

THE POWER AND PROMISE OF PASSHE

Student Progression and Completion

State System universities know what works to motivate students to successfully navigate their college experience. From emergency financial aid to wraparound student support services and more, university practices help State System students stay in college and complete their degrees at rates that consistently outperform similar institutions.

For the 2022-23 academic year, State System universities conferred more than 22,000 degrees and certificates in various fields, including STEM, health, business, and education. More than 830,000 degrees and certificates have been conferred since the System's inception in 1983.

As a result of Systemwide goal alignment and comprehensive planning, the State System consistently outperforms national 4-year public master's institutions, with the State System's second-year retention at about 77%.

State System 6-year graduation rates are also higher than the national 4-year public master's institutions, averaging 59% compared to 52% for the 2016 cohort.

Among students who transfer to PASSHE universities, the largest group—representing almost 10% of the overall new-student population—comes from Pennsylvania community colleges.

Transfer students persist at PASSHE universities at a higher rate than non-transfer students. In Fall 2023, the second-year persistence rate for full-time bachelor's degree-seeking transfer students was 5.7 percentage points higher than for their non-transfer counterparts.

With 82,000 students—nearly 90% of whom are from Pennsylvania—PASSHE universities serve more in-state students than any four-year college or university in Pennsylvania. A strong majority of State System university graduates stay in the commonwealth to live, build careers and support their communities.



Pennsylvania's
STATE SYSTEM
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