

## GRADUATION

Merit University monitors the percentage of students who complete their program of study within the maximum time frame of 4 years. Annual graduation rates are based on the scheduled graduate cohort for each program within the given time frame.

### Definitions for Student Retention and Graduation

Below is an explanation of how Merit University defines the factors that are used in calculating student retention and graduation rates, followed by an explanation of the current uses of these metrics. Calculations are pursuant to state law and based on terms defined by the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) and the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Each **cohort** is defined and referred to according to **year of entry** into MU (program start date). For example, the 2016 cohort is a group of students who started between January 2016 and December 2016 (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall Quarter of 2016) and are expected to graduate between January and December 2019 (100% normal time) or between June 2020 and March 2021 (150% normal time). "Students eligible for graduation" is the number of students who began the program minus the number of students who have died, been incarcerated, or been called to active military duty (BPPE). MU tracks the percentage of the cohort that earns a degree within 3 years (100% normal time) and 4.5 years (150% normal time) of entering the university in a given calendar year.

**Graduation rate** (GR) summarizes the proportion of students who completed their program within a specific percentage of the published program length (3 years) to the number of students in the **entering cohort** who are eligible to graduate (IPEDS):

$$\text{GR} = \frac{\text{\# of students who completed their program within a specific percentage of normal time to completion}}{\text{\# of students in the entering cohort}}$$

### Campus Graduation Rates

The goal for the 2025 campus graduation rate is to exceed 50 percent. The results of the graduation rates based on cohort were available for 2019, 2020, and 2021 are shown in Table 3A below.

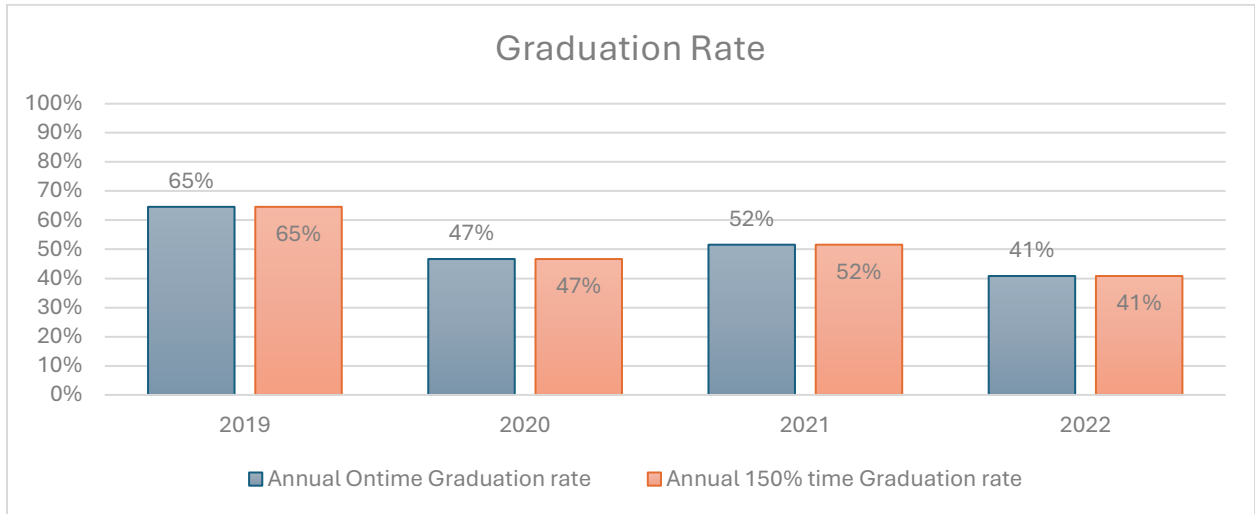
**Table 3A MU Graduation Rate**

Program Start Date (month/year)	2019				2020				2021				2022			
	Jan -19	Apr -19	Jul -19	Oct -19	Jan -20	Apr -20	Jul -20	Oct -20	Jan -21	Apr -21	Jul -21	Oct -21	Jan -22	Apr -22	Jul -22	Oct -22
Number Started	4	3	6	2	2	1		5	3		7	2	3	6	5	5
Ontime Graduated	3	2	4	1	2	0		2	1		5	1	1	3	1	3
150% time Graduated	3	2	4	1	2	0		2	1		5	1	1	3	1	3
Total Retained Students (4 consecutive quarters)	3	3	5	2	2	1		3	1		6	2	3	5	3	3
<b>Cohort Ontime Graduation Rate</b>	<b>75 %</b>	<b>67 %</b>	<b>67 %</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0%</b>		<b>40 %</b>	<b>33 %</b>		<b>71 %</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>33 %</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>20 %</b>	<b>60 %</b>
<b>Cohort 150% time Graduation Rate</b>	<b>75 %</b>	<b>67 %</b>	<b>67 %</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>0%</b>		<b>40 %</b>	<b>33 %</b>		<b>71 %</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>33 %</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>20 %</b>	<b>60 %</b>

<b>Annual Ontime Graduation rate</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Annual 150% time Graduation rate</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>41%</b>

*Note: Reporting period is from January to December from 2019 to 2025 and student enrollment data collected from the Populi system.*

The graduation rates are graphically displayed below.



The 2019 annual on time graduation rate and 150 percent normal time frame were both 65%. Ten students in the cohort graduated within a given time frame. Five students withdrew from the program or transferred to another school because their major had changed.

The 2020 annual on time graduation rate and 150 percent normal time frame were both 47%. Four students in the cohort graduated within a given time frame. Four students withdrew from the program or transferred to another school because their major had changed.

The 2021 annual on time graduation rate and 150 percent normal time frame were both 52%. Seven students in the cohort graduated within a given time frame. Five students withdrew from the program or transferred to another school because their major had changed.

The 2022 annual on time graduation rate and 150 percent normal time frame were both 41%. Eight students in the cohort graduated within a given time frame. Nine students withdrew from the program or transferred to another school because their major had changed. Two students went back to their home country due to a personal matter.

### MBA Graduation Rates

The goal for the 2025 MBA graduation rate is to exceed 50 percent. Since our Master of Science in Management (MSM) program began enrolling students at the start of the winter quarter of 2022, the MBA graduation rates based on cohort are the same except for 2022 the above campus graduation rate.

**Table 3B MBA Graduation Rate**

Cohort	2020				2021				2022			
	Jan-20	Apr-20	Jul-20	Oct-20	Jan-21	Apr-21	Jul-21	Oct-21	Jan-22	Apr-22	Jul-22	Oct-22
Program Start Date (month/year)												
Number Started	2	1	0	5	3	0	7	2	2	2	4	2
Ontime Graduated	2	0		2	1		5	1	0	1	0	0
150% time Graduated	2	0		2	1		5	1	0	1	0	0
Total Retained Students (4 consecutive quarters)	2	1		3	1		6	2	2	2	2	0
Cohort Ontime Graduation Rate (%)	100%	0%		40%	33%		71%	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%
Cohort 150% time Graduation Rate (%)	100%	0%		40%	33%		71%	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%

Annual Ontime Graduation rate (%)	<b>47%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Annual 150% time Graduation rate (%)	<b>47%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>13%</b>

*Note: Reporting period is from January to December from 2020 to 2025 and student enrollment data collected from the Populi system.*

The 2022 cohort MBA annual on time graduation rate and 150 percent normal time frame were both 13%. One student in the cohort graduated within a given time frame. Nine students withdrew from the program or transferred to another school because their major had changed.

### MSM Graduation Rates

The goal for the 2025 campus graduation rate is to exceed 50 percent. Since our Master of Science in Management (MSM) program began enrolling students at the start of the winter quarter of 2022, MSM graduation rates based on 2022 cohort are as follows.

**Table 3C MSM Graduation Rate**

Cohort	2022				2023				2024			
	Jan-22	Apr-22	Jul-22	Oct-22	Jan-23	Apr-23	Jul-23	Oct-23	Jan-24	Apr-24	Jul-24	Oct-24
Program Start Date (month/year)												
Number Started	1	4	1	3								
Ontime Graduated	1	2	1	3								
150% time Graduated	1	2	1	3								
Total Retained Students (4 consecutive quarters)	1	3	1	3								
Cohort Ontime Graduation Rate (%)	100%	50%	100%	100%								
Cohort 150% time Graduation Rate (%)	100%	50%	100%	100%								

Annual Ontime Graduation rate (%)	<b>88%</b>		
Annual 150% time Graduation rate (%)	<b>88%</b>		

*Note: Reporting period is from January to December from 2022 to 2025 and student enrollment data collected from the Populi system.*

The 2022 cohort MSM annual on time graduation rate and 150 percent normal time frame were both 88%. Seven students in the cohort graduated within a given time frame. Two

students withdrew from the program or transferred to another school because their major had changed.

### **Graduation Action Plan**

MU encourages faculty and staff to engage and collaborate with students in their academic success. Peer mentoring, tutoring, and academic support will be included as parts of the student services.

MU faculty will participate in professional development programs for more effective and efficient instruction tools such as personalized learning environments, rigorous and relevant instruction, and classroom behavior and social skills proficiency.

The university staff and faculty are devoted to counselling individual students to organize their own learning plan during their enrollment at MU.