NMSU Branch Campuses. The four branch campuses of New Mexico State University perform better as a group than other branch systems. That certificates have declined within the NMSU system when compared with statewide growth, 42 percent in past five years, shows NMSU branch campuses, through the Aggie Pathway program, appear to be transferring students to four-year institutions. The outsized growth in certificate programs appears to be occurring at independent community colleges.

The data validate the value of the Aggie Pathway program in helping students begin at a two-year branch campus, and after earning an associate degree, transferring to the main campus. At each of the branch campuses, the highest number of associate degrees awarded are aligned with the top-producing bachelor degree programs at the main campus.

Headcount Enrollment at NM Institutions			
	Total Freshman Enrollment	NM Freshman Enrollment	Share of NM Students
NM Tech	284	246	87%
NMSU	1,785	1,243	70%
UNM	2,789	2,218	80%
ENMU	437	346	79%
Highlands	193	141	73%
Northern	103	98	95%
Western	235	176	75%
	5,826	4,468	77%
Gallup	84	70	83%
Los Alamos	214	145	68%
Valencia	272	239	88%
Taos	108	102	94%
Alamogordo	58	58	100%
Carlsbad*	112	112	100%
DACC*	1151	1,151	100%
Grants*	50	50	100%
Roswell	326	276	85%
Ruidoso	66	51	77%
	2,441	2,254	92%
Clovis	250	154	62%
CNM	1,656	1,417	86%
Luna	106	75	71%
Mesalands	42	36	86%
NMJC	488	388	80%
SJC	521	341	65%
SFCC	177	150	85%
	3,240	2,561	79%
Total	11,507	9,283	81%

*Institution reported more NM students than total freshman enrollment. LFC staff reduced to total enrollment.

Source: Institutional researchers.

New Mexico High School Graduates

Colleges and universities have begun to report on the number of freshman who graduate from a New Mexico high school and who have enrolled at a state higher education institution. The LFC has long reported on the top feeder high schools to UNM and to NMSU, which has served as a proxy measurement of market penetration for state postsecondary institutions. The new data will offer a more comprehensive assessment of the ability of local, regional, and research universities to attract and recruit New Mexico students. The data will inform legislators on how many New Mexico students are matriculating within the state, or seeking higher education out of the state, or simply not enrolling at all.

The policy initiatives surrounding this data are numerous and not well informed by existing data sources, such as the number of high school students who opt in for a “gap” year for lottery scholarship or the actual college going rate for high school graduates.

The table shows the number of New Mexico freshmen enrolling at each New Mexico institution. Overall, of the total freshman cohort from the Fall 2020 semester, 81 percent of the students were graduates of New Mexico high schools. The branch campuses are achieving the highest level of support from New Mexico students, which would be expected given the ability for local students to transfer to a four-year university after earning an associate degree.

The independent community colleges show lower rates of support from high school graduates, which may indicate the institutions are service a larger portion of adult learners.