

COHORT GRADUATE FAST FACTS

August 2019

Student cohorts are defined as first time degree seeking students enrolled in programs requiring 24 or more credit hours who start their education in the summer/fall term.

COHORT FINDINGS

- The average six year graduation rate is 50.8% based on summer/fall cohorts between 2011 and 2013.
- The average three year graduation rate is 41.1% based on summer/fall cohorts between 2011 and 2016.
- The average two year graduation rate is 25.2% based on summer/fall cohorts between 2011 and 2017.
- Graduation rates tend to be fairly similar for men and women. However, over time it appears that women tend to graduate at slightly higher rates than men.
- White students tend to graduate at much higher rates than minority students. This difference is consistent over time within and across student cohorts.
- Traditional aged students (i.e., students 23 and younger) tend to graduate at higher rates than their non-traditional aged counterparts. This difference is consistent over time within and across student cohorts.
- Full time students are much more likely to graduate than part time students. In fact, full time students are at least two to three times as likely to have graduated within 3 years of enrollment when compared to part time students.
- Athletes tend to graduate at higher rates than non-athletes at Lake Land. However, the small number of athletes may have an impact on this rate.
- Dual credit participants tend to have a higher graduation rate than non-dual credit participants.
- In more recent years, it appears that students with disabilities are less likely to graduate than their non-disabled counterparts.
- Overall non-veterans are more likely to graduate than veterans. The small number of veterans in the cohorts may impact the validity of the results. In addition, the number of veterans enrolled may be underreported, since some students may overlook this variable on the intent to enroll form.
- Students not eligible for Pell are graduating at higher rates than students eligible to receive Pell grants.
- At four or more years post enrollment, first generation students are less likely to graduate than their non-first generation counterparts. In the 2011 and 2014 cohorts, students with unknown first generation status are also more likely to graduate than their first generation counterparts. However, for the 2012 and 2013 cohorts, first generation students and students with unknown first generation status are graduating around the same rate by year three.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- These findings indicate that students at a higher risk for not completing their programs tend to have one or more of the following characteristics: male, minority, nontraditional age, part time, disabilities, veterans, Pell eligible, and first generation. In addition, part time students complete their degrees at a drastically lower rate than full time students.
- Efforts to increase graduation or completion rates should include an emphasis of working closely with one or more of these demographic populations.