What is the likelihood of graduating from Northwest in four years?

Our degrees are designed to be completed in four years and 96% of our undergraduate students (including new freshmen and transfer students) who graduated in 2013 finished in four years or less.

I know the government tracks graduation rates, what is Northwest’s official graduation rate?

The government tracks the number of first-time full-time undergraduate students who graduate in six-years or less. Northwest’s six-year graduation rate for all first-time full-time undergraduate students was 51.2% (for students who graduated in 2010-11), 47.3% (2012), and 43% (2013). These rates place Northwest in the middle range on the White House College Scorecard (http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/college-score-card).

Why is there a difference between these two rates?

There are many reasons why a student might leave Northwest before graduating. Some students choose to go part-time or take a semester off due to life circumstances. Other students decide that NU is simply not the best fit, perhaps they don’t connect with our emphasis on faith integration or decide they want to pursue a major that we don’t offer. Therefore, some students take time off, transfer to other institutions, or do not finish within the government-tracked timeframe.

At Northwest University, it is our conviction that God has a plan for every student—that the NU educational experience is transformational and that God will use our graduates to change the world. There may be a few students each year whose application portfolio shows the likelihood of success at Northwest but either test scores or GPA are below the minimum standard. Some of these students are admitted on probationary basis with first year remedial coursework and advising. We believe that students who demonstrate a strong call to be at Northwest should be given access to our educational experience and the opportunity to be transformed.

Ultimately, our research indicates that students who are prepared for college and their chosen program of study, and are compatible with the mission of Northwest University thrive and finish within four years. Among the 96% referenced above—graduates have experienced academic, spiritual, social, and emotional transformation during their four years or less on campus. Through living, learning, and doing life together your student will become prepared to change the world.