

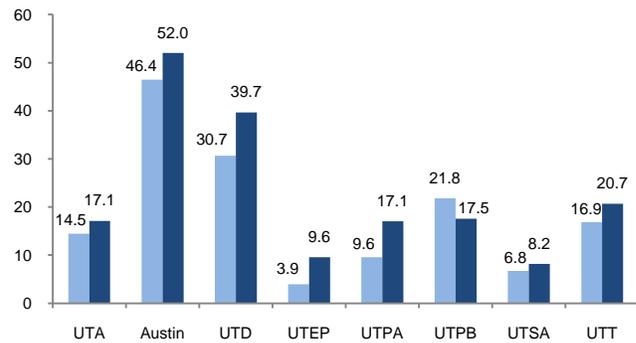
UT System Graduation Success: Three Things You Need to Know

Graduation Rates Improving

1) In 2006, the UT System Board of Regents launched the Graduation Rates Initiative to improve graduation success of students at UT institutions.

- The most recent 4-year graduation rates reported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) reflect marked improvements from the 2001 and 2005 cohorts at nearly all UT System institutions including increases of more than 5 points at UT Austin, UTD, UTEP, and UTPA.

Performance Trends: 4-Year Graduation Rates, 2001 & 2005 Cohort

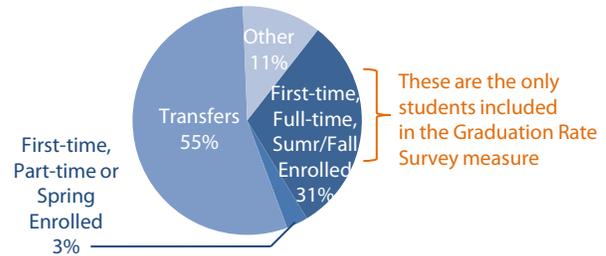


Graduation Rates Tell Incomplete Picture

2) Graduation rates provide an incomplete picture of performance, as this rate only tracks first-time, full-time freshmen which account for only a third of all students who graduated with degrees in 2008-09 – transfer students and non-traditional students are not included when calculating this rate.

- Excluding UT Austin, only 31% of UT System students are included in the traditional graduation rate.

Entry Status of Undergraduate Students Receiving a Baccalaureate Degree in AY 2008-09



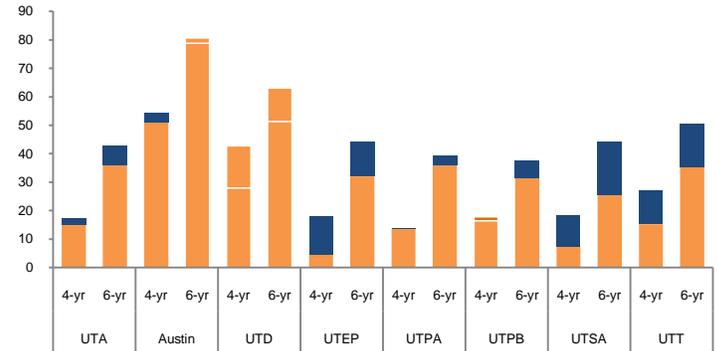
Multi-faceted Approach to Understanding Graduation Success

3) National experts recommend including broader measures of graduation success which count all students and context for traditional measures. Additional metrics such as –

- Graduation Rates Benchmarked:** This method accounts for mission differences by comparing outcomes with national peers.
- Performance gaps to national peers, shown in blue (or darker top portion), illustrate that significant improvements are needed. The UT System is focused on improving performance for this group of traditional students.

For more information about comparison groups, see our one-pager on benchmarking at: www.utsystem.edu/osm/reports.htm

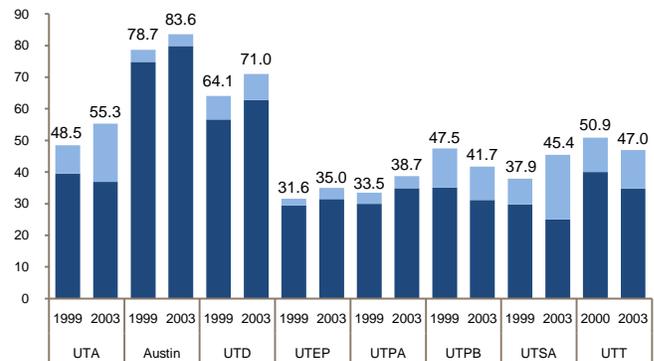
Performance Comparison: 4 & 6-Year Graduation Rates, 2003 Cohort



- Combined Graduation Rates:** Includes first time students at UT System institutions who graduate from their original institution or graduate from any other 4-year baccalaureate granting institution in Texas.

- The dark blue bars (or bottom portion,) on the graph show improvement over time for the traditional 6-year graduation rate for UT Austin, UTD, UTEP, and UTPA. Note that UTA and UTSA have a high percentage of CAP (Coordinated Admission Program) students who continue 2nd year studies at UT Austin and are not calculated in the traditional graduation rate.
- The light blue bars (or top portion,) on the graph illustrate the combined graduation rate. When all graduates are counted (regardless of whether or not they graduated at their original institution) nearly all UT System institutions demonstrate considerable improvement.

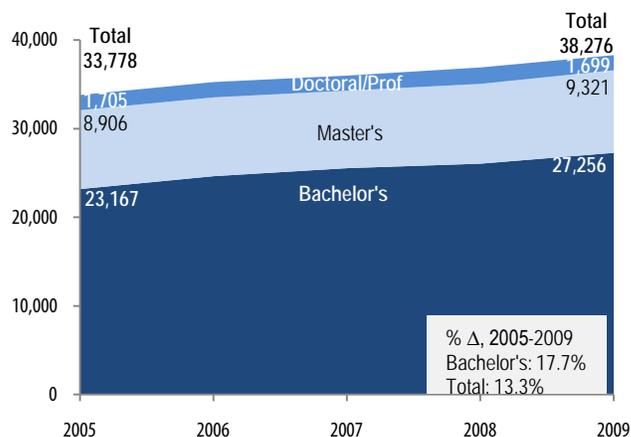
Graduation Success: 6-Yr Same & 6-Yr Other (Combined)



- **Total Degrees Awarded:** Tracks the number of degrees awarded over time.
 - Degree production is increasing at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Bachelor's degree production increased 17.7% and overall degree production, including graduate degrees, increased 13.3%.

For more information about efficiency and degree production, see the Delta Cost one-pager and Productivity and Efficiency research brief at: www.utsystem.edu/osm/reports.htm

Total Degrees Awarded, 2005-2009

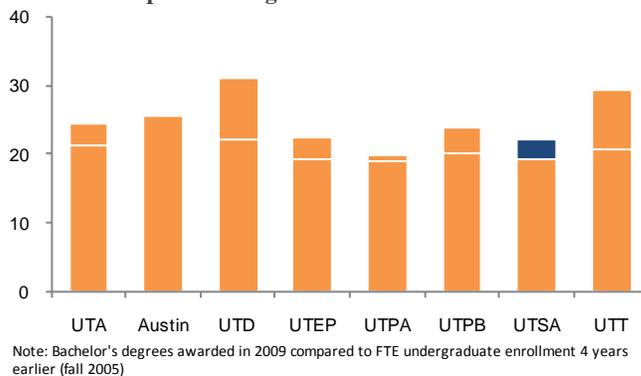


- **Degree Production Ratio:** A ratio of undergraduate students enrolled at an institution to the number of graduates with a baccalaureate degree 4 years later. This is different than the traditional graduation rate in that all enrolled students and all degrees are counted (regardless of transfer status). This measure is most inclusive.

- Seven UT universities perform at or above the national comparison group averages on the degree production measure.

For more information about national baseline comparison groups, see our one-pager at: www.utsystem.edu/osm/reports.htm

Performance Comparison: Degree Production Ratio



Useful Definitions

Traditional graduation rate – The traditional graduation rate is the percentage of first-time entering students who graduate at the same institution within 4 and 6 years (national metrics of graduation success).

Combined graduation rate – The combined graduation rate is the percentage of first-time, full-time in college who graduate at the same or another university in Texas.

Total Degrees Awarded – Tracks the number of degrees awarded over time.

Degree production ratio – A ratio of undergraduate students enrolled at an institution to the number of graduates with a baccalaureate degree 4 years later.

Data Sources

- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)