

CSUM Graduation Rates, Unit Redemption Rates, and Absolute Graduation Rates

CSUM Institutional Research & Planning

September 6, 2017

Metrics and Their Characteristics

Graduation Rate (GR): The percentage of the cohort that graduated within a specified time - e.g. 6 years.

Strengths: Intuitive, time-bound, not based on sample

Weaknesses: Excludes graduates who take longer to graduate

Unit Redemption Rate (URR): The sum of units “redeemed” by students when they earn their degree divided by the total number of units awarded by the institution within the same time period.

Strengths: Can be calculated using narrow or wide time frames, includes all students (not just cohort members), and counts all students who graduate

Weaknesses: Uses sampling strategy, unconventional metric

Absolute Graduation Rate (AGR): A units-based graduation rate that estimates total unbound graduation rate based on a sample.

Strengths: Familiar type of metric, includes all graduates

Weaknesses: Uses sampling to estimate true rate - assumes static state of enrollment and unit-taking behavior

The table below shows URR, AGR, and traditional 6-year graduation rates, and some of the metrics used to compute them. 6-year rates are shown in the Academic Year corresponding to the end of the 6-year window.

Acad Year	Undup HC	Total Annual Units Compl	Total Grad Units Compl	% Yr/Yr Enrl Change	(URR) % Unit Redem Rate	(AGR) Absol Grad Rate	(GR6) FTF 6-Year GrdRt
07-08	838	28,119	25,621	-	91	81	-
08-09	832	28,720	24,337	-0.72	85	71	-
09-10	831	28,657	23,643	-0.12	83	70	-
10-11	865	29,558	21,205	4.09	72	55	-
11-12	896	31,260	26,055	3.58	83	70	-
12-13	991	33,893	23,455	10.6	69	60	59
13-14	1,061	35,556	28,184	7.06	79	68	54
14-15	1,066	36,141	25,529	0.47	71	57	58
15-16	1,085	37,048	32,211	1.78	87	79	63