Student Achievement Data 2025-26

Piedmont University evaluates student achievement in relation to its mission as a student-centered institution committed to academic excellence, hands-on learning, and professional preparation. This mission emphasizes empowering students to grow, succeed, and build their futures within a supportive community.

Building the BRIDGE: Our Path Forward

The university's 2026–2031 strategic plan reinforces this commitment through priorities that connect student persistence, academic support, and program quality:

Build Enrollment Strength and Persistence: Identify and address barriers to student persistence and strengthen targeted support to improve retention.
Invest in Student Success and Support Systems: Promote student engagement and belonging, enhance academic support, and improve persistence through graduation. **Develop and Optimize Academic Programs:** Evaluate and strengthen academic programs to meet the needs of current and future students and support professional preparation.

The university maintains an effective approach to evaluating its success with respect to student achievement, including consideration of satisfactory academic progress, course completion, graduation and retention rates, and state licensing examinations.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

The U. S. Department of Education mandates that institutions of higher education establish minimum standards of "satisfactory academic progress" for students receiving financial aid. To be viewed as making satisfactory academic progress a student must (a) have a minimum institutional grade point average (GPA) required for their grade level, (b) successfully complete 67% of all University-level coursework attempted at Piedmont University, and (c) finish his or her educational program before attempting 150% of the number of hours required for the program.

Goal: Students will achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress.
Target = 90%

Semester	% of Undergraduate Students Meeting SAP	% of Graduate Students Meeting SAP
Fall 2023	93%	92%
Spring 2024	96%	92%
Summer 2024	98%	93%
Fall 2024	94%	90%
Spring 2025	95%	90%
Summer 2025	97%	93%
Fall 2025	95%	90%
Spring 2026	94%	90%
Summer 2026	95%	93%

Course Completion Rates

Course completion policies require at least a grade of C in specified general education courses. Students must also earn minimum grades of C for all courses in their major, minor, and concentration. Data indicate Piedmont students are successfully completing courses.

Goal: Piedmont students will successfully complete coursework with a grade of A-C.
Target: 85% of students will complete courses with a grade of A-C.

Semester	Failing (F, WF)%	D %	Withdrawals (W) %	A,B,C %
Spring 2022 (21-22)	2.6%	1.8%	3.8%	91.7%
Spring 2023 (22-23)	2.4%	1.8%	3.0%	92.8%
Spring 2024 (23-24)	2.4%	1.5%	3.4%	92.8%
Spring 2025 (24-25)	2.5%	1.5%	2.6%	93.4%
Spring 2026 (25-26)	1.9%	1.2%	2.5%	94.5%

Student Retention and Graduation

Retention, graduation and completion data for Piedmont University are reported annually in the national IPEDS Report.

1st to 2nd Year Retention Rates

Goal: To raise the retention rate annually.
Target: 70%

Retention Rates - 1st to 2nd Year	Fall 22 to Fall 23	Fall 23 to Fall 24	Fall 24 to Fall 25	Fall 25 to Fall 26
Piedmont University	77%	70%	71%	75%
Comparison to Private Colleges in Georgia (Avg.)*	67%	70%	Not Yet Available	Not Yet Available
Comparison to Public Colleges in Georgia (Avg.)*	69%	69%	Not Yet Available	Not Yet Available

*data derived from NCES, based on IPEDS First-time First-year retention

1st to 3rd Year Continuing Enrollment

Goal: To retain students going into their 3rd year.
Target: Increase Percentage Annually

First Time Full Time Cohort	Fall 21 to Fall 23	Fall 22 to Fall 24	Fall 23 to Fall 25	Fall 24 to Fall 26
Percent Returning for Third Year	59%	63%	52%	55%

No comparison data are available for 1st to 3rd year retention rates.

Graduation Rates for Students Pursuing Bachelor's Degrees – 6 year

Graduation rates measure the percentage of entering students beginning their studies full-time and planning to get a bachelor's degree and who complete their degree program within a specified amount of time as defined by IPEDS as 150% of "normal time".

Goal: To increase the graduation rate annually.
Target: To meet or exceed the 6 year graduation rate for private colleges in Georgia.

The chart below represents the percentage of full-time, first-time students who received a degree from Piedmont University within 150% of "normal time" along with comparisons to 4-year private and 4-year public Georgia institutions.

Graduation Rates (Undergraduate)	Fall 2016 Cohort	Fall 2017 Cohort	Fall 2018 Cohort	Fall 2019 Cohort
Piedmont University	48%	41%	47%	51%
Comparison to Private Colleges in Georgia (Avg.)*	45%	48%	46%	Not Yet Available
Comparison to Public Colleges in Georgia (Avg.)*	41%	38%	39%	Not Yet Available

*data derived from NCES, based on IPEDS 6-year graduation rates for First Time Full Time Undergraduate

The following charts disaggregate Piedmont graduation rates by gender, eligibility, and race/ethnicity.

Graduation Rates by Gender (Undergraduate)	Fall 2016 Cohort	Fall 2017 Cohort	Fall 2018 Cohort	Fall 2019 Cohort
Men	43%	37%	46%	48%
Women	53%	44%	48%	54%

Graduation Rates by Socio-Economic Metrics (Undergraduate)	Fall 2016 Cohort	Fall 2017 Cohort	Fall 2018 Cohort	Fall 2019 Cohort
Pell Recipient	40%	37%	41%	50%
Non-Pell Subsidized Loan Recipient	51%	42%	45%	52%
Non-Pell Unsubsidized Loan Recipient	56%	48%	57%	53%

Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity (Undergraduate)	Fall 2016 Cohort	Fall 2017 Cohort	Fall 2018 Cohort	Fall 2019 Cohort
American Indian or Alaska Native	33%	0%	33%	N/A
Asian	0%	0%	67%	0%
Black, Non-Hispanic	30%	27%	43%	39%
Hispanic	47%	42%	80%	57%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%	N/A	N/A	0%
Non-Resident Alien	0%	N/A	67%	N/A
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	35%	72%	43%	50%
Two or More Races	31%	0%	50%	50%
White, Non-Hispanic	54%	43%	46%	53%

Graduation Rates for Students Pursuing Graduate Degrees

Graduation rates measure the percentage of entering students planning to get a master's degree or an Education Specialist degree.

Goal: To increase the graduation rate annually.
Target: 75%

The charts below represent the percentage of students who received a degree from Piedmont University within 200% of normal time. Each graduate program may have a different normal time based on program requirements.

Normal Time in Terms			
Program	MA/MS/ Education Specialist	MBA	MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching)
Terms	4	5	7

Graduation Rates (Graduate)	2020-21 Cohort	2021-22 Cohort	2022-23 Cohort
Master's (MA/MBA/MS)	90%	83%	90%
Master's in Teaching (MAT)	73%	72% *	76%*
Education Specialist	94%	89%	91%

*provisional - have not reached 200% of time

The following charts disaggregate Piedmont graduation rates by ender and race/ethnicity.

Graduation Rates by Gender (Graduate)	2020-21 Cohort	2021-22 Cohort	2022-23 Cohort
Men	85%	73%	69%
Women	91%	86%	91%

Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity (Graduate)	2020-21 Cohort	2021-22 Cohort	2022-23 Cohort
American Indian or Alaska Native	N/A	67%	N/A
Asian	75%	100%	100%
Black, Non-Hispanic	79%	74%	81%
Hispanic	100%	70%	83%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Resident Alien	N/A	N/A	N/A
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	60%	75%	82%
Two or More Races	N/A	N/A	100%
White, Non-Hispanic	93%	87%	89%

Licensure Pass Rates

Specific professional programs use state and/or national exams for entry for licensure after graduation. Pass rates on certification tests and licensure exams are an integral part of the evaluation process in determining student achievement. These tests serve as direct measures of successful student learning outcomes.

Nursing: The Nursing program continues to be successful in educating BSN candidates as evidenced by passage rates on examinations of the Georgia State Board of Nursing. In 2025, Piedmont's BSN pass rate exceeded both the national and Georgia rates, although it remained below the university's 90% target.

Georgia Board of Nursing BSN Pass Rate

Goal: To achieve pass rates at or above the state and national level.
Target: 90%

Year	Piedmont Pass Rate	National Pass Rate	Georgia Pass Rate
2022	78.33%	82.32%	82.75%
2023	95.89%	90.18%	89.88%
2024	86.15%	91.93%	91.67%
2025	88.14%	87.59%	86.36%
4-Year Aggregate Pass Rate*	**87.55%**	**87.63%**	**88.63%**

*Data for Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs provided by the Georgia Board of Nursing

RN Comprehensive Predictor Exam

Goal: All nursing students will successfully complete the RN Comprehensive exam within two attempts. This examination covers all nursing content.

Target: 100%

Year	Piedmont Pass Rate
2022	100%
2023	100%
2024	100%
2025	100%

Licensure Pass Rates

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Education: The Georgia Assessment for Certification of Educator (GACE) exam evaluates the knowledge and skills of teacher candidates.

Georgia Assessment for Certification of Educator (GACE) exam

Education majors must pass the GACE, which tests subject-specific content knowledge, as well as general and subject-specific teaching skills, for their content area to complete certification requirements in Georgia. Scores are for program completers for initial certification.

Goal: Test takers will achieve a passing score.
Target: 95% will achieve a passing score.

All Program Completers	Institutional Pass Rate	Statewide Pass Rate
2020-21	99%	98%
2021-22	99%	99%
2022-23	99%	99%
2023-24	99%	98%
2024-25	99%	97%