

West Virginia State University

Report of the Review Team
on the 2014 Compact Submission

April 2015



West Virginia
Higher Education
Policy Commission

HIGHLIGHTS

- West Virginia State University offers an innovative Enrollment strategy with three activities designed to grow its headcount enrollment. Among these is an initiative called “Return to Learn,” which encourages adult learners and students who left the institution before earning a degree to pursue degree completion. The institution plans to provide these students with individualized information regarding the steps and processes needed to develop a clear path to enrollment and degree attainment.
- The review team was impressed with WV State University’s efforts to improve and expand its developmental education services. The institution plans to create a state-of-the-art math learning center to provide computer-based supplemental instruction to developmental math students. Plans are also underway to relocate the institution’s Writing Center to the library, and to implement a stretch course format for developmental English.
- The review team was impressed with WV State University’s efforts to build support networks for its first-time freshmen as part of an innovative First-Year Retention strategy. The institution’s enrollment management and student affairs teams will work to enhance the new student orientation program to encourage connection and engagement with other students, faculty and staff, and to better inform new students of the programs and services available to them. The institution also plans to develop a check-in process in which enrollment management and student affairs personnel will contact targeted sub-populations within the freshmen class to obtain feedback and discuss support services.
- The review team commends State’s use of DegreeWorks, a software tool designed to help advisors guide students along the most efficient path to completion while providing students with valuable information related to course selection and academic progress, and was impressed with the institution’s plan to expand its use of DegreeWorks to include degree maps with milestones. The review team looks forward to following State’s successes and is particularly interested to learn more about the benefits of degree mapping.
- Recognizing that outstanding financial balances might discourage first-time freshmen from returning after their first year, WV State University plans to reach out to these students to discuss alternative payment arrangements and to encourage them to continue their studies. The review team believes that this activity might also help the institution identify students who are eligible for additional financial aid.
- The *15 to Finish* campaign promotes on-time completion by encouraging students to take at least 15 credit hours per semester. The review team applauds State’s efforts to distribute *15 to Finish* information to students.
- West Virginia State University’s student-centered Graduate Student Success strategy includes plans to develop a graduate student advisory council to help advise graduate program coordinators, and also to engage faculty in identifying research opportunities for graduate students.

- **State's Financial Aid Comprehensive Plan and Default Rate strategy underscore the institution's commitment to financial literacy, promoting responsible borrowing, and encouraging timely repayment of student loans. The review team was particularly impressed with the institution's plans to emphasize the potential financial consequences of course withdrawals, changes in majors, and excessive borrowing. The institution's FAFSA Wednesday sessions, Lunch and Learn events, and financial information tables in residence halls are also noteworthy activities.**

SUMMARY OF 2018 INSTITUTIONAL TARGETS

The following table provides a summary of institutional targets and system goals on the key metrics outlined in the Commission's 2013-18 Master Plan. In some cases, institutions established 2018 targets lower than their actual 2013-14 values, their five-year averages, or the minimum contributions needed from each institution in order for the system to achieve its 2018 system-wide goal. Those occurrences are highlighted in orange. The review team asks all institutions to review the metrics submitted with their compact proposals, with particular attention focused on 2018 targets to ensure that they have set realistic targets that also contribute to the overall mission of reaching institution- and state-level goals. The Commission's Policy and Planning Division will be initiating a review process prior to the November 1st, 2015 deadline to revise institutional targets.

	System		WV State University		
	2013	System Goal	2013-14	Five Year Average	2018 Target
ACCESS					
Fall Head Count	66,178	73,500	2,664	3,081	3,549
Annualized FTE	61,716	68,000	2,139	2,343	2,859
Fall First-Time Freshmen Headcount	11,188	12,750	416	365	500
Fall Low-Income Student Headcount	19,866	22,000	1,182	1,322	1,575
Fall Underrepresented Racial/Ethnic Group Total	6,844	6,700	296	444	509
Fall Adult (25+) Headcount	8,938	11,500	847	1,069	1,150
SUCCESS					
Students Passing Developmental Courses					
Math	69.3%	70%	56.6%	**	60.0%
English	75.0%	75%	73.0%	**	77.0%
Developmental Students Passing College-Level Course					
Math	31.6%	60%	33.6%	**	28.0%
English	56.3%	70%	56.8%	**	55.0%
Retention					
Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen	74.7%	80%	62.5%	**	70.0%
Part-time, First-Time Freshmen	48.0%	50%	55.6%	**	60.0%
Low-Income First-Time Freshmen	66.6%	75%	57.3%	**	60.0%
Returning Adults	54.6%	65%	58.3%	**	65.0%
Transfer Students	73.4%	76%	72.6%	**	70.0%
Underrepresented Racial/Ethnic Group Total	64.6%	75%	35.3%	**	60.0%
Progress Toward Degree					
First-Time Freshmen Earning 30 Hours	47.8%	65%	21.2%	**	30.0%
Four-Year Graduation Rate Cohort Years					
	2009	2014	2009		2014
First-Time Freshmen	23.4%	30%	8.5%	**	14.0%
Low-Income First-Time Freshmen	17.0%	20%	6.1%	**	12.0%
Returning Adults	39.1%	48%	33.8%	**	40.0%
Transfer Students	43.2%	48%	38.4%	**	45.0%
Underrepresented Racial/Ethnic Group Total	13.0%	20%	3.9%	**	15.0%
Six-Year Graduation Rate Cohort Years					
	2007	2012	2007		2012
First-Time Freshmen	46.0%	60%	19.6%	**	30.0%
Low-Income First-Time Freshmen	34.6%	40%	16.3%	**	25.0%
Returning Adults	42.4%	58%	42.1%	**	45.0%
Transfer Students	53.0%	58%	43.3%	**	55.0%
Underrepresented Racial/Ethnic Group Total	29.6%	40%	16.1%	**	22.0%
IMPACT					
Degrees Awarded	13,295	15,500	435	411	449
STEM Degrees	3,108	3,750	54	53	66
STEM Education Degrees	121	**	12	12	10
Health Degrees	1,850	2,000	14	16	23

CONCERNS

- The review team noted that West Virginia State University provided a Research and Development strategy that focused on student research and integrating Land Grant researchers into academic departments. The review team notes that neither of these strategies is likely to increase research grants and suggests that West Virginia State University implement activities to support grant-writing and grant success.

REQUESTS

- West Virginia State University's Graduation Rates strategy does not specifically address the required target populations as defined in the 2013-2018 HEPC Master Plan. The review team requests that the institution revise its Graduation Rates strategy to include at least one activity focused on HEPC target populations.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE REVIEW TEAM

The review team recommends **approval of the West Virginia State University Compact submission** contingent upon receipt and review of the revisions requested.

The deadline for responding to requested items or completing items required for approval is June 7, 2015.

