University of Hawai'i’s Hawai'i Graduation Initiative (HGI) focuses on increasing the number of college graduates within the state. HGI strategies support college going and on-time graduation and align with Hawai'i P-20’s 55 by ‘25 statewide goal of having 55% of working age adults hold a two- or four-year college degree by the year 2025 (www.55by25.org). As of 2016, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that 44% of Hawai'i’s working age adults held a two- or four-year degree. UH is focused on meeting this ambitious goal through a variety of HGI strategies (Dual Credit, Hawai'i Promise Scholarship, 15 to Finish, STAR-GPS Registration, Purpose First, etc.) that get students interested in college, enter and stay in college, and graduate with a degree that meets their personal and financial goals. Information on HGI’s strategies are available at www.hawaii.edu/hawaiigradinitiative.

HGI is one of four UH Strategic Directions that guides the university’s priorities through the year 2021 (www.hawaii.edu/strategicdirections/).

For more information: www.hawaii.edu/hawaiigradinitiative/
The Transformation of an HGI Strategy

**2012**

**15 to Finish**

**Influencing a Culture Shift**

The 15 to Finish communications plan informs audiences that **taking 12 credits is full-time but taking 15 credits is on-time**. Hundreds of higher education institutions across the country have followed our lead.

https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/02/is-there-a-way-to-help-college-students-graduate-on-time/463041/

It works...

- **UH Mānoa**: 37% to 62%
- **UH Hilo**: 37% to 68%
- **UH West O‘ahu**: 14% to 58%
- **UHCCs**: 8% to 19%

The share of first-time freshmen taking 15 or more credits has increased.

**2015**

**The Right 15**

**Redesigning Our Infrastructure**

STAR-GPS (Guided Pathway System) immediately alerts students during registration if they are “off-track” and identifies their straightest trajectory to graduation.

Share of credits taken that counted toward students’ degrees...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009-11 Avg (Pre-campaign)</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UH Mānoa</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UH Hilo</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UHCCs</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2017**

**The Right 15 with Purpose**

**Helping Students Identify Career Goals Early**

The Purpose First initiative helps students explore career aspirations early in their college years. Hawai‘i was selected to participate in this national 2-year initiative.

Sector partnerships between education and industry help align curriculum for success in the 21st century workplace.

To build early momentum in the first year, students will:

1. Select a major based on interest and career options
2. Take courses that apply to their major
3. Complete college-level English and math

**SPOTLIGHT: Co-requisite English and Math**

Co-requisite remediation is an HGI project started by the UH Community Colleges. This project enables students who are not college-ready to take college-level courses sooner with just-in-time academic support. Through the co-requisite project, more students have successfully completed college-level English and math, and remained in college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 to Finish and STAR-GPS: Recipients of Complete College America’s 2016 President’s Awards for innovation and outstanding contributions to national college completion efforts.


UHCC’s Sector Mapping Tool, which connects jobs and UH academic programs, received the 2017 Bernice Joseph Award by the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders.

http://wiche.edu/news/2017-Inaugural-Bernice-Joseph-Award