

**GRADUATION RATES
2002-2005 COHORTS**



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SOUTHEAST**

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In June 2008, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education published the “access-to-completion” agenda as part of the *Reaching Higher* strategic initiative. This agenda calls for higher education to transition its focus from access (enrollment growth) to degree completion. ICHE identified five areas of emphasis for Indiana and public universities (Source: ICHE Reports & Website).

1. Clearly and consistently **establish completing college as the primary objective** for all Indiana’s colleges and universities, with a focus on low-income students.
2. **Restructure higher education state appropriations and financial incentives** to focus on degree and course completion rather than enrollment growth.
3. Substantially **eliminate all remedial courses** at Indiana’s public four-year colleges and universities.
4. **Develop stronger relationships** between colleges and universities and high schools, including aligning instruction, providing high school feedback reports, and expanding high-quality dual-credit and Advanced Placement (AP) opportunities.
5. As part of their strategic plans, **require colleges and universities to develop plans** for improving college completion and provide progress reports.

The second area of emphasis indicates that graduation rates will soon impact funding levels for IU Southeast. As we consider initiatives and programs to support degree completion, it is necessary to evaluate recent trends in graduation rates for our institution. The following report is divided into four sections. The first section provides graduation rate data for four cohorts, 2002 to 2005. Section two provides a demographic comparison of students in the 2002 cohort to those in the 2003 cohort. The third section provides transfer data for students from the 2002 and 2003 cohorts who did not complete an IU degree. The final section includes graduation rate comparisons for our benchmark institutions.

I: IU Southeast Graduation Rates: 2002-2005

Twenty-six percent of students in the 1998 cohort graduated within six years of enrolling at IU Southeast. Over the next five cohorts graduation rates gradually increased to 32%. However, the graduation rate for our most recent cohort to complete the six year cycle, the 2003 cohort was 6% less than that of the 2002 cohort. The percentage of students graduating in 4 years and 6 years was nearly equal for the 2002 and 2003 cohorts, while those graduating in 5 years decreased 5% for the 2003 cohort. The percentage of students graduating in 5 years increased 2% from 2003 to 2004, which could indicate that the six year graduation rate will increase with the completion of the 2004 cohort. IU East also experienced a six percent decrease in graduation rate for the 2003 cohort.

Table 1: Official Graduation Rate by Cohort and Number of Years

	2002 Cohort		2003 Cohort		2004 Cohort		2005 Cohort	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Original Number	662	-	661	-	703	-	656	-
Total Graduated	210	32%	169	26%	154	22%	53	8%
Graduated in 4 Years	53	8%	53	8%	63	9%	53	8%
Graduated in 5 Years	112	17%	74	11%	91	13%	-	-
Graduated in 6 Years	45	7%	42	6%	-	-	-	-

Table two provides the progression of each cohort since 2002 from initial enrollment through the sixth year. previously, federal guidelines only counted graduates who complete within six years. Those guidelines have recently changed to include those who complete within eight years. For the 2000 and 2001 cohorts, graduation rate increased 5% and 4% respectively when the additional two years were considered. As shown below, 43% of the 2002 cohort had graduated or returned in the sixth year. Thirty-two percent of those students graduated, which indicates that 11% of the original cohort was still enrolled in the fall term after the sixth year. As for the 2003 cohort, 26% graduated in 6 years and another 8% of those students were retained after the sixth year.

Table 2: Cohort Progression from One to Six Years

	Official Cohort	Retained 1 Year	Retained 2 Years	Retained 3 Years	Graduated/Retained 4 Years	Graduated/Retained 5 Years	Graduated/Retained 6 Years
2002 Cohort	662	441 (67%)	376 (57%)	334 (50%)	282 (43%)	287 (43%)	283 (43%)
2003 Cohort	661	428 (65%)	301 (46%)	253 (38%)	236 (36%)	239 (36%)	227 (34%)
2004 Cohort	703	428 (61%)	325 (46%)	269 (38%)	270 (38%)	275 (39%)	-
2005 Cohort	656	362 (55%)	301 (46%)	243(37%)	240 (37%)	-	-

II: Demographic Comparison 2002 & 2003 Cohorts

The 2002 and 2003 cohorts did not differ significantly in terms of residents, non-residents, academic honors diplomas, or 21st Century Scholars. Significantly more students in the 2002 cohort entered with a Core 40 diploma ($X^2 = 3.85, p=.05$). However, across both cohorts those students with a Core 40 diploma were not more likely to graduate than those without the Core 40. Meanwhile, those with the Academic Honors diploma were more likely to graduate other students ($X^2 = 92.05, p<.01$).

Overall, the two cohorts did not differ significantly in terms of SAT/ACT scores of entering freshman. However, ANOVA results indicate a significant difference between the scores of students who graduated in 2002 and those who graduated in 2003 ($F = 31.66, p<.01$). Students who graduated in 2002 had significantly higher scores than those who graduated in 2003, while those in the non-graduate group had lower scores in 2002 than in 2003. This could indicate that more students with high scores failed to graduate in the 2003 cohort than in the 2002 cohort.

High school rank and average IUS GPA did not differ significantly between the two cohorts. Across cohorts, those with higher first semester averages graduated at greater rates than those with lower averages ($F = 293.7, p<.01$).

Table 3: Graduates and Non-graduates by Demographic

	2002 Cohort				2003 Cohort			
	Graduates (210)		Non-Graduates (452)		Graduates (169)		Non-Graduates (492)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Indiana Residents	190	90%	391	87%	151	89%	425	86%
Non-residents	20	10%	61	13%	18	11%	66	13%
Academic Honors	78	37%	58	13%	63	37%	71	14%
Core 40	73	35%	183	40%	52	31%	169	34%
21st Century Scholars	13	6%	40	9%	15	9%	42	9%
Average SAT/ACT Equivalency	994.6	-	920.5	-	970.6	-	941.5	-
Average HS Rank	60	-	99.1	-	67	-	93	-
Average IUS 1st Semester GPA	3.2	-	2.1	-	3.2	-	2.2	-

The graduation rate for Floyd Central was above the overall rate for both cohorts. The rates for Jeffersonville, Corydon, Silver Creek, and Scottsburg were above the rate for the 2002 cohort but below that of the 2003 cohort. The rates for New Albany and North Harrison were above the rate for the 2003 cohort but below that of the 2002 cohort. Across both cohorts, Floyd Central, North Harrison, Jeffersonville, and Scottsburg graduated the largest percentage of students.

Table 4: Cohort and Graduates by High School

	2002 Cohort		2003 Cohort		Total	
	Number in Cohort	Graduated	Number in Cohort	Graduated	Number in Both Cohorts	Graduated
New Albany	73	21 (29%)	63	17 (27%)	136	38 (28%)
Floyd Central	67	25 (37%)	64	22 (34%)	131	47 (36%)
Jeffersonville	50	19 (38%)	41	9 (22%)	91	28 (31%)
North Harrison	33	9 (27%)	31	13 (42%)	64	22 (34%)
Corydon	26	8 (31%)	33	10 (30%)	59	18 (31%)
Silver Creek	21	8 (38%)	35	8 (23%)	56	16 (29%)
Charlestown	28	3 (11%)	24	6 (25%)	52	9 (17%)
Scottsburg	22	10 (45%)	27	5 (19%)	49	15 (31%)

III: Transfer Data for Non-graduates

Most students in the 2002 cohort (81%) and the 2003 cohort (88%) who failed to graduate from IU Southeast within six years have not completed a degree of any kind from IU Southeast or another institution. More than half (57%) of those students attended another institution but did not complete a degree.

Two percent of non-graduates across both cohorts received an IU degree Bachelor's degree after the six year timeframe, and another 3 percent received an Associate's or Certificate from IU. Eleven percent of non-graduates from both cohorts received degrees from other institutions, with the majority of degrees (54%) awarded by a four year institution.

Table 5: Degree Completion for Non-graduates

	2002 Cohort	2003 Cohort
Total	452	492
Received IU Degree	29	18
Bachelors from IU >6 Years	17	5
Associate Degree from IU	8	10
IU Certificate	4	3
Graduated from Another Institution	57	43
Received 2 or more degrees	15	11
Total Degrees	89	56
Degrees from 2yr Institution	40	27
Degrees from 4yr Institution	49	29
Certificate	15	2
Associate Degree	16	3
Bachelors Degree	31	18
Master's Degree	1	1
Pharm-D	1	1
Other Degree	25	31
No Degree	366	431
Attended Another Institution	211	242
No NSC Record	155	189

Ivy Tech Sellersburg, Jefferson Community and Technical College, and University of Louisville were the top transfer institutions for IU Southeast students. Ivy Tech Sellersburg, University of Louisville, and Purdue university were the top degree-granting transfer institutions.

Table 6: Top Transfer Institutions Attended without Degree Granted

2002 Cohort		2003 Cohort	
Institution	Number	Institution	Number
Ivy Tech Sellersburg	67	Ivy Tech Sellersburg	79
Jefferson Comm.	22	Jefferson Comm.	30
University of Louisville	10	University of Louisville	16
Sullivan	9	Ivy Tech Madison	7
Spencerian	7	Purdue	7
Ivy Tech Madison	6	Spencerian	7
Vincennes	6	Sullivan	7

Table 7: Top Transfer Institutions with Degree Granted

2002 Cohort		2003 Cohort	
Institution	Number	Institution	Number
Jefferson Comm.	8	Ivy Tech Sellersburg	13
University of Louisville	7	University of Louisville	7
Purdue University	7	Purdue University	5
Ivy Tech Sellersburg	7	Jefferson Comm.	3
Ball State	3	Vincennes	3
University of Southern IN	3	University of Southern IN	2
Other	22	Other	10

III: Benchmark Institution Summary

The Commission recommends that colleges and universities set goals for improving graduation rates over a five- and 10-year period. These goals should be benchmarked to aspirational peers selected by each institution. Peer data for the 2003 cohort is not yet available. IU Southeast's 32% graduation rate for the 2002 cohort is greater than or equal to nine of our eleven current peers. That rate is also equal to the 6-year rate for two of our aspirational peers.

Table 8: Graduation Rates for Current Peers

	2002 Cohort		
	4-year	5-year	6-year
IU Southeast	8%	25%	32%
Saginaw Valley State University	9%	29%	38%
University of Michigan – Flint	11%	28%	36%
Austin Peay State University	13%	27%	32%
University of Southern Indiana	12%	27%	32%
Midwestern State University	11%	24%	31%
Minot State University	13%	27%	30%
Columbus State University	10%	22%	29%
Indiana University South Bend	6%	19%	26%
Augusta State University	9%	18%	24%
Auburn University-Montgomery	5%	15%	21%
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne	5%	16%	21%

Table 9: Graduation Rates for Aspirational Peers

	2002 Cohort		
	4-year	5-year	6-year
IU Southeast	8%	25%	32%
University of Wisconsin-Stout	17%	44%	53%
Fort Hays State University	21%	40%	47%
Worcester State College	25%	42%	47%
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	25%	40%	46%
Indiana University-Southeast	8%	25%	32%
The University of Texas at Tyler	16%	28%	32%