

Union Institute & University
Persistence and Retention/Graduation Rates
Updated June 2016

Undergraduate Persistence

Persistence is a term used in the Higher Education community as one criterion for common criterion for measuring the effectiveness of undergraduate programs. Persistence is defined by how many of the students who enter in the fall term of a given year return for a second year. In Union's case, due to the year-round calendar, persisting students are those who return for a third term. To be counted as persisting, a B.S. student must have completed two full terms (not two sub-terms) and then either graduated or enrolled for a third term.

Because B.S. students may enter with as many as 90 prior learning credits, it is possible for students who enroll full-time to graduate in two terms (8 months). These students are, of course, counted as having "persisted," even though they do not enroll for a third term. Students whose current status is NR (not registered) or withdrawn (W, WT, or WA) are counted as persisting only if they completed two full terms and enrolled for a third before exiting.

Undergraduate (B.S. and B.A.) Student Persistence: Fall 2015 entering students returning for third term					
	Entering	Returning for 3rd term	Graduating after 2 terms	Persisting	Persistence Rate
First time, full time freshmen	6	3	0	3	50%
First time, part time freshmen	2	2	0	2	100%
Undergraduate transfer in students	270	161	31	192	71%
All fall 2015 undergraduate entering students	278	166	31	197	71%

Undergraduate (B.S. and B.A.) Student Persistence: Fall 2014 entering students returning for third term					
	Entering	Returning for 3rd term	Graduating after 2 terms	Persisting	Persistence Rate
First time, full time freshmen	0	0	0	0	NA
First time, part time freshmen	13	7	0	7	54%
Undergraduate transfer in students	302	182	46	228	76%
All fall 2015 undergraduate entering students	313	187	46	233	74%

Undergraduate (B.S. and B.A.) Student Persistence: Fall 2013 entering students returning for third term					
	Entering	Returning for 3rd term	Graduating in 2-3 terms	Persisting	Persistence Rate
First time, full time freshmen	13	8	0	8	62%
First time, part time freshmen	6	2	0	2	33%
Undergraduate transfer in students	386	164	133	297	77%
All fall 2013 undergraduate entering students	405	174	133	307	76%

Graduation Rates

Graduation rates (and their opposite, withdrawal rates) are calculated over time. National standards typically dictate that graduation rates are calculated at 100 and 150 percent of the “normal” time to degree for full-time students:

- For a four-year undergraduate program: graduation rates are determined at four and six academic years after entry.
- For a two-year masters’ program: graduation rates are determined at two and three academic years after entry.

It is important to keep in mind that UI&U student’s programs rarely fit these models, especially at the undergraduate level.

- Although UI&U’s undergraduate programs are four year programs, most students have prior learning credits that allow them to complete their programs in less than four academic years—sometimes as quickly as two terms, depending on their pattern of enrollment and course completions.
- UI&U’s year-round calendar must be “cross-walked” to the standard two term academic calendar. In other words, UI&U students who enter in the fall term persist to a third semester when they enroll for the spring/summer term, not the subsequent fall term.
- UI&U offers part-time enrollment options for nearly all of its programs. A student who enrolls part time will not, of course, finish as quickly as will a student who enrolls full time. Some students move between part- and full-time status, some “stop out” entirely for a term or two, while other students may take more than the minimum (12 credit hour per term) full-time course load. Hence, to some extent, the time it will take a student to complete a program will depend on the enrollment options the student chooses.

The graduation rates shown in the following tables are snapshots—that is, they show, on the day that student records were checked, how many students who entered in a single academic year had graduated, remained enrolled, had withdrawn or been administratively withdrawn¹, or are “not registered.” Not registered (NR) status is not the same as withdrawn: some NR students may have unofficially stopped out for a term; other NR students may have completed their programs but their graduation has not yet been finalized. In practice, however, the majority of NR students are ultimately (after 12 consecutive months of NR status) administratively withdrawn for failure to register.

No graduation rate is final until there are no students entering in a given year remain enrolled. Even then, after all members of a group of students have either graduated or withdrawn, it is possible for a group’s data to change slightly if a previously withdrawn student re-enters. Data in the following tables are as of the start of the winter term, January 2016.

¹ Students are administratively withdrawn for failure to register for 12 consecutive months.

Undergraduate – Graduation / Withdrawal Rates

As of June 2016

Rates shown are for first-time and transfer-in, full-time and part-time students combined.

Union Institute & University's Bachelor of Science degree may be earned in as little as two terms (8 months), if a student enters with the maximum allowable prior learning credit and enrolls full-time for every session. Fewer transfer credits, part-time enrollment, stop-outs (temporary official or unofficial leaves of absence) will all affect time to degree, as will any failed courses. In the tables below, any students shown as entering more than four years ago and currently counted as either "Registered" or "Not Registered" are invariably students who consistently enrolled part time, or who have not enrolled continuously since they first entered. The higher graduation rates to date for BS students reflect, in part, the large number of students who enter with significant numbers of prior learning credits. Both programs require 120 credits to graduate. Note that some students counted as "not registered" may have completed their programs but paperwork approving graduation may not be finalized.

B.S. Program (all majors): Graduation / Withdrawal Rates					
Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2008-09	541	359 66.4%	1 0.2%	1 0.2%	180 33.3%
2009-10	714	486 68.1%	2 0.2%	1 0.1%	225 31.5%
2010-11	746	539 72.3%	4 0.5%	1 0.1%	202 27.1%
2011-12	755	559 74.0%	3 0.4%	9 1.2%	184 24.4%
2012-13	928	617 66.5%	14 1.5%	19 2.0%	278 30.0%
2013-14	852	585 68.7%	40 4.7%	47 5.5%	180 21.1%
2014-15	804	379 42.5%	180 22.4%	121 15.0%	124 15.4%

B.A. Liberal Studies Program: Graduation / Withdrawal Rates					
Program in teachout, effective 5-4-14					
Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2008-09	165	97 58.8%	0	0	68 41.2%
2009-10	132	73 55.3%	0	1 0.8%	58 43.9%
2010-11	107	50 46.7%	1 0.9%	1 0.9%	55 51.4%
2011-12	70	31 44.3%	0	2 2.8%	38 54.3%
2012-13	58	30 51.7%	1 1.7%	1 1.7%	26 44.8%
2013-14	24	11 45.8%	1 4.2%	2 8.3%	11 45.8%

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B.A. Psychology Program: Graduation / Withdrawal Rates

Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2013-14	12	5 41.7%	5 41.7%	2 16.7%	0
2014-15	34	4 11.8%	16 47.1%	7 20.6%	7 20.6%

Masters Programs - Graduation / Withdrawal Rates
As of June 2016

UI&U 36 credit hour master's programs may take longer than two years to complete due to part-time enrollments. Note that only summary data are shown for UI&U's earlier M.Ed. programs, all of which have been discontinued, with no students remaining enrolled. (The Vermont- and Florida-based M.Ed. programs were discontinued in 2010, replaced by the university wide M.Ed. Online, which was subsequently discontinued in 2012. In the 2011-12 academic year, the M.A. program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling changed its calendar to align with the three four-month term model used by the undergraduate programs and the Psy.D.. Beginning with fall term of 2015, the individualized M.A. program calendar was also changed to the same calendar—all master's level programs now follow this calendar.

M.A. Individualized Program: Graduation / Withdrawal Rates					
Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2008-09	105	39 37.1%	0	0	66 62.9%
2009-10	72	32 44.4%	0	0	40 55.5%
2010-11	93	36 38.7%	0	1 1.1%	56 60.2%
2011-12	63	35 55.6%	2 3.2%	1 1.6%	25 39.7%
2012-13	71	23 32.4%	7 9.9%	5 7.0%	36 50.7%
2013-14	67	30 44.8%	8 11.9%	13 19.4%	16 23.9%
2014-15	41	6 14.6%	10 24.4%	10 24.4%	15 36.6%

M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Graduation / Withdrawal Rates					
Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2008-09	28	14 50.0%	0	0	14 50.0%
2009-10	42	23 54.8%	0	0	19 45.2%
2010-11*	15	8 53.3%	0	0	7 46.7%
2011-12	22	15 68.2%	0	0	7 31.8%
2012-13	30	11 36.7%	2 6.7%	4 13.3%	13 43.3%
2013-14	21	3 14.3%	9 42.9%	2 9.5%	7 33.3%
2014-15	25	0	10 40.0%	6 24.0%	9 36.0%

*Admissions limited while curriculum was modified. The first students matriculated under the new curriculum in January 2012

M.S.O.L. Program: Year Graduation / Withdrawal Rates Introduced January 2014					
Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2013-14	20	14 70.0%	0	0	6 30.0%
2014-15	60	46 76.0%	1 1.7%	3 5.0%	10 16.7%

M.Ed. (Vermont) Program: Graduation / Withdrawal Rates
Program entered teachout mode in 2010-11: no students remain enrolled. Average graduation rate 2006-07 through 2010-11 (98 students matriculating) was 68.3%.

M.Ed. (Florida) Program: Year Graduation / Withdrawal Rates
Program entered teachout mode in 2010-11: no students remain enrolled. Average graduation rate, 2006-07 through 2010-11 (79 students matriculating) was 67.1%.

M.Ed. (Online) Program
(Program entered teachout mode in 2011-12: no new students admitted after April 2012). No students remain enrolled. Average graduation rate 2009-10 through 2012-13 (81 students matriculating) was 66.7%

Doctoral - Graduation / Withdrawal Rates

As of June 2016

Cohort Ph.D. Program: Graduation / Withdrawal Rates (Minimum program length: 3 years, two 6-month terms per year)					
Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered*	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2006-07	43	23 53.5%	0	0	20 46.5%
2007-08	37	13 35.1%	2 5.4%	1 2.7%	21 56.8%
2008-09	37	12 32.4%	6 16.2%	1 2.7%	18 48.6%
2009-10	42	11 26.2%	9 21.4%	1 2.4%	21 50.0%
2010-11	37	5 13.5%	11 29.7%	1 2.7%	20 54.1%
2011-12	32	3 9.4%	17 53.1%	0	12 37.5%
2012-13	34	1 2.9%	22 64.7%	1 2.9%	10 29.4%
2013-14	28	0	23 82.1%	0	5 17.9%
2014-15	22	0	18 81.8%	1 4.5%	3 13.6%

*Includes dissertation extension

Psy.D. Program: Graduation / Withdrawal Rates (Minimum program length: 5 years, trimester calendar) PROGRAM IN TEACHOUT					
Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered*	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2006-07	9	3 33.3%	1 11.1%	1 11.1%	4 44.4%
2007-08	11	7 63.5%	0	0	4 36.5%
2008-09	17	6 35.3%	1 5.9%	0	10 58.8%
2009-10	13	3 23.1%	4 30.8%	0	6 46.2%
2010-11	10	2 20.0%	3 30.0%	0	5 50.0%
2011-12	9	0	5 55.6%	0	4 44.4%
2012-13	7	0	2 28.6%	0	5 71.4%
2013-14	9	0	2 22.2%	0	7 77.8%

*Includes dissertation extension

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Ed.D. Program: Graduation / Withdrawal Rates
(Minimum program length: 3 years, two 6-month terms per year)
PROGRAM IN TEACHOUT effective July 2015: some students may transfer to Ph.D.
program major in Educational Studies

Entry Year	Entered in year	Graduated	Registered*	Not Registered	Withdrawn
2007-08	5	5 100.0%	0	0	0
2008-09	7	6 85.7%	0	0	1 14.3%
2009-10	12	9 75.0%	1 8.3%	0	2 16.7%
2010-11	8	5 62.5%	2 25.0%	0	1 12.5%
2011-12	13	5 38.5%	3 23.1%	0	5 38.5%
2012-13	16	4 25.0%	5 31.3%	0	7 43.7%
2013-14	8	0	3 37.5%	1 12.5%	4 50.0%
2014-15	5	0	2 40.0%	0	3 60.0%