

The Student Achievement Measure (SAM), is a web-based, national initiative that provides colleges and universities with a tool to report the progress and graduation of significantly more students than the federal graduation rate. SAM accounts for the progress and completion of transfer students, part-time students, full-time students, and the outcomes of students who enroll in multiple institutions. College and universities from all 50 states are already participating in the project and the SAM website is currently tracking the progress and completion of half a million more students as compared to the federal graduation rate.

sam offers a comprehensive and realistic 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.

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 and underreports student achievement.

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

Signing up for SAM is simple and takes only a few minutes using the online form at:

http://www.studentachievementmeasure.org/sign_up. After enrollment, the SAM team will work with the institution's staff on how to prepare the necessary data to post on the SAM website.

SAM Models: Bachelor's & Associate/Certificate

SAM includes two models: one for bachelor's degree programs and one for associate degree and certificate programs. Each model reports outcomes for groups (or cohorts) of students who enter the institution at the same time and tracks their progress over a six year (ten year for part-time bachelor's cohorts) time period.

The **bachelor's degree model** reports outcomes for:

- full-time, bachelor's degree-seeking students attending college for the first time
- full-time, bachelor's degree-seeking students who transfer in to the reporting institution
- OPTIONAL part-time, bachelor's degree-seeking students attending college for the first time
- OPTIONAL part-time, bachelor's degree-seeking students who transfer in to the reporting institution

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

- associate degree or certificate-seeking students attending the reporting institution for the first time (including both new students and students who transfer in from another institution)
 - separate charts reports results for 1) **full-time** and 2) **part-time** associate degree or certificate-seeking students attending the reporting institution for the first time (including both new students and students who transfer in from another institution)

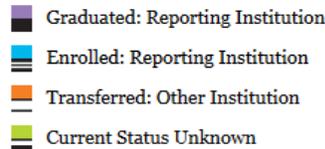
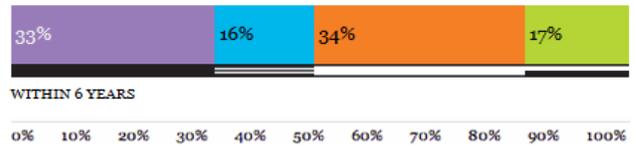
SAM Chart Examples

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



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 more comprehensive measure of college student progress and completion. Through a shared website, SAM colleges and universities deliver a more complete picture of student progress along the path to earning a college degree or certificate. The SAM project provides a common measure for student achievement for all types of 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).