

Dear usmnews.net

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Vinzant is right and the faculty knows it. Southern Miss is seeking out and admitting far too many students who have no business in college, then trying – and failing -- to teach them to read, write and do basic math. As [Vinzant says](#), they come to us not even knowing how to study. It's all about numbers of students and tuition dollars.

We understand the message -- hand out grades to keep students.

Name withheld

Dear Name Withheld,

For 2014, [About Education](#) reports a 4-Year Graduation rate for USM of 21% and a 6-Year Graduation Rate of 45%. The 2013 edition of *Best Colleges* from *U.S. News & World Report* reported a 22% 4-year graduation rate for USM. In the 2012 edition, USM's 4-year graduation rate was also 22%. After six years, USM can manage to graduate only 45% of its students. As we have previously reported, graduation rate is the ultimate statistic and USM is failing.

Take care. Some faculty are going to find themselves in a "Catch 22" situation. If one of your supervisors wants to find fault, too many passing grades will be used to prove lack of rigor. If you don't hand out enough grades to "retain" students, you are not a team player and you are failing to contributing to the overall mission of retention.

Students who are receiving degrees in the name of retention, may find themselves in for a rude awakening. Employers – whose primary goal is not retention -- will expect performance.