

## PERSISTENCE AND GRADUATION

Graduation Rates is a measure of the success of students in attaining their educational goals. The rate is a percentage of students in a given entering cohort (group) who graduated within a specified period. The number of students in the entering cohort is the denominator; the number of students graduating is the numerator. The entering cohort of an institution includes all first-time, full-time degree or certificate-seeking undergraduate students who began in the stated cohort year. The period is 150% of normal time to program completion (for example, for a four-year program, the graduation rate would include students who had graduated within six years of the beginning of the program).

Methodist University has graduation rate of 35 percent for a full-time new freshman who entered in Fall 2011 in pursuit of a baccalaureate degree graduating by Fall 2017. So what does our **35** percent graduation rate mean? This rate means that 35 percent of all freshman who began their collegiate career at Methodist University (MU) in Fall 2011 graduated from MU in six years.