

Wesleyan College Student Achievement Information

In keeping with federal requirements and policies of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Wesleyan College makes available statements of its goals for student achievement and the success of students in achieving those goals. Both a threshold of acceptability and an aspirational goal is established for each measure. Data is examined and responded to by appropriate offices and reported in yearly reports. Below is a summary of:

- Graduation Rates (Undergraduate Students)
- Graduate Programs Graduation Rates
- Course Completion Rates
- Retention Rates
- Career Outcomes

Graduation Rates – Undergraduate Students

Wesleyan monitors and reports graduation rates according to the guidelines of the Graduation Rate Survey (GRS), a component of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS). We examine the data in several different ways to give us a fuller understanding of the success of our students. We have set a threshold of acceptability of 48% for 4 years and 54% for 6 years. Our aspiration goal is 51% in 4 years and 58% in 6 years.

Wesleyan continues to meet our threshold of acceptability on our graduation rates with a 50% four-year rate and 56% six-year rate of graduation, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Wesleyan College Four- and Six-Year Undergraduate Graduation Rates (from IPEDS GRS Survey)

Reporting Year	Cohort Year	4 Year	6 Year
2016	2010	48%	58%
2017	2011	49%	56%
2018	2012	45%	52%
2019	2013	42%	50%
2020	2014	45%	51%
2021	2015	50%	56%

Compared to our peer institutions (as defined in the IPEDS Data Feedback Report), Wesleyan’s four and six-year graduation rate has been higher every year (see Table 2).

Table 2: Four- and Six-Year Undergraduate Graduation Rates Compared to Peer Institutions

Reporting Year	Cohort Year	Wesleyan 4 Year	Peer 4 Year	Wesleyan 6 Year	Peer 6 Year
2016	2007	58%	40%	64%	46%
2017	2008	46%	39%	48%	51%
2018	2009	56%	44%	59%	52%
2019	2010	48%	42%	59%	48%
2020	2011	49%	40%	56%	48%
2021	2012	45%	43%	52%	49%

As of 2019-20, Wesleyan College began disaggregating graduation rates to reflect priorities in the College’s mission, strategic plan, and campus initiatives. Wesleyan disaggregated graduation rates by ethnicity/race, Pell-eligible status (which reflects students’ socio-economic situation), and primary place of residence (nonresident alien). Given the small numbers in some categories, trends over time are more meaningful than point-in-time data. As seen in Table 3, fewer Black or African American and Pell-eligible students have graduated in six years, a trend that also holds for our peer institutions. We have seen gains in the graduation rates of our Hispanic/Latinx students and non-resident alien students.

Table 3: Six-Year Graduation Rate by Race and Pell Eligibility Wesleyan and Peer Comparison

	IPEDS 2019 year (cohort 2012)		IPEDS 2020 year (cohort 2013)		IPEDS 2021 year (cohort 2014)	
	Wesleyan 6-year graduation rate	Peer 6-year graduation rate	Wesleyan 6-year graduation rate	Peer 6-year graduation rate	Wesleyan 6-year graduation rate	Peer 6-year graduation rate
Total	52%	49%	50%	47%	51%	44%
Black or African American	44%	40%	34%	41%	33%	42%
White	45%	53%	45%	51%	48%	49%
Hispanic/Latinx	20%	48%	57%	47%	75%	49%
Non-Resident Alien	85%	67%	73%	60%	80%	46%
Pell-eligible	39%	45%	36%	42%	42%	43%

Graduate Programs Graduation Rates

Graduate students' completion of their program is also tracked over time. Based on past year averages, Wesleyan’s threshold of acceptability for completion is 90 percent; its aspirational goal is 95 percent. The MBA program has seen a slight decrease in completion as the program moved from an Executive MBA that was cohort-based to an online program with multiple entry points. The Masters of Education (M.Ed.) program has met our aspiration goals with a 100% graduation rate. The Masters of Industrial Organizational psychology program (MA-IOP) is a new program, and we anticipate the graduate rates to rise as more full-time students join the program (see Table 4).

Table 4: Graduate Students' Graduation Rates by Program Over Time

Graduation Rate	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MBA	97%	97%	97%	100%	93%	85%
M.Ed.	--	--	--	91%	91%	100%
MA - IOP	--	--	--	--	45%	20%

In 2019-20, Wesleyan College began disaggregating graduation rates for graduate programs by ethnicity/race, gender, and primary place of residence (nonresident alien). Looking across all graduate programs, we have a 79% completion rate, with white females having the highest rate of completion (see Table 5).

Table 5: Graduation Rate for All Graduate Programs by Race and Gender Over Time

Graduation Rate	2019	2020	2021
Total	97%	80%	79%
Black or African American	95%	72%	79%
White	100%	89%	86%
Hispanic/Latinx	N/A	0.5	0%
Non-Resident Alien	100%	100%	n/a
Female	97%	75%	80%
Male	100%	100%	67%

Course Completion Rates

Table 6 summarizes the percentage of students who successfully completed courses in which they were enrolled. Wesleyan sets ambitious goals for course completion rates because the College provides numerous early alerts and support services to enable students to complete classes. The threshold of acceptability for course completion is 80 percent; the aspirational goal is 90 percent. We have met our goal in both traditional (face-to-face) and online classes.

Table 6: Course Completion Rates for Traditional and Online Classes over Time

Academic Year	% of Students Completing Courses		% of Online Students Completing Courses	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
2015-2016	96%	96%	n/a	n/a
2016-2017	95%	95%	n/a	n/a
2017-2018	94%	95%	n/a	n/a
2018-2019	87%	90%	n/a	n/a
2019-2020	87%	91%	97%	96%
2020-2021	88%	88%	94%	97%
2021-2022	88%	87%	89%	94%

Retention Rates

Table 7 shows the average year-to-year retention rates for the past five cohorts (2015-2020) of degree-seeking, full-time, and traditional-aged students. The threshold of acceptability is based on historical data and budget projections; the aspirational goal derives from a comparison with Wesleyan’s aspirational peers. We have met our threshold for first-year to sophomores and juniors to seniors. We fell short of our retention goal for sophomores to juniors.

Table 7: Five-Year Retention Average

	Retention goal	Actual retention rate (5-year average 2015-2020)
First-year to sophomore	threshold 72%; aspirational 78%	72%
Sophomore to junior	threshold 82%; aspirational 89%	80%
Junior to senior	threshold 89%; aspirational 95%	94%

Beginning in 2019-20, Wesleyan College disaggregates retention rates by ethnicity/race and Pell-eligible status. The following three tables show the disaggregated retention rates. The data reveal that white students have a lower retention rate from the first year to sophomore; the Pell-eligible students have a lower retention rate from sophomore to junior year; Asian students have the lowest retention rate from junior to senior years.

Table 8: First Year to Sophomore Retention Rate Disaggregated by Race and Pell Status

	Cohort 2018	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020
Total	69%	74%	71%
Black or African American	73%	72%	70%
White	66%	67%	64%
Hispanic/Latinx	62%	86%	78%
Non-Resident Alien	60%	89%	75%
Asian	67%	100%	100%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	100%	n/a
Two or More Races	75%	100%	100%
Unknown	67%	100%	100%
Pell eligible	72%	76%	79%

Table 9: Sophomore to Junior Retention Rate Disaggregated by Race and Pell Status

	Cohort 2018	Cohort 2019
Total	74%	53%
Black or African American	74%	49%
White	80%	47%
Hispanic/Latinx	75%	86%
Non-Resident Alien	33%	67%
Asian	100%	86%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	0%
Two or More Races	33%	75%
Unknown	50%	100%
Pell eligible	75%	56%

Table 10: Junior to Senior Retention Rate Disaggregated by Race and Pell Status

	Cohort 2018
Total	50%
Black or African American	49%
White	53%
Hispanic/Latinx	54%
Non-Resident Alien	60%
Asian	33%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%
Two or More Races	25%
Unknown	67%
Pell eligible	51%

Career Outcomes Rate

Wesleyan College’s Center for Career Development tracks the progress of graduates toward the following career outcomes, as defined by the National Association of Colleges and Employers:

- Full-time employment
- Full-time post-graduate internship or fellowship
- Full-time entrepreneur or freelance
- Part-time employment
- Military service
- Volunteer service (i.e., Peace Corps or AmeriCorps)
- Continuing education

Wesleyan’s threshold of acceptability for a positive career outcomes rate (that is, graduates falling into at least one of the categories listed above) is 85 percent, based on the national average as of six months after graduation; the College’s aspirational goal is 92 percent. We have consistently met our goal and exceeded the career outcomes for our peer institutions.

Table 11: Career Outcomes Wesleyan Compared to Peer Institutions

Graduating Class	Peers	Wesleyan
2017	84.4%	89.6%
2018	85.7%	93.9%
2019	86.0%	82.9%
2020	81.3%	89.7%
2021	--	86.7%

As of 2019-20, Wesleyan College disaggregates career outcomes rates by ethnicity/race and Pell-eligible status, as indicated in Table 12.

Table 12: Disaggregated Positive Career Outcomes over Time

Ethnicity/Race	Class of 2019		Class of 2020		Class of 2021	
	Number of graduates	Positive career outcomes rate	Number of graduates	Positive career outcomes rate	Number of graduates	Positive career outcomes rate
Black/African American	22	81.8%	25	92.0%	37	94.6%
Hispanic/Latinx	8	62.5%	8	75.0%	4	100.0%
White	50	92.0%	51	92.2%	61	91.8%
Two or more races	4	50.0%	4	50.0%	1	0.0%
Nonresident alien	7	100.0%	8	100.0%	9	77.8%
Ethnicity/race unknown	1	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
Pell eligible	39	82.1%	39	89.7%	43	97.7%
Total Graduates	104		107		121	