



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
Enrolled (Under Federal Definition)	89,392	89,392
Enrolled as Frosh in January	0	3,244
Two-Year College Transfers	0	9,988
Four-Year College Transfers	0	7,945
Non-Scholarship Athletes (Only at Schools Not Offering Aid)	0	10,482
Total Enrolled	89,392	121,051 (+35.4%)
Allowable Exclusions (Death, Military, Church Mission, etc.)	275	344
Left Eligible	0	24,298
Participants on Teams No Longer Sponsored by Institution	0	1,123
Total Denominator	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
Division I Overall	86	87
Division I Men	80	82
Division I Women	92	93
Division I Football Bowl Subdivision	86	87
Division I Football Championship Subdivision	85	86
Division I (No Football)	87	89

Graduation Success Rates for Division I Men's Sports

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

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

Graduation Success Rates for Division I Women's Sports

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

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

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

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

Single-Year Trends For Select Sport Groups

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

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

Long-Term Trends For Select Groups of Student-Athletes

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

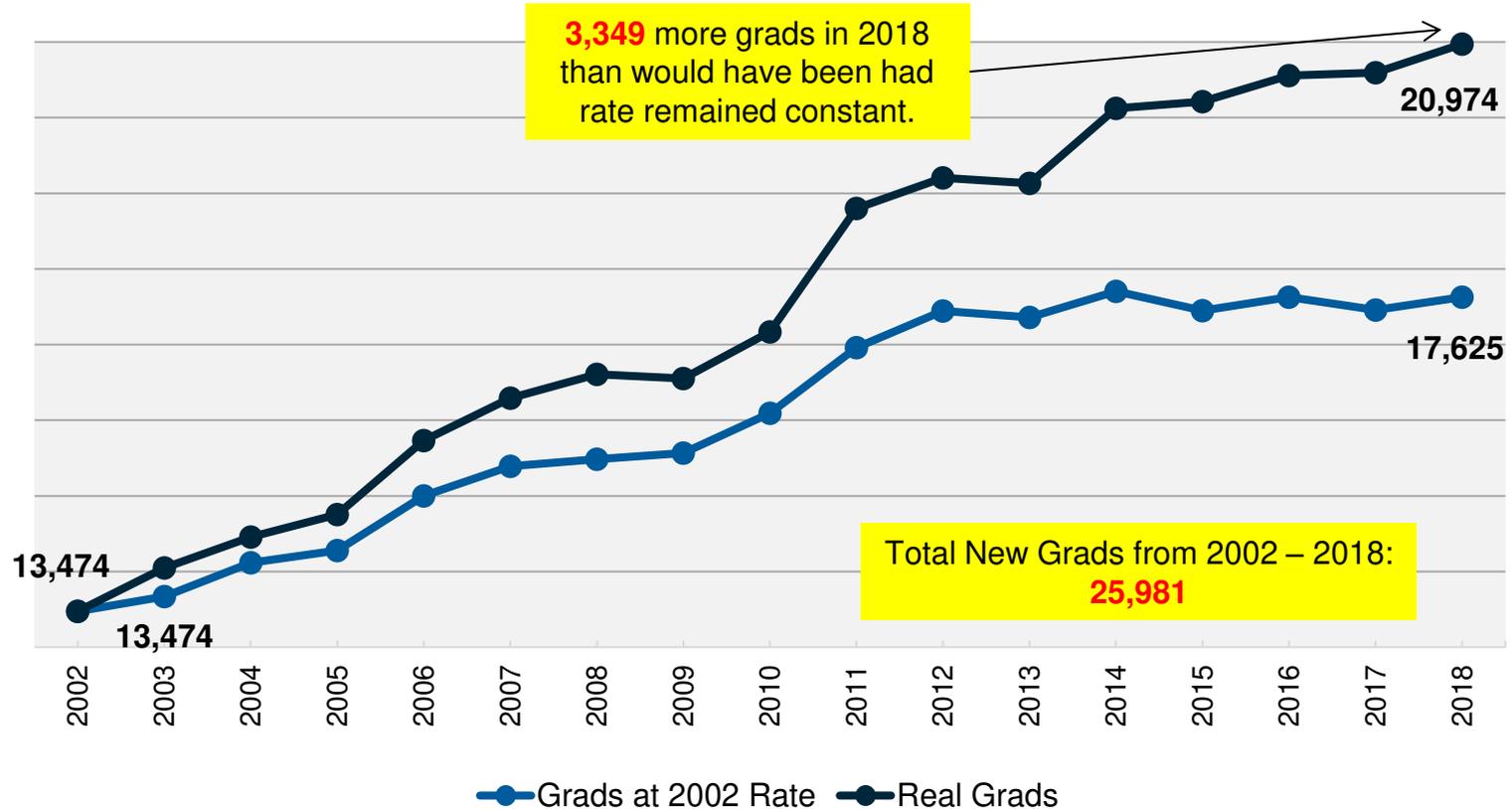
Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Graduation Cohorts of 2002* and 2018

Long-Term Trends For Select Sport Groups

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

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

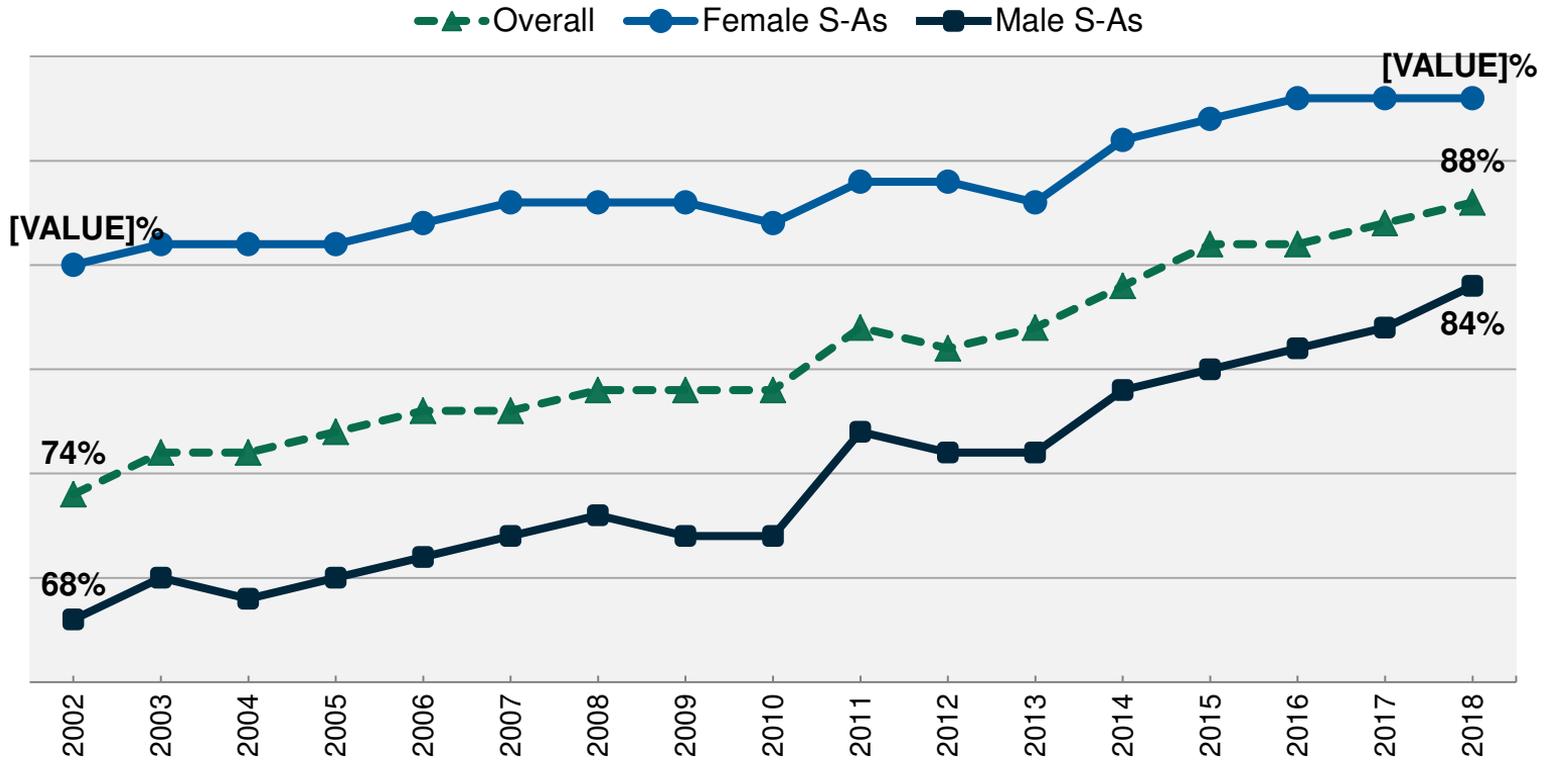


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Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions

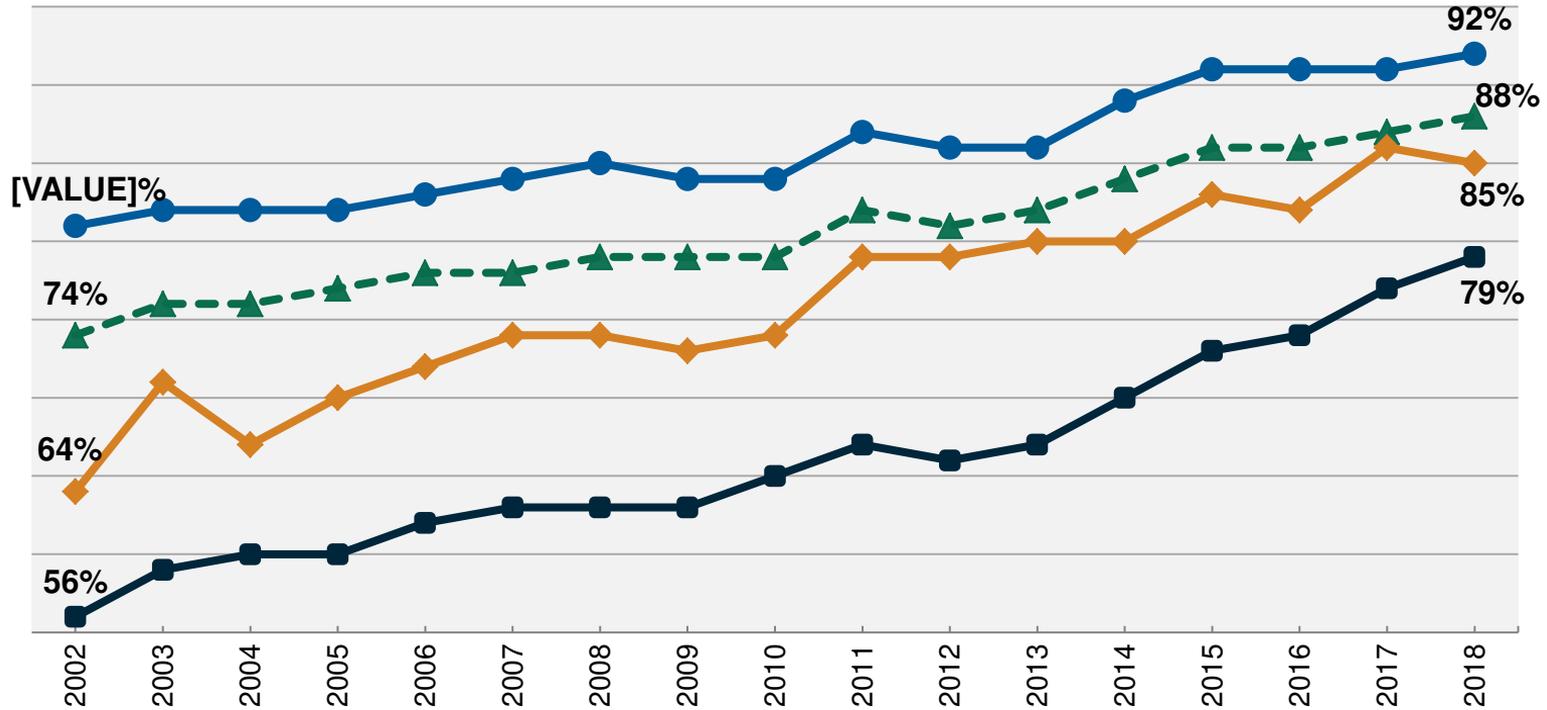
Overall and by Gender



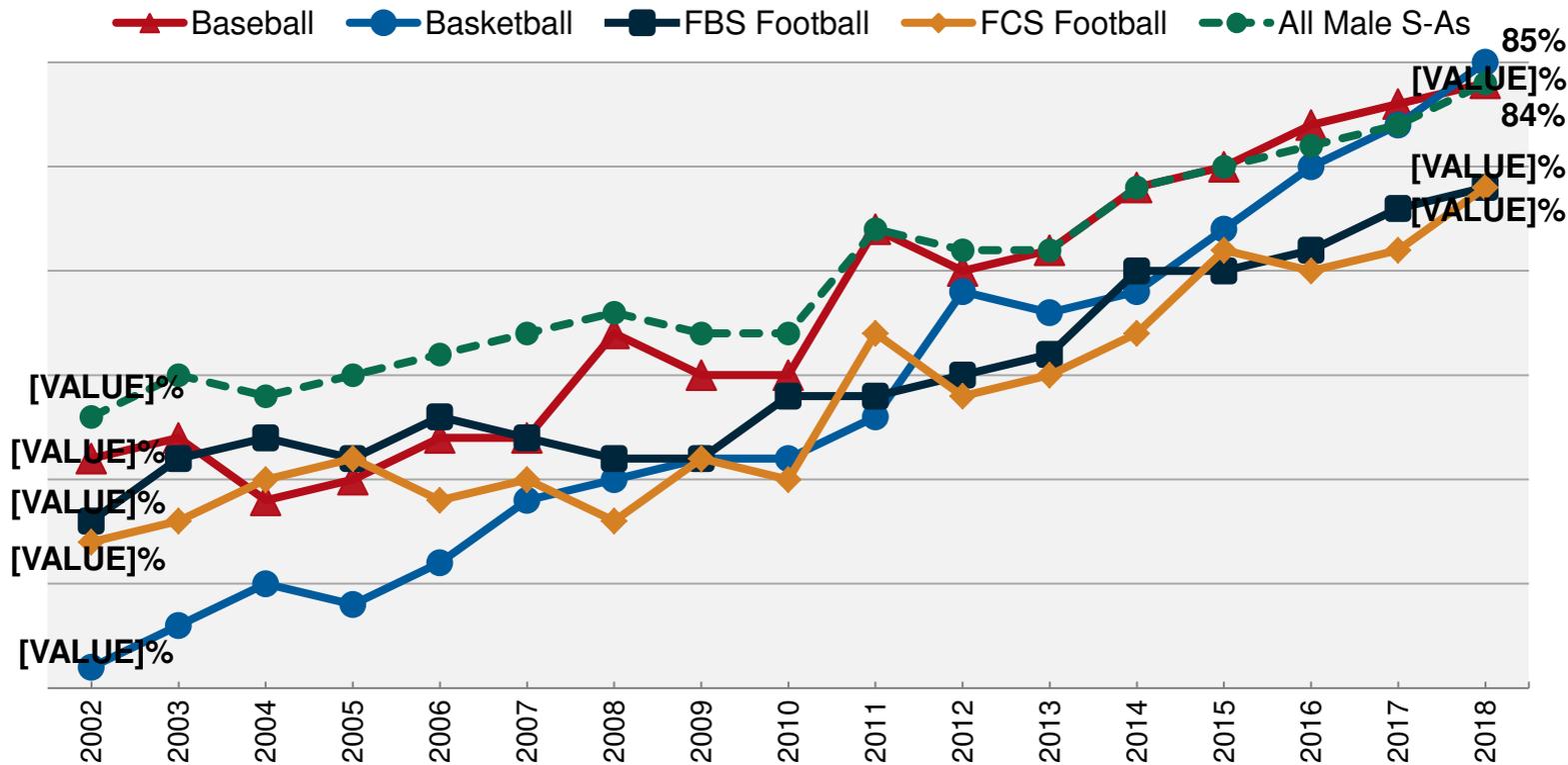
Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions

Overall and by Race/Ethnicity

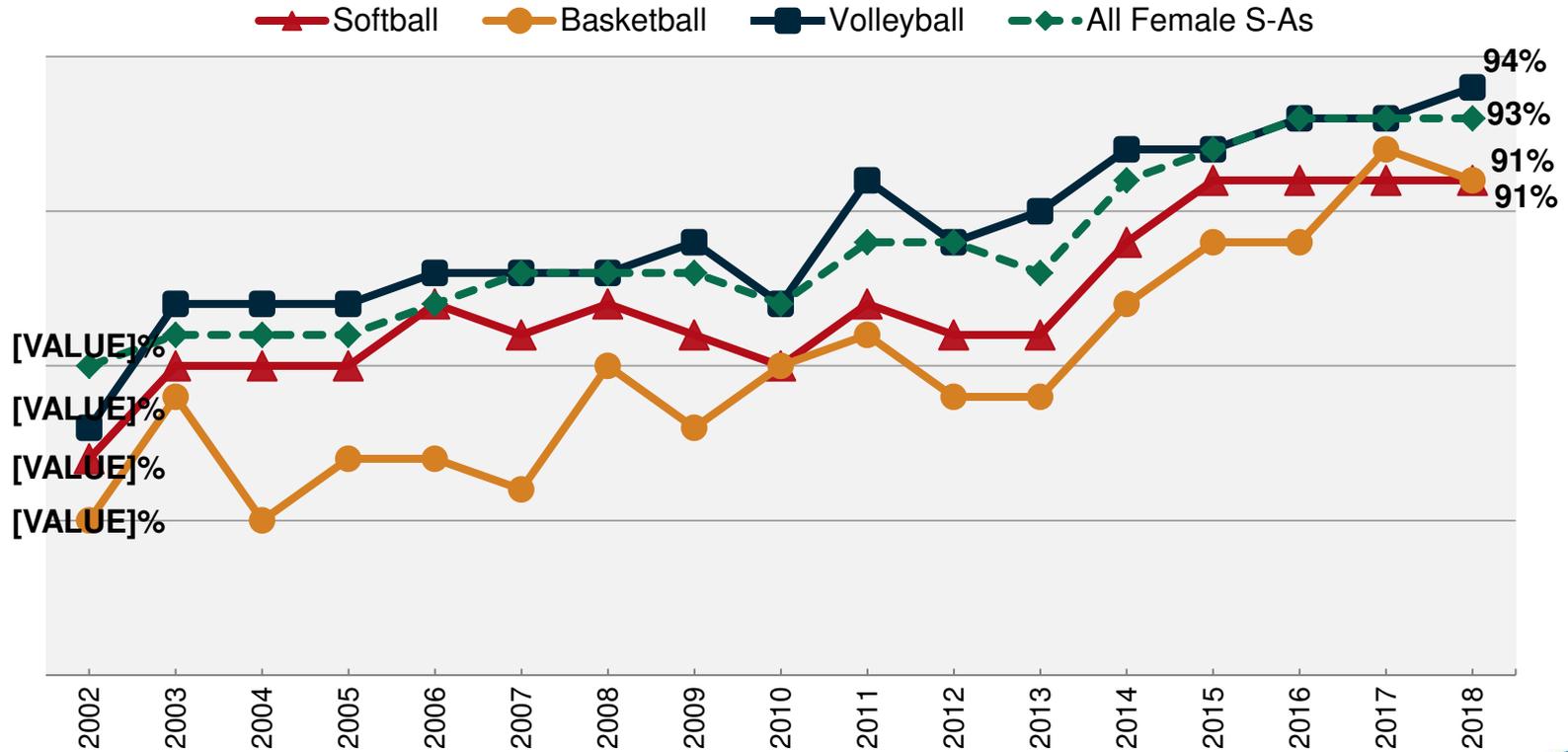
Overall White Black Hispanic/Latino



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

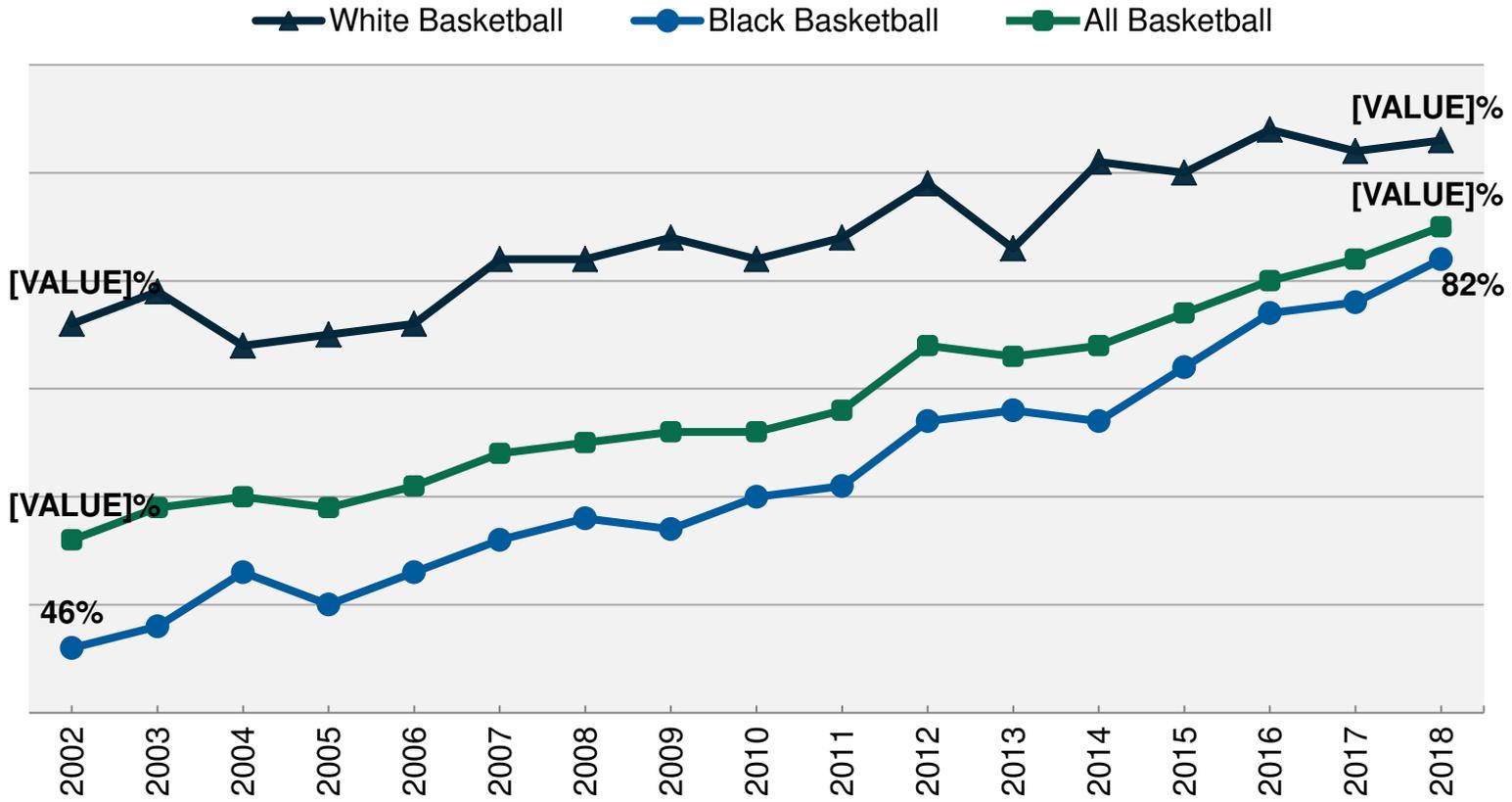
SPORT	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Baseball	65.3%	66.7%	63.9%	64.7%	66.7%	67.3%	71.7%	69.9%	69.6%	77.4%	75.1%	75.6%	78.6%	79.8%	81.9%	82.7%	83.7%
Basketball	55.8%	58.7%	59.5%	59.0%	60.7%	63.6%	65.0%	65.5%	66.4%	67.7%	74.1%	72.9%	73.9%	76.6%	80.3%	81.7%	85.0%
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%	83.2%
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%	91.2%
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%	79.1%
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%	78.9%
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%	90.6%
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%	92.2%
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%	94.6%
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%	90.8%
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%	84.1%
Skiing	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%
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%	85.7%
Swimming	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%
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%	93.3%
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%	85.2%
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%	88.2%
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%	76.9%
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%	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
Basketball	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%
Bowling	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%
Crew	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%
CC/Track	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%
Fencing	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%
Field Hockey	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%
Golf	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%
Gymnastics	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%
Ice Hockey	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%
Lacrosse	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%
Skiing	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%
Soccer	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%
Softball	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%
Swimming	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%
Tennis	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%
Volleyball	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%
Water Polo	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%
Overall	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

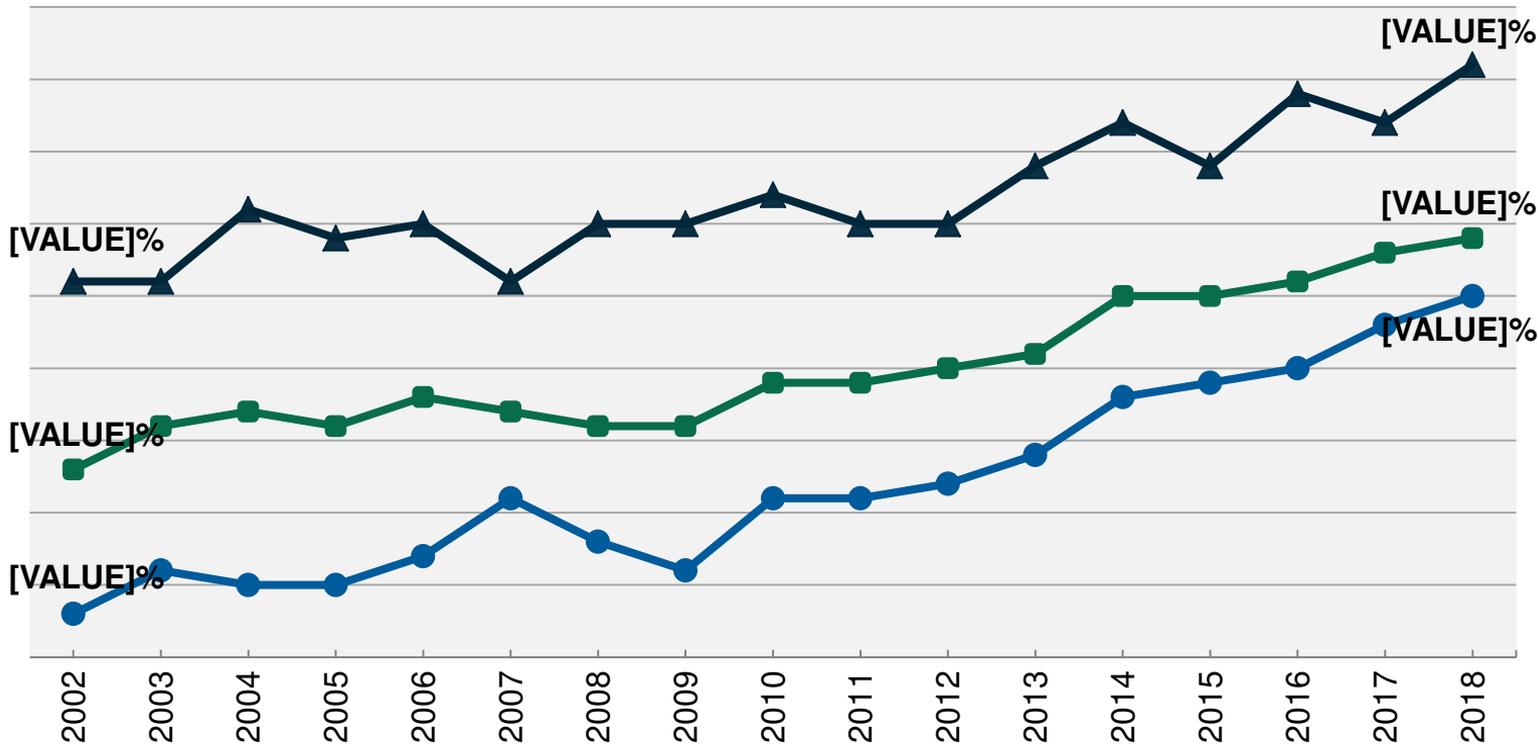
by Race/Ethnicity



Graduation Success Rates of FBS Football Players

by Race/Ethnicity

▲ White FBS ● Black FBS ■ All FBS Football



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

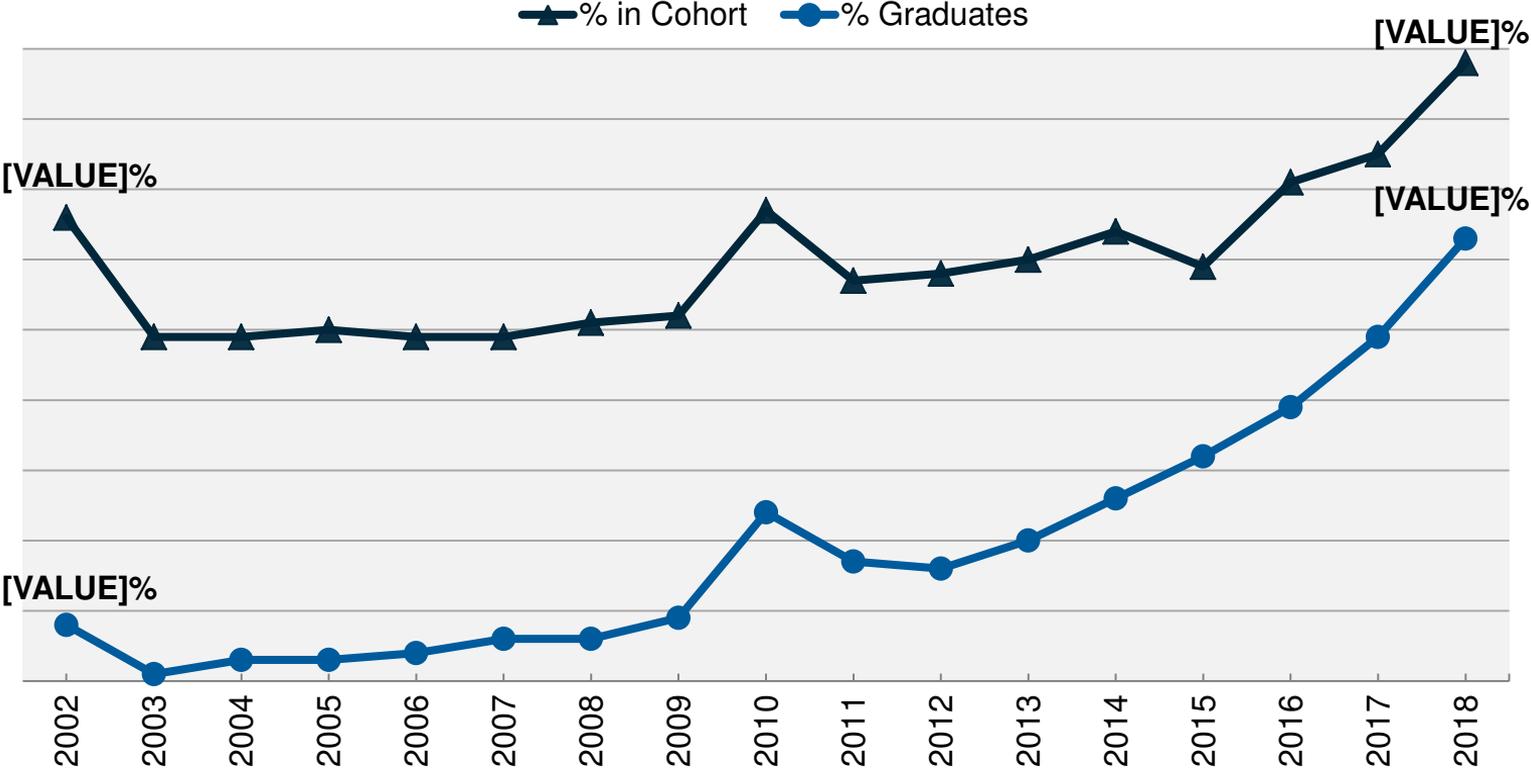
Access and Success of Black Student-Athletes

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

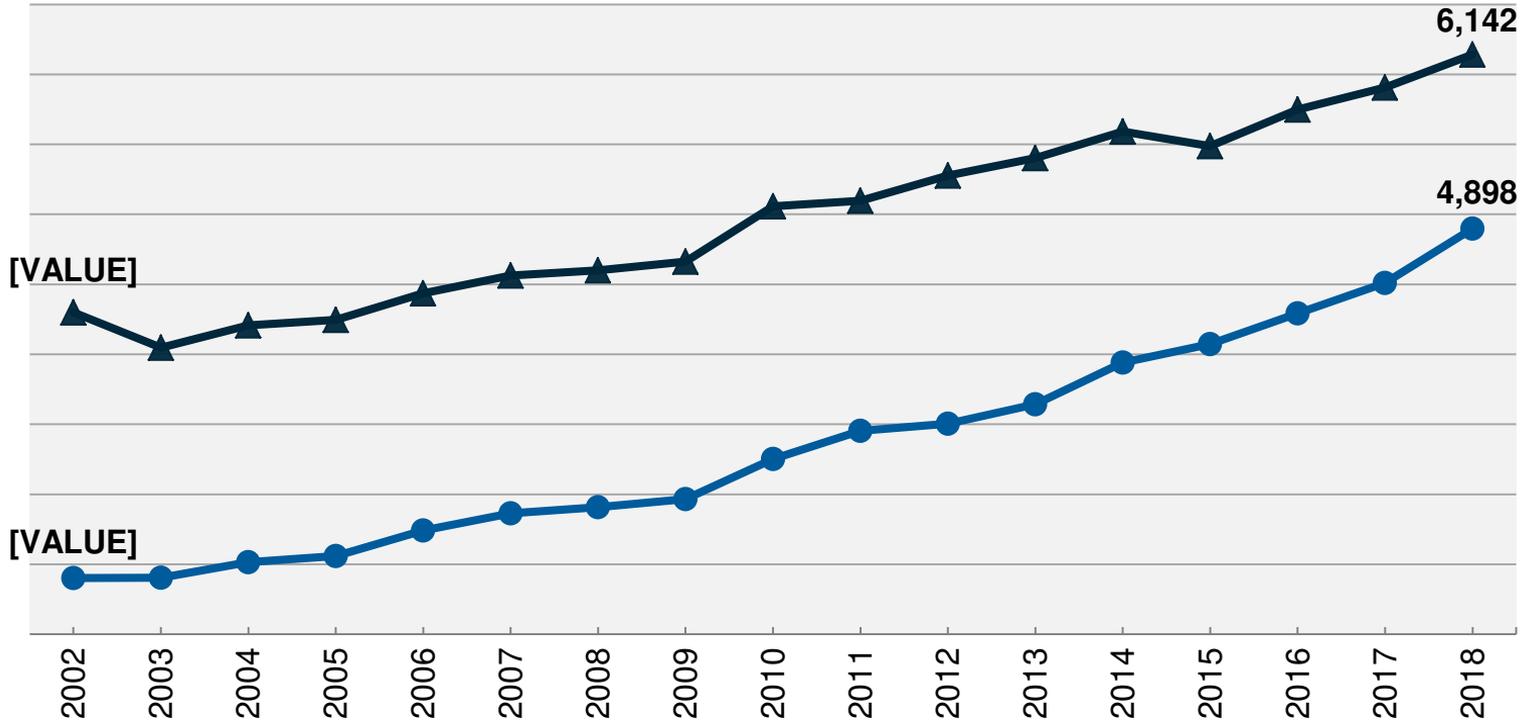
2002-2018



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

2002-2018

▲ # in Cohort ● # Graduates



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

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2015-18 Cohorts
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

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2014-17 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2015-18 Cohorts
Basketball	63%	63%
Bowling	71%	72%
Crew	82%	81%
Cross Country/Track	74%	76%
Fencing	74%	78%
Field Hockey	82%	81%
Golf	75%	75%
Gymnastics	86%	86%
Ice Hockey	78%	78%
Lacrosse	81%	81%
Skiing	72%	72%
Soccer	73%	73%
Softball	71%	71%
Swimming	80%	81%
Tennis	73%	73%
Volleyball	71%	71%
Water Polo	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
Overall	68% (+0)	66% (+0)
White	73% (+0)	70% (+1)
Black	61% (+2)	47% (+1)
Hispanic/Latino	62% (-5)	61% (+1)
White Males	67% (+1)	67% (+1)
Black Males	56% (+1)	41% (+1)
Hispanic/Latino Males	56% (-2)	56% (+0)
White Females	78% (+0)	72% (+1)
Black Females	70% (+3)	51% (+2)
Hispanic/Latino Females	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*
Men's Basketball	46% (-2)	64%
White Men's Basketball	60% (+4)	67%
Black Men's Basketball	45% (-4)	41%
Football (FBS)	63% (+0)	67%
White Football (FBS)	77% (+3)	70%
Black Football (FBS)	58% (-2)	47%
Women's Basketball	62% (-1)	69%
White Women's Basketball	68% (-2)	72%
Black Women's Basketball	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

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

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

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

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

Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Trends

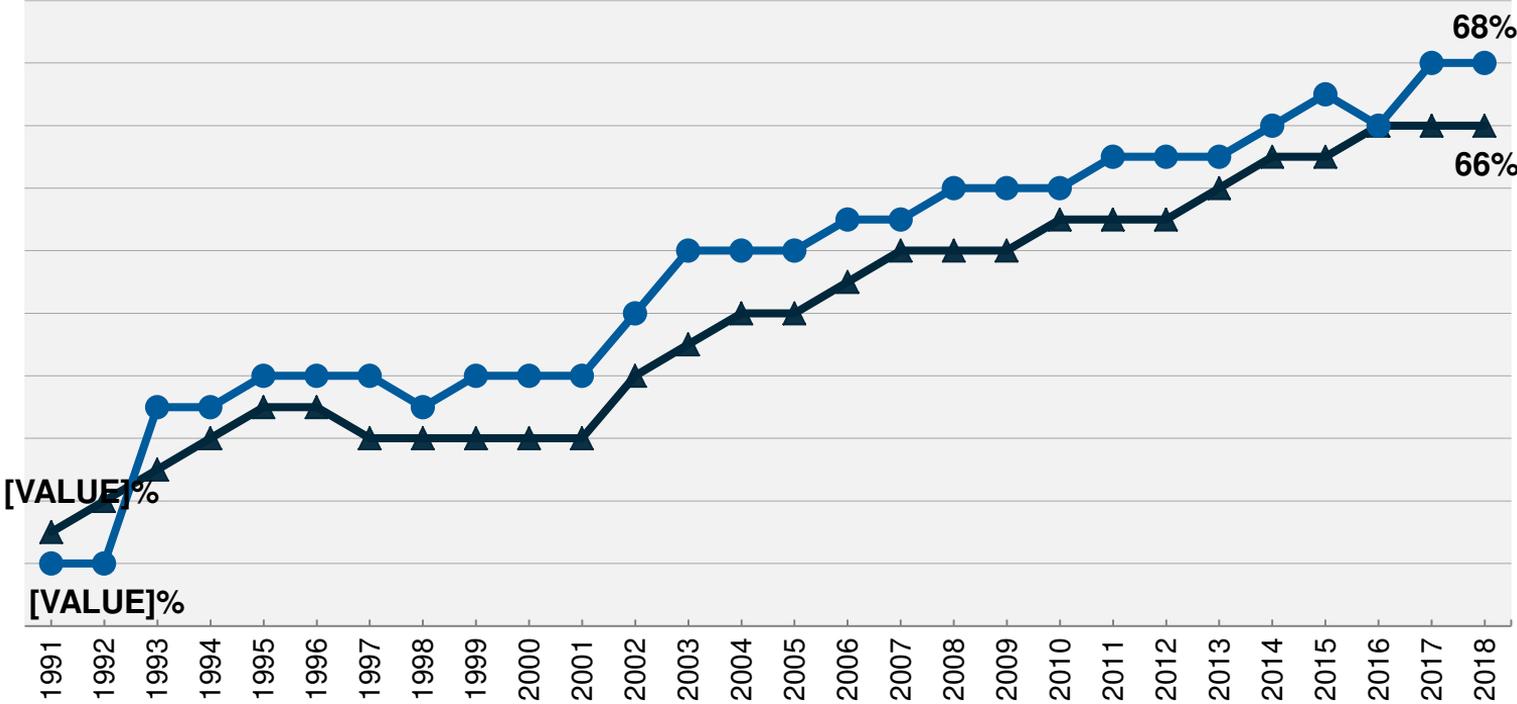
2017 vs. 2018

- ▶ 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

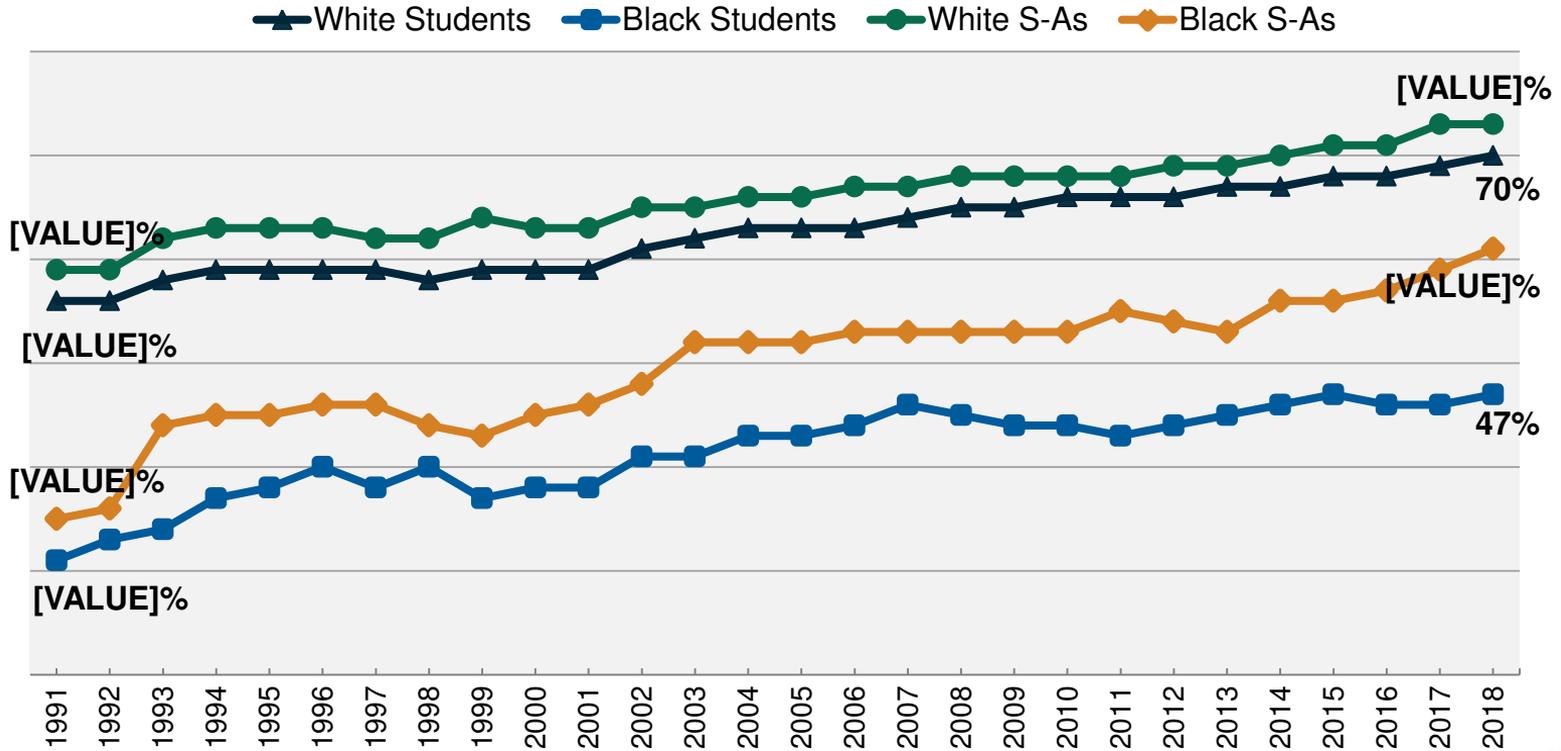
at Division I Institutions

▲ All Students ● All S-As



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

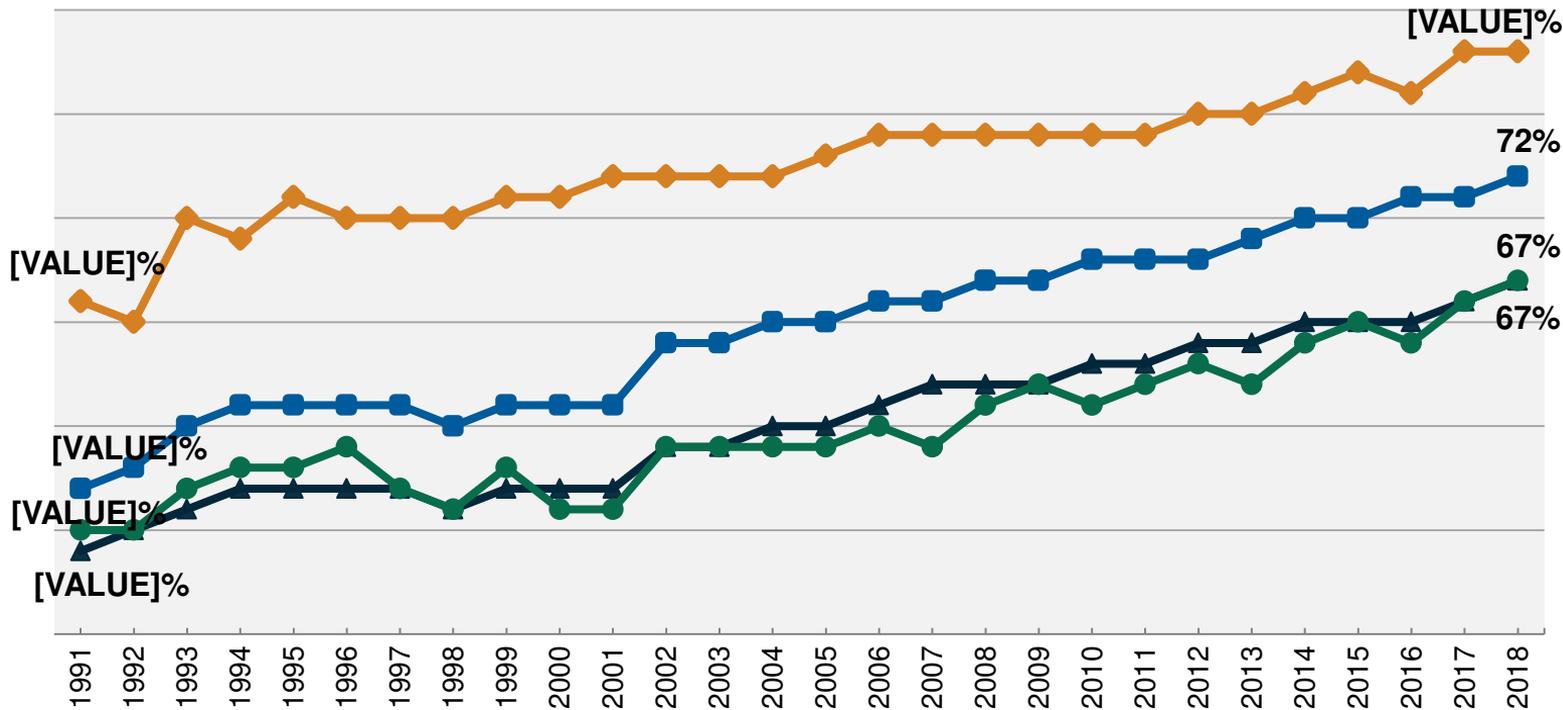
by Race/Ethnicity



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

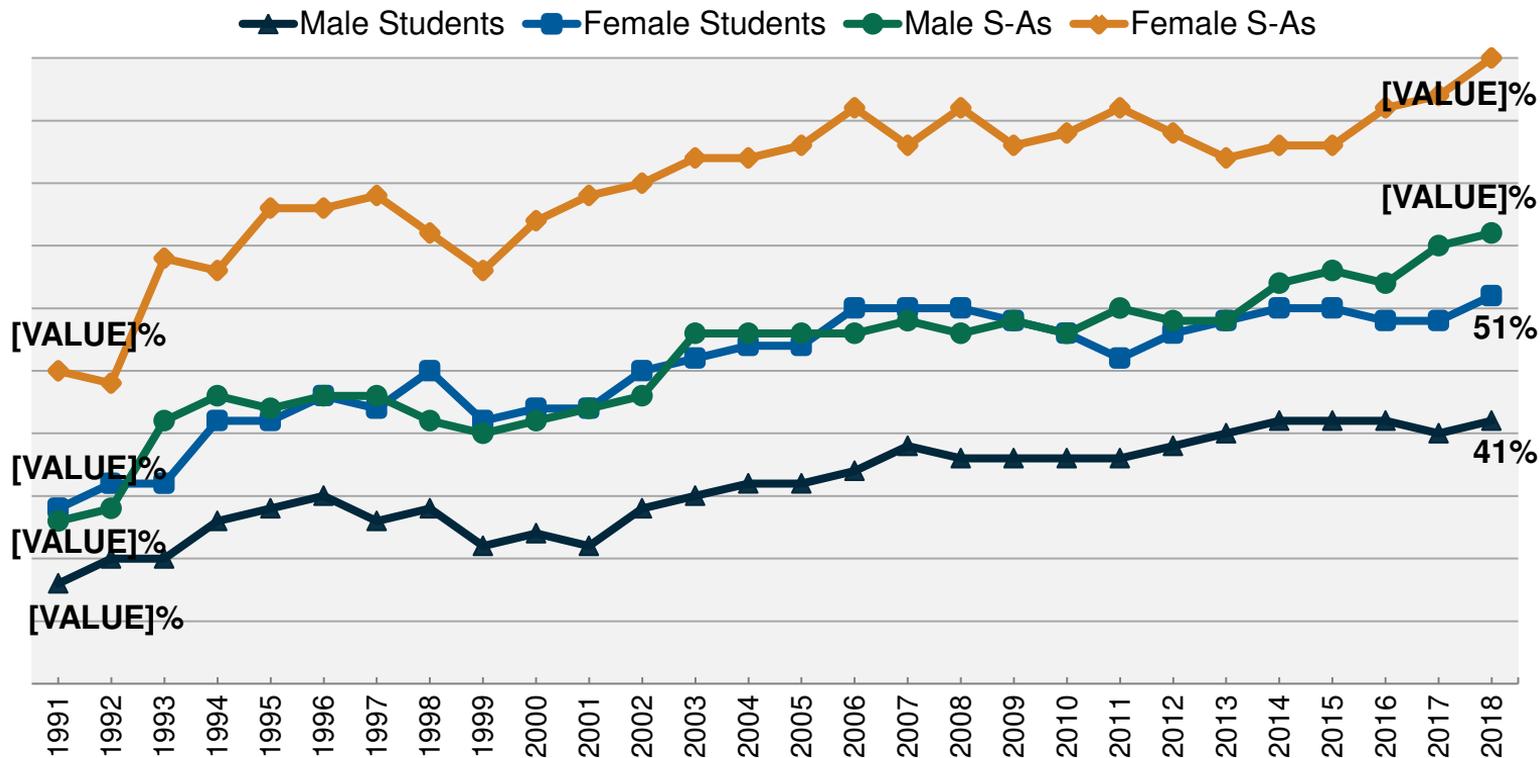
by Gender

▲ Male Students
■ Female Students
● Male S-As
◆ Female S-As



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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