

Academic Affairs Meeting

Academic Momentum 2025 Key Performance Indicators Taskforce Updates

Amitra A. Wall, Ph.D., C.A.S.

November 17, 2025



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Academic Momentum

- SUNY-wide campaign designed to improve retention and completion
- System goals will be met by campuses working towards specific targets through the adoption of evidence-based strategies



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

System Metrics

- Target Cohort: First-time, full-time baccalaureate seeking students entering Fall 2026
- 100% Graduation Rates
- 150% Graduation Rates
- Fall-to-Fall Retention
- 30+ Credits Earned in First Year
- Gateway Writing & Math Completion in 1st Year
- FAFSA Completion (FT/Transfer & Continuing)



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Buffalo State: Baseline & Targets

	Buffalo State University			Comp Sector	SUNY System
Metric	Baseline	Target		Target	Target
100% Grad Rate (4-yr)	19.8%	30.0%		53.7	62.3%
150% Grad Rate (6-yr)	33.3%	44.0%		69.8	77.2%
Fall-to-Fall Retention	57.7%	70.0%		82.0	87.4%
30+ Credits in First Year	28.1%	45.0%		54.4	55.6%
Gateway Writing Completion	81.5%	84.0%		91.9	86.5%
Gateway Math Completion	46.2%	60.0%		85.3	85.3%
New/Trans FAFSA Completion	94.1%	98.0%		97.1	94.4%
Cont. FAFSA Completion	84.6%	99.6%		91.4	85.8%



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Academic Momentum Timeline

December 2, 2025	Regional Planning Summits hosted by SUNY OSS; campuses bring draft ideas and receive facilitated support and time with their newly formed campus Academic Momentum Planning Teams to delve into plan details. Optional webinars on evidence-based strategies will also be offered.
December 12	Professional Learning Community Proposal Deadline
By January 30, 2026	SUNY provides feedback and finalizes approval. Modest launch funding released for those requesting funds, contingent upon plan approval.
February 5, 2026	Final campus action plans due. Plans should be signed by the campus president.
February – June 2026	Implementation begins for the Fall 2026 entering cohort. Communities of practice formed and ongoing OSS check-ins with campus leads conducted.
July 2026	First preliminary check-in with SUNY OSS on early implementation progress related to development of initiatives and identification of monitoring systems.
Fall 2026	Full launch of the Academic Momentum Campaign with the entering undergraduate cohort. First formal reports due on early implementation.



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Planning Team

- Amitra Wall
- Kelly Frothingham
- Wendy Paterson
- Kevin Williams
- Yves Gachette
- David Loreto
- Nigel Marriner

- Jane Cushman & Natalie Szymanski
- Atta Ceesay, Julian Cole, Leah Panek-Shirley, & Raquel Schmidt
- Yanick Jenkins, Sara Reese, Shawnte Wilson, & Jude Jayatilleke



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Barriers: Increasing 4-year and 6-year Graduation Rates

- Academic Readiness Gaps
- Financial Hardship and Basic Needs Insecurity
- Life complexity & Mental Health Issues
- Low Attendance and Engagement
- Complex Administrative & Advising Systems
- Mismatch between Open-Enrollment Reality and Available Supports



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Barriers: Fall to Fall Retention Rates

- Low Academic Readiness
- Inconsistent Engagement
- Fragmented Advising
- Financial Strain
- Weak Campus Belonging
- Inadequate and Overburdened Academic Support Infrastructure



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Barriers: First-Year Students Completing 30+ Credits

- Academic Under-Preparation
- Low Engagement/Attendance
- Financial Strain and Life Responsibilities
- Weak Navigation Skills and Inadequate First-Year Experience
- Insufficient or Inaccessible Course Options
- Campus Morale and Cultural Issues



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Strategies to Improve Graduation & Retention Rates and Completion of 30

- Proactive, High-Touch Advising
- Clear, Structured Degree Maps
- Better Course Availability
- Stronger First-Year Onboarding and Academic Skill Building
- Expanded Tutoring and Academic Support Systems
- Faculty-Student Relationships and Department-Level Engagement



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Addressing Non-Academic Factors

- Strengthen Communication and Referral Systems
- Expand Direct Support Programs
- Create Financial Aid and Work Opportunities
- Rethink Early Alerts and Case Management
- Reduce Barriers to Access



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Key Performance Indicators

- Enrollment Trends
- Applications: Fall 2025
- Graduates per Year
- Retention Rate
- Contribution
- Viability



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*



Task Force Updates



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*



Questions



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} *believe. inspire. achieve.*