

Student Achievement Measures

Fall 2025

Student Achievement Measures and Rationale

South University has selected four measures for institutional level student achievement outcomes. These measures reflect student achievement from a short-term, mid-term, and long-term perspective, and provide opportunities for intervention at multiple levels. The table below identifies these measures, the rationale for selecting each measure, the benchmark and goals set for each measure to indicate achievement, and lists areas of disaggregation when the data is examined for additional indicators. For all measures, South University will explore outcomes from students who are enrolled in on-ground programs and in online programs separately.

Measure	Rationale	Threshold and Goals	Disaggregation areas
IPEDS 200% Graduation Rate for First Time in College, Full-Time Students. (FTIC) This measure was identified as a core measure for SACSCOC.	This rate provides a consistent and comparable measure of how the FTIC cohort of students succeed in the bachelor level programs they enroll in. This data can be compared to similar institutions and can help to identify opportunities for improvement of this outcome for this population of students	On-Ground Threshold 13%. On-Ground Goal 15% (additional 2% to the graduation rate). Online Threshold 3% Online Goal 5% (additional 2% to the graduation rate). These thresholds are based on historical graduation rates for these two groups of students from the 2019 IPEDS Data Feedback Report.	Gender (Male/Female) Race/Ethnicity (White, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, All Other Students of Color) Pell Eligibility (Yes/No) This measure only represents bachelor degree seeking students, so it is not disaggregated by student program level.
Student retention 90 days after start date	This retention measure provides a picture of how well students are beginning their program work and includes students at all levels and in all modalities of program offering. Low retention rates at this point	On-ground Threshold 75% retention. On-ground Goal 78% (additional 3% to the retention rate). Online Threshold 65% retention. Online Goal 6% (additional 3% to the retention rate).	Gender (Male/Female) Race/Ethnicity (White, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, All Other Students of Color) Pell Eligibility (Yes/No)

	indicates opportunities for interventions for students struggling to begin their studies.		Program Level (Associate, Bachelor, Master, Doctoral)
Student retention 180 days after start date	This retention measure provides an indication of how well students are settling into their program work and includes students at all levels and in all modalities of program offerings. Low retention rates at this point indicates opportunities for interventions for students who may be struggling to incorporate the rigor of the program into their schedules	On-ground Threshold 65% retention. On-ground Goal 68% (additional 3% to the retention rate). Online Threshold 50% retention. Online Goal 53% (additional 3% to the retention rate).	Gender (Male/Female) Race/Ethnicity (White, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, All Other Students of Color) Pell Eligibility (Yes/No) Program Level (Associate, Bachelor, Master, Doctoral)
Course Pass Rates	This measure provides information about student successful completion of courses taken in programs. This number is reviewed by faculty and leadership in regular program session reviews. Examining this measure provides insight into potential student challenges with course level, content, or other program-specific issues that can be addressed.	On-ground Threshold 85% pass rate. On-ground Goal 88% (additional 3% to the pass rate). Online Threshold 65% pass rate. Online Goal 68% (additional 3% to the pass rate).	Gender (Male/Female) Race/Ethnicity (White, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, All Other Students of Color) Pell Eligibility (Yes/No) Program Level (Associate, Bachelor, Master, Doctoral) Undergraduate Clinical Program (Yes/No) Graduate Clinical Program (Yes/No)

Key Student Completion Indicator (KSCI) 200% IPEDS Graduation Rate

Table 1 shows the results of the most recent three years of aggregate IPEDS information for on-ground campuses and online. The online threshold rate has been met for the three most recent years of reporting, although the goal rate has not been met. The on-ground threshold and goal for the latest two FTIC cohorts of students have been met.

Table 1: KSCI 200% Graduation Rates for Online and Aggregate On-ground FTIC students

8 year IPEDS Grad Rate	2013 Cohort	2014 Cohort	2015 Cohort
Online			
8 year IPEDS Grad Rate	4%	3%	4%
Benchmark Rate (3%)	*	*	*
Goal Met (5%)			
On Ground			
8 year IPEDS Grad Rate	12%	15%	16%
Benchmark Rate (13%)		*	*
Goal Met (15%)		*	*

* indicates Threshold or Goal was met

Table 2 provides the breakdown of the areas of disaggregation examined for additional information about these results.

Table 2: 200% Graduation Rate Results Disaggregation

8 year IPEDS Grad Rate	2013 Cohort	2014 Cohort	2015 Cohort
Online			
Total	4% (34/841)	3% (33/1173)	4% (41/949)
Male	2% (7/317)	1% (6/462)	3% (8/314)
Female	5% (29/528)	4% (27/711)	5% (33/635)
White Students	3% (11/359)	3% (14/470)	6% (25/425)
Black/African American Students	4% (11/302)	2% (10/447)	2% (7/349)
Hispanic/Latinx Students	8% (7/90)	5% (7/138)	7% (8/119)
Other Students of Color	7% (7/94)	2% (2/85)	2% (1/56)
Pell Eligible Students	4% (27/602)	3% (29/915)	4% (30/740)
Non Pell Eligible Students	4% (9/243)	2% (4/258)	5% (11/209)
On Ground			
Total	12% (21/176)	15% (14/108)	16% (21/131)
Male	12% (7/57)	19% (5/36)	14% (5/35)
Female	13% (16/121)	13% (9/72)	17% (16/96)
White Students	13% (7/52)	19% (3/24)	10% (3/29)
Black/African American Students	11% (10/92)	13% (8/61)	12% (8/67)
Hispanic/Latinx Students	24% (6/25)	12% (2/17)	20% (5/25)
Other Students of Color	0% (0/9)	17% 1/6)	50% (5/10)
Pell Eligible Students	13% (15/116)	15% (10/83)	17% (18/104)
Non Pell Eligible Students	13% (8/62)	17% (4/25)	11% (3/27)

90-day Retention Rate

Table 3 shows the past three years, by quarter, of student persistence at 90 days after starting classes at South University. Results have been mixed, with some positive results over the past five academic quarters. The online retention has met the set threshold all five quarters and the on-ground retention has met the set threshold for three of the past five quarters.

Table 3: 90-day Retention Rates for New Students

90 day Retention Rates	2022				2023				2024				2025	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Online Retention	68%	73%	68%	69%	65%	64%	61%	64%	62%	65%	65%	68%	67%	69%
Benchmark Met (65%)	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	*	*	*
Goal Met (68%)	*	*	*	*								*		*
On-ground Retention	72%	75%	73%	75%	75%	70%	73%	73%	74%	77%	76%	74%	74%	77%
Benchmark Met (75%)		*		*	*					*	*			*
Goal Met (78%)														

* indicates Benchmark or Goal was met

Table 4 provides the breakdown of the areas of disaggregation examined for additional information about these results.

Table 4: 90-day Retention Rates for New Students Disaggregation

90 day Retention Rates	2022				2023				2024				2025	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Online Retention														
Male	62%	68%	61%	66%	60%	59%	55%	57%	55%	57%	55%	61%	58%	63%
Female	70%	74%	70%	70%	67%	66%	63%	65%	64%	67%	67%	70%	69%	71%
White Students	69%	73%	68%	71%	65%	63%	61%	63%	62%	64%	65%	67%	65%	67%
Black/African American Students	66%	71%	65%	68%	63%	63%	63%	66%	63%	64%	63%	67%	66%	70%
Hispanic/Latinx Students	71%	77%	75%	72%	71%	70%	60%	59%	63%	69%	66%	72%	72%	74%
Other Students of Color	68%	76%	68%	63%	65%	64%	60%	64%	63%	66%	67%	66%	64%	67%
Pell Eligible Students	66%	71%	67%	68%	62%	62%	64%	65%	61%	63%	64%	67%	64%	67%
Non Pell Eligible Students	72%	77%	70%	72%	72%	68%	57%	61%	66%	70%	66%	71%	73%	75%
Associate Student	68%	69%	64%	69%	62%	58%	62%	67%	64%	65%	62%	68%	66%	69%
Bachelor Student	65%	71%	65%	66%	61%	63%	62%	64%	60%	61%	61%	64%	62%	65%
Master Student	77%	81%	79%	77%	78%	71%	58%	57%	66%	71%	75%	75%	78%	78%
Doctoral Student	72%	82%	77%	77%	77%	75%	78%	80%	75%	76%	72%	77%	74%	78%
On-ground Retention														
Male	72%	78%	77%	78%	78%	76%	77%	74%	76%	79%	82%	77%	76%	80%
Female	72%	74%	72%	74%	75%	69%	72%	73%	74%	76%	75%	74%	73%	76%
White Students	76%	81%	78%	79%	76%	76%	78%	71%	79%	82%	83%	72%	77%	82%
Black/African American Students	69%	70%	70%	70%	73%	66%	68%	74%	71%	73%	70%	74%	72%	72%
Hispanic/Latinx Students	72%	74%	69%	75%	75%	72%	74%	71%	75%	81%	77%	78%	73%	79%
Other Students of Color	76%	75%	77%	82%	80%	72%	77%	76%	75%	78%	81%	74%	75%	81%
Pell Eligible Students	68%	66%	69%	69%	72%	66%	67%	74%	70%	71%	70%	75%	70%	70%
Non Pell Eligible Students	75%	81%	76%	79%	78%	74%	77%	71%	77%	82%	81%	74%	77%	83%
Associate Student	65%	69%	59%	68%	68%	64%	64%	68%	64%	67%	62%	67%	67%	71%
Bachelor Student	70%	67%	70%	70%	73%	67%	67%	76%	72%	72%	69%	75%	71%	69%
Master Student	76%	87%	80%	87%	78%	77%	85%	64%	80%	88%	92%	79%	77%	90%
Doctoral Student	95%	89%	97%	75%	97%	87%	90%	74%	92%	93%	96%	100%	95%	95%

180-day Retention Rate

Table 5 shows the past three years, by quarter, of student persistence at 180 days after starting classes at South University. Results have been mixed, with some positive results over the past five academic quarters. The online retention has met the set benchmark all five quarters and the on-ground retention has met the set benchmark for three of the past five quarters.

Table 5: 180 day Retention Rate for New Students

180 day Retention Rates	2022				2023				2024				2025	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Online Retention	52%	54%	51%	51%	46%	46%	48%	51%	48%	50%	50%	54%	51%	55%
Benchmark Met (50%)	*	*	*	*				*		*	*	*	*	*
Goal Met (53%)		*										*		*
On-ground Retention	58%	63%	57%	59%	59%	65%	64%	59%	62%	67%	65%	60%	59%	68%
Benchmark Met (65%)						*				*	*			*
Goal Met (68%)														*

* indicates Benchmark or Goal was met

Table 6 provides the breakdown of the areas of disaggregation examined for additional information about these results.

Table 6: 180-day Retention Rates for New Students Disaggregation

180 day Retention Rates	2022				2023				2024				2025	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Online Retention														
Male	44%	47%	44%	45%	40%	37%	40%	41%	38%	42%	41%	45%	42%	44%
Female	54%	55%	53%	52%	48%	48%	51%	53%	50%	52%	53%	56%	53%	57%
White Students	51%	53%	51%	51%	45%	44%	48%	49%	46%	48%	50%	53%	48%	53%
Black/African American Students	50%	50%	49%	49%	44%	45%	47%	50%	46%	48%	48%	52%	51%	54%
Hispanic/Latinx Students	60%	61%	58%	56%	54%	50%	52%	56%	55%	57%	55%	60%	59%	59%
Other Students of Color	52%	55%	48%	47%	47%	47%	47%	51%	49%	51%	52%	51%	48%	53%
Pell Eligible Students	48%	49%	49%	46%	41%	42%	46%	46%	43%	44%	49%	51%	47%	51%
Non Pell Eligible Students	59%	61%	54%	58%	58%	54%	53%	60%	60%	62%	53%	59%	60%	62%
Associate Student	44%	46%	45%	47%	40%	43%	46%	50%	45%	44%	46%	52%	48%	51%
Bachelor Student	48%	50%	47%	45%	40%	41%	43%	44%	41%	43%	45%	49%	45%	50%
Master Student	66%	67%	65%	66%	64%	56%	60%	64%	65%	67%	65%	65%	65%	66%
Doctoral Student	59%	67%	64%	64%	69%	66%	68%	68%	64%	66%	63%	66%	68%	68%
On-ground Retention														
Male	56%	65%	63%	60%	63%	71%	70%	55%	65%	72%	72%	63%	62%	73%
Female	58%	62%	56%	59%	59%	64%	63%	59%	61%	66%	64%	59%	59%	66%
White Students	64%	72%	63%	57%	63%	72%	74%	55%	65%	77%	75%	65%	62%	77%
Black/African American Students	53%	56%	53%	57%	53%	59%	56%	59%	57%	59%	57%	57%	56%	59%
Hispanic/Latinx Students	59%	60%	57%	60%	62%	65%	66%	58%	64%	70%	69%	66%	61%	69%
Other Students of Color	59%	62%	63%	69%	67%	70%	70%	62%	66%	70%	72%	56%	63%	78%
Pell Eligible Students	51%	53%	50%	56%	52%	56%	55%	59%	56%	56%	57%	58%	54%	59%
Non Pell Eligible Students	63%	70%	63%	61%	64%	72%	72%	57%	66%	76%	73%	62%	63%	77%
Associate Student	51%	50%	47%	45%	49%	56%	53%	48%	49%	51%	48%	49%	49%	60%
Bachelor Student	53%	56%	50%	60%	55%	58%	56%	61%	58%	60%	57%	61%	55%	59%
Master Student	68%	76%	69%	64%	67%	76%	82%	61%	72%	83%	86%	63%	70%	90%
Doctoral Student	68%	89%	94%	69%	72%	89%	92%	58%	68%	91%	92%	67%	63%	

Course Pass Rates

Table 7 shows the past three years, by quarter, of course pass rates. Results have been mixed, with some positive results over the past five academic quarters. Both the online and on-ground course pass rates have met the set benchmark four of the past five quarters and on-ground has met the goal for three of the five quarters.

Table 7: Course Pass Rates

Course Pass Rates	2022				2023				2024				2025	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Online Course Pass Rates	65%	62%	61%	59%	62%	61%	65%	64%	63%	62%	66%	65%	67%	66%
Benchmark Met (65%)	*						*				*	*	*	*
Goal Met (68%)														
On-ground Course Pass Rates	85%	89%	78%	86%	87%	90%	86%	77%	87%	89%	86%	77%	89%	91%
Benchmark Met (85%)	*	*		*		*	*		*	*	*		*	*
Goal Met (88%)		*				*				*			*	*

* indicates Benchmark or Goal was met

Table 8 provides the breakdown of the areas of disaggregation examined for additional information about these results.

Table 8: Course Pass Rates Disaggregation

Course Pass Rates	2022				2023				2024				2025	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Online Course Pass Rates														
Male	62%	57%	58%	56%	58%	55%	60%	57%	57%	56%	60%	59%	61%	60%
Female	66%	63%	62%	60%	63%	63%	66%	65%	65%	63%	67%	66%	68%	67%
White Students	67%	64%	62%	60%	63%	62%	65%	65%	64%	62%	66%	66%	67%	65%
Black/African American Students	60%	57%	56%	55%	58%	57%	62%	60%	59%	59%	63%	62%	64%	64%
Hispanic/Latinx Students	72%	70%	71%	67%	70%	69%	71%	69%	71%	69%	71%	71%	73%	72%
Other Students of Color	67%	59%	60%	56%	61%	59%	64%	61%	63%	61%	66%	65%	65%	64%
Pell Eligible Students	58%	56%	55%	51%	54%	53%	59%	57%	56%	54%	61%	59%	61%	60%
Non Pell Eligible Students	82%	65%	74%	78%	82%	65%	78%	83%	84%	66%	76%	82%	86%	85%
Associate Student	62%	56%	56%	55%	56%	56%	59%	59%	57%	55%	59%	59%	61%	60%
Bachelor Student	58%	55%	54%	51%	54%	54%	59%	56%	56%	55%	59%	59%	61%	60%
Master Student	91%	91%	92%	90%	91%	90%	89%	89%	90%	90%	91%	91%	92%	92%
Doctoral Student	81%	82%	83%	86%	89%	86%	86%	87%	87%	87%	86%	82%	87%	85%
Undergraduate/Clinical	76%	79%	75%	74%	69%	69%	69%	67%	67%	62%	64%	63%	65%	66%
Undergraduate/Non-Clinical	57%	53%	53%	50%	53%	53%	57%	56%	54%	54%	59%	58%	60%	59%
Graduate/ Clinical	92%	92%	94%	92%	93%	91%	91%	92%	91%	91%	92%	92%	93%	93%
Graduate/ Non-Clinical	81%	83%	80%	80%	84%	81%	81%	78%	82%	83%	84%	82%	86%	83%
On-ground Course Pass Rates														
Male	85%	90%	81%	87%	89%	92%	89%	78%	90%	90%	90%	85%	91%	93%
Female	85%	89%	78%	86%	87%	90%	85%	76%	87%	89%	85%	76%	88%	90%
White Students	91%	94%	86%	94%	93%	95%	92%	79%	93%	95%	93%	82%	95%	96%
Black/African American Students	77%	84%	73%	79%	80%	84%	80%	75%	81%	82%	80%	74%	81%	84%
Hispanic/Latinx Students	85%	90%	81%	86%	87%	90%	87%	79%	89%	92%	88%	83%	91%	92%
Other Students of Color	88%	90%	78%	88%	90%	92%	89%	77%	91%	91%	89%	77%	92%	92%
Pell Eligible Students	75%	84%	71%	79%	77%	85%	78%	74%	78%	82%	79%	75%	79%	81%
Non Pell Eligible Students	90%	90%	85%	92%	92%	91%	91%	81%	93%	90%	92%	83%	94%	94%
Associate Student	77%	83%	70%	79%	76%	85%	82%	75%	80%	81%	79%	76%	82%	86%
Bachelor Student	79%	86%	74%	83%	82%	86%	82%	75%	81%	84%	81%	76%	81%	86%
Master Student	95%	96%	90%	96%	96%	96%	95%	89%	96%	98%	96%	92%	97%	97%
Doctoral Student	83%	87%	89%	71%	88%	88%	89%	83%	92%	85%	86%	90%	90%	86%
Undergraduate/Clinical	82%	88%	74%	86%	84%	88%	84%	75%	83%	86%	83%	76%	82%	88%
Undergraduate/Non-Clinical	71%	71%	71%	70%	73%	75%	75%	75%	75%	74%	74%	75%	78%	78%
Graduate/ Clinical	93%	96%	91%	97%	95%	96%	94%	90%	95%	96%	94%	95%	96%	96%
Graduate/ Non-Clinical	83%	82%	78%	78%	84%	80%	86%	86%	88%	89%	88%	86%	77%	85%