

**TRENDS IN  
GRADUATION SUCCESS RATES  
AND  
FEDERAL GRADUATION RATES  
AT NCAA DIVISION I INSTITUTIONS**

**NCAA Research Staff  
October 2015**



**Executive Summary**



## Federal Graduation Rate vs. Graduation Success Rate (GSR)

- 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.
- GSR begins with the federal cohort, and adds transfer students, mid-year 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

(2005-2008 Entering Classes)

	Federal Rate	GSR
<b>Enrolled (Under Federal Definition)</b>	85,708	85,708
<b>Enrolled as Frosh in January</b>	0	2,836
<b>Two-Year College Transfers</b>	0	9,508
<b>Four-Year College Transfers</b>	0	7,905
<b>Non-Scholarship Athletes (Only at Schools Not Offering Aid)</b>	0	11,822
<b>Total Enrolled</b>	85,708	117,779 (+37.4%)
<b>Allowable Exclusions (Death, Military, Church Mission, etc.)</b>	332	417
<b>Left Eligible</b>	0	21,851
<b>Participants on Teams No Longer Sponsored by Institution</b>	0	1,284
<b>Total Denominator</b>	84,053	94,227 (+12.1%)



## Summary of GSR Changes Between 2007 and 2008 Cohorts

- Overall, the GSR for the 2008 cohort was at 86%, 2 points up from the 2007 cohort, and the highest rate ever. There were some specific sub-group differences worth noting:
  - In the sport of men’s basketball, the overall rate increased 3 percentage points to 77%. The rates for African-American SAs rose 5 percentage points to 72%. Both of these rates represent all-time highs.
  - The GSR for FBS football stayed the same as last year at 75%. There was a 1 percent increase (to 69%) among African-American SAs in that sport. The rate for white participants, on the other hand, dropped from 87% in 2007 to 84% in 2008. FCS football showed a 4 percent increase – from 72% to 76%.
  - The rate in women’s basketball increased 2 points to 89%, the highest rate ever recorded. White women decreased by 1 percentage point, but African-Americans increased by 5 points to 84%, also an all-time high for that group.



## Summary of GSR Changes Between 2007 and 2008 Cohorts

- Most demographic groups showed increases over the previous year. White student-athletes showed a 1 percent increase over previous year. African-American SAs showed a 3 percent increase over the previous year with males up 4 points and females showing a 2 percentage point increase.
- Tennis, gymnastics and fencing were the three men’s sports with rates at 90% or higher. Baseball rose to its all-time high of 80% in 2008.
- Women’s field hockey, gymnastics, ice hockey, and lacrosse all have rates above 96%, with ice hockey leading the way at 99.1%.



## Summary of GSR Changes Between 1995 and 2008 Cohorts

Differences in GSR between the 1995 and 2008 cohorts are notable due to the fact that initial-eligibility rules changed in 1996 and again in 2003. There are some notable differences in GSRs between these cohorts:

- The overall rate is 12 percentage points higher for the 2008 cohort than for the 1995 cohort. This translates to more than 2,700 more graduates in the 2008 cohort than would have been the case had the rate not increased. When aggregated across all years, there have been over 16,500 more graduates than would have been the case had the GSR stayed constant.
- The major changes were seen in the African-American and Hispanic groups. African-American males have seen their graduation rates increase by 18 percentage points (now 69%) and African-American females have increased by 12 percentage points to 83%. Overall, Hispanics have seen their GSR increase by 19 percentage points over this period.
- The rate for men's basketball has increased by 21 percentage points over that timeframe, with a 26 percentage point increase for African-Americans in men's basketball.
- For FBS football, there has been an overall increase of 12 percentage points. African-Americans SAs have seen their graduation rates increase 16 percentage points in that timeframe, while white FBS football student-athletes saw an increase of 8 percentage points.

## Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Differences Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body 2008 Cohort

- Overall, student-athletes in the entering class of 2008 at Division I institutions achieved their highest rate in history – 67%. That is 2 percentage points higher than the general student-body at Division I institutions.
- When looked at by subgroups based on gender and ethnicity, only white male SAs are equal to the corresponding rates among the student population. In all other major demographic groups student-athletes are higher. Of note:
  - African-American male student-athletes graduated at an 12 percentage point higher rate than African-American males in the student-body (53% to 41%).
  - African-American female student-athletes outpace their student-body counterparts by 13 percentage points (63% to 50%).
- 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 equal to or higher than African-American males in the student-body (equal in basketball and 8 points higher in FBS football).

## Access and Success of African-American Student-Athletes Outcomes

- Changes in initial-eligibility standards that were implemented in 2003 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 2008, we see approximately 800 more African-American student-athletes in the cohort, and approximately 1,100 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 (13 percentage point increase) and men's basketball (15 percentage point increase).



## Four-Class Graduation Success Rates (GSR)



## Average GSRs for Division I Student-Athletes in 2004-07 Cohorts vs. 2005-08 Cohorts

	2004-07 Cohorts	2005-08 Cohorts
<b>Division I Overall</b>	82%	83%
<b>Division I Men</b>	77%	78%
<b>Division I Women</b>	89%	90%
<b>Division I Football Bowl Subdivision</b>	82%	83%
<b>Division I Football Championship Subdivision</b>	82%	82%
<b>Division I (No Football)</b>	84%	85%



## Graduation Success Rates for Division I Men's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2004-07 Cohorts vs. 2005-08 Cohorts

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2004-07 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2005-08 Cohorts
Baseball	77%	77%
Basketball	72%	74%
Cross Country/Track	78%	79%
Fencing	89%	89%
Football (FBS)	71%	72%
Football (FCS)	71%	71%
Golf	84%	84%
Gymnastics	91%	90%
Ice Hockey	88%	87%
Lacrosse	88%	88%
Rifle	83%	84%
Skiing	86%	85%
Soccer	82%	82%
Swimming	86%	86%
Tennis	86%	87%
Volleyball	85%	86%
Water Polo	87%	87%
Wrestling	75%	76%



## Graduation Success Rates for Division I Women's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2004-07 Cohorts vs. 2005-08 Cohorts

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2004-07 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2005-08 Cohorts
Basketball	85%	86%
Bowling	72%	76%
Crew	93%	94%
Cross Country/Track	86%	86%
Fencing	94%	93%
Field Hockey	94%	95%
Golf	91%	92%
Gymnastics	95%	96%
Ice Hockey	95%	96%
Lacrosse	95%	95%
Rifle	83%	84%
Skiing	93%	93%
Soccer	90%	90%
Softball	87%	88%
Swimming	92%	93%
Tennis	92%	93%
Volleyball	91%	91%
Water Polo	92%	92%



## Trends in Single-Year Graduation Success Rates (GSR)



## Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Entering Classes of 2007 and 2008

Single-Year Trends For Select Groups of Student-Athletes

Student-Athlete Group	2007 GSR	2008 GSR
<b>Overall</b>	84%	86%
<b>White</b>	89%	90%
<b>African-American</b>	70%	73%
<b>White Males</b>	85%	85%
<b>African-American Males</b>	65%	69%
<b>White Females</b>	93%	94%
<b>African-American Females</b>	81%	83%



## Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Entering Classes of 2007 and 2008

Single-Year Trends For Select Sport Groups

Student-Athlete Group	2007 GSR	2008 GSR
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	74%	77%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	91%	90%
<b>African-American Men's Basketball</b>	67%	72%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	75%	75%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	87%	84%
<b>African-American Football (FBS)</b>	68%	69%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	87%	89%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	96%	95%
<b>African-American Women's Basketball</b>	79%	84%





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- Women’s field hockey, gymnastics, ice hockey, and lacrosse all have rates above 96%, with ice hockey leading the way at 99.1%.



## Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Entering Classes of 1995\* and 2008

14-Year Trends For Select Groups of Student-Athletes

Student-Athlete Group	1995 GSR	2008 GSR
<b>Overall</b>	74%	86%
<b>White</b>	81%	90%
<b>African-American</b>	56%	73%
<b>White Males</b>	76%	85%
<b>African-American Males</b>	51%	69%
<b>White Females</b>	89%	94%
<b>African-American Females</b>	71%	83%

\*1995 was the last year of the former initial-eligibility rules known as Prop. 48.  
It was also the first year in which GSR data were collected.



## Comparison of Graduation Success Rates from Entering Classes of 1995\* and 2008

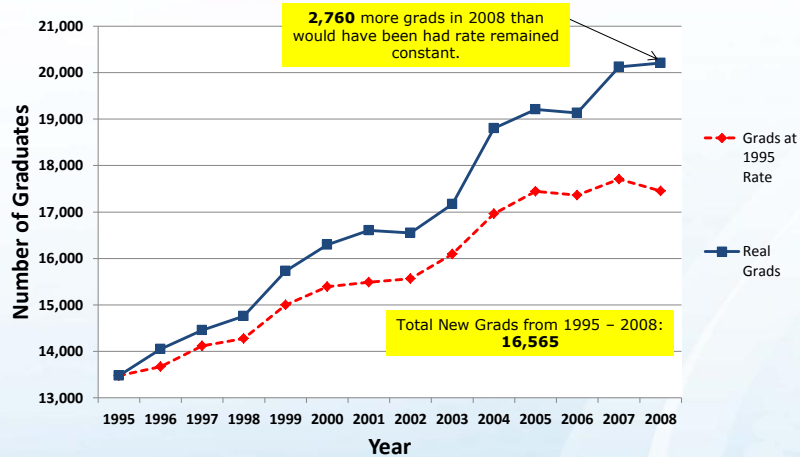
14-Year Trends For Select Sport Groups

Student-Athlete Group	1995 GSR	2008 GSR
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	56%	77%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	76%	90%
<b>African-American Men's Basketball</b>	46%	72%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	63%	75%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	76%	84%
<b>African-American Football (FBS)</b>	53%	69%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	80%	89%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	87%	95%
<b>African-American Women's Basketball</b>	70%	84%

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## Number of Real Graduates Since 1995 Versus Number who Would Have Graduated with No Increase in GSR



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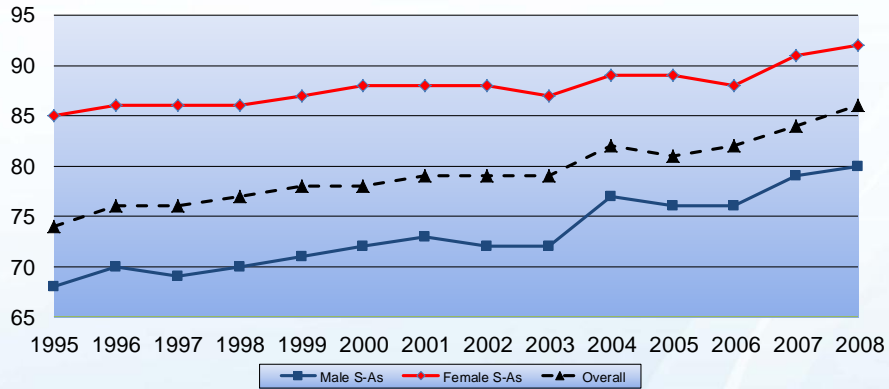
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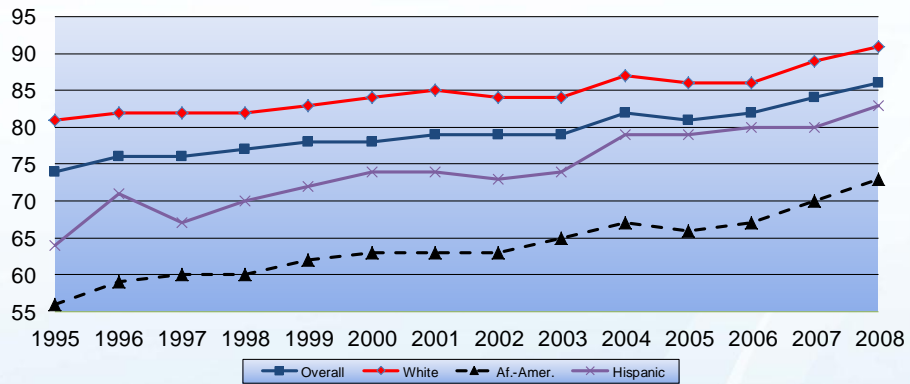
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### Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions Overall and by Gender

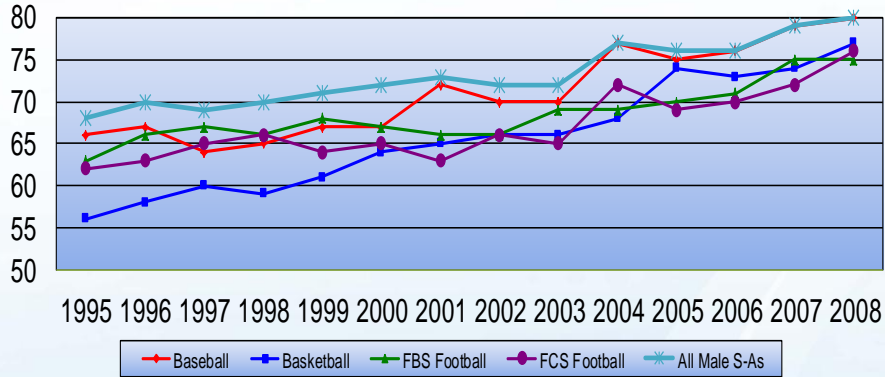


### Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions Overall and by Race/Ethnicity



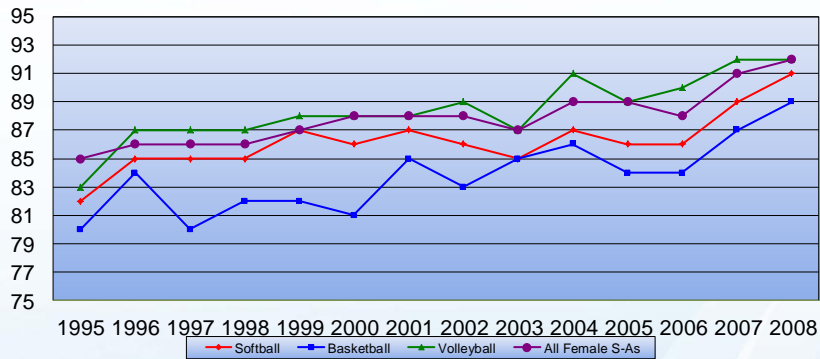
### 14-Year Trends in GSR for Division I Men's Basketball, Baseball and Football

1995-2008



### 14-Year Trends in GSR for Division I Women's Basketball, Softball and Volleyball

1995-2008



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

1995 to 2008 Entering Cohorts

SPORT	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%



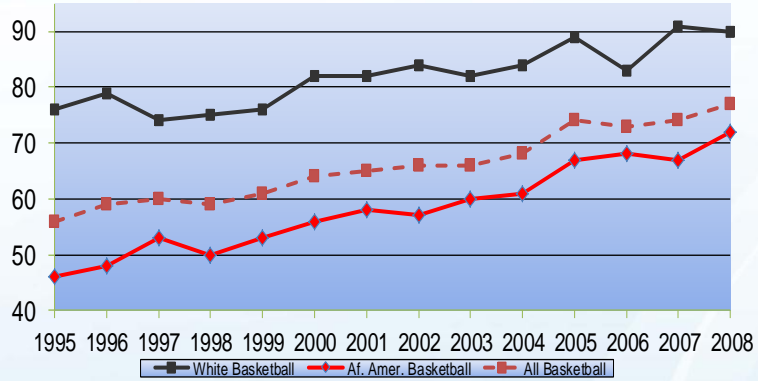
## Graduation Success Rate Trends for Division I Women's Sports

1995 to 2008 Entering Cohorts

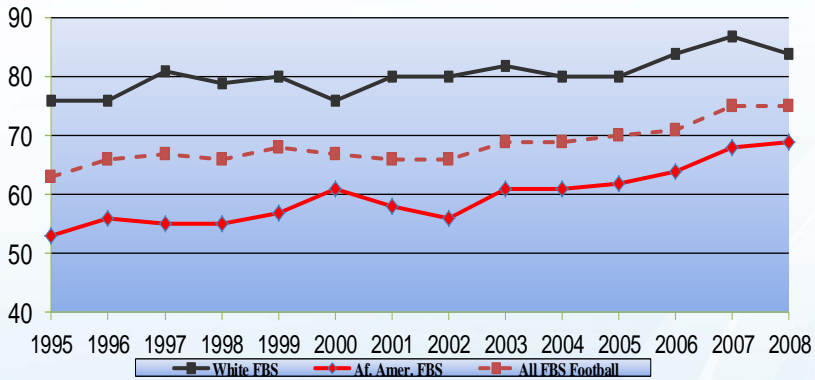
SPORT	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Basketball	79.8%	83.7%	79.9%	81.5%	81.9%	81.0%	85.3%	82.8%	84.8%	85.9%	83.7%	84.4%	86.8%	88.6%
Bowling	100%	100%	90.9%	50.0%	69.2%	68.2%	78.6%	86.4%	63.3%	81.8%	61.0%	63.9%	83.0%	90.7%
Crew	89.6%	89.7%	88.9%	89.2%	88.5%	91.8%	91.9%	92.0%	92.0%	91.9%	94.9%	93.0%	93.4%	94.6%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
Rifle	66.7%	90.0%	78.6%	62.5%	83.3%	80.0%	80.0%	82.1%	73.1%	83.3%	70.3%	90.9%	86.1%	88.6%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%
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%



### 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 African-American Student-Athletes 1995-2008**



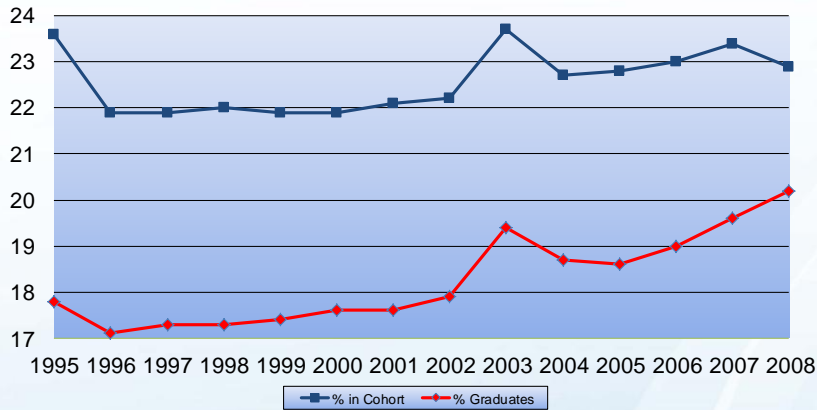
### **Access and Success of African-American Student-Athletes Background**

- 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 1996 and 2002.
- 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.

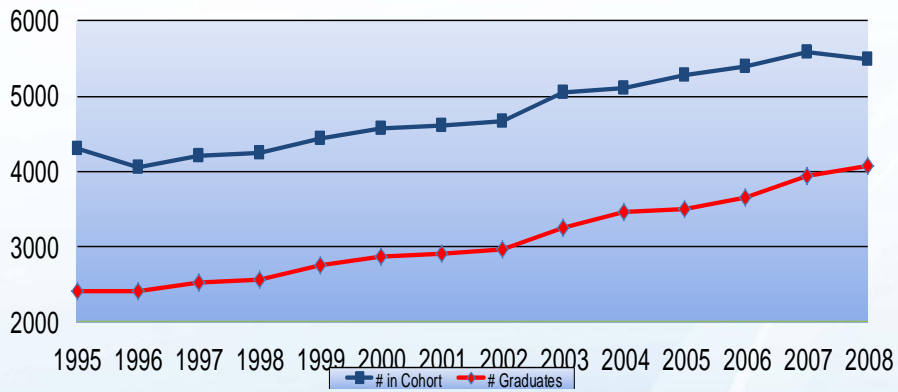




### Proportion of African-American Student-Athletes Among GSR Cohort and GSR Graduates 1995-2008



### Number of African-American Student-Athletes Among GSR Cohort and GSR Graduates 1995-2008



## Access and Success of African-American Student-Athletes Outcomes

- Changes in initial-eligibility standards that were implemented in 2003 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 2008, we see approximately 800 more African-American student-athletes in the cohort, and approximately 1,100 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 (13 percentage point increase) and men's basketball (15 percentage point increase).



## Trends in Federal Graduation Rates



## Federal Graduation Rates for Division I Men's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2004-07 Cohorts vs. 2005-08 Cohorts

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2004-07 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2005-08 Cohorts
Baseball	50%	50%
Basketball	47%	47%
Cross Country/Track	63%	65%
Fencing	64%	67%
Football (FBS)	59%	60%
Football (FCS)	57%	58%
Golf	66%	67%
Gymnastics	87%	85%
Ice Hockey	66%	65%
Lacrosse	72%	73%
Rifle	66%	68%
Skiing	71%	65%
Soccer	59%	59%
Swimming	72%	73%
Tennis	65%	67%
Volleyball	73%	76%
Water Polo	80%	79%
Wrestling	55%	57%



## Federal Graduation Rates for Division I Women's Sports

Four-Class Averages for 2004-07 Cohorts vs. 2005-08 Cohorts

SPORT	Four-Class Average 2004-07 Cohorts	Four-Class Average 2005-08 Cohorts
Basketball	63%	63%
Bowling	59%	62%
Crew	82%	82%
Cross Country/Track	71%	72%
Fencing	77%	78%
Field Hockey	79%	82%
Golf	74%	75%
Gymnastics	85%	87%
Ice Hockey	77%	81%
Lacrosse	80%	81%
Skiing	76%	72%
Soccer	73%	73%
Softball	69%	70%
Swimming	79%	80%
Tennis	73%	73%
Volleyball	71%	71%
Water Polo	82%	82%



### Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body For Select Groups in 2008 Entering Class

Student-Athlete Group	Student-Athlete Graduation Rate	Student Body Graduation Rate
<b>Overall</b>	67%	65%
<b>White</b>	71%	68%
<b>African-American</b>	56%	47%
<b>White Males</b>	65%	65%
<b>African-American Males</b>	53%	41%
<b>White Females</b>	77%	70%
<b>African-American Females</b>	63%	50%



### Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates Between Student-Athletes and Student-Body For Select Groups in 2008 Entering Class

Student-Athlete Group	Student-Athlete Graduation Rate	Matched Student Body Grad Rate*
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	47%	62%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	57%	65%
<b>African-American Men's Basketball</b>	41%	41%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	61%	66%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	71%	68%
<b>African-American Football (FBS)</b>	56%	48%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	62%	68%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	68%	70%
<b>African-American Women's Basketball</b>	58%	50%

\*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

2008 Cohort

- Overall, student-athletes in the entering class of 2008 at Division I institutions achieved their highest rate in history – 67%. That is 2 percentage points higher than the general student-body at Division I institutions.
- When looked at by subgroups based on gender and ethnicity, only white male SAs are equal to the corresponding rates among the student population. In all other major demographic groups student-athletes are higher. Of note:
  - African-American male student-athletes graduated at an 12 percentage point higher rate than African-American males in the student-body (53% to 41%).
  - African-American female student-athletes outpace their student-body counterparts by 13 percentage points (63% to 50%).
- 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 equal to or higher than African-American males in the student-body (equal in basketball and 8 points higher in FBS football).



## Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Entering Classes of 1984\* and 2008

25-Year Trends for Select Groups of Student-Athletes

Student-Athlete Group	1984 Graduation Rate	2008 Graduation Rate
<b>Overall</b>	52%	67%
<b>White</b>	59%	71%
<b>African-American</b>	35%	56%
<b>White Males</b>	55%	65%
<b>African-American Males</b>	33%	53%
<b>White Females</b>	66%	77%
<b>African-American Females</b>	45%	63%

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



## Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Entering Classes of 1984\* and 2008

25 Year Trends for Select Sport Groups

Student-Athlete Group	1984 Graduation Rate	2008 Graduation Rate
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	38%	47%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	53%	57%
<b>African-American Men's Basketball</b>	29%	41%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	47%	61%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	56%	71%
<b>African-American Football (FBS)</b>	35%	56%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	57%	62%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	66%	68%
<b>African-American Women's Basketball</b>	42%	58%

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



## Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Trends 1984 to 2008

- Graduation rates data were first collected using the federal methodology for the entering class of 1984. Between 1984 and 2008, there were significant changes in the graduation rates of many student-athlete groups:
  - The overall graduation rate has increased from 52% to 67%.
  - The rate for African-American student-athletes increased by 21 percentage points over that time period (35% to 56%). The African-American males increased by 20 percentage points (33% to 53%), and the African-American females increased by 18 percentage points (45% to 63%).
  - In men's basketball, the overall rate increased by 9 percentage points. The federal rate for white men's basketball student-athletes is 4 percentage points higher than 1984, while the rate for African-Americans has increased by 12 percentage points.
  - The overall rate for football at the FBS level increased by 14 percentage points. The rate for white student-athletes has increased by 15 points, and the rate for African-Americans in that sport has increased by 21 percentage points.



## Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Entering Classes of 2007 and 2008

Student-Athlete Group	2007 Graduation Rate	2008 Graduation Rate
<b>Overall</b>	66%	67%
<b>White</b>	70%	71%
<b>African-American</b>	56%	56%
<b>White Males</b>	64%	65%
<b>African-American Males</b>	52%	53%
<b>White Females</b>	76%	77%
<b>African-American Females</b>	63%	63%



## Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates from Entering Classes of 2007 and 2008

Student-Athlete Group	2007 Graduation Rate	2008 Graduation Rate
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	47%	47%
<b>White Men's Basketball</b>	58%	57%
<b>African-American Men's Basketball</b>	43%	41%
<b>Football (FBS)</b>	62%	61%
<b>White Football (FBS)</b>	74%	71%
<b>African-American Football (FBS)</b>	55%	56%
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	62%	62%
<b>White Women's Basketball</b>	69%	68%
<b>African-American Women's Basketball</b>	55%	58%

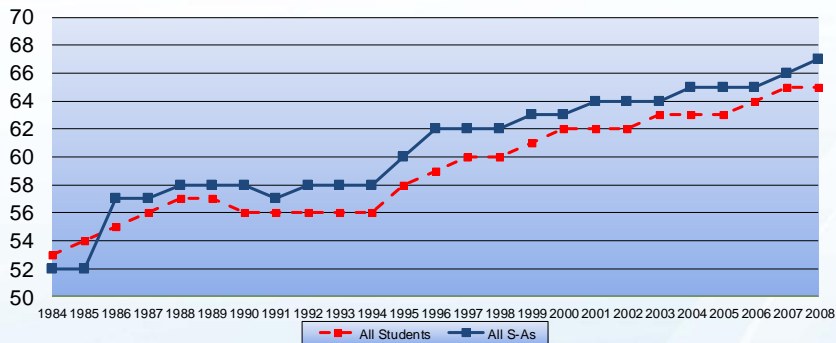


## Summary of Federal Graduation Rate Trends 2007 vs. 2008

- There were a few notable differences in Federal Graduation Rate between the 2007 and 2008 cohorts.
  - The overall rate increased by 1 percentage point to 67%, and the rate for African-Americans stayed at 56%, tied for the all-time high.
  - The rate in men’s basketball stayed constant at 47%. This remains the sport with the lowest graduation rate using the federal metric.
  - The rate for FBS football dropped by 1 percentage point to 61%. The rate among African-American football players at FBS institutions increased by 1 percentage point to 56%, while the rate for white football players decreased by 3 points to 71%.
  - The federal rate in baseball decreased 3 percentage points to 49%.
  - 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 non-athletes) the federal rate will be less and less reflective of true success rates for individual students and student-athletes.

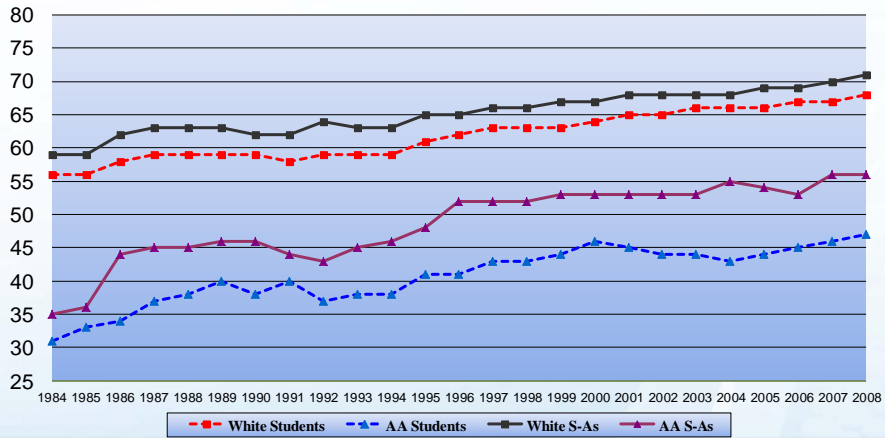


## Federal Graduation Rates of All Student-Athletes vs. All Students at Division I Institutions





### 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

