

## Understanding Graduation Rates at Cal State East Bay:

### Non-Traditional Students, Enrollment Changes and Unit Redemption Rates

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As indicated in the WSCUC document, [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#), IPEDS uses a method for measuring graduation rates that is inaccurate for institutions with large populations of students who are not first-time, full-time students. Such is the case for Cal State East Bay where approximately 67% of new undergraduate students each fall are transfers and many students attend part-time (see also Essay 5 of Cal State East Bay's WSCUC Self-Study). In fact, over an eight year period, only about 13% of Cal State East Bay graduating students was in an IPEDS cohort, meaning that IPEDS considered only a small subset of the total Cal State East Bay student population to calculate graduation rate. Clearly, this small sample of Cal State East Bay students is not representative of our overall student population, and examination of this small group of students can lead to graduation rate conclusions that are inaccurate representations of the overall student success rate at our institution.

In addition, typical metrics for transfer students usually only consider full-time students who begin in Fall term and who transfer after attaining upper-division status. At Cal State East Bay, approximately 20% of transfer students attend part-time, and more than 30% start in a term other than Fall (Essay 5 of Cal State East Bay's WSCUC Self-Study). While lower-division transfer students currently make up a small proportion (2%) of the transfer students at Cal State East Bay, between 2007 and 2010 lower-division transfers made up 20% or more of the total transfer student population. Thus in many regards, our transfer students, like our freshmen, are a non-traditional group for which typical metrics are inappropriate and unreliable.

In 2013, Cal State East Bay volunteered to be a pilot institution for the WSCUC Undergraduate Student Success and Graduation Rate Dashboard project. The data reported here are from participation in that pilot effort.

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Absolute Graduation Rate (AGR) – The new methodology introduced by WSCUC also includes a calculation of graduation rate that is not dependent on a particular period of time. The AGR is based on the URR with the inclusion of a constant in the denominator based on the average number of units a student who drops out completes before dropping out (see [An](#)

concerted efforts of the University to establish exemplary academic and co-curricular programs and high impact practices that support the success of all of our students (Essay 5 of Cal State East Bay's WSCUC Self-Study for more information about student success programs and practices).

Table 1.

Headcount	10,421	10,528	11,003	11,958	11,769	11,863	12,295	13,439	
Completed Annual Units	324,788	326,192	337,457	370,034	374,478	368,127	395,925	417,283	2,914,283
<i>Ave units per Student</i>	31	31	31	31	32	31	32	31	
Headcount	2,384	2,301	2,354	2,287	2,365	2,479	2,561	2,705	19,436
Completed Graduation Units	287,430	279,020	283,064	273,900	275,442	290,240	309,699	330,260	2,329,055
<i>Ave Per Student</i>	121	121	120	120	116	117	121	122	120
<i>Ratio - Headcount</i>	23%	22%	21%	19%	20%	21%	21%	20%	
<i>Unit Redemption Rate</i>	88%	86%	84%	74%	74%	79%	78%	79%	80%
<i>URR 2 yr ave annual units/current grad units</i>		86%	85%	77%	74%	78%	81%	81%	
<i>URR 3 yr ave annual units/current grad units</i>			86%	79%	76%	78%	82%	84%	
<i>URR 4 yr ave annual units/current grad units</i>				81%	78%	80%	82%	85%	
<i>d (ratio of dropout units to graduating units)</i>	0.469	0.466	0.470	0.472	0.486	0.483	0.468	0.463	0.472
<i>Calculated "absolute" graduation rate</i>	78%	73%	71%	57%	57%	64%	63%	64%	65%
<i>AGR 2 yr ave annual units/current grad units</i>									
<i>AGR 3 yr ave annual units/current grad units</i>									
<i>AGR 4 yr ave annual units/current grad units</i>									
<i>AGR 5 yr ave annual units/current grad units</i>									
<i>IPEDS 6-year graduation rate</i>	43%	40%	44%	48%	45%	43%	41%		43%
IPEDS graduates	289	276	331	320	379	297	361		2,253
Cohort size	669	692	746	672	840	686	881		5,186
Percent of graduating cohort									