

The Student Achievement Measure (SAM) is a national initiative that provides colleges and universities an opportunity to report the progress and graduation of all students.

sam offers a comprehensive picture of student progress and completion within the higher education system.

sam includes transfer students, part-time students, full-time students and the outcomes of students who enroll in multiple institutions, Pell students, veteran students, and students of color.

sam is an alternative to the federal graduation rate, which is limited to reporting the completion of first-time, full-time students at one institution.

sam is a voluntary, collaborative effort – public and private colleges, universities, and community colleges are all invited to participate at no cost.

Sign up using the online form: http://www.studentachievementmeasure.org/sign_up. The SAM team will work with the institution's staff to prepare and submit the necessary data.

Three SAM Models

The **bachelor's degree-seeking model** will report outcomes for the following cohorts

- first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students; and
- transfer, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students who transferred into the reporting institution;
- first-time, part-time bachelor's degree-seeking students; and
- transfer, part-time bachelor's degree-seeking students who transferred into the reporting institution.

The **stacked credentials model** reports outcomes for two groups of students:

- First-time undergraduate credential-seeking students attending full- or part-time
- Transfer undergraduate credential-seeking students attending full- or part-time.

The **associate and certificate program model** reports outcomes for:

- associate degree or certificate-seeking students who are new to the reporting institution in two cohorts: 1) **full-time** and 2) **part-time**

Additional Cohort Reporting. SAM institutions have the option to report outcomes for Pell students, Veteran students, and students of color. These sub cohorts help institutions demonstrate their commitment to closing achievement gaps and ensuring all students succeed. Using the cohort defined by the model, students must also meet the criteria listed below to be included in any of these 3 sub cohorts.

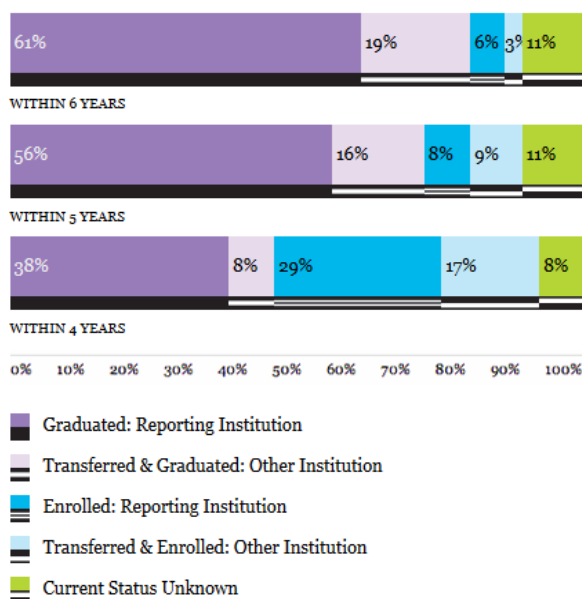
- **Pell students:** Students who received a Pell Grant in their first term of enrollment at the institution.
- **Veteran Students:** Students who reported to the institution that they received veterans' benefits at any point during their enrollment at the institution.
- **Students of color:** Students who identify all or in part with a race and/or ethnicity that is non-white. International/nonresident aliens or unknown R/E should not be included in the cohort.

Outcomes are reported for 4, 5, 6, 8, or 10 years depending on the model

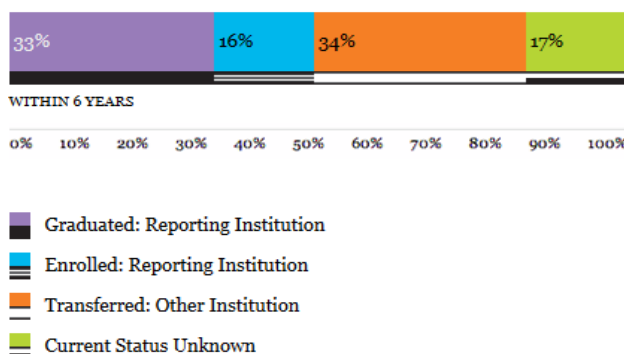
SAM Chart Examples

Both SAM models report multiple student outcomes using a horizontal, stacked bar chart.

SAM Institution Example: Students Seeking a Bachelor's Degree



SAM Institution Example: Students Seeking an Associate Degree or Certificate



■ Graduated: Reporting Institution
 ■ Enrolled: Reporting Institution
 ■ Transferred: Other Institution
 ■ Current Status Unknown

Project Background & Sponsors

The **Student Achievement Measure (SAM)** is a collaborative effort by six higher education associations to enhance transparency and provide policy-makers and the public with a comprehensive measure of college student progress and completion. SAM colleges and universities deliver a more complete picture of student progress toward earning a degree or certificate. SAM provides a common measure for student achievement for postsecondary institutions.

The six higher education associations sponsoring SAM are: the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

SAM has been endorsed by nine prominent national higher education organizations. Funding for SAM is provided in large part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Additional funding is contributed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).