



Research



# Trends in Graduation Success Rates and Federal Graduation Rates at NCAA Division I Institutions

NCAA Research Staff – November 2018

# Executive Summary

# Federal Graduation Rate vs. Graduation Success Rate

- ▶ Federal Graduation Rate assesses only first-time full-time freshmen in a given cohort and only counts them as academic successes if they graduate from their institution of initial enrollment within a six-year period. It makes no accommodation for transfers into or out of an institution. The rate is very limited because it ignores the large number of transfer students in higher education, but it is still the only rate that allows a direct comparison between student-athletes and the general student-body.
- ▶ Graduation Success Rate (GSR) begins with the federal cohort, and adds transfer students, midyear enrollees, and nonscholarship students (in specified cases) to the sample. Student-athletes who leave an institution while in good academic standing before exhausting athletics eligibility are removed from the cohort of their initial institution (essentially passed to another squad's GSR cohort if they transfer). This rate provides a more complete and accurate look at actual student-athlete success by taking into account the full variety of participants in Division I athletics and tracking their academic outcomes.

# Comparison of Graduation Success Rates and Federal Graduation Rate Cohorts

(2015-2018 Graduating Classes)

	Federal Rate	GSR
<b>Enrolled (Under Federal Definition)</b>	89,392	89,392
<b>Enrolled as Frosh in January</b>	0	3,244
<b>Two-Year College Transfers</b>	0	9,988
<b>Four-Year College Transfers</b>	0	7,945
<b>Non-Scholarship Athletes (Only at Schools Not Offering Aid)</b>	0	10,482
<b>Total Enrolled</b>	89,392	121,051 (+35.4%)
<b>Allowable Exclusions (Death, Military, Church Mission, etc.)</b>	275	344
<b>Left Eligible</b>	0	24,298
<b>Participants on Teams No Longer Sponsored by Institution</b>	0	1,123
<b>Total Denominator</b>	89,117	95,286 (7.0%)

# Summary of GSR Changes Between 2017 and 2018 Cohorts

- ▶ Overall, the GSR for the 2018 cohort increased by a point to 88 percent, the highest rate ever. There were some specific subgroup differences worth noting:
  - ▶ In the sport of men's basketball, the overall rate increased 3 percentage points to 85 percent. The rates for black student-athletes in the sport rose 4 percentage points to 82 percent. Both of these rates represent all-time highs.
  - ▶ The GSR for FBS football increased to 79 percent. There was a 2 percent increase (to 75) among black student-athletes in that sport. FCS football showed a 3 percentage point increase to reach its all-time high of 79 percent.
  - ▶ The rate in women's basketball dropped one point to 91 percent.

# Summary of GSR Changes Between 2017 and 2018 Cohorts

- ▶ Black student-athletes showed a 2 percentage point increase from the previous year, up to 79 percent. Black males were up 3 points but females dropped a point. White student-athletes climbed a point to 92 percent.
- ▶ In all, there were eight men's sports that posted rates at 90 percent or higher. Baseball rose again to its all-time high of 84 percent, and basketball increased three points to 85 percent. There were only three men's sports below the 80 percent threshold that Myles Brand declared as an "aspirational goal" more than a decade ago, and football is within one point of achieving that goal.
- ▶ Remarkably, only one women's sport group posted a rate that was below 90 percent in the 2018 cohort – bowling dropped below that threshold. For the third year in a row, women's skiing posted a perfect rate.

# Summary of GSR Changes Between 2002 and 2018 Cohorts

- ▶ Differences in GSR between the 2002 and 2018 cohorts are notable due to the fact that initial-eligibility rules changed with the 2003 cohort and again with the 2010 cohort. There are some notable differences in GSRs between these cohorts:
  - ▶ The overall rate is 14 percentage points higher for the 2018 cohort than for the 2002 cohort. This translates to more than 3,300 more graduates in the 2018 cohort than would have been the case had the rate not increased. When aggregated across all years, there have been almost 26,000 more graduates than would have been the case had the GSR stayed constant.
  - ▶ There have been major increases in the GSRs for black and Hispanic groups. Black males have seen their graduation rates increase by 24 percentage points (now 75) and black females have increased by 15 percentage points to 86. Overall, Hispanics have seen their GSR increase by 21 percentage points over this period and currently stand at 85 percent.
  - ▶ The rate for men's basketball has increased by 29 percentage points over that timeframe (now 85 percent), with a 36 percentage point increase for black student-athletes in men's basketball (now 82 percent).
  - ▶ For FBS football, there has been an overall increase of 16 percentage points. Black student-athletes have seen their graduation rates increase 22 percentage points in that timeframe, while white FBS football student-athletes saw an increase of 15 percentage points.



# Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Differences Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body

2018 Cohort

- ▶ Overall, student-athletes in the entering class of 2017 at Division I institutions achieved a rate of 68 percent. That remains 2 points higher than the general student-body rate at Division I institutions.
- ▶ When looked at by subgroups based on gender and ethnicity, most major student-athlete categories saw year-on-year increases. In all major demographic groups except for white males, student-athletes are higher than the student-body. Of note:
  - ▶ Black male student-athletes graduated at a rate that was 15 percentage points higher than black males in the student-body (56 to 41).
  - ▶ Black female student-athletes outpace their student-body counterparts by 19 percentage points (70 to 51).
- ▶ In the sports of men's basketball and FBS football, the overall rates lag behind the rates of males in the student-body. However, the rates for black student-athletes in those sports are higher than black males in the student-body by 4 points in basketball and 11 points higher in FBS football.

# Access and Success of Black Student-Athletes

## Outcomes

- ▶ Changes in initial-eligibility standards that were implemented with the graduation cohort of 2010 were designed to be more inclusive of minority and low-income student-athletes, while maximizing the graduation rates of all student-athletes. In other words, the initial-eligibility rules were modified to shift emphasis to a student's grades in 16 core academic courses and provide a more efficient evaluation of a student-athlete's likely success in college. By 2018, we see approximately 1,800 more black student-athletes in the cohort, and approximately 2,500 more black graduates when compared to the years before the changes. In 2018, there were more than **twice** as many black graduates from Division I programs than there were in 2002.
- ▶ There were significant gains in the graduation rates of black student-athletes in the high profile sports of FBS football (22 percentage point increase) and men's basketball (36 percentage point increase).

# **Four-Class Graduation Success Rates (GSR)**

# Average GSRs for Division I Student-Athletes in 2014-17 Cohorts vs. 2015-18 Cohorts

	2014-17 Cohorts	2015-18 Cohorts
<b>Division I Overall</b>	86	87
<b>Division I Men</b>	80	82
<b>Division I Women</b>	92	93
<b>Division I Football Bowl Subdivision</b>	86	87
<b>Division I Football Championship Subdivision</b>	85	86
<b>Division I (No Football)</b>	87	89

# Graduation Success Rates for Division I Men's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2014-17 Cohorts vs. 2015-18 Cohorts

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts</b>	<b>Four-Class Average 2015-18 Cohorts</b>
<b>Baseball</b>	80%	82%
<b>Basketball</b>	78%	81%
<b>Cross Country/Track</b>	81%	82%
<b>Fencing</b>	92%	93%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	76%	77%
<b>Football (FCS)</b>	74%	76%
<b>Golf</b>	87%	88%
<b>Gymnastics</b>	91%	92%
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	89%	90%
<b>Lacrosse</b>	88%	88%
<b>Rifle</b>	89%	88%
<b>Skiing</b>	89%	92%
<b>Soccer</b>	83%	85%
<b>Swimming</b>	88%	88%
<b>Tennis</b>	90%	92%
<b>Volleyball</b>	87%	87%
<b>Water Polo</b>	92%	92%
<b>Wrestling</b>	77%	78%

# Graduation Success Rates for Division I Women's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2014-17 Cohorts vs. 2015-18 Cohorts

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts</b>	<b>Four-Class Average 2015-18 Cohorts</b>
<b>Basketball</b>	89%	90%
<b>Bowling</b>	90%	90%
<b>Crew</b>	94%	94%
<b>Cross Country/Track</b>	89%	90%
<b>Fencing</b>	91%	91%
<b>Field Hockey</b>	97%	96%
<b>Golf</b>	93%	94%
<b>Gymnastics</b>	97%	97%
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	96%	97%
<b>Lacrosse</b>	96%	96%
<b>Skiing</b>	97%	97%
<b>Soccer</b>	93%	93%
<b>Softball</b>	90%	91%
<b>Swimming</b>	94%	95%
<b>Tennis</b>	94%	95%
<b>Volleyball</b>	92%	93%
<b>Water Polo</b>	92%	94%

# Trends in Single-Year Graduation Success Rates

# Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Entering Classes of 2017 and 2018

Single-Year Trends For Select Groups of Student-Athletes

<b>Student-Athlete Group</b>	<b>2017 GSR</b>	<b>2018 GSR</b>
<b>Overall</b>	87%	88%
<b>White</b>	91%	92%
<b>Black</b>	77%	79%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	85%	85%
<b>White Males</b>	87%	88%
<b>Black Males</b>	72%	75%
<b>Hispanic/Latino Males</b>	80%	83%
<b>White Females</b>	95%	95%
<b>Black Females</b>	87%	86%
<b>Hispanic/Latino Females</b>	91%	87%



# Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Entering Classes of 2017 and 2018

Single-Year Trends For Select Sport Groups

<b>Student-Athlete Group</b>	<b>2017 GSR</b>	<b>2018 GSR</b>
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	82%	85%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	92%	93%
<b>Black Men's Basketball</b>	78%	82%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	78%	79%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	87%	91%
<b>Black Football (FBS)</b>	73%	75%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	92%	91%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	95%	95%
<b>Black Women's Basketball</b>	90%	89%

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- ▶ Remarkably, only one women's sport group posted a rate that was below 90 percent in the 2018 cohort – bowling dropped below that threshold. For the third year in a row, women's skiing posted a perfect rate.

# Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 2002\* and 2018

Long-Term Trends For Select Groups of Student-Athletes

<b>Student-Athlete Group</b>	<b>2002 GSR</b>	<b>2018 GSR</b>
<b>Overall</b>	74%	88%
<b>White</b>	81%	92%
<b>Black</b>	56%	79%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	64%	85%
<b>White Males</b>	76%	88%
<b>Black Males</b>	51%	75%
<b>Hispanic/Latino Males</b>	56%	83%
<b>White Females</b>	89%	95%
<b>Black Females</b>	71%	86%
<b>Hispanic/Latino Females</b>	79%	87%

\*2002 was the last cohort that entered under the former initial-eligibility rules known as Prop. 48. It was also the first cohort for which GSR data were collected.

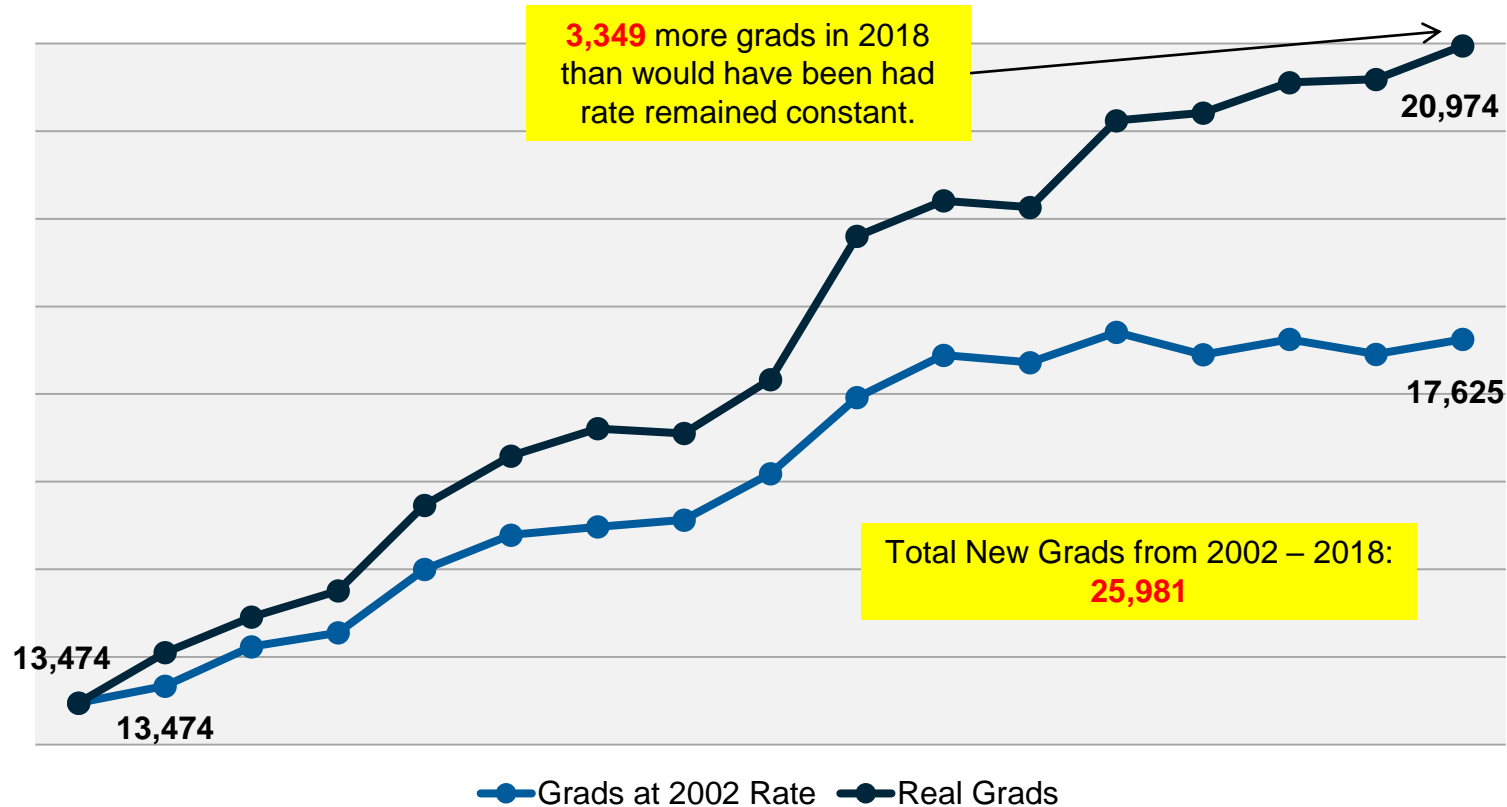
# Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 2002\* and 2018

Long-Term Trends For Select Sport Groups

<b>Student-Athlete Group</b>	<b>2002 GSR</b>	<b>2018 GSR</b>
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	56%	85%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	76%	93%
<b>Black Men's Basketball</b>	46%	82%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	63%	79%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	76%	91%
<b>Black Football (FBS)</b>	53%	75%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	80%	91%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	87%	95%
<b>Black Women's Basketball</b>	70%	89%

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# Number of Real Graduates Since 2002 vs. Number who Would Have Graduated with No Increase in GSR

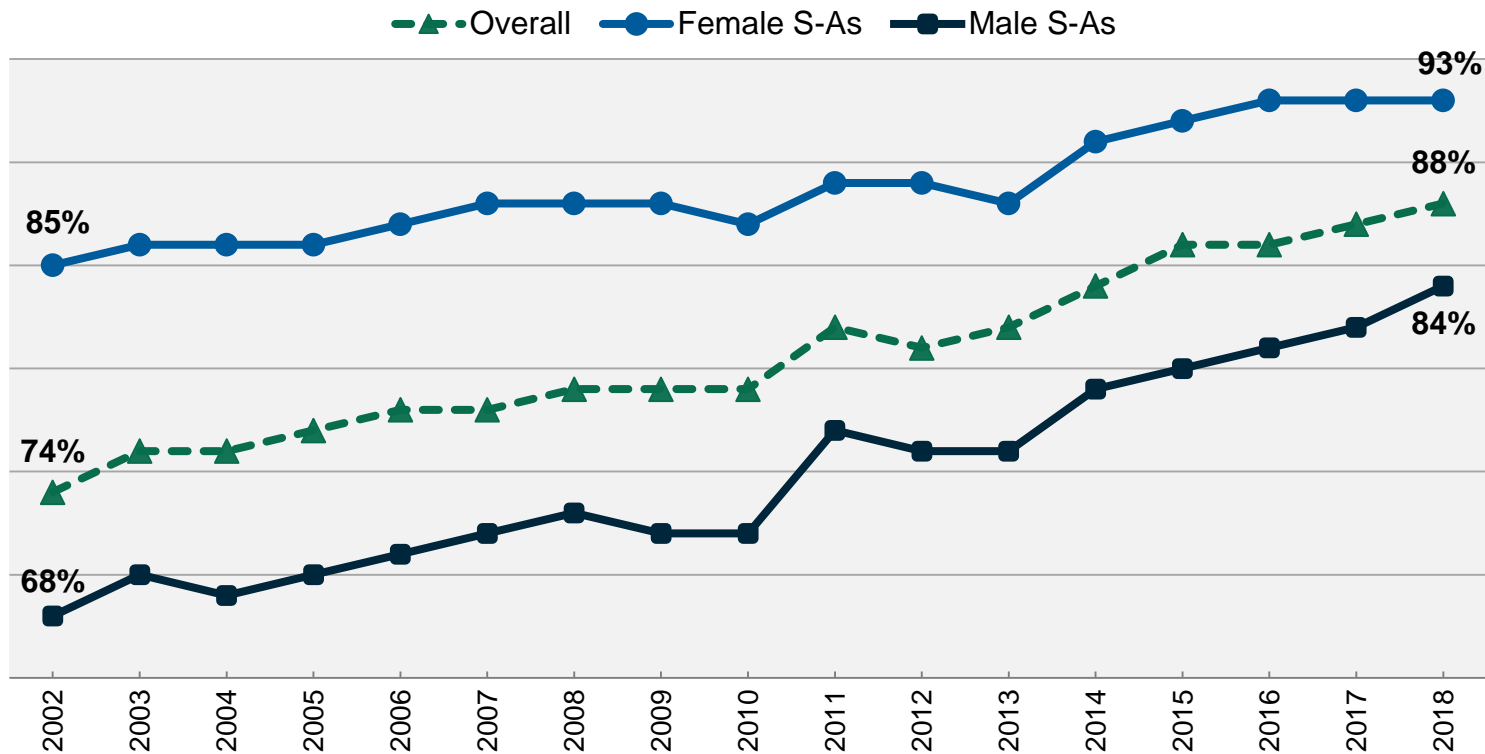


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# Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions

Overall and by Gender

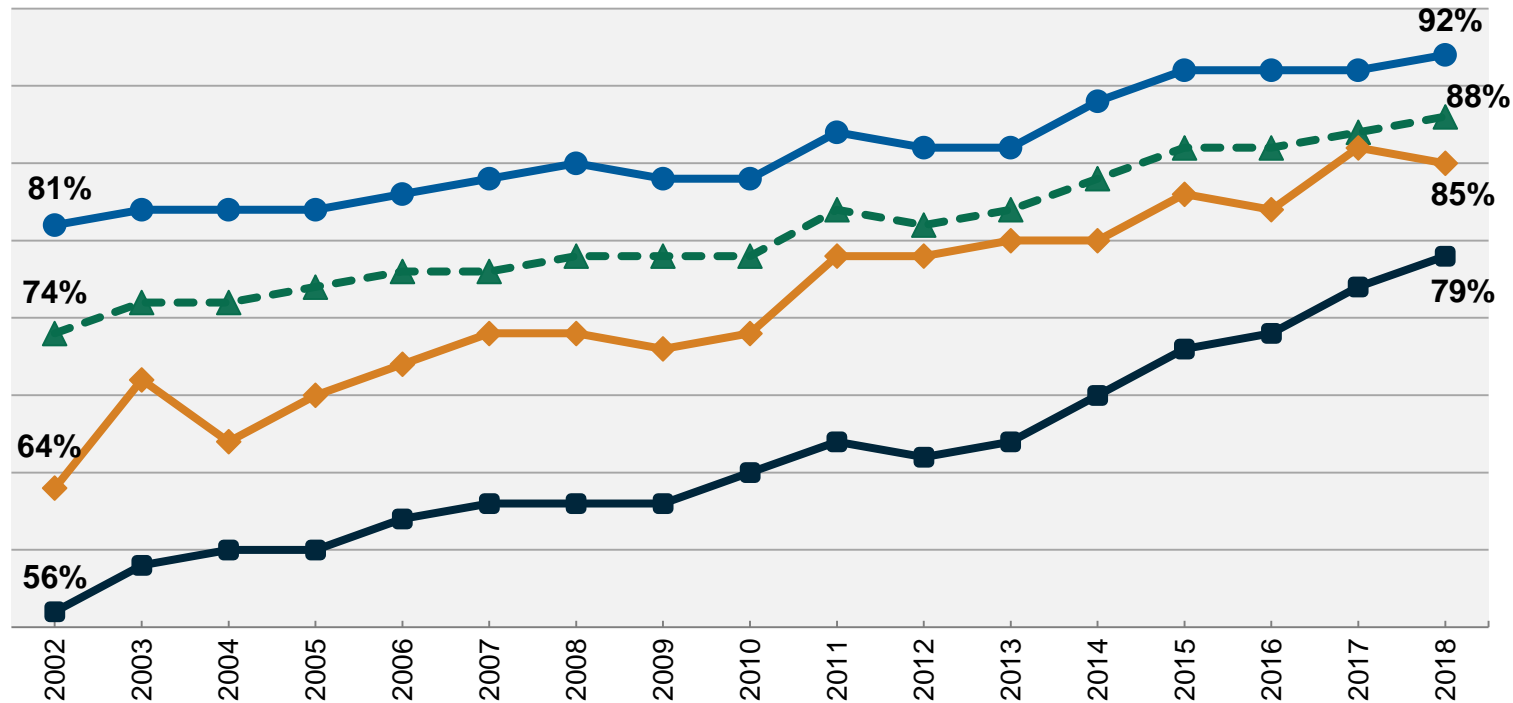




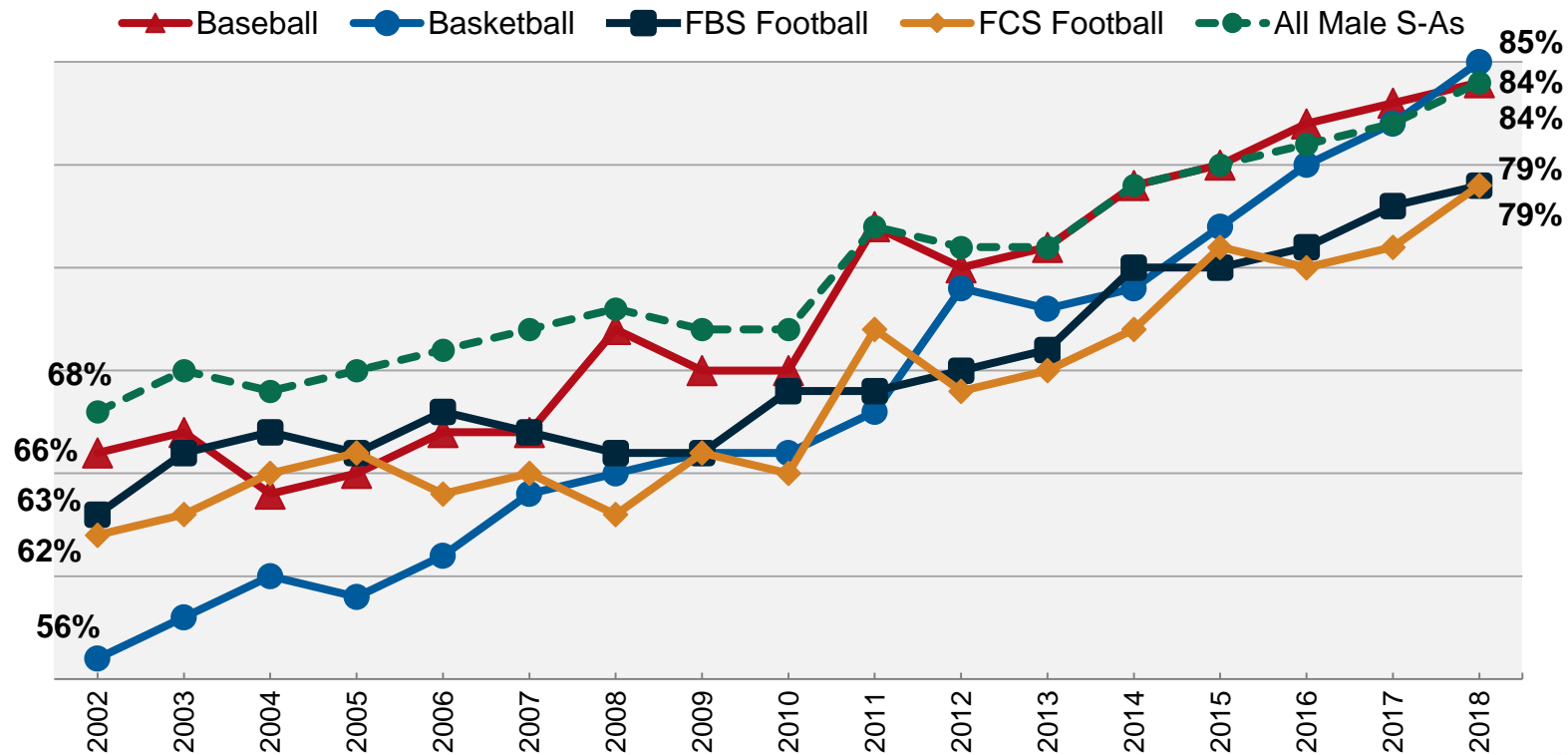
# Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions

Overall and by Race/Ethnicity

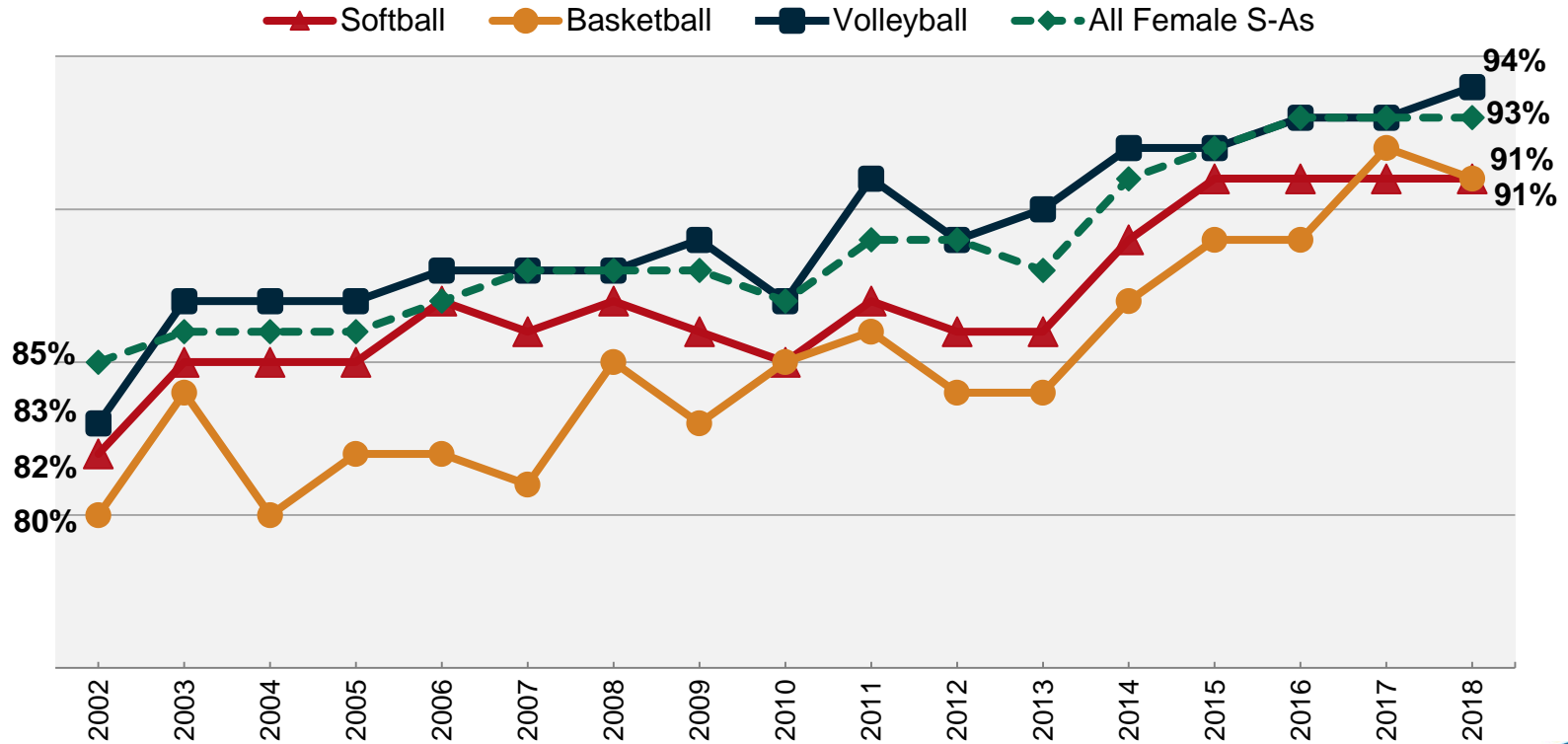
Overall White Black Hispanic/Latino



# Annual Graduation Success Rates of Division I Men's Basketball, Baseball and Football



# Annual Graduation Success Rates of Division I Women's Basketball, Softball and Volleyball



# Graduation Success Rate Trends for Division I Men's Sports

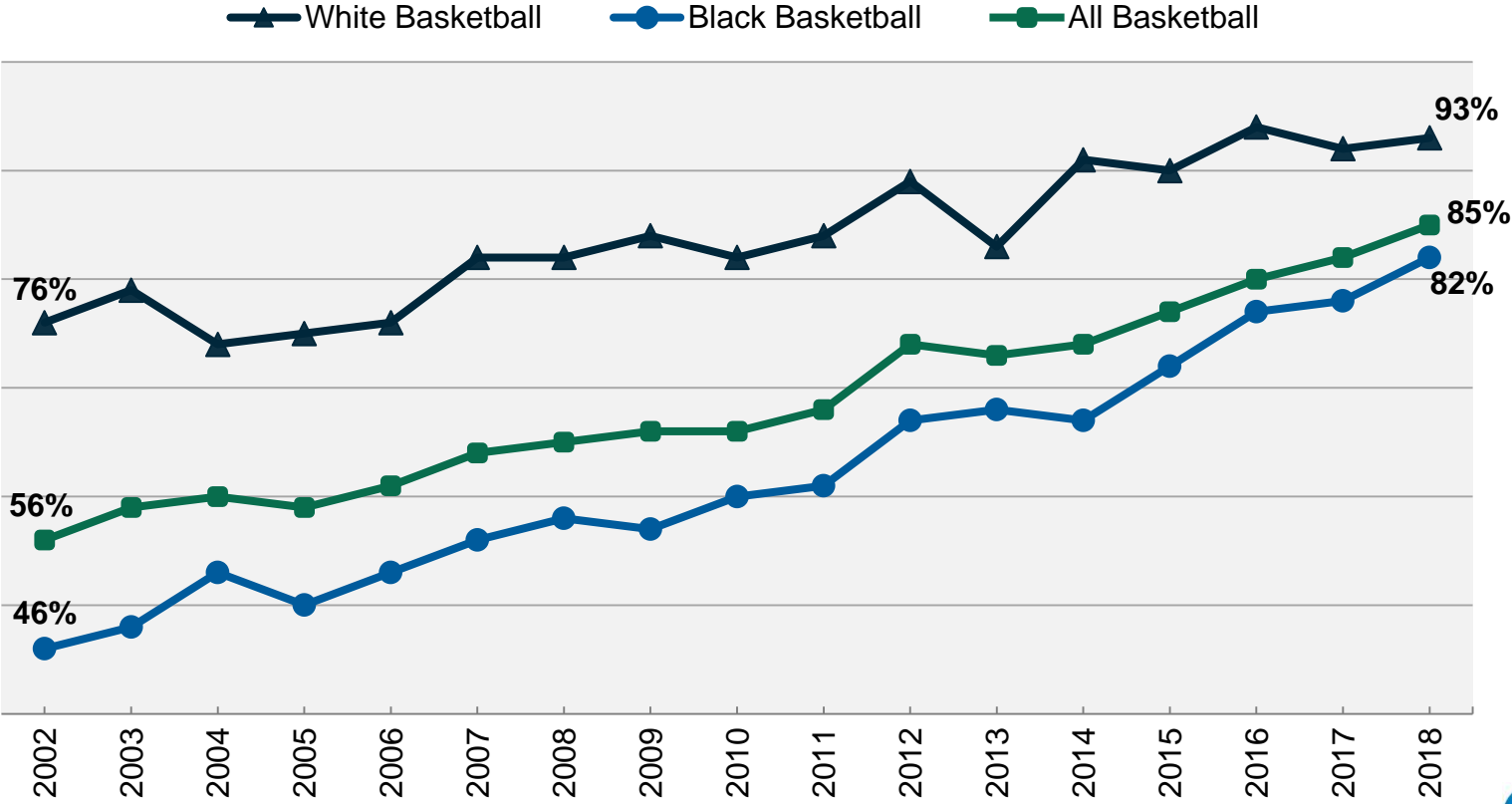
SPORT	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Baseball</b>	65.3%	66.7%	63.9%	64.7%	66.7%	67.3%	71.7%	69.9%	69.6%	77.4%	75.1%	75.6%	78.6%	79.8%	81.9%	82.7%	83.7%
<b>Basketball</b>	55.8%	58.7%	59.5%	59.0%	60.7%	63.6%	65.0%	65.5%	66.4%	67.7%	74.1%	72.9%	73.9%	76.6%	80.3%	81.7%	85.0%
<b>CC/Track</b>	72.1%	74.0%	72.6%	73.6%	75.9%	73.5%	75.4%	74.6%	72.8%	78.3%	77.5%	73.9%	80.3%	82.1%	81.3%	81.4%	83.2%
<b>Fencing</b>	100%	82.4%	86.7%	90.0%	88.9%	84.6%	81.0%	81.0%	100%	89.4%	89.6%	85.4%	89.7%	90.0%	90.5%	97.9%	91.2%
<b>Football FBS</b>	63.1%	65.6%	66.7%	65.5%	67.6%	66.7%	66.4%	65.9%	69.2%	68.6%	70.1%	71.0%	74.9%	74.8%	76.3%	77.8%	79.1%
<b>Football FCS</b>	62.0%	63.4%	64.6%	65.7%	64.2%	65.1%	62.7%	65.7%	64.7%	72.1%	68.5%	69.6%	71.9%	75.5%	74.5%	76.3%	78.9%
<b>Golf</b>	77.0%	77.0%	76.4%	77.6%	79.0%	80.6%	79.6%	80.6%	83.5%	82.4%	82.1%	83.1%	86.7%	85.8%	88.0%	86.9%	90.6%
<b>Gymnastics</b>	76.4%	80.4%	92.7%	91.8%	81.4%	84.8%	86.7%	85.7%	89.5%	92.2%	88.9%	92.9%	88.9%	90.6%	94.6%	90.7%	92.2%
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	78.0%	81.5%	83.0%	82.3%	89.3%	79.1%	80.1%	79.2%	81.0%	88.5%	82.8%	86.8%	92.1%	88.5%	91.6%	85.2%	94.6%
<b>Lacrosse</b>	91.2%	92.0%	89.3%	85.0%	87.4%	90.2%	90.9%	83.0%	88.0%	89.3%	85.5%	87.1%	90.9%	88.7%	83.2%	90.5%	90.8%
<b>Rifle</b>	84.2%	67.9%	70.8%	73.1%	84.0%	82.8%	77.8%	80.0%	82.6%	83.3%	70.3%	90.9%	86.1%	88.6%	87.5%	93.0%	84.1%
<b>Skiing</b>	84.2%	100%	100%	68.4%	94.7%	76.9%	88.2%	85.0%	77.8%	90.5%	88.5%	83.3%	80.0%	86.4%	96.4%	90.0%	95.2%
<b>Soccer</b>	74.3%	77.5%	74.9%	80.4%	78.4%	75.4%	80.1%	77.7%	77.9%	82.6%	79.9%	83.3%	80.5%	84.5%	83.8%	85.0%	85.7%
<b>Swimming</b>	81.0%	81.7%	81.8%	81.1%	82.3%	84.3%	86.0%	81.3%	84.6%	87.7%	83.3%	83.7%	87.3%	86.6%	87.2%	89.3%	90.3%
<b>Tennis</b>	84.7%	82.1%	82.9%	83.3%	81.9%	81.9%	84.5%	86.5%	80.1%	88.3%	86.0%	82.8%	86.1%	91.2%	93.8%	90.6%	93.3%
<b>Volleyball</b>	72.9%	74.0%	63.0%	84.1%	84.0%	84.5%	80.9%	67.3%	72.9%	87.2%	78.5%	90.0%	83.9%	89.3%	89.2%	88.5%	85.2%
<b>Water Polo</b>	94.6%	86.0%	85.4%	86.7%	80.0%	87.1%	91.7%	85.7%	80.3%	87.0%	81.1%	93.8%	87.8%	86.1%	94.6%	97.8%	88.2%
<b>Wrestling</b>	61.5%	71.6%	63.3%	70.4%	70.7%	73.8%	70.2%	71.8%	73.4%	74.2%	73.7%	75.1%	75.8%	77.6%	76.3%	79.8%	76.9%
<b>Overall</b>	67.6%	69.6%	69.1%	69.8%	70.9%	71.6%	72.7%	72.1%	72.0%	76.7%	75.5%	75.7%	78.7%	80.2%	80.9%	82.0%	83.6%

# Graduation Success Rate Trends for Division I Women's Sports

SPORT	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Basketball</b>	79.8%	83.7%	79.9%	81.5%	81.9%	81.0%	85.3%	82.8%	84.8%	85.9%	83.7%	84.4%	86.8%	88.6%	89.3%	91.8%	90.7%
<b>Bowling</b>	100%	100%	90.9%	50.0%	69.2%	68.2%	78.6%	86.4%	63.3%	81.8%	61.0%	63.9%	83.0%	90.7%	89.6%	92.2%	86.4%
<b>Crew</b>	89.6%	89.7%	88.9%	89.2%	88.5%	91.8%	91.9%	92.0%	92.0%	91.9%	94.9%	93.0%	93.4%	94.6%	95.1%	92.7%	95.6%
<b>CC/Track</b>	82.4%	82.8%	82.1%	83.1%	83.3%	84.6%	85.6%	85.3%	82.9%	86.1%	84.3%	84.9%	86.9%	88.7%	90.7%	91.4%	90.7%
<b>Fencing</b>	86.7%	92.9%	100%	94.7%	88.9%	89.3%	87.0%	100%	88.5%	94.2%	93.0%	93.3%	92.3%	89.8%	96.6%	82.5%	91.8%
<b>Field Hockey</b>	92.9%	93.7%	91.7%	95.5%	93.3%	93.1%	93.0%	94.1%	92.4%	95.4%	93.4%	91.3%	97.3%	96.7%	95.7%	96.0%	95.6%
<b>Golf</b>	88.3%	90.6%	84.2%	86.5%	89.3%	88.2%	86.4%	89.4%	87.7%	88.2%	91.9%	91.4%	90.8%	93.3%	95.4%	93.6%	94.9%
<b>Gymnastics</b>	93.1%	92.4%	89.0%	97.1%	96.1%	94.6%	92.5%	92.8%	91.4%	91.3%	96.3%	94.7%	95.1%	98.8%	97.2%	95.8%	96.1%
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	85.7%	100%	85.0%	83.3%	89.3%	96.8%	87.1%	89.8%	89.7%	94.1%	95.7%	94.8%	95.7%	99.1%	94.9%	92.9%	99.0%
<b>Lacrosse</b>	93.9%	93.0%	95.1%	92.9%	92.7%	94.9%	95.7%	92.9%	93.9%	94.5%	96.2%	94.3%	94.1%	96.3%	95.8%	96.9%	96.5%
<b>Skiing</b>	100%	93.8%	86.4%	95.8%	100%	100%	96.0%	95.0%	90.9%	92.3%	91.3%	91.7%	97.0%	90.0%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Soccer</b>	86.1%	86.7%	88.3%	86.6%	89.4%	89.9%	89.3%	88.6%	87.7%	91.1%	88.2%	88.7%	91.0%	92.8%	92.8%	94.2%	93.7%
<b>Softball</b>	82.3%	84.5%	84.6%	84.8%	86.5%	86.0%	87.3%	85.7%	85.4%	86.7%	85.8%	85.6%	88.7%	91.0%	90.9%	91.1%	91.0%
<b>Swimming</b>	90.8%	91.1%	90.8%	90.6%	90.3%	91.1%	90.2%	91.7%	90.7%	91.5%	92.5%	91.2%	93.3%	94.3%	94.8%	95.3%	95.8%
<b>Tennis</b>	85.7%	88.4%	87.6%	88.8%	88.5%	89.4%	90.3%	88.5%	89.9%	90.3%	92.7%	88.9%	95.2%	94.1%	93.4%	95.3%	95.5%
<b>Volleyball</b>	83.2%	86.6%	87.0%	87.4%	87.8%	88.0%	88.1%	89.2%	86.7%	90.6%	89.5%	89.6%	92.0%	92.2%	93.0%	93.0%	94.0%
<b>Water Polo</b>	100%	80.8%	88.7%	81.7%	89.6%	81.0%	91.0%	91.0%	91.4%	91.6%	88.6%	96.4%	91.5%	91.1%	90.4%	96.3%	93.6%
<b>Overall</b>	84.9%	86.3%	85.6%	86.1%	87.2%	87.5%	88.2%	87.9%	87.1%	89.3%	88.5%	88.4%	90.6%	92.1%	92.6%	93.2%	93.2%

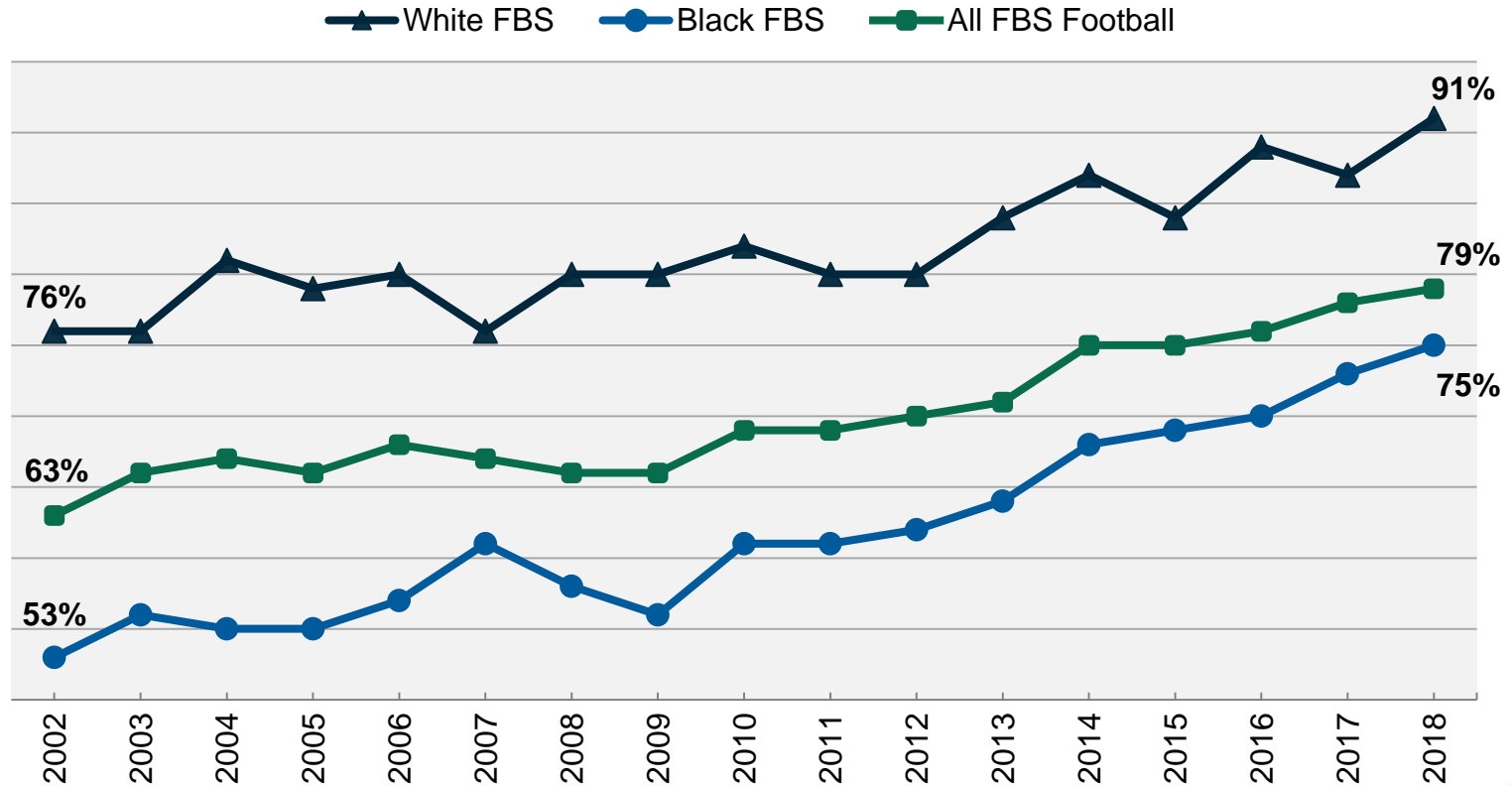
# Graduation Success Rates of Division I Men's Basketball Players

by Race/Ethnicity



# Graduation Success Rates of FBS Football Players

by Race/Ethnicity



# **Academic Access and Success of Black Student-Athletes 2002-2018**



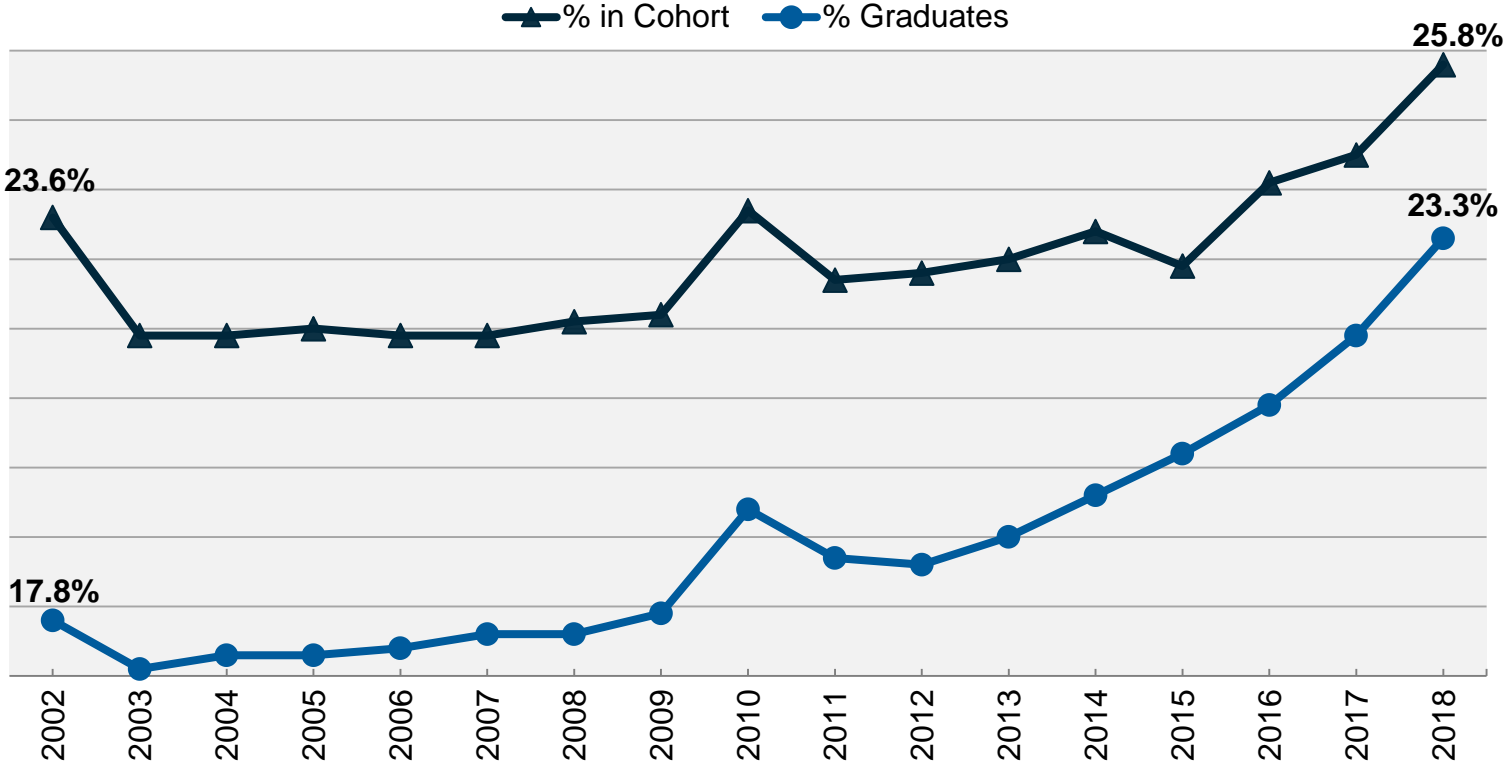
# Access and Success of Black Student-Athletes

## Background

- ▶ There was a noticeable drop in the number and proportion of black student-athletes in the GSR cohort when Proposition 16 was fully implemented in 1996. The proportion of black students in the GSR cohort stayed fairly constant between 2003 and 2009 graduation cohorts.
- ▶ The goals of the academic reforms that were initially implemented in 2003 were to “maximize graduation rates while minimizing adverse impact on low-income and minority student-athletes.” The current data do not allow for us to thoroughly understand impacts on low-income students, but we can track the effects on black student-athletes.

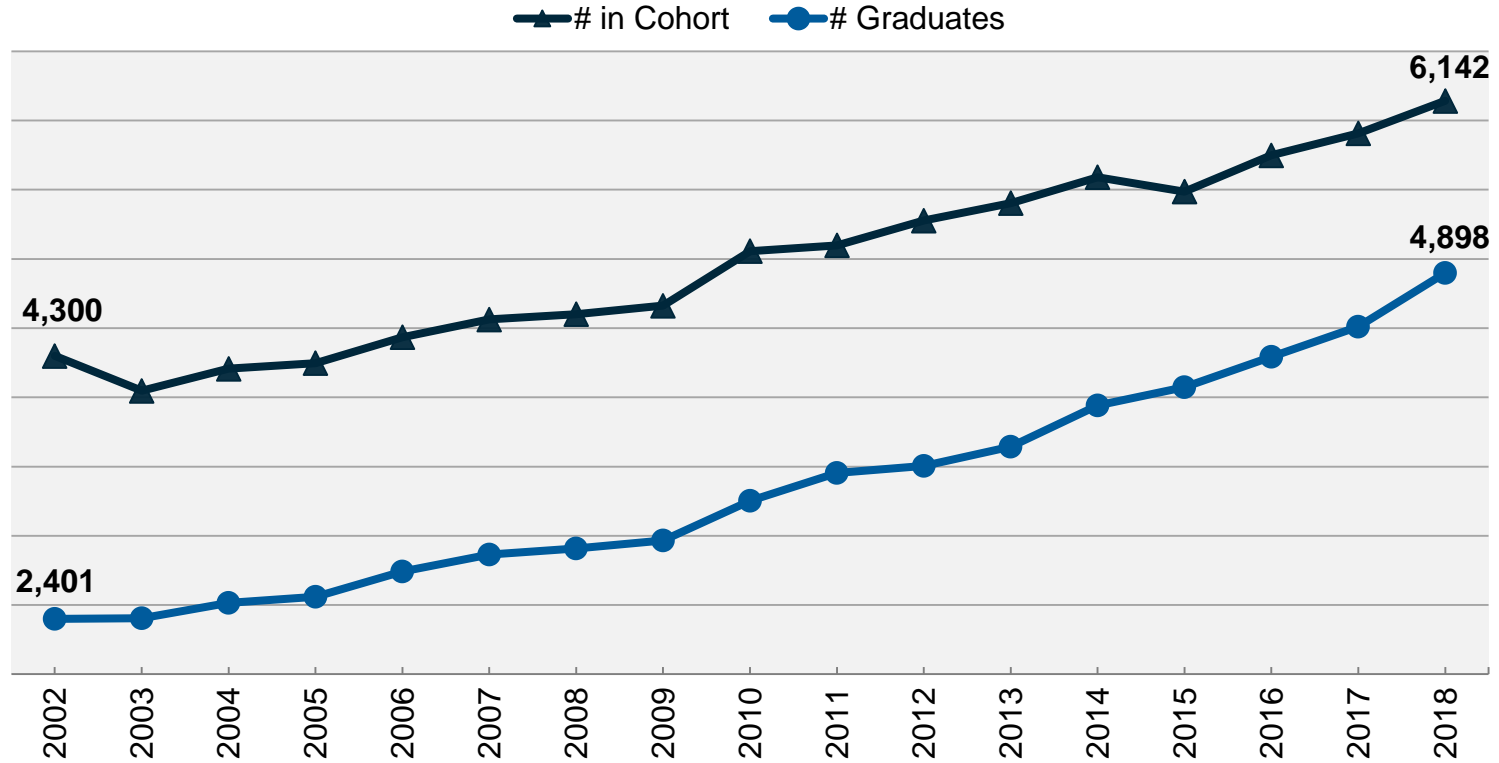
# Proportion of Black Student-Athletes Among GSR Cohort and GSR Graduates

2002-2018



# Number of Black Student-Athletes Among GSR Cohort and GSR Graduates

2002-2018



# Access and Success of Black Student-Athletes

## Outcomes

- ▶ Changes in initial-eligibility standards that were implemented with the graduation cohort of 2010 were designed to be more inclusive of minority and low-income student-athletes, while maximizing the graduation rates of all student-athletes. In other words, the initial-eligibility rules were modified to shift emphasis to a student's grades in 16 core academic courses and provide a more efficient evaluation of a student-athlete's likely success in college. By 2018, we see approximately 1,800 more black student-athletes in the cohort, and approximately 2,500 more black graduates when compared to the years before the changes. In 2018, there were more than **twice** as many black graduates from Division I programs than there were in 2002.
- ▶ There were significant gains in the graduation rates of black student-athletes in the high profile sports of FBS football (22 percentage point increase) and men's basketball (36 percentage point increase).

# Trends in Federal Graduation Rates

# Federal Graduation Rates for Division I Men's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2014-17 Cohorts vs. 2015-18 Cohorts

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts</b>	<b>Four-Class Average 2015-18 Cohorts</b>
Baseball	51%	51%
Basketball	47%	47%
Cross Country/Track	66%	67%
Fencing	70%	74%
Football (FBS)	62%	62%
Football (FCS)	58%	59%
Golf	68%	68%
Gymnastics	85%	88%
Ice Hockey	67%	66%
Lacrosse	71%	70%
Rifle	72%	77%
Skiing	67%	69%
Soccer	58%	58%
Swimming	73%	74%
Tennis	68%	69%
Volleyball	76%	75%
Water Polo	80%	78%
Wrestling	55%	56%

# Federal Graduation Rates for Division I Women's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2014-17 Cohorts vs. 2015-18 Cohorts

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts</b>	<b>Four-Class Average 2015-18 Cohorts</b>
<b>Basketball</b>	63%	63%
<b>Bowling</b>	71%	72%
<b>Crew</b>	82%	81%
<b>Cross Country/Track</b>	74%	76%
<b>Fencing</b>	74%	78%
<b>Field Hockey</b>	82%	81%
<b>Golf</b>	75%	75%
<b>Gymnastics</b>	86%	86%
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	78%	78%
<b>Lacrosse</b>	81%	81%
<b>Skiing</b>	72%	72%
<b>Soccer</b>	73%	73%
<b>Softball</b>	71%	71%
<b>Swimming</b>	80%	81%
<b>Tennis</b>	73%	73%
<b>Volleyball</b>	71%	71%
<b>Water Polo</b>	80%	79%

# Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body

For Select Groups in 2018 Graduation Cohort

Student-Athlete Group	Student-Athlete Graduation Rate	Student Body Graduation Rate
<b>Overall</b>	68% (+0)	66% (+0)
<b>White</b>	73% (+0)	70% (+1)
<b>Black</b>	61% (+2)	47% (+1)
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	62% (-5)	61% (+1)
<b>White Males</b>	67% (+1)	67% (+1)
<b>Black Males</b>	56% (+1)	41% (+1)
<b>Hispanic/Latino Males</b>	56% (-2)	56% (+0)
<b>White Females</b>	78% (+0)	72% (+1)
<b>Black Females</b>	70% (+3)	51% (+2)
<b>Hispanic/Latino Females</b>	69% (-6)	64% (+0)

NOTE: Numbers in parentheses represent change from prior year.



# Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body

For Select Groups in 2018 Graduation Cohort

Student-Athlete Group	Student-Athlete Graduation Rate	Matched Student Body Grad Rate*
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	46% (-2)	64%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	60% (+4)	67%
<b>Black Men's Basketball</b>	45% (-4)	41%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	63% (+0)	67%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	77% (+3)	70%
<b>Black Football (FBS)</b>	58% (-2)	47%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	62% (-1)	69%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	68% (-2)	72%
<b>Black Women's Basketball</b>	64% (+1)	51%

\*These rates are matched to the student-athlete groups by gender, race/ethnicity and subdivision.

# Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Differences Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body

2018 Cohort

- ▶ Overall, student-athletes in the entering class of 2017 at Division I institutions achieved a rate of 68 percent. That remains 2 points higher than the general student-body rate at Division I institutions.
- ▶ When looked at by subgroups based on gender and ethnicity, most major student-athlete categories saw year-on-year increases. In all major demographic groups except for white males, student-athletes are higher than the student-body. Of note:
  - ▶ Black male student-athletes graduated at a rate that was 15 percentage points higher than black males in the student-body (56 to 41).
  - ▶ Black female student-athletes outpace their student-body counterparts by 19 percentage points (70 to 51).
- ▶ In the sports of men's basketball and FBS football, the overall rates lag behind the rates of males in the student-body. However, the rates for black student-athletes in those sports are higher than black males in the student-body by 4 points in basketball and 11 points higher in FBS football.

# Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 1991\* and 2018

Long-Term Trends for Select Groups of Student-Athletes

Student-Athlete Group	1991 Graduation Rate	2018 Graduation Rate
Overall	52%	68%
White	59%	73%
Black	35%	61%
Hispanic	43%	62%
White Males	55%	67%
Black Males	33%	56%
Hispanic Males	40%	56%
White Females	66%	78%
Black Females	45%	70%
Hispanic Females	48%	69%

\*1991 was the first cohort for which Federal Graduation Rate data were collected.

# Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 1991\* and 2018

Long-Term Trends for Select Groups of Student-Athletes

<b>Student-Athlete Group</b>	<b>1991 Graduation Rate</b>	<b>2018 Graduation Rate</b>
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	38%	46%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	53%	60%
<b>Black Men's Basketball</b>	29%	45%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	47%	63%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	56%	77%
<b>Black Football (FBS)</b>	35%	58%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	57%	62%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	66%	68%
<b>Black Women's Basketball</b>	42%	64%

\*1984 was the first cohort for which Federal Graduation Rate data were collected.

# Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Trends

1991 to 2018

- ▶ Graduation rates data were first collected using the federal methodology for the graduation cohort of 1991. Between 1991 and 2018, there were significant changes in the graduation rates of many student-athlete groups:
  - ▶ The overall graduation rate has increased from 52 to 68 percent.
  - ▶ The rate for black student-athletes increased by 26 percentage points over that time period (35 to 61). The black males increased by 23 percentage points (33 to 56), and the black females increased by 25 percentage points (45 to 70).
  - ▶ In men's basketball, the overall rate increased by eight percentage points. The federal rate for white men's basketball student-athletes is seven percentage points higher than 1991, while the rate for black student-athletes has increased by 16 percentage points.
  - ▶ The overall rate for football at the FBS level increased by 16 percentage points. The rate for white student-athletes has increased by 21 points, and the rate for black student-athletes in that sport has increased by 23 percentage points.

# Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 2017 and 2018

<b>Student-Athlete Group</b>	<b>2017 Graduation Rate</b>	<b>2018 Graduation Rate</b>
<b>Overall</b>	68%	68%
<b>White</b>	73%	73%
<b>Black</b>	59%	61%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	67%	62%
<b>White Males</b>	66%	67%
<b>Black Males</b>	55%	56%
<b>Hispanic/Latino Males</b>	58%	56%
<b>White Females</b>	78%	78%
<b>Black Females</b>	67%	70%
<b>Hispanic/Latino Females</b>	75%	69%

# Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 2017 and 2018

<b>Student-Athlete Group</b>	<b>2017 Graduation Rate</b>	<b>2018 Graduation Rate</b>
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	46%	46%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	56%	60%
<b>Black Men's Basketball</b>	49%	45%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	63%	63%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	74%	77%
<b>Black Football (FBS)</b>	60%	58%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	63%	62%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	70%	68%
<b>Black Women's Basketball</b>	63%	64%

# Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Trends

2017 vs. 2018

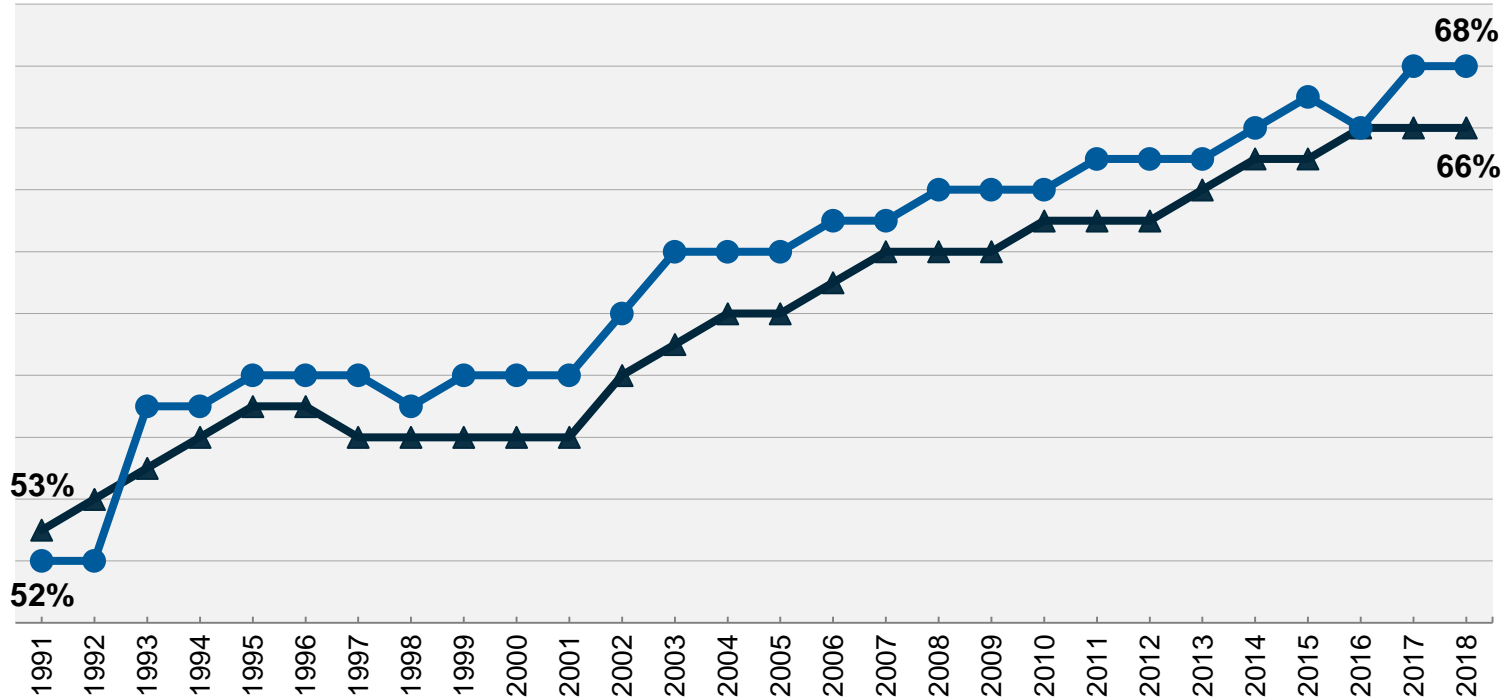
- ▶ There were a few notable differences in Federal Graduation Rate between the 2017 and 2018 cohorts.
  - ▶ The overall rate remained at 68 percent, an all-time high. The rate for black student-athletes increased 2 points to 61, also an all-time high.
  - ▶ The rate in men's basketball decreased 2 points to 46. This remains the sport with the lowest graduation rate using the federal metric.
  - ▶ The rate for FBS football remained at 63. After a five-point increase last year, the rate among black football players at FBS institutions decreased by 2 percentage points to 58, while the rate for white football players increased by 3 points to 77.
  - ▶ The federal rate in baseball remained at 52.
  - ▶ The observed difficulties in the federal rate for men's basketball and baseball are not unanticipated. Given the significant retention problems observed in the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) data for these sports, one could assume that Federal Graduation Rates (which are driven largely by retention) would suffer. As there are more transfer students (both athletes and nonathletes), the federal rate will be less and less reflective of true success rates for individual students and student-athletes.



# Federal Graduation Rates of All Student-Athletes vs. All Students

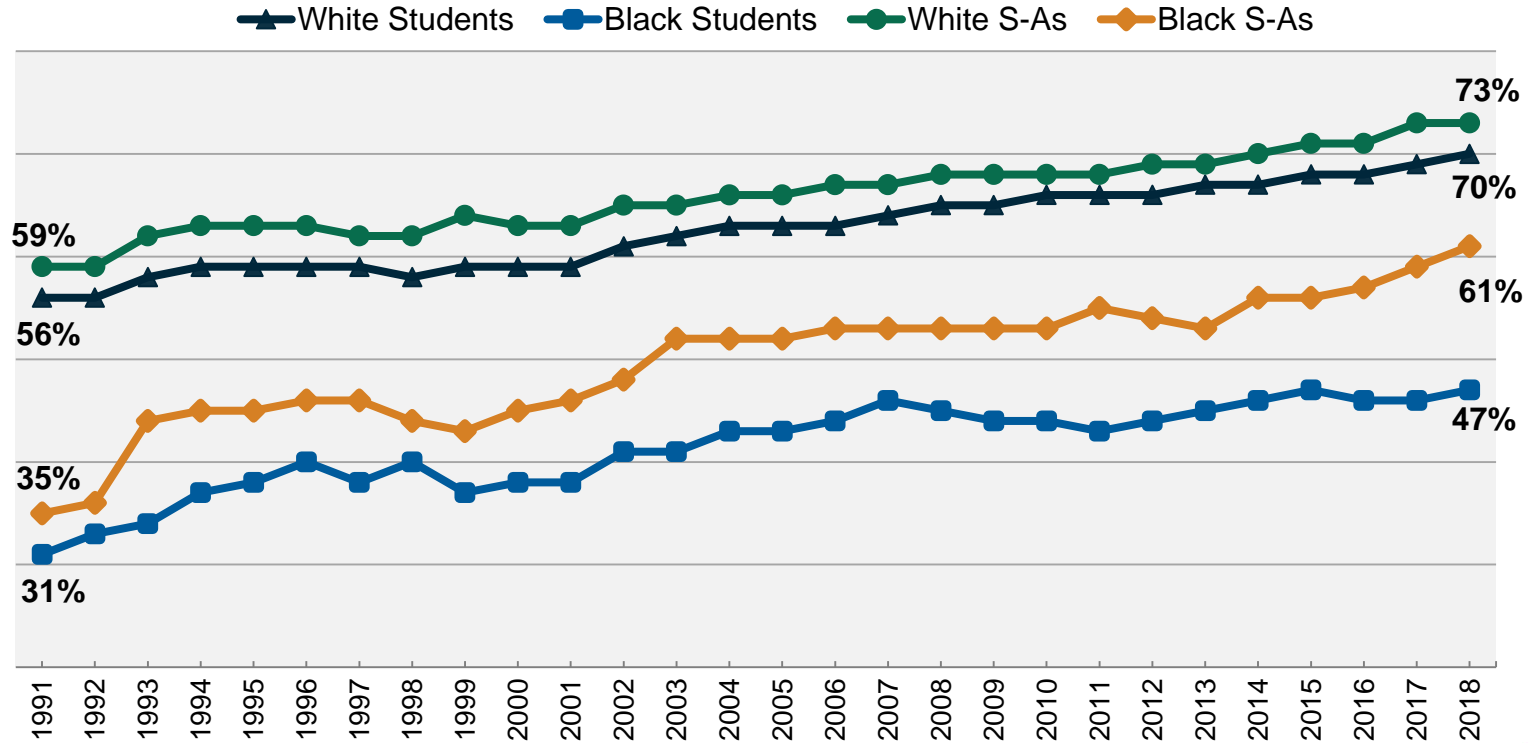
at Division I Institutions

▲ All Students ● All S-As



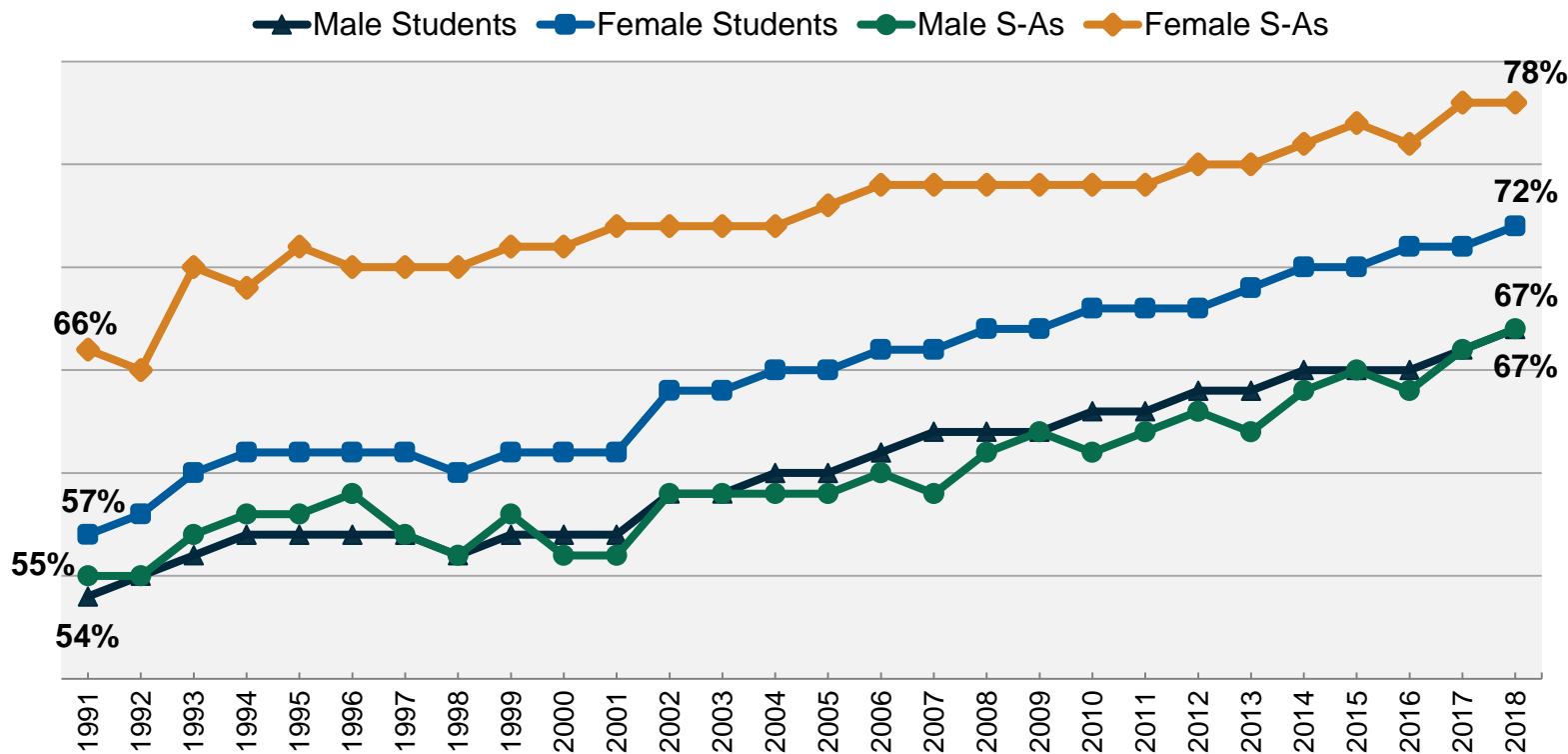
# Federal Graduation Rates of All Student-Athletes vs. All Students at Division I Institutions

by Race/Ethnicity



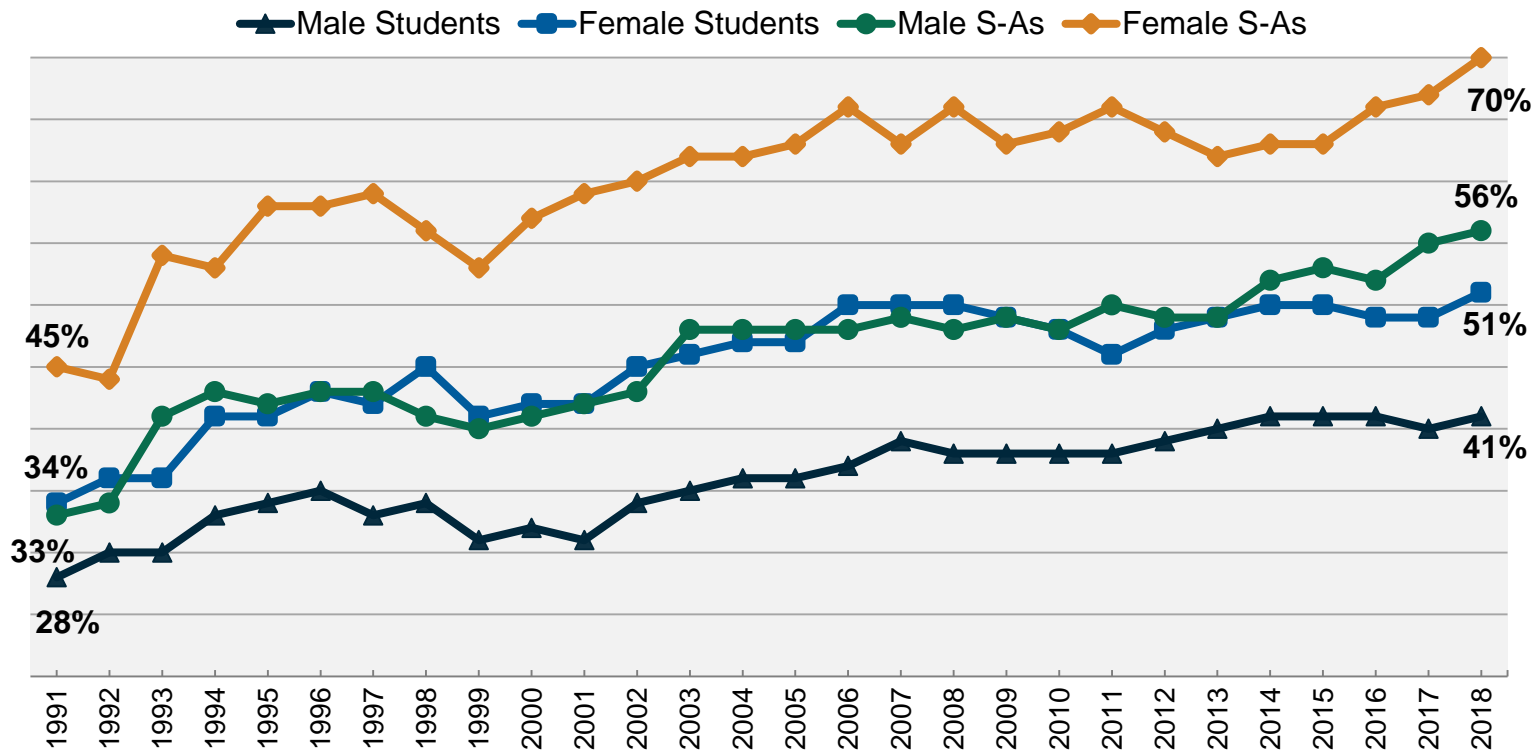
# Federal Graduation Rates of White Student-Athletes vs. White Students at Division I Institutions

by Gender



# Federal Graduation Rates of Black Student-Athletes vs. Black Students at Division I Institutions

by Gender



# THANK YOU

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# Research

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