State University of New York

Baccalaureate Degree
Time to Graduation Rates

University Faculty Senate
Operations Committee
April, 2010
State University of New York

University Faculty Senate

University Operations Committee

Membership 2009-2010

Ronald Sarner - SUNYIT (chair)
Charles Fenner - Canton
Ronald Foster - SUNYIT
Thomas Hoey - Albany
Eugene Katz - Stony Brook
Laura Madelone - Oneonta
Runi Mukherji - Old Westbury
Werner Sbaschnik - Old Westbury
Louis Scala - Farmingdale
Malcolm Sherman - Albany
Edward Stewart - Purchase
Wendy Gilman - System Administration (Liaison)
Carey Hatch - System Administration (Liaison)
Kenneth O’Brien - President, University Faculty Senate (Ex-officio)

The Operations Committee acknowledges the work of Charles Fenner, SUNY-Canton as the primary researcher and author of this report.
This report provides information regarding SUNY baccalaureate graduation rates from 1992 onward with a comprehensive look at the most recent start date of 2002. The parameters look at baccalaureate graduate rates at the 4 year, 5 year and 6 year intervals.

SUNY-wide baccalaureate completion rates have continued to marginally increase from 41.4 percent after four years (1992 start date) to 43.1 percent (2002 start date). For the most part, as one can see from the chart below, this has stayed essentially flat over time. Realize though, that technology sector data is complete for 2002 start dates only.

SUNY-Wide

Baccalaureate completion rates with start dates 1992 - 2002
When comparing SUNY to US national statistics for completion rates, SUNY graduates more baccalaureate students at all intervals, especially at the 4 year mark.

SUNY – US Comparison

Baccalaureate Completion Rate – Cohort Year 2000

By sectors, the doctoral sector far exceeds the other sectors in baccalaureate completion rates. A sector comparison is only possible for the start date of 2002 due to a lack of data in the technology sector.

Sector Comparison

Baccalaureate Completion Rates - Start Date 2002
As we break the data down by schools within sectors, the graduation rates become more pronounced. Only the most current start date is used below (Remember, the graduation rate goes out six years.).

Doctoral Sector Graduation Rates

2002 – Start Date
Comprehensive Sector Graduation Rates

2002 – Start Date

*Empire State Data not shown due to abnormally low graduation rates due to the nature of education delivery.
Conclusions

Technology sector schools lag behind the other sectors. Causes for this may include how the schools are seen. Many technology sector schools have students who are interested in receiving some liberal arts education, and then transfer on to other sector or private schools for baccalaureate completion. For instance, St. Lawrence County has no community college so Canton serves both as a community college and as baccalaureate institution.

Clearly, within the comprehensive sector Empire State stands out as an outlier. This status may be due to the vary nature of its organization as it is spread out across the state.