The Hawai‘i Graduation Initiative (HGI) seeks to increase the number of University of Hawai‘i graduates by 25% by 2015 (10,500 more degrees/certificates earned). The goal to increase the educational capital of the State of Hawai‘i is necessary as the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce estimates that, by 2018, 65% of jobs in Hawaii will require some college education or more. In alignment with the Hawaii P-20 goal of 55% of working age adults would have a college degree by 2025, the University of Hawaii is committed to ensuring that more students graduate on time.

The University of Hawai‘i as a system of 10 campuses, consists of community regional and research campuses, has the unique advantage of serving the state through campuses with differing missions. Students may earn certificates, associate, baccalaureate and graduate degrees with one university system.

**In support of the Hawaii Graduation Initiative, the University of Hawaii Board of Regents endorses initiatives to improve student success and graduation.**

Specifically, the Board of Regents endorses the following student success initiatives:

**Promote College Preparation**
Students who are college ready are more likely to earn a degree/certificate. Strategies to promote college preparation include:

- Collaborate with Hawaii DOE to define College and Career Readiness for students
- Align exit standards from DOE with entry standards at UH in mathematics and English
- Prepare teacher candidates to teach to relevant state standards
- Accept a specific ACT math score as placement into college level math
- Experiment with models to accelerate entry into college level English and math.
- Require enrollment in remedial/developmental math and English remedial courses in the student’s first semester.
- Collaborate among early childhood, K-12, higher education and labor/workforce sectors in data sharing
- Use data to improve programs to meet students’ needs
- Include productivity and efficiency measures in evaluating program effectiveness.
Ensure smooth and transparent transfer of Students and Credits across UH campuses.
As a system of community and baccalaureate-degree granting campuses, students may transfer between campuses to earn a degree or certificate. The UH system has the responsibility to be “transfer friendly,” i.e., provide for transparency and ease in the transfer process and outcome. Principles that support transparency and ease include:

- Design bachelor degree programs that provide efficient and clear pathways for students who transfer from a community college to baccalaureate campus.
- Baccalaureate programs are designed to accommodate transfers from the community college and promote efficient graduation.
- Equivalent courses across the UH system have the same alpha, title, course number, credits, prerequisites, course description and general education designation.
- Similar programs/majors across the UH system have the same names, program code.

Ensure On-Time Graduation
On time graduation means a student in an associate degree program, completes their degree in two years and four years for bachelor degree programs. Initiatives that support on time graduation include:

- 15 to Finish
  - Students in associate or baccalaureate degree-seeking programs complete 15 credits per semester or 30 credits per year.
  - Advise students that 15 credits is the fulltime load to graduate on-time.
- Academic Pathways
  - Semester-by-semester academic plans with milestone courses are clearly defined. These pathways provide a guide to students to complete their associate degree in 2 years at community colleges and a bachelor degree in 4 years at baccalaureate campuses.
  - Programs with graduates with excess credits of 20 or more above the minimum needed to complete the degree are reviewed.
- Required Courses Taken Early
  - Campuses ensure that students complete their math and English course requirements in their first year.