

# What is Chabot College's graduation rate? (and why a completion rate is more useful)

## What is a graduation rate?

A graduation rate is the percentage of college students who earn a degree from that college.

*Sounds simple! But a graduation rate is not useful at community colleges.  
Earning a degree is not the only way to complete at a community college.*

- In a four-year college, all the students have the goal of earning a degree from that college.
  - $Rate = \text{Number of graduates (numerator)} / \text{all entering students (denominator)}$ .
- In a community college, the students have a variety of changing goals and outcomes.
  - *Students earn degrees, certificates, transfer to four-year colleges, or take courses.*
- How do we separate the students who want a degree (the denominator) from all others?
  - *Only half of Chabot students say they intend to earn a degree*
  - *Many students decide to transfer, with or without a degree or certificate.*
- How do we define those who graduate (the numerator)?
  - *What if they didn't earn a degree but did transfer to a four-year college?*
  - *What if they didn't earn a degree but did earn a certificate?*
  - *Earning a degree, a certificate, or transferring are all completion outcomes.*

-->A completion rate that includes some or all of these outcomes better describes what our students do.

## So.....what is Chabot's completion rate?

A completion rate needs a cohort, a definition of who is likely to complete and an outcome.

A **cohort** is a group of first-time college students who start at our college at the same time.

They could be first-time students in the Fall, or start at any time during that academic year.

**Completion-directed:** Students who intend to complete—by either transferring or earning a degree or certificate.

They show their intent to complete with words (educational goal) and/or actions (units or courses taken).

**Completion outcomes** include earning a degree or certificate, transferring, or being **transfer ready**.

**Transfer-ready** students have earned 60 transferable units and have completed College English & Math.

### How to calculate a completion rate

- Choose a cohort - when did they start at Chabot?
- Define the denominator - who in the cohort intends to complete?
- Specify years to completion - how many years will you give them to complete?
- Define the numerator - who completes? Only those who transfer or earn a degree?  
Or will you also include those who are transfer-ready, or earned certificates?

### Chabot Completion Rates: 2 definitions → 2 different results

These completion rates use different definitions of completion-directed, completion outcomes, and years to complete.

Completion rates			
<b>Source:</b>	Chancellor's Office	Chabot Institutional Research Office	
<b>Name of Dataset:</b>	Student Success Scorecard	Educational Goal Groups	
<b>Cohort:</b>	New students in one year	New students in one Fall	
<b>Completion intent:</b>	Complete 6 units and attempt ANY English or Math	Have educational goal of transfer or degree	
<b>Completion outcomes:</b>	Transfer, degree, certificate, transfer-ready	Transfer, degree, or transfer-ready	
<b>Years to complete</b>	<b>Six years</b>	<b>Four years</b>	
<b>First Engl/Math Level</b>	Basic Skills	College	
<b>Rate</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>67%</b>	
		Basic Skills	College
		<b>If full-time (Lasers): 38%</b>	<b>57%</b>

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Chabot Completion Rates: Differences between the rates				
	Completion rates			
<i>Name of Dataset</i>	Student Success Scorecard			Chabot Educational Goal Groups*
<i>Source of data</i>	CCCCO's Scorecard website			Chabot Institutional Research Office
<i>Cohort</i>	Full-year new student			Fall new student
<i>Completion-directed intent</i>	Complete 6 units and attempt any English or Math within 3 years			Educational goal of transfer or degree.
<i>Completion outcomes</i>	Transferred to any U.S. college OR earned AA/AS, certificate, or became transfer-ready.			Transferred to any U.S. college OR earned AA/AS or became transfer-ready.
<i>Years to completion</i>	Within 6 years			Within 3 or 4 years
<i>Disaggregation possible by...</i>	Gender / Ethnicity / Age; Started at college level English AND Math, vs. started in Basic Skills English or Math.			Any Chabot demographics or programs. Whether FT (Lasers) vs. PT (Seekers); Assessed into college-level Eng vs. into Basic Skills Eng.
<i>Limitations</i>	Not available until 6 years after entering CC; narrow college-level definition; no disaggregation unless connected to Chabot database.			Cannot be compared to other colleges unless they also use Educational Goal Groups.
<i>Benefits</i>	Gives credit for all completions; Can compare to peer colleges; Shows effects of starting at college-level vs. Basic Skills; Can connect to Chabot student database for more analysis.			Uses Chabot student database, and tracks all students from first fall. Shows which groups of students are reaching milestones toward their educational goals over time.
<i>How we use it</i>	To compare completions and Basic Skills progress with other colleges. For Board presentations.			To show progress of any group of Chabot students towards completion, and the effects of initiatives.
<i>Latest cohort</i>	2010-11			Fall 2013
<i>Years to transfer:</i>	Six years			Four years
<i>First English level</i>	All	Basic Skills	College	
<i>Chabot:</i>	46%	41%	67%	
<i>How do these rates compare to the average of Chabot's peer colleges**?</i>				
<i>Chabot's peer colleges:</i>	49%	43%	72%	
				FT: full-time (Lasers); PT: part-time (Seekers)

NOTES: \*For definitions of educational goal groups, see *Measuring Progress on the Strategic Plan* page of the IR website.

\*\*For info on Chabot's peer colleges, see *Peer Colleges* section of *Student Success and Outcomes* IR webpage.

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Chabot Completion Rates: Where to find them		
	Completion* rates	
<i>Name of Analysis</i>	Student Success Scorecard	Chabot Educational Goal Groups**
<i>Summaries on IR Website</i>	On <a href="#">Success and Outcomes</a> web page in <a href="#">Student Success Scorecard</a> section: <i>Chabot Scorecard rates;</i> <i>Facts behind Chabot Scorecard rates;</i> <i>All Board presentations.</i>	On <a href="#">Strategic Plan Data</a> web page: <a href="#">Measuring Progress</a> : <i>Introduction to Educational Goal Groups;</i> <i>Research Bytes descriptions;</i> <i>Summaries &amp; presentations.</i>
<i>Links on IR Website</i>	<a href="#">Link to IR page here</a>	<a href="#">Link to IR page here</a>
<i>Link to source data</i>	<a href="#">Link to Chancellor's Office Scorecard site</a>	<i>Ask Chabot IR staff for custom analysis</i>

BONUS SECTION: What is NOT a graduation rate: Percentage who earn degrees	
<i>Source</i>	<i>Chabot IR Office</i>
<i>Purpose of Analysis</i>	<i>Equity Plan Tables</i>
<i>How we use it</i>	<i>To compare between historically underrepresented groups and other groups in order to identify disproportionate differences between the groups on degrees.</i>
<i>Limitations</i>	<i>Does not include other completion outcomes or control for differences in FT/PT or starting levels of English or Math.</i>
<i>Cohort</i>	<i>New students in one year</i>
<i>Completion-directed</i>	<i>Educational Goal of Transfer or Degree</i>
<i>Completion outcomes</i>	<i>Degrees only</i>
<i>Years to transfer</i>	<i>Four years</i>
<i>First Engl/Math Level</i>	<i>Any</i>
<i>Percentage</i>	<i>7%</i>