**FR 4.1** The institution evaluates success with respect to student achievement, including as appropriate, consideration of course completion, state licensing examinations, and job placement rates. **(Student achievement)**

**Compliance Judgment:**

In compliance

The following narrative provides evidence that FMU actively supports its stated mission by evaluating student achievement in:

* Retention and graduation
* State licensing examinations
* Job placement rates.

Narrative:

The University audits all student work to ensure that students successfully complete all courses required for graduation in their majors, minors, and collaterals. Especially during the semesters prior to graduation—and at any time on request—the Registrar’s Office runs an audit for students to verify that their course work fulfills the stated requirements published in departmental brochures and the *Francis Marion University Catalog (Application for Degree*, p. 71*)*[[1]](#endnote-1) See page 4a-c for a student audit). These records are maintained in a secure database that is continually updated and stored on campus every day and in an off-campus facility once a week.

**Retention & Graduation Rates**

The University’s Fact Book contains retention and graduation rates for the 1991-2008 cohorts. The University website also maintains a College Portrait site populated by the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) program. These rates are shown in Table 1 for students who enrolled in college for the first time in Fall 2007 (i.e., newly-enrolled freshmen). Comparable data are shown in Table 2 for students who transferred to Francis Marion in Fall 2007.

| Table 1. Percentage of Newly-Enrolled Freshmen Who Entered in Fall 2007 |
| --- |
|  | Who Have Graduated from: | Are Still Enrolled in: |
| GraduationSemester | FM | Another Institution | FM | Another Institution |
| BachelorDegree | AssociateDegree | BachelorDegree |  | 2-year | 4-year |
| Spring 2010 | .1 | 1.0 | 0 | 58.0 | 15.5 | 9.7 |
| Spring 2011 | 16.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 34.9 | 16.4 | 10.2 |
| Spring 2012 | 33.2 | 3.8 | 5.4 | 14.4 | 12.7 | 6.6 |
| Spring 2013 | 40.2 | 5.7 | 8.0 | 4.9 | 8.5 | 3.9 |

| Table 2. Percentage of Transfer Students Who Entered in Fall 2007:  |
| --- |
|  | Who Have Graduated from | Are Still Enrolled in |
| GraduationSemester | FM | Another Institution | FM | Another Institution |
| BachelorDegree | AssociateDegree | BachelorDegree |   | 2-year | 4-year |
| Spring 2010 | 28.2 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 33 | 9.0 | 7.9 |
| Spring 2011 | 45.8 | 1.1 | 4.0 | 13 | 8.5 | 7.3 |
| Spring 2012 | 52 | 2.3 | 5.6 | 2.8 | 7.3 | 6.8 |
| Spring 2013 | 52.5 | 2.8 | 7.9 | 1.7 | 4.5 | 4.5 |

The Registrar’s Office also maintains a database that can be used for tracking graduation rates. For example, the graduation rate for December 2013 was reported by the Registrar to include a total of 255 undergraduates and 43 graduate students.

**State licensing examinations**

The University uses numerous variables in the ongoing planning process and evaluation of student achievement. The reports and analyses of these data are maintained by the University’s Office of Institutional Research which collects departmental reports on successful completion of state licensing examinations. These data are presented annually in the *Annual Accountability Report* which is submitted to the Office of the State (SC) Budget and are as follows:

* The School of Education submits Praxis reports for students who have completed the exam. An average of 85% of FMU’s education students who took the Praxis II test in during the 2012-2013 academic year had a passing grade. There was a 100% passing rate on the following sections:

Art: Content Knowledge

Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises

English Language Literary Composition: Essays

Math: Content Knowledge

Middle School: Language Arts

Middle School: Mathematics

Middle School: Science

Middle School: Social Studies

* From 2009-2012 the pass rates of graduates from the Francis Marion Nursing Program on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Exam (NCLEX) have exceeded the national and state averages (Table 1). The pass rate for the examination within two attempts has been 100%.

Table 3. Annual Pass Rates for Graduates of Registered Nursing Programs on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Exam (NCLEX)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Average** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** |
| National  | 88.42% | 87.42% | 87.90% | 90.34% |
| South Carolina | 88.37% | 89.53% | 89.66% | 93.37% |
| Francis Marion | 94.12% | 90.00% | 93.33% | 97.00% |

Graduating seniors take a *Senior Exit Survey* (77.6% response rate) which includes a question concerning post-graduation employment. Twenty two percent of the students who graduated in December 2013 indicated that they had been offered full-time employment. This value is consistent with the rates for previous semesters and data collected by the Career Development Office.

The Career Development Office sponsors one career fair each semester. The high participation rate of companies (see Figure 1) indicates that these employers find FM graduates to be qualified and motivated employees.

The supporting documents which verify this compliance judgment include:

1. *2013-2014 Francis Marion University Catalog*, p.71. Florence, SC: Francis Marion University, 2013-2014.

 <http://www.fmarion.edu>

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