Graduate-level Retention and Graduation Rates

Cohorts 2016-17 through 2025-26

Office of Institutional Research
October 7, 2026

Northern State University is pleased to share with you the following information about student achievement in graduate-level programs. While reviewing this information, please keep the following in mind.

- Each academic year spans three academic terms, starting with the summer and ending with the spring.
- Students counted in a particular cohort were first-time graduate students during the summer, fall, or spring term of that year. Both full-time and part-time students are included.
- Students are considered retained if they attend during a term within the next year, ignoring the subsequent term. For example, a student who starts during a fall term will be considered retained if he/she also attends the next summer or fall term.

Questions related to this information should be directed to NSU's Director of Institutional Research, Dr. Brenda Mammenga, at (605) 626-2433 or brenda.mammenga@northern.edu.

Cohort Year	Initial Cohort Size	First Year Retention Rate	Graduation Rates		
			within 2 years	within 3 years	within 4 years
2016-17	53	87%	66%	77%	81%
2017-18	46	83%	63%	78%	83%
2018-19	72	86%	68%	78%	83%
2019-20	51	84%	75%	82%	84%
2020-21	100	81%	66%	74%	77%
2021-22	96	78%	55%	68%	74%
2022-23	120	86%	68%	86%	
2023-24	101	83%	64%		
2024-25	119	86%			
2025-26	96				