

Graduation Rates by Entering Class Year

Full-Time First-Year (FTFY) Students

Degree Recipients

Entering Year	Entering Total	Within 4 Years	Within 5 Years	Within 6 Years
Fall 2019	1,648	354 (21.5%)	529 (32.1%)	562 (34.1%)
Fall 2020	1,615	323 (20.0%)	439 (27.2%)	
Fall 2021	1,334	253 (19.0%)		

About this table:

The accompanying chart presents graduation rates for the three most recent entering FTFY classes that have had the opportunity to complete baccalaureate degree requirements within the conventional four-year time frame. For the class entering in Fall 2019, four-, five-, and six-year completion rates are displayed; for those entering in Fall 2020, four- and five-year rates; and for Fall 2021 entering students, degree recipients within four years after admission. These data were collected for all three entering cohorts at one point in time, as of Fall 2025. For additional information, contact the Office of Institutional Research Planning and Data Analytics at 716-878-4521.

Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act:

Federal legislation governing student consumer information requires all institutions that participate in federal student financial assistance programs to compile and publish completion and graduation rate data. These reporting requirements originate from the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, as amended by the Higher Education Technical Amendments of 1991.

Since July 1, 1993, Title I of the Act has required institutions to disclose completion and graduation rates for full-time, certificate- or degree-seeking undergraduate students to current and prospective students. Students are counted as completers if they fulfill program requirements within 150 percent of the program's normal time to completion—equivalent to six years for a baccalaureate degree. Institutions may also supplement these rates by identifying students who transfer within the same time frame to another eligible institution where prior coursework provides substantial preparation.

It is important to note that students leave college for many reasons, including academic, medical, personal, social, and financial factors. Time-to-degree calculations reflect the total elapsed time from initial enrollment through graduation and may include periods of interrupted attendance rather than continuous enrollment.

Buffalo State University conducts annual retention and graduation analyses for each new full-time, first-time (FTFY) entering cohort. These studies track students longitudinally to measure persistence, completion, and transfer outcomes.

Among the 1,648 FTFY students who entered in Fall 2019, 562 students (34 percent) completed their baccalaureate degrees within six years. Within this group, 22 percent graduated within four years and 32 percent within five years.

Consistent with federal reporting guidelines, students who successfully transfer to other institutions are also considered positive outcomes. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data show that an additional 615 students (37 percent) transferred within the six-year period.

Of the remaining students, 23 were still enrolled and actively pursuing their degrees as of Fall 2025. The six-year attrition, or status-unknown, rate is therefore 27 percent (448 students), representing those who neither completed a degree nor were confirmed to have transferred