

Lake Superior College

Student Right-To-Know Graduation and Transfer-Out Rates

What is Student Right-To-Know?

Student Right-To-Know is a federal law that requires all colleges and universities to disclose certain information to students. This handout provides the information that a college must provide to students on graduation rates and transfer-out rates for full-time students seeking degrees at Lake Superior College.

What is a graduation rate and what is a transfer-out rate?

Federal regulations specify how to calculate the graduation and transfer rates. The rates come from a study of Lake Superior students who started at the college in the fall of 2003. The study includes all first-time students who enrolled full-time that fall and were seeking to earn a degree, diploma or certificate at the college. The **graduation rate** is the percentage of these students who graduated from Lake Superior within three years. The **transfer-out rate** is the percentage of these students who did not graduate from Lake Superior, but instead transferred to another college or university within three years.

What do I need to know about these rates?

These rates do not report on all students at Lake Superior. The 514 first-time, full-time students in the study were 11 percent of all students enrolled at Lake Superior in fall of 2003.

What are the graduation and transfer-out rates for Lake Superior students and how do they compare to rates for other colleges?

- The **graduation rate** for Lake Superior was 20 percent. Greater Minnesota community and technical colleges had an average graduation rate of 37 percent. The national average graduation rate for similar colleges was 19 percent.
- The **transfer-out rate** for Lake Superior was 20 percent. Greater Minnesota community and technical colleges had an average transfer-out rate of 17 percent.
- The combination of the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate for Lake Superior was 40 percent. Greater Minnesota community and technical colleges had a combined rate of 54 percent.

Why don't more Lake Superior students graduate or transfer in three years?

- Since Lake Superior has an "open door" mission, many new students need to take "developmental" courses to improve their reading, writing or math skills before taking other college courses;
- Students who switch from full-time to part-time enrollment or "stop out" for one or more semesters are more likely to take more than three years to graduate;
- Some students take jobs before they graduate;
- Other students delay their education for personal, family or financial reasons.