



Ave Maria University

Student Achievement

Goals and Outcomes

According to the SACSCOC policy statement on institutional obligations for public disclosure, an accredited SACSCOC institution “is obligated to provide to its students, constituents, and the public information about itself that is complete, accurate, timely, accessible, clear and sufficient...[including] statements of its goals for student achievement and the success of students in achieving those goals. Information on student success may include reliable information in retention, graduation, course completion, licensure examinations, and job placement rates and other measures of student success appropriate to institutional mission.”

In addition, SACSCOC Core Requirement 8.1 (Student achievement) requires an accredited institution to identify, evaluate, and publish goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution’s mission, nature of students it serves, and the kinds of programs offered. The institution uses multiple measures to document student success. Further, the institution is expected to indicate the criteria and threshold of acceptability used to determine that success. The criteria are the items to be measured (and published); the thresholds of acceptability are the minimal expectations set by the institution to define its own acceptable level of achievement (i.e., a minimum target).

Goal 1: Retention, Completion, and Graduation

AMU strives to increase the number of graduates from our programs while maintaining high academic standards.

AMU is committed to educating students in the principles and truths of the Catholic Faith as well as in the great tradition of liberal learning and in such other subjects of study as the trustees of the University may determine according to local and societal needs and professional opportunities, and to develop in these students appropriate professional skills, all so as thereby to prepare them to inform their own lives and the society in which they live and work with Catholic truth and to develop their full vocations, whether religious, priestly, or lay.

Goal 1a: Retention Rate

As articulated in the University's Strategic Plan, AMU aspires to retain 80% of first-time, full-time degree seeking undergraduate students from fall-to-fall (AMU's official IPEDS retention rates).

Threshold of acceptability 1a: The threshold of 60% is based on trend data from Ave Maria University and the 25th percentile of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) IPEDs data.

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Freshman Retention Rate*	72%	74%	74%
Achievement Goal	80%	80%	80%
Threshold of Acceptability	60%	60%	60%

*Freshman Retention Rates reported to IPEDs.

Goal 1b: Graduation Rate

As articulated in the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan and retained in the current Strategic Plan, AMU aspires to achieve a 70% six-year baccalaureate graduation rate, three-year M.A. and M.B.A. graduation rate, and six-year Ph.D. graduation rate (graduation rate within 150% of normal time to completion of the programs).

Threshold of acceptability 1b: The threshold of 50% graduation rate within 150% of normal time is based on trend data from Ave Maria University and averages of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) IPEDs data.

	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020
Six-Year Baccalaureate Graduation Rate*	55% (2011 cohort)	56% (2012 cohort)	58% (2013 cohort)	53% (2014 cohort)
Three-Year MA Graduation Rate**	82% (2014 cohort)	92% (2015 cohort)	67% (2016 cohort)	69% (2017 cohort)
Three-Year MBA Graduation Rate**	N/A (no 2014 cohort)	N/A (no 2015 cohort)	N/A (no 2016 cohort)	N/A (no 2017 cohort)
Six-Year PhD Graduation Rate**	67% (2011 cohort)	50% (2012 cohort)	80% (2013 cohort)	100% (2014 cohort)
Achievement Goal	70%	70%	70%	70%
Threshold of Acceptability	50%	50%	50%	50%

*Six-Year Baccalaureate Graduation Rates Reported to IPEDs.

** Three-Year MA Graduation Rates, Three-Year MBA Graduation Rates, and Six-Year PhD Graduation Rates are not reported to IPEDs.

Goal 1c: Completion Rate

AMU aspires to have a 95% credit completion rate for all of its students.

Threshold of acceptability 1c: The threshold of acceptability is at 90% which is still a competitive completion rate based on trend data from Ave Maria University.

Semester	Percentage Term Credits Completed	Percentage Cumulative Credits Completed
Fall 2017	94.30%	96.93%
Spring 2018	95.60%	97.23%
Fall 2018	94.46%	97.10%
Spring 2019	94.36%	96.49%
Fall 2019	94.79%	96.85%
Spring 2020	94.07%	96.69%
Achievement Goal	95%	95%
Threshold of Acceptability	90%	90%

*Note that the cumulative completion rate is higher than the term completion rate since a small number of Incompletes are completed over the few months after the End-of-Term Report is first completed.

Goal 2: Job and Graduate School Placement

The successful transition from Ave Maria University to the next phase of the graduate's life, whether a career or graduate school, is the expectation of every student. The extent to which Ave Maria University has prepared that person is at least indirectly reflected in the rate of that successful transition. This rate is calculated just prior to graduation using the College Senior Survey (CSS) which is typically administered each year at graduation practice (administered online in 2020 due to COVID-19). The tables below summarize the information from the CSS.

AMU aspires to have 60.0% of its graduates report on the CSS offers of employment or acceptance into graduate or professional schools.

Threshold of acceptability 2: The threshold of acceptability is that we are at least within 5.0% of the rates given in the comparison institutions on the CSS.

	Academic Year 2017-2018	Academic Year 2018-2019	Academic Year 2019-2020
Baccalaureate Graduates reporting offers of employment or acceptance into graduate or professional schools	75.9%	70.1%	68.5%
Achievement Goal	60.0%	60.0%	60.0%
Threshold of Acceptability	50.7%	59.7%	46.5%

Goal 2a: Job Placement Rate

Graduates take the College Senior Survey (CSS) shortly before graduation. As articulated in Core Outcome 11, AMU aspires to have 50% of its graduates report on the CSS receiving an offer of employment, considering an offer for employment, or having already accepted an offer for employment shortly before graduation.

Threshold of acceptability 2a: AMU should be within 5.0% of the rates given in the comparison institutions on the College Senior Survey.

	Academic Year 2017-2018	Academic Year 2018-2019	Academic Year 2019-2020
Baccalaureate Graduates reporting offers of employment	55.3%	49.2%	44.4%
Achievement Goal	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Threshold of Acceptability	28.1%	40.4%	27.1%

Goal 2b: Graduate or Professional School Placement Rate

Graduates take the College Senior Survey (CSS) shortly before graduation. AMU aspires to match the graduate and professional school placement rates given in the comparison institutions on the College Senior Survey.

Threshold of acceptability 2b: As articulated in Core Outcome 11, AMU has the threshold of 10% of its graduates receiving acceptance into graduate and professional schools shortly before graduation.

	Academic Year 2017-2018	Academic Year 2018-2019	Academic Year 2019-2020
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Baccalaureate Graduates reporting acceptance into graduate or professional schools	20.6%	20.9%	24.1%
Achievement Goal	19.4%	19.1%	21.3%
Threshold of Acceptability	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%

Goal 3: Licensure

AMU strives to successfully prepare students for licensure exams for relevant programs.

Goal 3a: Licensure Performance for B.A. Elementary Education

Ave Maria University offers one education program (Bachelor of Art in Education) that requires licensure to become a certified teacher. This requires three tests to complete the Florida Teacher Certification Exam. These include General Knowledge (GK) Test (Essay, English Language Skills, Reading, Mathematics); Professional Knowledge Test; and Subject Area (SA) (Language Arts and Reading, Social Science, Science and Math) K-6 Test. These tests are ‘high-stakes’ and required to continue in the program. These tests are scored externally. The goal is for AMU Education students surpass the Florida Pass Rates by at least 5.0%.

Threshold of acceptability 3a: The threshold of acceptability is to match the Florida Pass Rate.

Note*– GK is taken prior to entering the education major program.

The percentages are for first time pass rates.

FTCE Exams	2017	2017	2017		2018	2018	2018		2019	2019	2019
	Florida Pass rate	Goal Pass rate	AMU Pass rate		Florida Pass rate	Goal Pass rate	AMU Pass rate		Florida Pass rate	Goal Pass rate	AMU Pass rate
GK Essay	63%	68%	100%		69%	74%	100%		71%	76%	100%
GK English Language Skills	67%	73%	100%		65%	70%	83%		69%	74%	100%
GK Reading	56%	61%	60%		60%	65%	33%		60%	65%	100%
GK Mathematics	57%	62%	100%		57%	62%	100%		57%	62%	100%
Professional Knowledge	79%	84%	66%		80%	85%	100%		80%	85%	100%
SA Language Arts & Reading	51%	56%	100%		54%	59%	100%		57%	62%	75%
SA Social Science	59%	64%	80%		64%	69%	100%		66%	71%	100%
SA Science	61%	66%	80%		65%	70%	100%		67%	72%	75%
SA Mathematics	55%	60%	100%		81%	86%	100%		62%	67%	100%
Reading Endorsement	n/a	n/a	100%		n/a	n/a	100%		n/a	n/a	100%
ESOL Endorsement	n/a	n/a	100%		n/a	n/a	100%		n/a	n/a	100%

Goal 3b: Licensure Performance for B.S.N.

Ave Maria University offers one education program (Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing) that requires licensure to become a licensed nurse. These evaluations are ‘high-stakes’ and are thus reliable

indicators of students' actual knowledge and skills. Since these evaluations are scored externally, there can be no bias from AMU faculty and consequently serve to validate scores and grades students earn in their AMU coursework. The goal is for AMU Nursing graduates to match or surpass the Florida and US Pass Rates.

Threshold of acceptability 3c: The threshold of acceptability is the higher of the following:

National Accreditation Requirement: 80% as is stated in the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) Accreditation Manual Standard 6.2.

Florida Board of Nursing Requirement: Within 10% of First Time, US Educated with a Baccalaureate Degree for the same calendar year.

	2017	2018	2019
The AMU BSN program's most recent annual NCLEX pass rate for all first-time test-takers during the same 12-month period. The measurement period is calendar year.	100.0%	100.0%	83.3%
Florida Pass Rate	87.2%	89.0%	88.8%
US Pass Rate	90.1%	91.6%	91.2%
Achievement Goal (the higher of the Florida or US Pass Rate)	90.1%	91.6%	91.2%
Threshold of Acceptability	81.1%	81.6%	81.2%

Ave Maria University Student Achievement Goals

Goals		Rationale	Achievement Goal	Threshold of Acceptability
Goal 1: Retention, Completion, and Graduation	Goal 1a: Retention Rate: first-time, full-time freshmen are tracked	The majority of Ave Maria University students are first-time, full-time students. The strategic plan focuses particularly on freshmen retention as freshman retention has had a profound influence on four-year and six-year graduation rates.	80%	60%
	Goal 1b: Graduation Rate: 150% graduation rates; first-time, full-time freshmen are tracked for six-year graduation rate; all incoming MA students are tracked for a three-year graduation rate; all incoming MBA students are tracked for a three-year graduation rate; all incoming PhD students are tracked for a six-year graduation rate	The majority of Ave Maria University students are first-time, full-time undergraduate students so AMU tracks their six-year (150%) graduation rates. AMU also tracks the graduation rates for all incoming graduate students.	70%	50%
	Goal 1c: Completion Rate: all students will be incorporated	Credit completion is tracked on the individual level to determine Satisfactory Academic Progress and for the whole student body to identify any problematic areas quickly.	95%	90%
Goal 2: Job and Graduate School Placement	Goal 2: Job and Graduate School Placement: Determined for graduates of the previous year (December and May) immediately before May graduation.	This criterion reflects the student's academic and/or professional preparation and represents for most the purpose of beginning studies at AMU.	60%	Within 5.0% of the rates given in the comparison institutions on the College Senior Survey (CSS)
	Goal 2a: Job Placement Rate		50%	
	Goal 2b: Graduate or Professional School Placement Rate		Match the rates given in the comparison institutions on the CSS	10%

Goal 3: Licensure	Goal 3a: Licensure Performance for B.A. Elementary Education: The AMU Elementary Education program's most recent FTCE Exam pass rate for all first-time test-takers during the same 12-month period. The measurement period is calendar year.	These high-stakes evaluations are completed by all students in the Elementary Education program. Because these are standardized and scored outside of AMU, these provide an important verification for Elementary Education students' professional preparation.	Surpass the Florida Pass Rates by 5.0%	Match the Florida Pass Rates
	Goal 3b: Licensure Performance for B.S.N.: The AMU BSN program's most recent annual NCLEX pass rate for all first-time test-takers during the same 12-month period. The measurement period is calendar year.	These high-stakes evaluations are completed by all students in the Nursing program. Because these are standardized and scored outside of AMU, these provide an important verification for Nursing students' professional preparation.	The higher of the Florida or US Pass Rate	Meet required Pass Rate for ACEN and Florida Board of Nursing