

# The NGA Common Completion Metrics

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# Why Common Completion Metrics?

- **Inform**: To help policymakers and the public understand how students, colleges, and the state are doing on college completion.
- **Analyze**: To help policymakers and colleges identify specific challenges and opportunities for improvement.
- **Show Progress**: To establish a fair baseline and show progress over time.
- **Hold Accountable**: To hold students, colleges, and the state accountable to the public and to policymakers investing taxpayer dollars in higher education.

# Limitations of IPEDS (federal system)

- **No graduation rates for Part-Time Students:**
  - 37% of all college students,
  - 61% of public two-year college students,
  - 41% of all black students, and
  - 48% of all Hispanic students.
- **No graduation rates for Transfer Students:**
  - 37% of students who *earned* bachelor's degrees attended more than one institution; 23% attended more than two.
- **No graduation rates for Low-Income Students:**
  - Pell grant program represents an \$18.4 billion public investment in 6.2 million students (2008-09)—and an additional \$36 billion investment announced in recent legislation.
- **No graduation rates for Remedial Students:**
  - Around 40% of all students, and 61% of students who start in community colleges, enter needing remedial education.



# Core Questions

- How many certificates and degrees are being awarded relative to the number of students enrolled?
- How many certificates and degrees are being awarded each year in relation to the needs of the state labor market?
- What is the rate of productivity/efficiency change over time? (i.e. changes in output not accounted for by changes in input)

# Parameters

- Focus on undergraduate credentials as output
  - Bulk of states' human capital needs
- Indirect assessment of quality
  - Labor market demand as proxy
  - Look to others for learning/competency focus
- State policy relevance
  - Focus on system as a whole
  - Engage macro-level questions

# The Metrics

## Progress Metrics

*Measures of interim achievements strongly linked to student success*

**REMEDICATION:  
ENTRY and SUCCESS**

**SUCCESS in FIRST-YEAR  
COLLEGE COURSES**  
(1<sup>st</sup> yr. math and English)

**CREDIT ACCUMULATION**

**RETENTION RATES**

**COURSE COMPLETION**

## Outcome Metrics

*Indicators of successful outcomes*

**DEGREES AWARDED  
ANNUALLY**  
(# and change over time)

**GRADUATION RATES**

**TRANSFER RATES**

**TIME and CREDITS to  
DEGREE**

