



URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY SETS GRADUATION TARGETS FOR STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS



In its continuing commitment to promote inclusive and equitable access to higher education, Urdaneta City University (UCU) has established specific graduation and completion targets for students belonging to the bottom 20 percent (20%) of household income groups in the country. This initiative underscores the University's strong dedication to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) by ensuring that students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are not only admitted but are also empowered to successfully complete their studies.

Recognizing that access alone is not enough, UCU's program focuses on student retention, support, and academic success. Through this initiative, the University aims to help low-income learners overcome barriers that typically hinder academic completion—such as financial hardship, lack of academic resources, and personal challenges. By setting measurable graduation and completion targets, UCU ensures that every effort—from academic advising to financial aid—is strategically aligned to uplift these students toward success.

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URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADUATION AND COMPLETION TARGETS FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Policy Title: UCU Low-Income Student Completion and Success Program

Effective Date: January 2024

I. Policy Statement

In pursuit of its mission to provide inclusive and equitable quality education, Urdaneta City University (UCU) establishes the Low-Income Student Completion and Success Program, which aims to ensure that students belonging to the bottom 20 percent (20%) of household income groups in the Philippines are supported not only in their admission but also in the successful completion of their studies.

This policy is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) of the United Nations, demonstrating the University’s commitment to reduce poverty through education by empowering students from low-income families to attain higher education degrees and achieve economic mobility.

II. Objectives

- 1.To establish measurable graduation and completion targets for students from low-income households.
- 2.To strengthen student retention and success through targeted academic and financial support.
- 3.To reduce the rate of student dropouts among economically disadvantaged learners.
- 4.To contribute to poverty alleviation and social equity through the completion of tertiary education.

To align institutional performance with the global call for inclusive and sustainable development under SDG 1.

III. Scope

This policy shall apply to:

- All students identified as belonging to the bottom 20% of household income groups (or those verified as economically disadvantaged through official documentation).
- All academic and administrative units involved in the provision of student support, retention, and success programs at Urdaneta City University.

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IV. Policy Guidelines

1. Identification and Verification:

Applicants and enrolled students claiming to belong to the bottom 20% income group shall submit valid documentary proof (e.g., DSWD certification, barangay certificate of indigency, or equivalent supporting documents).

2. Graduation and Completion Targets:

The University shall set annual graduation and completion benchmarks for low-income students, to be included in institutional development and performance monitoring systems.

3. Support Mechanisms:

Beneficiaries shall be provided with access to appropriate support services, including:

- Tuition and scholarship assistance
- Academic advising and mentorship
- Guidance and counseling
- Access to learning resources and livelihood opportunities

4. Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Office of Student Affairs, in coordination with the Registrar's Office and the Planning and Development Office, shall regularly monitor student performance, progress, and completion rates. Annual reports shall be submitted to the University President.

5. Continuous Improvement:

The University shall review and enhance existing support systems and policies to ensure their effectiveness in improving the graduation outcomes of low-income students.

V. Effectivity

This policy shall take effect immediately upon approval and shall remain in force until amended or revoked.

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