



## Virginia Tech Student Achievement Measures

Virginia Tech is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In June 2014, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved a policy statement on “Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure.” The policy requires that an institution accredited by SACSCOC publish “statements of its goals for student achievement and the success of students in achieving those goals.”

Virginia Tech has a strong history of evaluating the achievement of its students in relation to its mission. The university monitors achievement of students through the Institutional Performance Standards developed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and through the university’s long range plan scorecard.

## Institutional Performance Standards

While the university monitors first-year retention rates and graduation rates (Table 1), no specific university-level targets have been set for those rates. Instead, the university has developed targets for degree awards at each student level (Table 2) as established in the Institutional Performance Standards. Retention and graduation rates are critically important in developing these targets. In concurrence with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the university considers a threshold of 95% of the target to be acceptable performance.

Table 1. First-year retention rates and six-year graduation rates for first-time, full-time, first-year, baccalaureate degree seeking students

First-Year Retention Rates			Six-Year Graduation Rates		
Cohort Year	Number of Students in Cohort	Percentage of Students from Cohort Retained after One Year	Cohort Year	Number of Students in Cohort	Percentage of Students from Cohort Graduated within Six Years
2010	5136	91%	2005	4976	82%
2011	5157	93%	2006	5030	83%
2012	5413	91%	2007	5059	83%
2013	5298	93%	2008	5397	83%
2014	5403	94%	2009	4994	83%
2015	6261	93%	2010	5136	84%

Table 2. Degree targets for 2015-16 and actual degree awards

	Total				In-State		
	Target	Threshold	Actual		Target	Threshold	Actual
Associate Degrees	51	48	59		49	46	57
Baccalaureate Degrees	5810	5519	5940		4505	4279	4441
Master’s Degrees	1376	1307	1365		790	750	812
Doctoral Degrees	451	428	492		169	160	208
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	115	109	116		75	71	74

In addition, the university has established targets for the production of associate and baccalaureate degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Health (STEM-H) fields:

2015-16 Target: 2027  
 Acceptable Performance Threshold: 1925  
 2015-16 Actual degree production: 2045

**Long Range Plan Scorecard**

The university also assesses the extent of student achievement through the long range plan scorecard (commonly called the university scorecard). Many of the metrics reflect the extent to which students take advantage of or successfully complete various experiences that enhance learning within and outside of the classroom (Table 3).

Table 3. Long Range Plan Scorecard Performance Metrics

	2015-16 Target	2015-16 Actual	Target Achievement
Number of graduating undergraduates who participated in at least one research experience	3975	4013	101%
Number of graduating undergraduates who have participated in a study abroad experience or foreign language course and	3037	2438	80%
Number of graduating undergraduates who have participated in experiential learning	10215	10439	102%