



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 (2014-2017 Graduating Classes)

	Federal Rate	GSR
Enrolled (Under Federal Definition)	88,683	88,683
Enrolled as Frosh in January	0	3,116
Two-Year College Transfers	0	9,779
Four-Year College Transfers	0	7,988
Non-Scholarship Athletes (Only at Schools Not Offering Aid)	0	10,950
Total Enrolled	88,683	120,516 (+35.9%)
Allowable Exclusions (Death, Military, Church Mission, etc.)	292	359
Left Eligible	0	23,554
Participants on Teams No Longer Sponsored by Institution	0	1,133
Total Denominator	88,391	95,470 (8.0%)

Summary of GSR Changes Between 2016 and 2017 Cohorts

- ▶ Overall, the GSR for the 2017 increased by a point to 87 percent, the highest rate ever. There were some specific subgroup differences worth noting:
 - ▶ In the sport of men's basketball, the overall rate increased 2 percentage points to 82 percent. The rates for African-American student-athletes in the sport rose 1 percentage points to 78. Both of these rates represent all-time highs.
 - ▶ The GSR for FBS football increased to 78 percent. There was a 3 percent increase (to 73) among African-American student-athletes in that sport. FCS football showed a 1 percent increase to match its all-time high of 76 percent.
 - ▶ The rate in women's basketball jumped three points to 92 percent, which is tied the highest rate ever recorded. This is attributable to a six percentage point jump among African-American women in basketball. Their rate climbed to 90 percent.



Summary of GSR Changes Between 2016 and 2017 Cohorts

- ▶ African-American student-athletes showed a 3 percentage point increase from the previous year, with males up 2 points and females increasing by 3 points. White student-athletes remained at their previous levels.
- ▶ Skiing, gymnastics, water polo, tennis, ice hockey, lacrosse and fencing were the seven men's sports with rates at 90 percent or higher. Baseball rose again to its all-time high of 83 percent, and basketball increased to 82 percent.
- ▶ Women's skiing, gymnastics, fencing, lacrosse, swimming, tennis, water polo and field hockey all have rates above 95 percent.



Summary of GSR Changes Between 2002 and 2017 Cohorts

- ▶ Differences in GSR between the 2002 and 2017 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 13 percentage points higher for the 2017 cohort than for the 2002 cohort. This translates to more than 3,100 more graduates in the 2017 cohort than would have been the case had the rate not increased. When aggregated across all years, there have been more than 22,500 more graduates than would have been the case had the GSR stayed constant.
 - ▶ There have been major increases in the GSRs for African-American and Hispanic groups. African-American males have seen their graduation rates increase by 21 percentage points (now 72) and African-American females have increased by 16 percentage points to 87. Overall, Hispanics have seen their GSR increase by 22 percentage points over this period.
 - ▶ The rate for men's basketball has increased by 26 percentage points over that timeframe, with a 32 percentage point increase for African-Americans in men's basketball.
 - ▶ For FBS football, there has been an overall increase of 15 percentage points. African-Americans student-athletes have seen their graduation rates increase 20 percentage points in that timeframe, while white FBS football student-athletes saw an increase of 11 percentage points.



Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Differences Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body 2017 Cohort

- ▶ Overall, student-athletes in the entering class of 2017 at Division I institutions achieved a rate of 68 percent. That is the 2 points higher than the general student-body rate at Division I institutions.
- ▶ When looked at by subgroups based on gender and ethnicity, all 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:
 - ▶ African-American male student-athletes graduated at a rate that was 15 percentage points higher than African-American males in the student-body (55 to 40).
 - ▶ African-American female student-athletes outpace their student-body counterparts by 18 percentage points (67 to 49).
- ▶ 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 the African-Americans in those sports are higher than African-American males in the student-body by 9 points in basketball and 13 points higher in FBS football.



Access and Success of African-American 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 2017, we see approximately 1,600 more African-American student-athletes in the cohort, and approximately 2,100 more African-American graduates when compared to the years before the changes.
- ▶ There were significant gains in the graduation rates of African-American student-athletes in the high profile sports of FBS football (20 percentage point increase) and men's basketball (32 percentage point increase).



Four-Class Graduation Success Rates (GSR)



Average GSRs for Division I Student-Athletes in 2013-16 Cohorts vs. 2014-17 Cohorts

	2013-16 Cohorts	2014-17 Cohorts
Division I Overall	84	86
Division I Men	79	80
Division I Women	91	92
Division I Football Bowl Subdivision	84	86
Division I Football Championship Subdivision	84	85
Division I (No Football)	86	87

Graduation Success Rates for Division I Men's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2013-16 Cohorts vs. 2014-17 Cohorts

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2013-16 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts
Baseball	79	80
Basketball	76	78
Cross Country/Track	80	81
Fencing	90	92
Football (FBS)	74	76
Football (FCS)	73	74
Golf	86	87
Gymnastics	92	91
Ice Hockey	89	89
Lacrosse	87	88
Rifle	88	89
Skiing	88	89
Soccer	83	83
Swimming	87	88
Tennis	89	90
Volleyball	87	87
Water Polo	91	92
Wrestling	75	77

Graduation Success Rates for Division I Women's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2013-16 Cohorts vs. 2014-17 Cohorts

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2013-16 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts
Basketball	87	89
Bowling	83	90
Crew	94	94
Cross Country/Track	88	89
Fencing	94	91
Field Hockey	96	97
Golf	93	93
Gymnastics	96	97
Ice Hockey	96	96
Lacrosse	95	96
Skiing	95	97
Soccer	91	93
Softball	89	90
Swimming	93	94
Tennis	93	94
Volleyball	92	92
Water Polo	92	92

Trends in Single-Year Graduation Success Rates (GSR)



Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Entering Classes of 2016 and 2017 Single-Year Trends For Select Groups of Student-Athletes

Student-Athlete Group	2016 GSR	2017 GSR
Overall	86%	87%
White	91%	91%
African-American	74%	77%
White Males	87%	87%
African-American Males	70%	72%
White Females	95%	95%
African-American Females	84%	87%



Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Entering Classes of 2016 and 2017 Single-Year Trends For Select Sport Groups

Student-Athlete Group	2016 GSR	2017 GSR
Men's Basketball	80%	82%
White Men's Basketball	94%	92%
African-American Men's Basketball	77%	78%
Football (FBS)	76%	78%
White Football (FBS)	89%	87%
African-American Football (FBS)	70%	73%
Women's Basketball	89%	92%
White Women's Basketball	95%	95%
African-American Women's Basketball	84%	90%

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- ▶ Women's skiing, gymnastics, fencing, lacrosse, swimming, tennis, water polo and field hockey all have rates above 95 percent.



Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 2002* and 2017 16-Year Trends For Select Groups of Student-Athletes

Student-Athlete Group	2002 GSR	2017 GSR
Overall	74%	87%
White	81%	91%
African-American	56%	77%
White Males	76%	87%
African-American Males	51%	72%
White Females	89%	95%
African-American Females	71%	87%

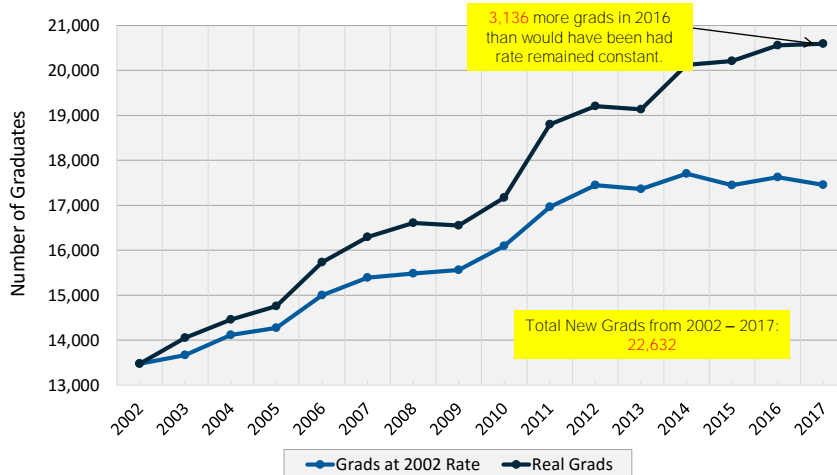
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Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 2002* and 2017 16-Year Trends For Select Sport Groups

Student-Athlete Group	2002 GSR	2017 GSR
Men's Basketball	56%	82%
White Men's Basketball	76%	92%
African-American Men's Basketball	46%	78%
Football (FBS)	63%	78%
White Football (FBS)	76%	87%
African-American Football (FBS)	53%	73%
Women's Basketball	80%	92%
White Women's Basketball	87%	95%
African-American Women's Basketball	70%	90%

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

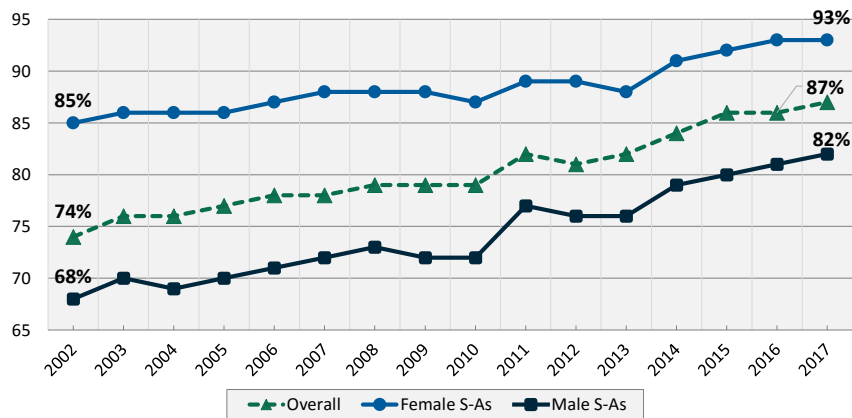


Summary of GSR Changes Between 2002 and 2017 Cohorts

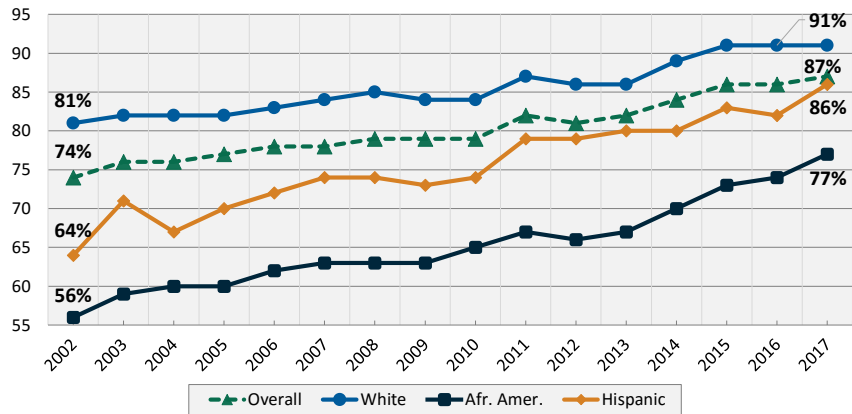
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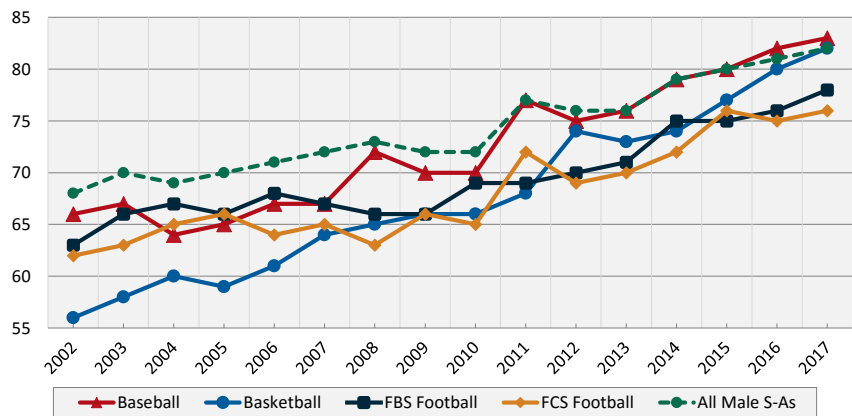
Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions Overall and by Gender



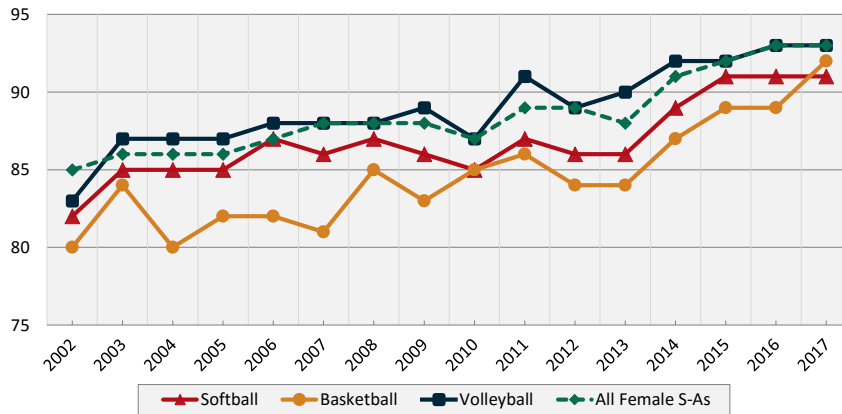
Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions Overall and by Race/Ethnicity



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

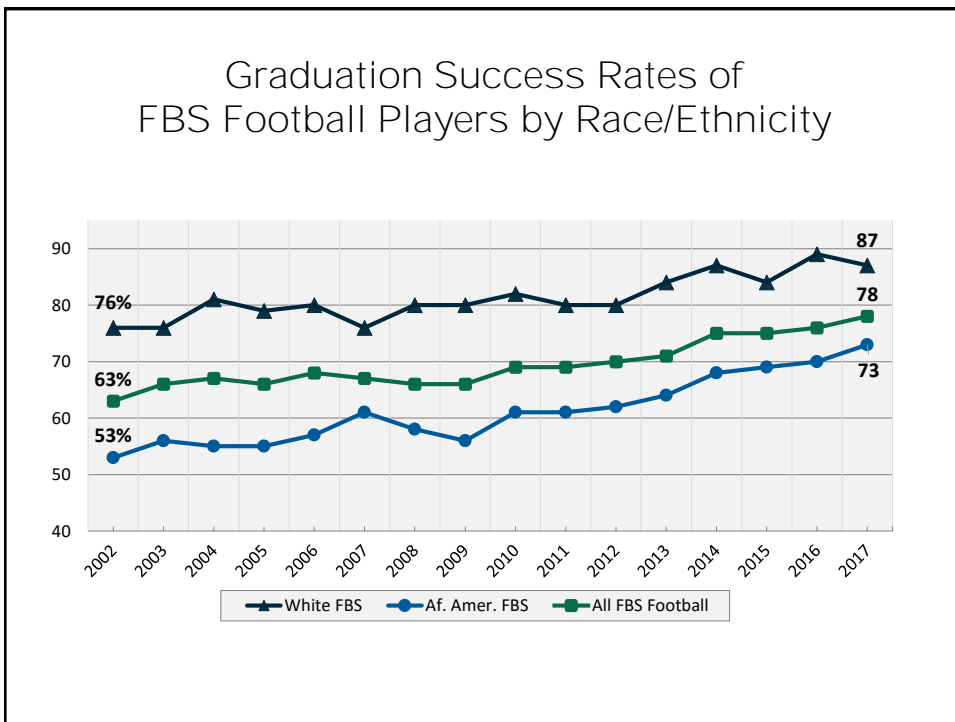
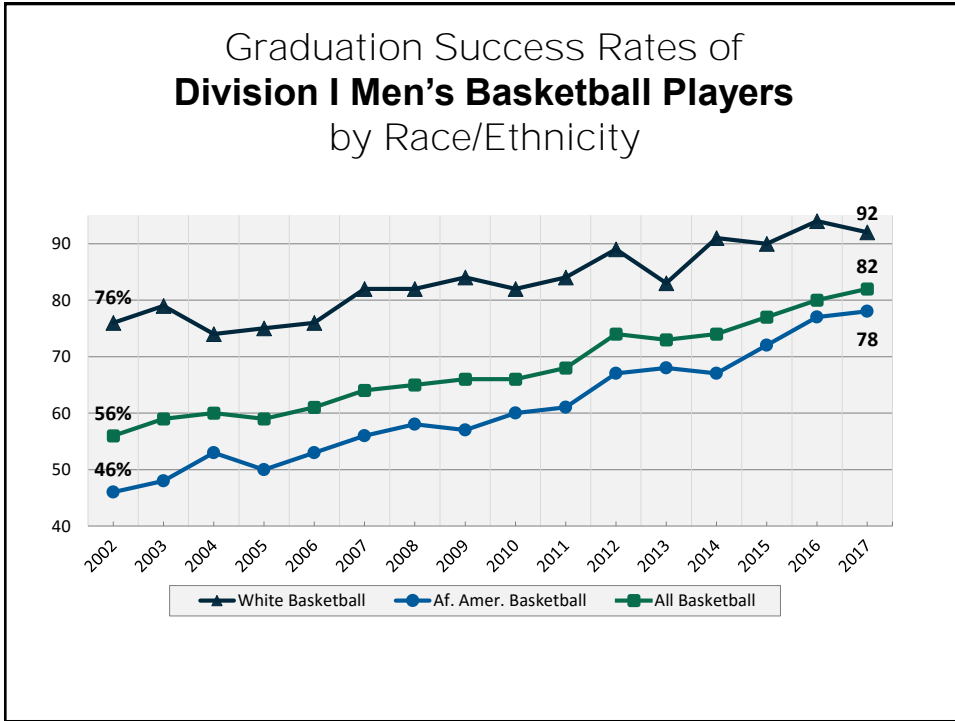


Annual Graduation Success Rates of Division I Women's Basketball, Softball and Volleyball



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
Baseball	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%
Basketball	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%
CC/Track	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%
Fencing	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%
Football FBS	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%
Football FCS	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%
Golf	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%
Gymnastics	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%
Ice Hockey	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%
Lacrosse	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%
Rifle	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%
Skating	84.2%	100%	100%	68.4%	94.7%	76.9%	88.2%	85.0%	77.9%	90.5%	88.5%	83.3%	80.0%	86.4%	96.4%	90.0%
Soccer	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%
Swimming	81.0%	81.0%	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%
Tennis	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%
Volleyball	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%
Water Polo	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%
Wrestling	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%
Overall	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%



Academic Access and Success of African-American Student-Athletes 2002-2016

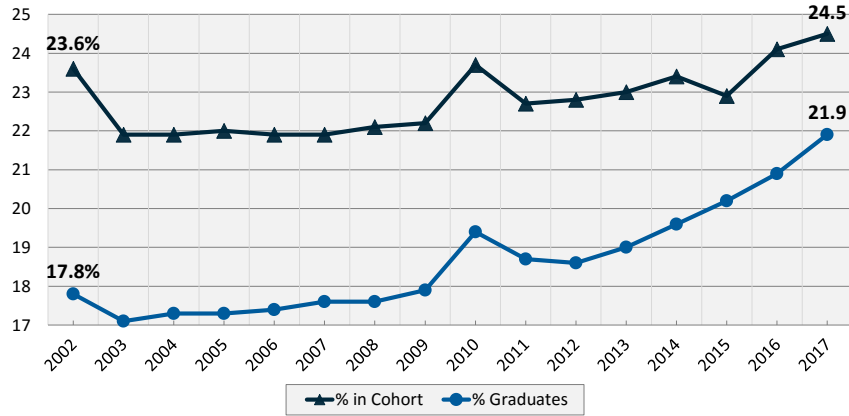


Access and Success of African-American Student-Athletes Background

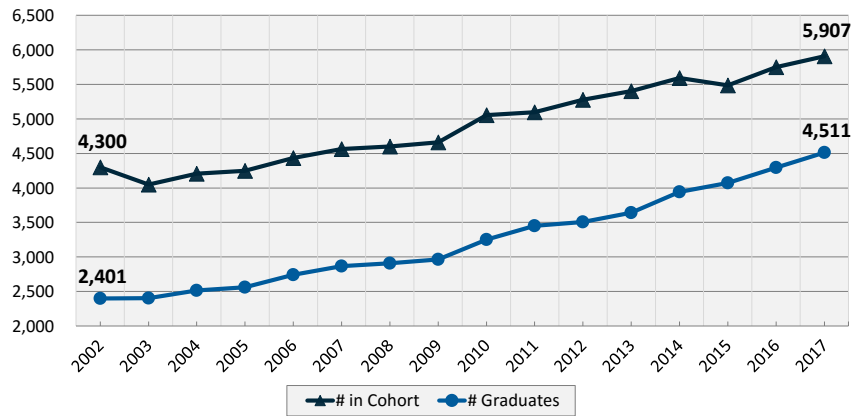
- ▶ There was a noticeable drop in the number and proportion of African-American student-athletes in the GSR cohort when Proposition 16 was fully implemented in 1996. The proportion of African-American students in the GSR cohort stayed fairly constant between 2003 and 2009 graduation cohorts.
- ▶ The 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 African-American student-athletes.



Proportion of African-American Student-Athletes Among GSR Cohort and GSR Graduates 2002-2017



Number of African-American Student-Athletes Among GSR Cohort and GSR Graduates 2002-2017



Access and Success of African-American 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 2017, we see approximately 1,600 more African-American student-athletes in the cohort, and approximately 2,100 more African-American graduates when compared to the years before the changes.
- ▶ There were significant gains in the graduation rates of African-American student-athletes in the high profile sports of FBS football (20 percentage point increase) and men's basketball (32 percentage point increase).



Trends in Federal Graduation Rates



Federal Graduation Rates for
Division I Men's Sports
 Four-Class Averages for 2013-16 Cohorts vs. 2014-17 Cohorts

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2013-16 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts
Baseball	50	51
Basketball	47	47
Cross Country/Track	65	66
Fencing	62	70
Football (FBS)	61	62
Football (FCS)	58	58
Golf	67	68
Gymnastics	86	85
Ice Hockey	67	67
Lacrosse	70	71
Rifle	63	72
Skiing	68	67
Soccer	59	58
Swimming	73	73
Tennis	66	68
Volleyball	76	76
Water Polo	76	80
Wrestling	54	55

Federal Graduation Rates for
Division I Women's Sports
 Four-Class Averages for 2013-16 Cohorts vs. 2014-17 Cohorts

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2013-16 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts
Basketball	63	63
Bowling	67	71
Crew	82	82
Cross Country/Track	72	74
Fencing	82	74
Field Hockey	81	82
Golf	75	75
Gymnastics	86	86
Ice Hockey	79	78
Lacrosse	80	81
Skiing	72	72
Soccer	73	73
Softball	71	71
Swimming	79	80
Tennis	72	73
Volleyball	71	71
Water Polo	80	80

Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body for Select Groups in 2017 Graduation Cohort

Student-Athlete Group	Student-Athlete Graduation Rate	Student Body Graduation Rate
Overall	68 (+2)	66
White	73 (+2)	69 (+1)
African-American	59 (+2)	46
White Males	66 (+2)	66 (+1)
African-American Males	55 (+3)	40 (-1)
White Females	78 (+2)	71
African-American Females	67 (+1)	49

NOTE: Numbers in parentheses represent change from prior year.

Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body For Select Groups in 2017 Graduation Cohort

Student-Athlete Group	Student-Athlete Graduation Rate	Matched Student Body Grad Rate*
Men's Basketball	48 (+2)	63
White Men's Basketball	56 (+1)	66
African-American Men's Basketball	49 (+6)	40
Football (FBS)	63 (+1)	66
White Football (FBS)	74 (-2)	68
African-American Football (FBS)	60 (+5)	47
Women's Basketball	63 (-2)	68
White Women's Basketball	70 (+2)	71
African-American Women's Basketball	63 (-1)	49

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

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- ▶ Overall, student-athletes in the entering class of 2017 at Division I institutions achieved a rate of 68 percent. That is the 2 points higher than the general student-body rate at Division I institutions.
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Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 1991* and 2017 26-Year Trends for Select Groups of Student-Athletes

Student-Athlete Group	1991 Graduation Rate	2017 Graduation Rate
Overall	52	68
White	59	73
African-American	35	59
White Males	55	66
African-American Males	33	55
White Females	66	78
African-American Females	45	67

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

Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 1991* and 2017 26-Year Trends for Select Groups of Student-Athletes

Student-Athlete Group	1991 Graduation Rate	2017 Graduation Rate
Men's Basketball	38	48
White Men's Basketball	53	56
African-American Men's Basketball	29	49
Football (FBS)	47	63
White Football (FBS)	56	74
African-American Football (FBS)	35	60
Women's Basketball	57	63
White Women's Basketball	66	70
African-American Women's Basketball	42	63

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Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Trends 1991 to 2017

- ▶ Graduation rates data were first collected using the federal methodology for the graduation cohort of 1991. Between 1991 and 2017, 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 African-American student-athletes increased by 24 percentage points over that time period (35 to 59). The African-American males increased by 23 percentage points (33 to 56), and the African-American females increased by 22 percentage points (45 to 67).
 - ▶ In men's basketball, the overall rate increased by 10 percentage points. The federal rate for white men's basketball student-athletes is 3 percentage points higher than 1991, while the rate for African-Americans has increased by 20 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 18 points, and the rate for African-Americans in that sport has increased by 25 percentage points.



Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from
Graduation Cohorts of 2016 and 2017

Student-Athlete Group	2016 Graduation Rate	2017 Graduation Rate
Overall	66	68
White	71	73
African-American	57	59
White Males	64	66
African-American Males	52	55
White Females	76	78
African-American Females	66	67

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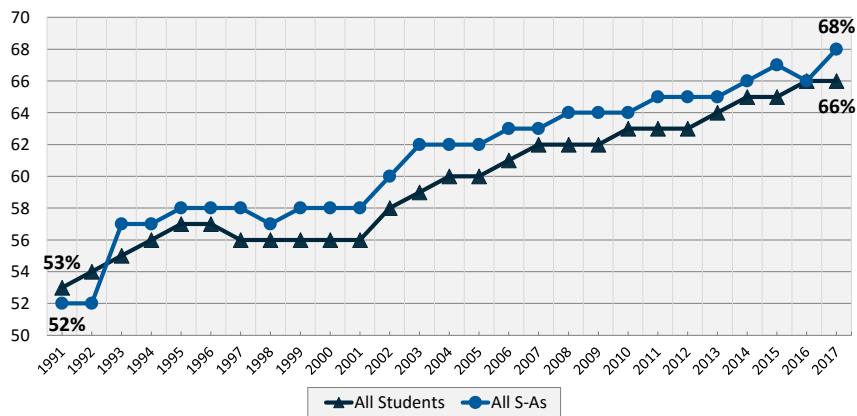
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Men's Basketball	46	48
White Men's Basketball	55	56
African-American Men's Basketball	43	49
Football (FBS)	62	63
White Football (FBS)	76	74
African-American Football (FBS)	55	60
Women's Basketball	65	63
White Women's Basketball	68	70
African-American Women's Basketball	64	63

Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Trends 2016 vs. 2017

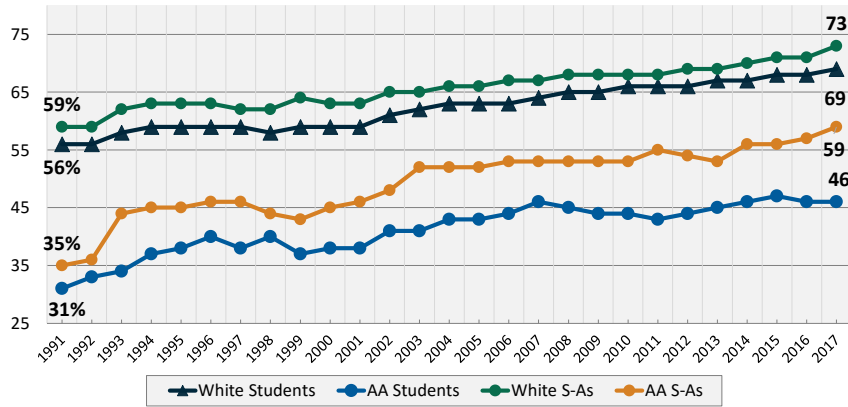
- ▶ There were a few notable differences in Federal Graduation Rate between the 2008 and 2009 cohorts.
 - ▶ The overall rate increased by 2 percentage points to 68, an all-time high. The rate for African-Americans increased 2 points to 59, also an all-time high.
 - ▶ The rate in men's basketball increased 2 points to 48. This remains the sport with the lowest graduation rate using the federal metric.
 - ▶ The rate for FBS football increased by 1 percentage point to 63. The rate among African-American football players at FBS institutions increased by 5 percentage points to 60, while the rate for white football players decreased by 2 points to 74.
 - ▶ The federal rate in baseball increased 1 percentage point to 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.



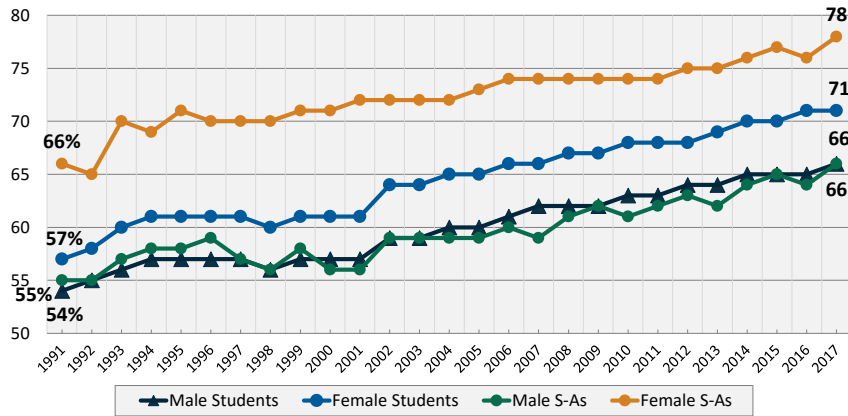
Federal Graduation Rates of All Student-Athletes vs. All Students at Division I Institutions



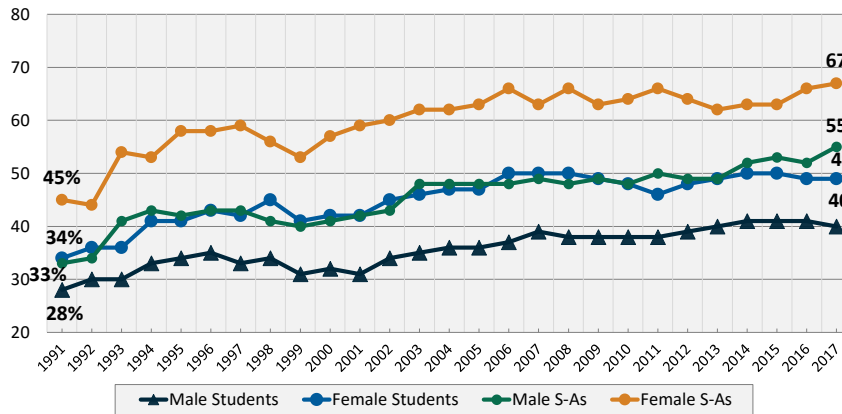
Federal Graduation Rates of All Student-Athletes vs. All Students at Division I Institutions by Race/Ethnicity



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



Federal Graduation Rates of African-American Student-Athletes vs. African-American Students at Division I Institutions by Gender



THANK YOU

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