

## 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).

**This information was prepared by** NationsUniversity  
**and published on its website on** December 1, 2019

### Summary of Institution Mission and Student Achievement

The mission of NationsUniversity is to build authentic faith and train Christian leaders around the world through affordable, accessible higher education, utilizing distance learning. NationsU focuses on spiritual development and informal, lay leadership development. In addition, NationsU has a significant number of incarcerated students. Within this avocational context, NationsU's primary measure of student achievement is completion and graduation rates.

### Aggregated Institutional Data on Student Achievement

All NationsUniversity degrees and certificates are in the field of religious studies. NationsU offers a certificate, a bachelor's, and two graduate degrees. NU's graduation and completion rate across all degrees and programs is 69.7% based on the following calculations.

141 students from three cohorts from 2012 to 2015 were eligible to enter one of the three programs offered by NationsUniversity.

Of those 141 students, 65 students were excluded because they did not complete the first three-hour course after admission.

Of the remaining 76 students, 53 graduated in their respective cohorts in 2018, resulting in a 2018 aggregated completion and graduation rate of 69.7%.

Appended to this document are the completion and graduation rates for each program and a description of the context of those calculations.

## Calculation of Graduation Rates for 2018

### Certificate in Biblical Studies

The completion rate for the Certificate of Biblical Studies was calculate using the following procedures adopted by NationsUniversity.

1. The accepted timeframe for completion of the C.B.S. is 18 months, which is 150% of the expected completion time of 1 year. Therefore, the cohort being assessed is comprised of any students formally admitted in the 18-month window prior to the assessment year.
2. Students must complete the following criteria to be considered fully admitted for assessment purposes.
  - a. Has completed an orientation course for online learning at NU.
  - b. Has received a Letter of Admission (LOA) into the C.B.S. or C.R.S. program.
  - c. Has completed the first four courses of the appropriate program.
  - d. Has attempted the first Proctored Comprehensive Exam (PCE).

Students who do not attempt to complete the program as evidenced by the above actions are not considered fully admitted.

3. After establishing the net cohort, the student IDs are compared with the Graduation Certification Checklist to determine if and when the student graduated.

For 2018, the calculations appear as follows.

102 potential C.B.S. students completed the first four courses.

62 students were excluded because they chose not to take the first PCE to complete qualifying for the CBS program.

1 student is still studying.

Of the remaining 39 students, 29 students completed the program within the 150% timeframe, resulting in a 74.4% Completion Rate for the Certificate in Biblical Studies/Religious Studies Program. The DEAC minimum benchmark for non-degree programs is 60% with 80% as an average.

Of the 39 students, 24 were incarcerated. Of those 24, 17 completed on time for a Completion Rate of 70.9%.

Average Completion Time for CBS: 0.82 years (approximately 10 months).

## **Bachelor of Religious Studies**

The graduation rate for the BRS was calculated using the following formula adopted by NationsUniversity.

1. The accepted timeframe for graduation is 150% of the program length. For a bachelor's degree, the usual time to complete is four years. Therefore, the cohort for consideration will be all students who were formally admitted into the BRS program six years prior to the assessment year.
2. All students who complete the 30 hours of biblical foundations courses, ending with BRS 19, are considered qualified to enter the BRS program. Students who indicate their desire to pursue the BRS are then included in the initial cohort.
3. Per DEAC policy, students who do not complete at least three hours after admission into the BRS program are excluded from the cohort. Since BRS 20 is the first three-hour course in the program after admission, students who do not complete BRS 20 are excluded.
4. After establishing the net cohort, this list is then compared to BRS graduation records for the six years following up to and including the year being assessed. A student who graduates from the BRS program within the six year time frame is considered an on-time graduate.

For 2018, the following data was analyzed.

1. A list of students completing BRS 19 in 2012 was downloaded from ELIS's NU Class Roster Report.
2. A list of students who completed BRS 20 between 2012 and 2018 was downloaded. This list was compared to the list of students completing BRS 19. Students who did not complete BRS 20 were excluded.
3. The NU Graduation Checklist and the graduation announcements contained in the Student Newsletter were both compared to the net cohort list. Students who had graduated within the six-year window were marked as on-time graduates. Those who did not were not marked.

For 2018, the calculations appear as follows.

84 Students completed BRS 19 and were eligible to pursue the Bachelors of Religious Studies.

The following were excluded from the calculations:

57 students did not complete at least three hours (BRS 20).

6 students were pursuing CRS only.

Of the 21 students remaining in the cohort, 15 graduated within the six-year window, resulting in a 71.4% Graduation Rate for the Bachelors of Religious Studies. The DEAC minimum benchmark for a bachelor degree 43% with 58% as an average.

PRISON STATS: Of the 21 students in this cohort, 7 were prison students. Of those seven, 5 graduated, resulting in a 71.4% BRS Graduation Rate for Prison Students.

Average Time of Completion after BRS 19: 2.3 years (approximately 28 months)

### **Master of Theological Studies**

The 2018 graduation rate for the M.T.S. was calculated using the same model as the BRS but with a shorter time frame and different courses for determining admissions and validation.

1. The usual timeframe for completing a master's degree is two years. Therefore, the 150% guideline is three years. For the 2018 assessment cycle, the cohort to be assessed is derived from admissions in 2015.

2. To be considered for admissions into the MTS, a student must complete the 15 hours of foundations courses, ending with M 4. Therefore, a list of students completing M 4 in 2015 was downloaded from ELIS/Moodle.

3. The course which immediately follows M 4 is M 11. Therefore, a list of students completing M 11 between 2015 and 2018 was downloaded also. This list was compared to the list of students completing M 4 in 2015. Students who did not complete M 11 were excluded from the cohort because they did not complete the first three hours of the program.

4. After establishing the net cohort, this list was then compared to MTS graduation checklist and graduation announcements in the Student Newsletters. Students who graduated within the three-year window were marked as on-time graduates. Those who did not graduate, were not marked.

5. One additional step in this process was the exclusion of M.Div. students. Because both the MTS and MDiv students take the same foundations courses, students who were not pursuing the MTS needed to be excluded. Student records were checked for any students not graduating to determine if they were admitted into the MTS or MDiv program. MDiv students were excluded from the cohort.

For 2018, the calculations appear as follow.

25 Students completed M 4 in 2015.

The following were excluded:

8 students did not complete M 11 in subsequent years.

1 student is pursuing the M.Div.

Of the remaining 16 students in the net cohort, 6 are still studying and 9 graduated in three years or less, resulting in an MTS Graduation Rate of 56.25%. DEAC Master's Degree benchmark is 54%.

PRISON STATS: Of the 16 students in this cohort, 3 were prison students. Of those 3, two are still studying and the other did not graduate.

Average Time to Complete the MTS: 1.97 years (approximately 24 months).

### **Master of Divinity Degree**

The M.Div. Graduation Rate followed the same model as the BRS and the MRS with one exception noted below.

1. The usual timeframe for completion of the first professional degree is four years. Therefore, the 150% window would be six years for the M.Div. For the 2018 assessment cycle, the cohort to be assessed is derived from 2012 admissions into the M.Div. program.
2. Like the M.T.S., students must complete the 15 hours of foundation courses, ending with M 4, to be considered for admissions. Therefore, a list of students completing M 4 in 2012 was downloaded from ELIS/Moodle.
3. The course which immediately follows M 4 is M 11. Therefore, a list of students completing M 11 between 2012 and 2018 was downloaded also. This list was compared to the list of students completing M 4 in 2012. Students who did not complete M 11 were excluded from the cohort because they did not complete the first three hours of the program.
4. The list was then separated into M.R.S. students and M.Div. students.
5. After establishing the cohort, the list was compared to graduation records in ELIS. Those students who graduated with the M.Div. within the six-year window were marked as on-time graduates.

For 2018, the calculations appear as follows.

70 Students completed M 4 in 2012.

45 Students did not completed M 11 in subsequent years and were excluded.

Of 25 students, 25 were M.T.S. students.

Under these circumstances, NU had no formal admissions into the MDiv program in 2012.

## Summary Data

| 2017-2018 DEAC Benchmarks                   | Three-year Average Graduation Benchmarks |                   | Nations University |
|---|--|-------------------|--------------------|
|   | Average                                  | Minimum Benchmark |                    |
| <b>Non-Degree (C.B.S.)</b>                  | 80                                       | 60                | 74                 |
| <b>Bachelor (B.R.S.)</b>                    | 58                                       | 43                | 71                 |
| <b>Masters (M.T.S.)</b>                     | 69                                       | 54                | 56                 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Professional (M.Div.)</b> | 88                                       | 73                | *                  |