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## DISTANCE EDUCATION ACCREDITING COMMISSION

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DISCLOSURE FOR THE PUBLIC

DEAC accredited institutions offer a broad array of instructional programs and student support services to meet varied educational and professional goals of a highly diverse student population. Institutions determine appropriate performance criteria to measure the success of their students in achieving their goals in the context of the institution's specific mission and scope. You will find below (1) a summary of how this institution measures student achievement in the context of the institution's mission and educational programs, and (2) student achievement metrics which the institution believes best reflect student and program performance. For more information about DEAC standards and requirements, please visit [www.deac.org](http://www.deac.org).

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### **Summary of Institution Mission and Student Achievement**

*Aspen is dedicated to offering any motivated college-worthy student the opportunity to receive a high quality, responsibly priced distance-learning education for the purpose of achieving sustainable economic and social benefits for themselves and their families.* To accomplish this mission, Aspen offers certificates, and associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees through its Schools of Nursing, Business and Technology, Education, and Professional Studies. The University's degree programs have been developed as a direct response to the needs of adult learners and are offered online, except for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Pre-licensure) program which has an additional in-residence component. Aspen achieves its mission through an Academic Achievement Goal which is to transition motivated learners to higher levels of productive citizenship by providing a readily accessible education that teaches knowledge and skills of enduring value. Student achievement is determined through a variety of measures including, but not limited to, programmatic graduation rates reported for a calendar year as reported annually to DEAC, the number of graduates for the most recent academic year, and the direct measurement of its university mission-based outcomes, data for which are provided below. These measures assist Aspen in knowing that it is meeting its institutional mission.

### **Aggregated Institutional Data on Student Achievement**

#### **Institutional Graduation Rates**

Aspen University's student population is a unique blend of adult learners who are completing their programs while working and managing homes and families. Considering this, we firmly believe students should have ample time to complete their degrees. Aspen's policy for the calculation of programmatic graduation rates is the following:

- A cohort-based model is applied at 150% time-to-completion, which is calculated from the program length reported to DEAC where program length = normal time to completion. For example: Master's degrees have a reported program length of 3 years; therefore the reported cohort would include those who started 4.5 years prior to their graduation year.
- Enrollments include those students who are in attendance as of Day 8 of the first course in their required sequence and who have met all admissions criteria for the degree program as defined by the Academic Catalog in effect during the cohort year.
- Documented exclusion categories include:
  - active duty military service
  - approved leaves of absence, including for medical or other purposes
  - death
  - students enrolled within the last 90 days and considered actively enrolled as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the reporting year

- Exclusions are only applicable at the program level, not the course level.
- The graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the number of new student enrollments, after applying exclusions.

The table below indicates graduation rates by program for Calendar Year 2019 (DEAC Reporting Year as reported in March 2020).

<b>Program</b>	<b>Reported Program Length / 150% Time to Completion</b>	<b>Student Entry Point (Enrollment Date)</b>	<b># of New Students in the Cohort</b>	<b>Overall Graduation Rate for the Reporting Year</b>
Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education	2.5 yrs / 3.75 yrs	March 1, 2015 - February 28, 2016	25	33%
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Counseling	5 yrs / 7.5 yrs	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	5	0%
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	5 yrs / 7.5 yrs	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	5	33%
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, (Completion Program)	2.5 yrs / 3.75 yrs	March 1, 2015 - February 28, 2016	52	53%
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	5 yrs / 7.5 yrs	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	2	0%
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, (Completion Program)	2.5 yrs / 3.75 yrs	March 1, 2015 - February 28, 2016	28	76%
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education	5 yrs / 7.5 yrs	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	2	0%
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, (Completion Program)	2.5 yrs / 3.75 yrs	March 1, 2015 - February 28, 2016	42	74%
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration	5 yrs / 7.5 yrs	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	204	31%
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Completion Program)	2.5 yrs / 3.75 yrs	March 1, 2015 - February 28, 2016	773	81%
Certificate in Project Management	1yr / 2 yrs	July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018	5	100%
Doctor of Science in Computer Science	5 yrs / 7.5 yrs	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	6	0%
Doctorate in Education Leadership and Learning	5 yrs / 7.5 yrs	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	20	29%
Master in Business Administration	3 yrs / 4.5 yrs	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	101	79%
Master in Education	3 yrs / 4.5 yrs	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	15	33%
Master of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Counseling	4 yrs / 6 yrs	January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013	86	32%
Master of Science in Criminal Justice	3 yrs / 4.5 yrs	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	24	56%
Master of Science in Information Management	3 yrs / 4.5 yrs	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	6	100%
Master of Science in Information Systems	3 yrs / 4.5 yrs	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	11	71%

Master of Science in Information Technology	3 yrs / 4.5 yrs	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	6	80%
Master of Science in Nursing	3 yrs / 4.5 yrs	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	222	78%
Master of Science in Technology and Innovation	3 yrs / 4.5 yrs	July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	15	73%
RN-to-Master of Science in Nursing	4 yrs / 6 yrs	January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013	285	43%

### Total Number of Graduates by Program

During the Academic Year 2018-19 (September 2018 through August 2019), Aspen graduated the following number of students by program. Criteria in the calculation are as follows:

- This number is a simple count of those students for whom the degree was conferred in this academic year.
- Baccalaureate degrees are 120 credits, and include those graduates from both the full 120-credit program and the associated Completion program, if applicable, as both confer a bachelor's degree. For example, graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration include those in both the full 120-credit BSBA and those who completed the BSBA Completion program.
- Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program include those in both the MSN and RN to MSN programs as both confer an MSN degree.

Program Name	Number of Graduates
Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education	9
Bachelor in General Studies (no longer offered)	1
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Counseling	17
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	34
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	19
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education	41
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration	5
Bachelor of Science in Nursing	730
Certificate in Project Management	3
Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning	11
Doctor of Nursing Practice	1
Doctor of Science in Computer Science	4
Master in Business Administration	63
Master in Education	12
Master of Arts in Psychology and Addiction Counseling	26
Master of Science in Criminal Justice	22
Master of Science in Information Management	4
Master of Science in Information Systems	9
Master of Science in Information Technology	1
Master of Science in Nursing	274
Master of Science in Technology and Innovation	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1288</b>

### Assessment of Student Learning

The five University Mission-Based Outcomes (UMBOs) are the highest level learning outcomes at Aspen and are fully articulated @ [www.aspen.edu](http://www.aspen.edu) under the About Aspen University tab. Achievement is measured in the core courses of all programs through UMBO alignment in signature assignment rubrics that are scored by faculty. The University

Assessment Committee identified the Learning Achievement Targets (LATs) for UMBOs as a key indicator that Aspen is effectively carrying out its mission and meeting the Academic Achievement Goal. The LAT is 85% of Graduate program students will Meet plus Exceed Expectations and 80% of Undergraduate program students will Meet plus Exceed Expectations for each of the five UMBOs. In the last 4 data periods, the LATs were met for each UMBO at each level.

<b>UMBO</b>	<b>AY2017-18 Period A (Sept17-Feb18) % Meets + Exceeds</b>	<b>AY2017-18 Period B (Mar18-Aug18) % Meets + Exceeds</b>	<b>AY2018-19 Period A (Sept18-Feb19) % Meets + Exceeds</b>	<b>AY2018-19 Period B (Mar-Aug19) % Meets + Exceeds</b>
Active Leadership	GR: 91.65 UG: 95.32	GR: 91.59 UG: 95.66	GR: 93.47 UG: 93.42	GR: 93.37 UG: 92.30
Critical Thinking/Analytical Reasoning	GR: 94.28 UG: 96.90	GR: 96.66 UG: 96.08	GR: 97.13 UG: 95.31	GR: 96.85 UG: 94.43
Effective Communication for Creating Change	GR: 96.10 UG: 95.15	GR: 95.26 UG: 94.93	GR: 96.14 UG: 91.38	GR: 95.54 UG: 91.07
Ethical Professionalism	GR: 91.41 UG: 91.76	GR: 91.98 UG: 92.72	GR: 93.49 UG: 93.15	GR: 93.49 UG: 93.07
Technological Literacy	GR: 93.30 UG: 95.64	GR: 94.48 UG: 95.66	GR: 93.69 UG: 91.62	GR: 93.88 UG: 93.00