

Student Right-to-Know

What is Student Right-To-Know?

Student Right-To-Know is a federal law that requires all colleges and universities to disclose certain information to students. This handout provides the information that a college must provide to students on graduation rates and transfer-out rates for full-time students seeking degrees at Mountwest Community and Technical College.

What is a graduation rate and what is a transfer-out rate?

Federal regulations specify how to calculate the graduation and transfer rates. The rates come from a study of Mountwest students who started at the college in the fall of 2007. The study includes all first-time students who enrolled full-time that fall and were seeking to earn a degree, diploma or certificate at the college. The graduation rate is the percentage of these students who graduated from Mountwest within three years. The transfer-out rate is the percentage of these students who did not graduate from Mountwest, but instead transferred to another college or university within three years.

What do I need to know about these rates?

These rates do not report on all students at Mountwest. The 480 first-time, full-time students in the study were about 19 percent of all students enrolled in fall of 2007.

What are the graduation and transfer-out rates for Mountwest students and how do they compare to rates for other colleges?

- The graduation rate for Mountwest was 10 percent.
- The transfer-out rate for Mountwest was 30 percent.
- The combination of the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate for Mountwest was 40 percent. The national average combined rate for our official IPEDS comparison group was 32 percent.

Why don't more Mountwest students graduate or transfer in 3 years?

- Since Mountwest has an “open door” mission, many new students need to take “developmental” courses to improve their reading, writing or math skills before taking other college courses;
- Students who switch from full-time to part-time enrollment or "stop out" for one or more semesters are more likely to take more than three years to graduate;
- Some students take jobs before they graduate;
- Other students delay their education for personal, family or financial reasons.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics,
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS): Spring 2011, Graduation
Rates component and Fall Enrollment component.