

8.1

Student Achievement

The institution identifies, evaluates, and publishes goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution's mission, the nature of the students it serves, and the kinds of programs offered. The institution uses multiple measures to document student success.

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

SACSCOC Reviewer Comments

Non-Compliance

The institution's response is in violation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) policy, "Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review," by including live links in its response and electronic documentation that is not consistently bookmarked, indexed, searchable, or readable.

The institution uses graduation rates, program reviews, retention, licensing exam success to demonstrate student success at the main campus. The institution also provided retention data for its regional campuses. However, the institution provided embedded tables as screenshots that were unreadable and directed the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee to the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics (OIRAA) website, and the Committee was unable to locate the specific information the institution expected the Committee to review. The institution used the six-year graduation rate as its measure of student success, but the source of this graduation rate is not specified. The institution stated that it supports at risk students by monitoring underrepresented minority students, Pell eligible students, first-generation students, and transfer students. The institution provided as an example the disaggregated data of underrepresented minority students but did not provide disaggregated data for the other populations mentioned by the institution that are monitored.

Campus Response

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee identified three primary non-compliance issues with Standard 8.1.

The first item was that the "The institution provided embedded tables as screenshots that were unreadable and directed the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee to the OIRAA website and the Committee was unable to locate the specific information the institution expected the Committee to review."

The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics has a dedicated "[Student Outcomes](#)" homepage that can be directly accessed from the OIRAA homepage. The key elements contained within the Student Outcomes section of the website include areas listed below. Click on the links to view a .pdf version of the "landing page" for each section, accompanied by the data provided:

Columbia:

- [New Freshmen Retention](#)
- [New Freshmen Graduation](#)
- [Transfer Student Retention and Graduation](#)
- [Migration Data](#)
- [Licensure Data](#)
- [Placement Rate Data](#)
- [Graduation Benchmark Data](#)
- [Retention Benchmark Data](#)
- [Degrees Awarded Benchmark Data](#)
- [IPEDS Graduation Rate Reports](#)
- [IPEDS Student Outcomes Reports](#)
- [Student Consumer Information](#)

Palmetto Colleges:

- [New Freshmen Retention](#)
- [New Freshmen Graduation](#)
- [Transfer Student Retention and Graduation](#)
- [Migration Data](#)
- [Retention Benchmark Data](#)
- [Degrees Awarded Benchmark Data](#)
- [IPEDS Graduation Rate Reports \(Lancaster | Salkehatchie | Sumter | Union\)](#)
- [IPEDS Student Outcomes Reports \(Lancaster | Salkehatchie | Sumter | Union\)](#)
- [Student Consumer Information](#)

Publication of Goals and Outcomes

The University of South Carolina Columbia publishes student achievement goals and objectives (outcomes) in the University's strategic plan, *A Path to Excellence*. The University's robust strategic plan is a guide post to insure excellence through multiple student achievement goals. The table below highlights several student achievement goals and objectives (outcomes) aligned with associated metrics and institutional targets.

	Program Description	Metric Description	2020 Target	2019 Actual	2020 Actual
<p>Institution Priority #1: Attract, Inspire, Challenge, and Enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders</p> <p>Goal Description: Attract and retain a highly-qualified, appropriately sized, and diverse student body at all levels</p> <p>Objective: Recruit, retain, and graduate high-achieving students</p>	Sustain adequate first-time, full-time freshman enrollment	6000-6200 each year through 2025	6100	6279	5723
	Increase academic profile of freshman class as indicated by high school grades and standardized test scores.	2-5pts on academic profile scales each year through 2025	1274	1272	1240
	Elevate Freshman to Sophomore Retention Rate.	Sustain and increase relative to peers and peer aspirants each year through 2025	0.9	0.885	0.898
	Enhance 6-yr graduation rate.	Increase relative to peers and peer aspirants each year through 2025	0.79	0.769	0.781
	Grow total graduate enrollment.	Increase 10% by 2025	5837	5740	6029
	Produce more conferred doctoral degrees.	Increase 7% by 2025	401	445	401
<p>Institution Priority #4: Cultivate a more diverse, equitable and inclusive campus culture, where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</p> <p>Goal Description: Diverse: Improve the relative racial/ethnic and gender representation of our students, staff, and faculty</p> <p>Objective: Bring our student population into closer alignment with the racial/ethnic and gender representation of our state</p>	Develop and/or expand pipeline programs (e.g., "University of Possibilities") focused on preparing and inspiring students in K-12 to attend the University	By 2022, undergraduate African American enrollment on the Columbia campus should increase from ~10% currently to 15% with the goal of approaching the state's 27% African American demographic by 2025	0.1062	0.0844	0.089
	Develop a targeted recruitment campaign for prospective undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from underrepresented groups	Yearly increases in the number and percentage of resident (i.e., in-state) underrepresented students enrolled with the goal of reaching 30% of the resident freshmen class enrollment by 2025	0.232	0.219	0.242
	Develop a targeted recruitment campaign for prospective undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from underrepresented groups	Yearly increases in the number and percentage of resident (i.e., in-state) underrepresented students enrolled with the goal of reaching 25% of the total graduate and professional enrollment by 2025	0.201	0.191	0.213

The second item that the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee found as non-compliant was that "The institution used the six-year graduation rate as its measure of student success, but the source of this graduation rate is not specified."

For SACSCOC reporting the university has chosen to use the *National Student Clearinghouse Total Completion Rate method* for tracking its measure of student success. This method includes not only the six-year graduation rate, but also the rate that students graduate from other schools. Please see the most recent two years of reported data:

- National Student Clearinghouse Data (2013 and 2014 cohorts) ([Document 1](#)).

In addition, the university regularly collects and reports on first-year retention rates and 6-year graduation rate data (IPEDS) for itself and benchmark peers and peer aspirant schools. Please see the following:

- Columbia First-Year Retention Rates - Comparison with Peers (Fall 2017 cohort) ([Document 2](#))
- Columbia First-Year Graduation Rates - Comparison with Peers (2012 cohort) ([Document 3](#))
- Palmetto Colleges First Year Retention Rates - Comparisons with Peers (Fall 2017 cohort) ([Document 4](#))

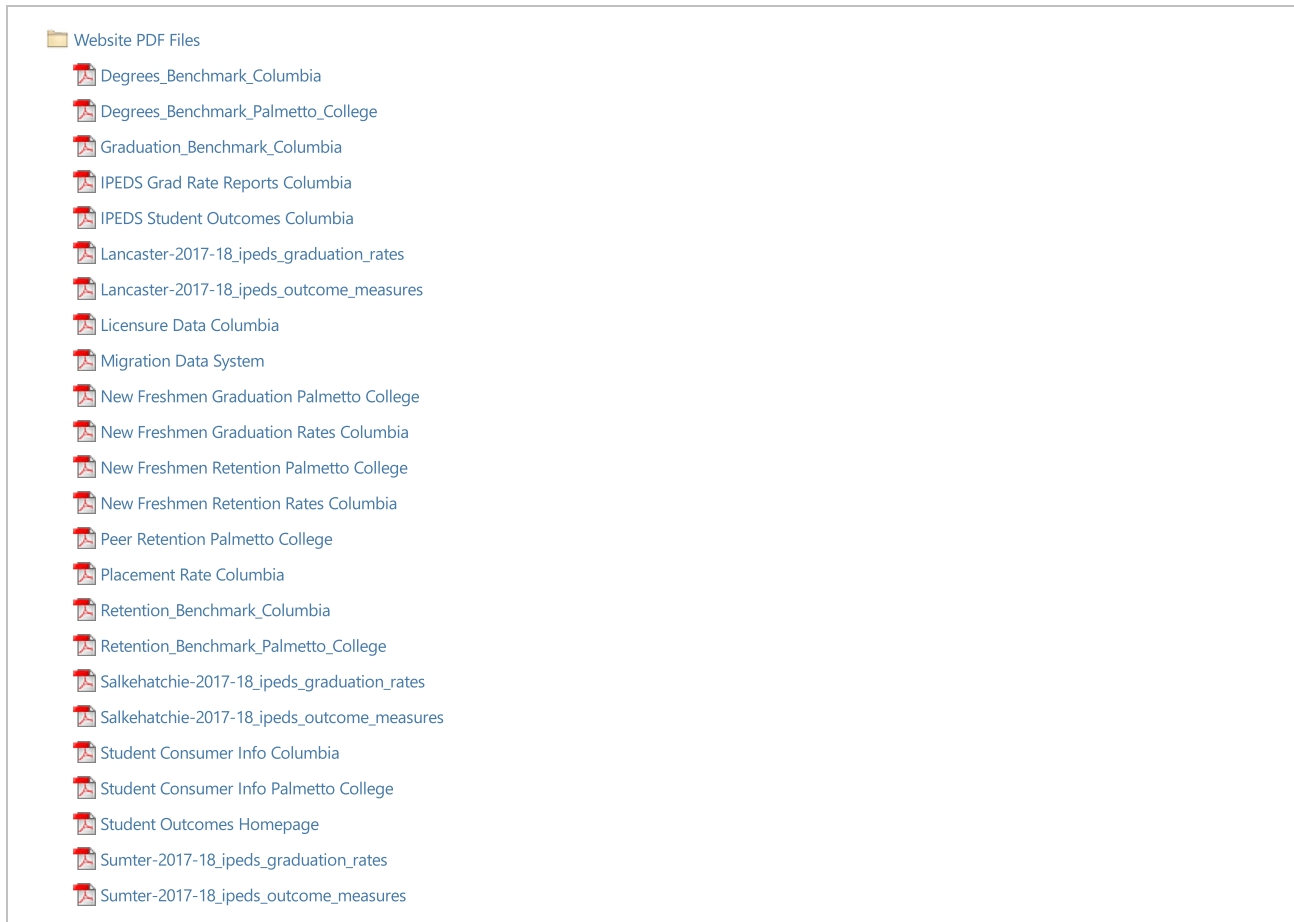
The third and final item that the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee found as non-compliant was that "The institution provided as an example the disaggregate data of underrepresented minority students but did not provide disaggregated data for the other populations mentioned by the institution that are monitored."






















The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics (OIRAA) has a dedicated "Student Outcomes" page on its website where constituents can retrieve information on such things as retention and graduation rates, placement rate data, licensure data and more. The university has made a concerted effort to support at risk students by monitoring performance and outcomes data in the form of retention and graduation rates for key groups such as underrepresented minority students, Pell eligible students, first-generation students, and transfer students. To demonstrate the level of commitment to proactive and coordinated student success monitoring and interventions, in January 2020, the university hired its first Assistant Vice President for Student Success, Dr. Silvia Patricia Rios Husain. One of the primary responsibilities of this new role is partnering with colleges, schools and departments to develop, monitor, and adjust student success plans and strategies for selected student populations, to include underrepresented minorities, first-generation students, low socioeconomic students, transfers, veterans, and other priority sub-populations based upon institutional retention and graduation data.

Examples of how the university routinely monitors retention and graduation rates for various populations include the following information publicly available via the OIRAA website and included here in .pdf format:

- Columbia underrepresented minority students Graduation Rate Trends (2008 through 2017 cohorts) ([Document 5, pages 4-7](#))
- Columbia underrepresented minority students First-Year Retention Rate Summary (Fall 2018 cohort) ([Document 6](#))
- Columbia underrepresented minority students 6-Year Graduation Rate Summary (2013 cohort) ([Document 7](#))
- Palmetto College underrepresented minority students First-Year Retention Rate Summary (Fall 2018 cohort) ([Document 8](#))
- Palmetto College underrepresented minority students 3-Year Graduation Rate Summary (2016 cohort) ([Document 9](#))
- Columbia Pell-eligible students Graduation Rate Trends (2008 through 2015 cohorts) ([Document 10](#))
- Columbia First generation students Graduation Rate Trends (2009 through 2015 cohorts) ([Document 11](#))
- Columbia Pell-eligible and First Generation students First-Year Retention Rates (2009 through 2018 cohorts) ([Document 12](#))
- Columbia and Palmetto College students National Student Clearinghouse Student Success Rate (2013 and 2014 cohorts) ([Document 13](#))
- Columbia and Palmetto College Transfer students Migration Data ([Document 14](#))

Sources



-  [Transfer Retention and Graduation Columbia](#)
-  [Transfer Retention and Graduation Palmetto College](#)
-  [Union-2017-18_ipeds_graduation_rates](#)
-  [Union-2017-18_ipeds_outcome_measures](#)
-  [8.1 Student Achievement Off-Site Committee Feedback](#)
-  [A Path To Excellence Strategic Plan](#)
-  [Document 01_nsc_graduation_rate_2013_2014 cola Issu](#)
-  [Document 02_peer_and_peer_aspirant_fall_2017_retention_rates](#)
-  [Document 03_ipeds_graduation_rates_2012_cohort_peers_aspirants](#)
-  [Document 04_pc_peer_ret](#)
-  [Document 05_Graduation Rate Trends by demographic populations - cohort 2008 to 2017 Columbia](#)
-  [Document 06_2018 Retention Rates Overview Summary](#)
-  [Document 07_2013 Graduation Rates Overview Summary](#)
-  [Document 08_pc_retention_summary](#)
-  [Document 09_pc_graduation_rate_summary](#)
-  [Document 10_graduation_rate_trends_pell_cohort_2008_to_2015](#)
-  [Document 11_graduation_rate_trends_first_gen_cohort_2009_to_2015](#)
-  [Document 12_retention_pell_first_gen_cohort_2009_to_2018](#)
-  [Document 13_nsc_graduation_rate_2013_2014 cola Issu](#)
-  [Document 14_uofsc_system_migration_report](#)
-  [Student Outcomes Homepage](#)