

# Presbyterian College

## Student Achievement Goals and Outcomes

### May 2026

#### Introduction

Presbyterian College (PC) identifies, evaluates, and publishes student achievement goals and outcomes consistent with its mission as a residential liberal arts college serving primarily full-time, traditional-aged undergraduate students, as well as students enrolled in professional graduate programs in health-related disciplines.

The College establishes clear measures of student achievement annually and reviews performance data as part of its institutional effectiveness and assessment cycle. For each measure, the College sets:

- A threshold of acceptability, representing the minimum level of performance consistent with institutional mission and peer context; and
- An aspirational goal, reflecting performance aligned with selected aspirational peer institutions and the College’s commitment to continuous improvement.

Student achievement outcomes are published annually and made publicly available.

#### Undergraduate Graduation Rates

Presbyterian College monitors and reports graduation rates according to the guidelines of the Graduation Rate Survey (GRS), a component of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS).

Based on four year averages of graduation rates, Presbyterian College sets out an acceptable threshold of acceptability or expectation of the undergraduate graduation rate of **50** percent for a 4-year graduation rate, and based on the NCES Southeast Regional peers' average six-year graduation rate for the past four years, Presbyterian College set a threshold of acceptability of **58** percent for 6-year graduation rates. Aspirational goals based on a set of aspirational peers are **63** percent for the 4-year graduation rate and **70** percent for the 6-year graduation rate.

The following table includes PC’s 4-year and 6-year undergraduate graduation rates of incoming first-time students from cohorts 2016 through 2019.

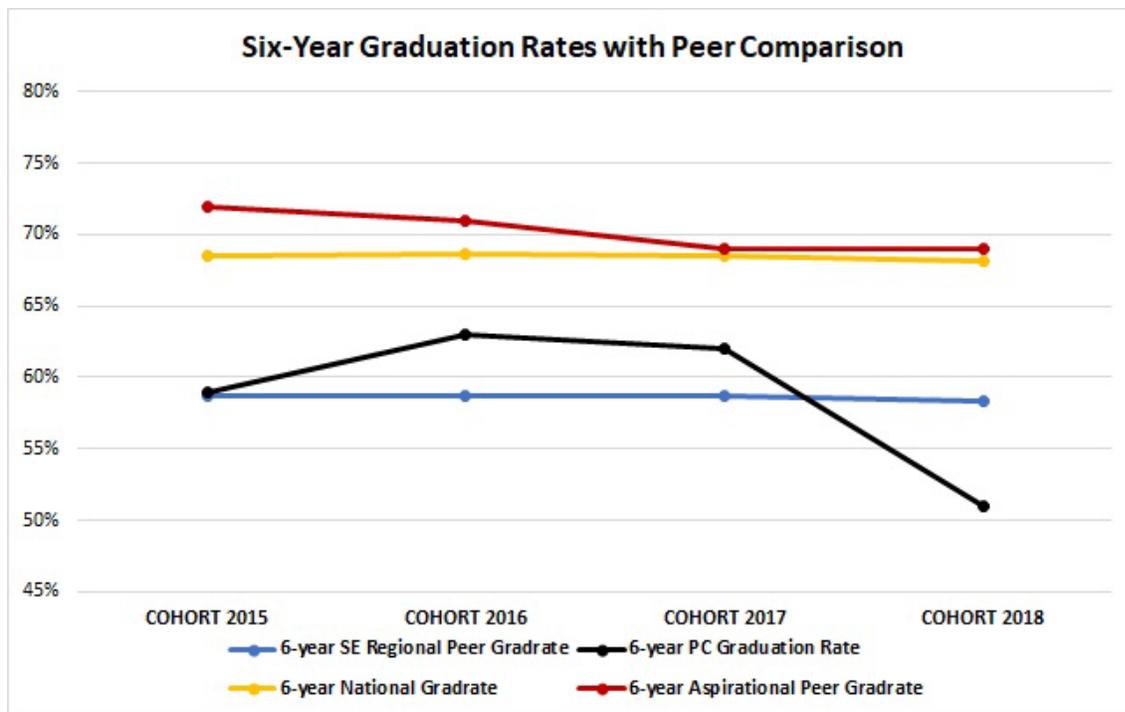
**TABLE 1. Four- and Six-year undergraduate graduation rates (2016-2019).**

	IPEDS Reporting Year 2022	IPEDS Reporting Year 2023	IPEDS Reporting Year 2024	IPEDS Reporting Year 2025
	Cohort 2016	Cohort 2017	Cohort 2018	Cohort 2019
<b>4-year Graduation Rate</b>	54%	53%	48%	43%
<b>6-year Graduation Rate</b>	63%	62%	51%	52%

Each year, IPEDS delivers a Data Feedback Report comparing Presbyterian College to 23 aspirational peer institutions. NCES also provides multi-year 6-year graduation rates for regional peer institutions for additional comparison. The following table and chart represent Presbyterian College’s 6-year undergraduate graduation rates in comparison to those of its aspirational peers as well as the rates for the National and Southeast regional, four-year, bachelor degree-granting, private non-profit peer institutions for entering cohorts 2015-2018.

**TABLE 2. Six-year graduation rates with peer comparison (2015-2018).**

	IPEDS Reporting Year 2022	IPEDS Reporting Year 2023	IPEDS Reporting Year 2024	IPEDS Reporting Year 2025
	Cohort 2015	Cohort 2016	Cohort 2017	Cohort 2018
<b>6-year SE Regional Peer Graduation Rate</b>	59%	59%	59%	58%
<b>6-year Presbyterian College Graduation Rate</b>	59%	63%	62%	51%
<b>6-year National Peer Graduation Rate</b>	69%	69%	69%	68%
<b>6-year Aspirational Peer Graduation Rate</b>	72%	71%	69%	69%



As seen from the table and chart above, Presbyterian College met or exceeded the Southeast regional peer average for cohorts 2015–2017, though the 2018 cohort reflects a decline relative to both threshold and aspirational benchmarks.

## Disaggregated Undergraduate Graduation Rates

Beginning in 2018–2019, Presbyterian College began systematically disaggregating graduation rates to reflect institutional priorities related to equity, access, and student success. Graduation rates are disaggregated by race/ethnicity and Pell eligibility. The following table shows the graduation rates of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students within 150 percent of normal time to program as reported to IPEDS for years 2022-2025.

**TABLE 3. Six-year graduation rates disaggregated by subgroups (2015-2018).**

	IPEDS Reporting Year 2022	IPEDS Reporting Year 2023	IPEDS Reporting Year 2024	IPEDS Reporting Year 2025
	Cohort 2015	Cohort 2016	Cohort 2017	Cohort 2018
<b>Total</b>	59%	63%	62%	51%
<b>Black/African-American</b>	32%	35%	41%	25%
<b>White</b>	68%	67%	67%	64%
<b>Hispanic/Latinx*</b>	50%	89%	50%	47%
<b>Pell-eligible</b>	46%	51%	56%	37%

*\*Note: The fluctuation of rates in the Hispanic/LatinX subgroup is due to low enrollment counts.*

The disaggregated data indicate persistent equity gaps, particularly among Pell-eligible and Black/African-American students, which continue to inform institutional planning and student success initiatives.

## Graduate Program Completion Rates

The following table represents the percentage of graduate students who completed the Pharmacy Doctoral degree within four years the Physician Assistant Studies program within two years, and the Occupational Therapy program within three years. Based on information for previous cohorts and the College's mission to provide a quality education, Presbyterian College's threshold of acceptability for completion of a Pharmacy Degree is 76 percent for on-time graduation; its aspirational goal is 85 percent. These goals for student achievement are based on standards set by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). For the Physician Assistant Studies, with guidance from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA), Presbyterian College's threshold of acceptability for completion of the Masters in Physician Assistant Studies is 90 percent for on-time graduation; its aspirational goal is 97 percent. Based on Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) standards, Presbyterian College's Occupational Therapy program threshold of acceptability for graduation is 90 percent; with its aspirational goal of 100 percent.

**TABLE 4. Graduate Program Graduation Rates (2021-2025).**

Graduation Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Pharmacy graduation rate	78%	79%	68%	53%	77%
Physician Assistant graduation rate	100%	97%	97%	86%	94%
Occupational Therapy graduation rate	*	*	87%	100%	95%

*\*Occupational Therapy graduated it's first cohort of students in 2023.*

Graduate programs consistently perform at or above thresholds, with temporary fluctuations addressed through program-level review and continuous improvement processes.

**Undergraduate Retention Rates**

The following table represents fall-to-fall first-year retention of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students for the past four cohorts (2021-2024). PC students are mostly of traditional college age, and the large majority come from South Carolina. As a Division I NCAA institution, our retention rate has been significantly impacted by the availability of the “transfer portal” for student-athletes.

The threshold of acceptability is based on an evaluation of the demographics of the entering cohort, including student-athlete status and the mission of the of the College to serve disadvantaged and underserved students, the aspirational goal derives from comparison with Presbyterian College’s aspirational peers.

**TABLE 5. Retention rates (Cohorts 2021-2024).**

	Threshold of Acceptability	Aspirational Goal	Four-Year Average Retention Rate 2021-2024
First year to sophomore	76%	82%	74%

**Disaggregated Retention Rates**

In the 2018-19 academic year, Presbyterian College began disaggregating retention rates by ethnicity/race, Pell-eligible status, and First-Generation college student status. The following table represents retention rates for first-time students who began their studies at Presbyterian College in 2021-2024.

**TABLE 6. Retention rates disaggregated by subgroups.**

First year to Sophomore Year Retention Rates	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023	Cohort 2024
<b>Total</b>	70%	74%	80%	75%
<b>Black/African-American</b>	62%	57%	80%	61%
<b>White</b>	74%	79%	84%	78%
<b>Hispanic/Latinx*</b>	54%	94%	76%	81%
<b>Two or More Races*</b>	71%	79%	94%	72%
<b>Pell Eligible</b>	64%	62%	81%	71%
<b>First-Generation</b>	65%	73%	80%	66%

*\*Subgroup fluctuations reflect small cohort sizes (N < 20).*

**Conclusion**

Presbyterian College maintains a systematic, mission-driven process for identifying, assessing, and publicly reporting student achievement outcomes. The College establishes clear thresholds of acceptability and aspirational goals informed by peer comparisons, accreditor standards, and institutional priorities.

Undergraduate graduation and retention data indicate areas of strength as well as opportunities for improvement, particularly in advancing equity and closing achievement gaps among underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students. Graduate and professional programs demonstrate consistently strong completion outcomes aligned with specialized accreditation standards.

The College uses these data to inform strategic planning, resource allocation, and targeted student success initiatives. Through ongoing assessment and transparent reporting, Presbyterian College affirms its commitment to continuous improvement and to ensuring that student achievement outcomes reflect both institutional mission and accountability expectations.