

SECTION 8: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

SACSCOC STANDARD 8.1. The institution identifies, evaluates, and publishes goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution’s mission, the nature of the students it serves, and the kinds of programs offered. The institution uses multiple measures to document student success.

(Student achievement) **[Core Requirement]**

Note: The asterisk (*) below indicates the specific metric required by SACSCOC for measuring graduation rate and analyzing that measure of student success and a discussion of the changes the University has implemented to improve student achievement for that measure for all students, as well as those groups of students specifically served by Tusculum.

TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:

Building on a rich Presbyterian heritage and a pioneering spirit, Tusculum University provides an active and experiential education within a caring Christian environment to inspire civic engagement, enrich personal lives, and equip career-ready professionals.

(Approved by the Tusculum University Board of Trustees on May 30, 2020)

The University last reviewed its mission during the 2019-20 academic year. After undertaking a thorough process that involved benchmarking against similar colleges and universities and conducting feedback sessions, surveys, and focus groups with over 400 constituents, the administration presented a revised mission statement to the Board of Trustees at the 698th Meeting of the Board of Trustees on May 30, 2020. The revised statement was approved unanimously.

The mission statement is specific to Tusculum University and addresses its objective of teaching and learning via an active and experiential education. It is distinctive and reflects the University’s commitment to the provision of an education within a caring Christian environment. Lastly, the statement articulates the vision for Tusculum to inspire civic engagement, enrich personal lives, and equip career-ready professionals. It is both descriptive of what the University is and also aspirational for what it strives to be.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GOALS AND OUTCOMES:

A. STUDENT PERSISTENCE TO GRADUATION*

MEASURE A-1:

ONE-YEAR RETENTION RATE: Percentage of first-time, full-time students returning for second year.

TARGET: 60%

Table 1 – Full-time, First-time One-Year Retention Rates

	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
% Returning for 2nd Fall Semester	62%	59%	68%	65%	54%	62%	67%	61%	55%

MEASURE A-2:

SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE: Percentage of first-time, full-time students graduating within six years.

TARGET: 40%

Table 2 – Full-time, First-time Six-Year Graduation Rates

	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016
% Graduating within Six Years	34%	36%	36%	41%	33%	31%	41%	36%	41%	34%

The University **exceeded its target** for the Fall 2015 full-time, first-time cohort. Our average for the last three years was 37%.

MEASURE A-3:

FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME ONE-YEAR RETENTION AND SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATES:
Rolling three-year average of one-year retention rate and six-year graduation rate.

TARGET: At or above median value of SACSCOC Comparison Group

Table 3 – Full-time, First-time One-Year Retention & Six-Year Graduation Rates

		One-Year Retention (3-Yr Average)	Six-Year Grad Rate (3-Yr Average)
Tusculum University	TN	61%	37%
Peer Median		64%	35%
Bluefield College	VA	58%	35%
Campbellsville University	KY	64%	36%
Ferrum College	VA	56%	30%
Greensboro College	NC	65%	32%

Kentucky Wesleyan College	KY	62%	42%
Lees McRae	NC	65%	43%
Limestone College	SC	65%	32%
Lindsey Wilson College	KY	61%	40%
Mars Hill University	NC	68%	33%
North Carolina Wesleyan College	NC	66%	37%
Union College	KY	64%	33%

Source: IPEDS

The University **exceeded its target** for six-year graduation rate measures.

MEASURE A-4:

SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE: Disaggregated rolling three-year average of six-year graduation rates for distinct student populations served by Tusculum.

TARGET: At or above median value of SACSCOC Comparison Group

	Tusculum	Peer
Overall Graduation Rate	41%	36%
Graduation Rate - Male	34%	29%
Graduation Rate - Female	49%	46%
Graduation Rate - Black	22%	20%
Graduation Rate - Hispanic	33%	33%
Graduation Rate - White	48%	41%
Graduation Rate - Pell	38%	28%
Graduation Rate - Loan/No Pell	35%	41%
Graduation Rate - No Fed Aid	55%	49%

The extent to which the University **met its target varied by student group**; Tusculum’s graduation rates are consistently positive compared to the selected peer institutions.

B. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & RESPONSIBILITY

Motivation to make a difference in the civic life of our communities for Tusculum students is measured by voting and registration rates from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). The NSLVE is a signature initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education (IDHE) at Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life. IDHE is an applied research center focused on college and university student political learning and participation in democracy. The voter registration and voting rates in this report reflect the percentage of our institution's students who were eligible to vote and who

voted in federal elections. Results are based on enrollment records submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse and publicly available voting files collected by Catalist. Tusculum University has participated in the NSLVE since 2014.

MEASURE B-1:

VOTING RATES: the percentage of an institution's students who were eligible to vote and who voted in federal elections.

TARGET: (a) a 3% increase in Tusculum's voting rate from one period to another and (b) a voting rate that is at or above the voting rate for all institutions.

Table 4 – Voting Rates

Presidential Election Years	2016	2020	+/-
Tusculum	41%	56%	+15%
All Institutions	51%	66%	+15%
<i>Difference from All Institutions</i>	-10%	-10%	N/A
Mid-term Election Years	2014	2018	+/-
Tusculum	18%	30%	+12%
All Institutions	20%	39%	+19%
<i>Difference from All Institutions</i>	-2%	-9%	-7%

The University's Voting Rate increased dramatically, but so did the national rate. The University remains committed in word and deed to encouraging civic engagement and participation.

MEASURE B-2:

VOTER REGISTRATION RATES: the percentage of an institution's students who were registered to vote.

TARGET: a 3% increase in Tusculum's voter registration rate from one period to another.

Table 5 – Voter Registration Rates

Presidential Election Years	2016	2020	+/-
Tusculum	66%	82%	+16%
Mid-term Election Years	2014	2018	+/-
Tusculum	63%	73%	+10%

The target for this goal **was met**. We expect 2022 rates to be released in late 2023. The next general election data will be released in late 2025.

C. LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONAL EXAMS

MEASURE C-1:

NCLEX-RN EXAM: The NCLEX exam, also known as the National Council Licensure Examination, is a standardized test that every state regulatory board uses to determine if a candidate is ready to become licensed as a nurse. It is administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing,

TARGET: The graduates of the Tusculum BSN program will attain the standard in the state of Tennessee, which is an 85% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam.

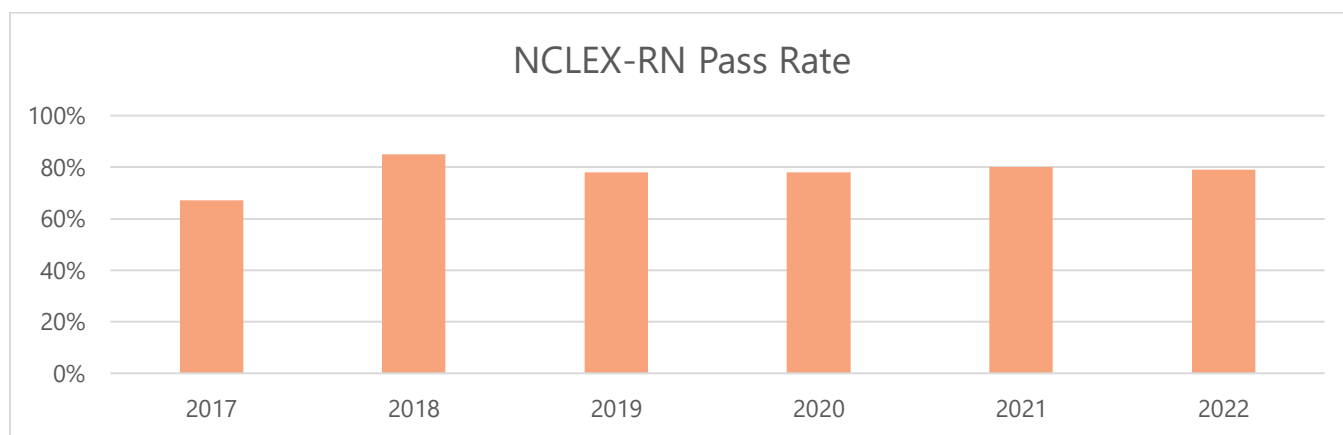


Figure 1

Table 6 – NCLEX-RN Exam

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Graduates	15	26	18	23	15	19
Passed NCLEX-RN Exam	10	22	14	18	12	15
% Passed	67%	85%	78%	78%	80%	79%

*Data Retrieved from the Tennessee Board of Nursing report

MEASURE C-3:

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE ASSESSMENTS: The Tennessee State Board of Education publishes an annual Teacher Preparation Report Card for each educator preparation program; the data reported here are based on the most current report card. Requirements for licensure have changed dramatically in the state. Exact exams vary according to the student’s intended field of instruction. Our figures, below, represent the most widely utilized assessment

Figure 2

Praxis Assessment	2020	2021	2022	State 3 yr
Elementary Ed Social Studies	52%	47%	43%	58%
Teaching Reading	60%	49%	51%	63%
Elem Ed Science	63%	56%	62%	62%
Elem Ed Math	73%	53%	63%	65%

EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Knox County Schools, Hamblen County Board of Education, Greene County Schools, Kingsport City Schools, Roane County Schools

MEASURE C-4:

PEREGRINE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OUTBOUND EXAM: Peregrine Academic Services, the higher education division of Peregrine Global Services, provides nationally normed, summative assessment services used by institutions of higher education for internal and external programmatic evaluation. The assessment service is designed to address institutional and programmatic accreditation and certification requirements related to learning outcomes assessment, quality assurance, and external academic benchmarking. The Outbound Exam is administered to the students at the end of the academic program.

TARGET: To score above the average for students from schools within the ACBSP Region 3 (Southeastern Region)

PEREGRINE EXAM OUTBOUND 2019-20

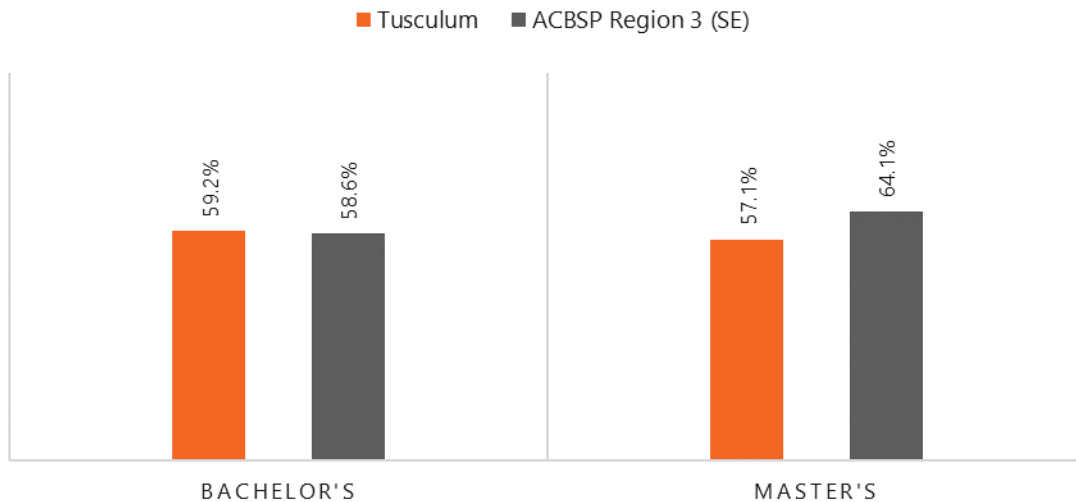


Figure 3

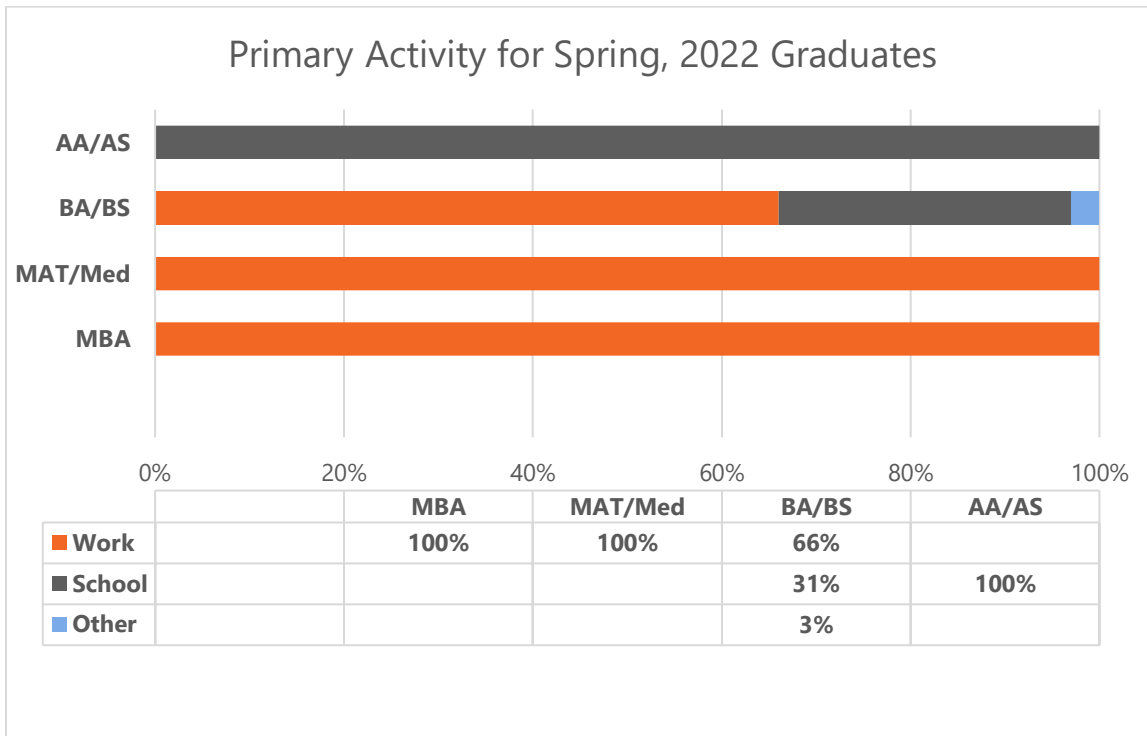
The target for this goal **was met** for undergraduate students and not met for graduate students for test takers during the 2019-20 academic year.

D. POST-GRADUATION STUDENT SUCCESS

Tusculum University administered an exit interview in Spring, 2023.

MEASURE D-1:

POST-GRADUATION OUTCOMES BY DEGREE LEVEL: The percentage of completers employed or enrolled in further education such as graduate school.



*Knowledge rate = 42%

MEASURE D-2:

POST-GRADUATION CAREER OUTCOME RATE BY DEGREE LEVEL: The career outcome rate is the percentage of completers either employed or enrolled in further education.

98 percent of Tusculum Graduates reported being employed or in advanced education. By comparison, the NACE average for career outcomes is 84 percent.

Figure 5