



Research

A photograph of two students walking away from the camera on a paved path. The student on the left is a young man with short blonde hair, wearing a light blue polo shirt and white shorts, carrying a basketball in his right hand and a large black duffel bag over his shoulder. The student on the right is a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a red t-shirt and white shorts, carrying a large grey backpack. The path is lined with green trees and a flowering bush on the right. A dark blue semi-transparent banner is at the bottom of the image.

2019 Division III Graduation Rates Report

NCAA Research Staff – October 2019

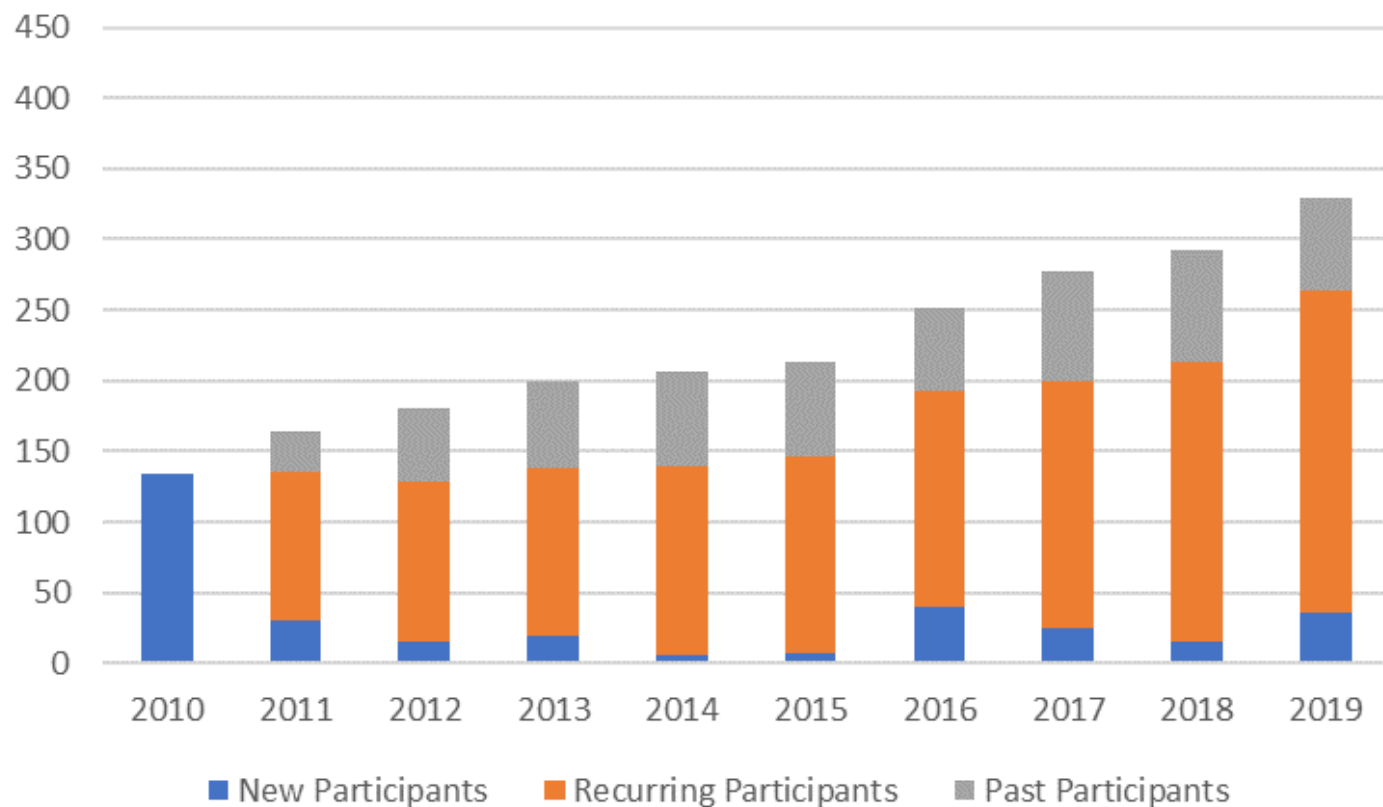
Background

- ▶ 2019 is the 10th year of the voluntary collection of student-athlete graduation rates for Division III schools.
- ▶ Academic success defined as graduation.
 - ▶ Central goal of higher education and NCAA membership.
 - ▶ Allows for the comparison of student-athletes and the student body.

The Rates - Federal & ASR

Student Groups	Federal Numerator	Federal Denominator	ASR Numerator	ASR Denominator
Freshmen (Fall)		✓		✓
Freshmen (Mid-Year)				✓
Incoming Transfers (2-Year and 4-Year)				✓
Those who left in good academic standing				✓
Allowable Exclusions		✓		✓
Graduates (Fall Freshmen)	✓		✓	
Graduates (Mid-Years/Transfers)			✓	

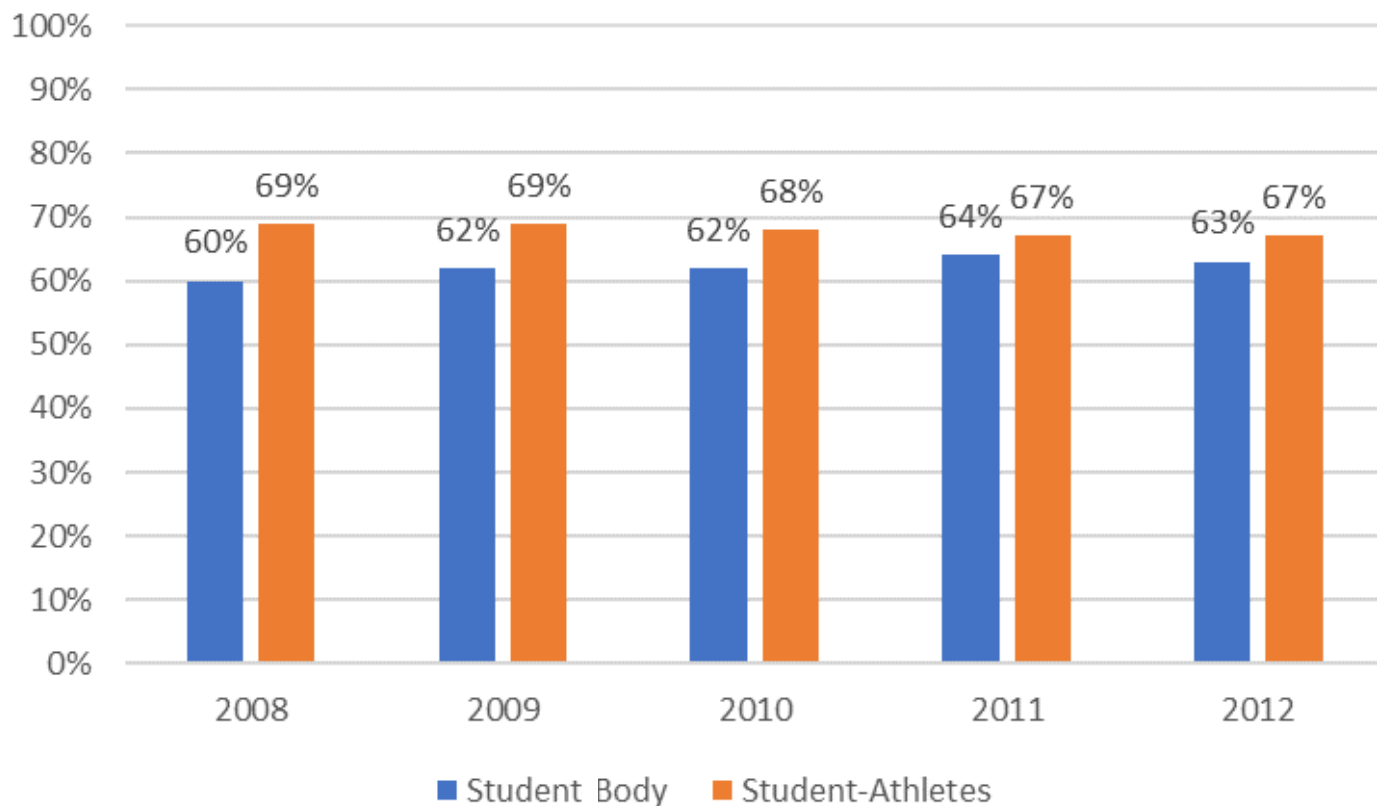
Number of Schools Participating



FINDING:

Student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the student body.

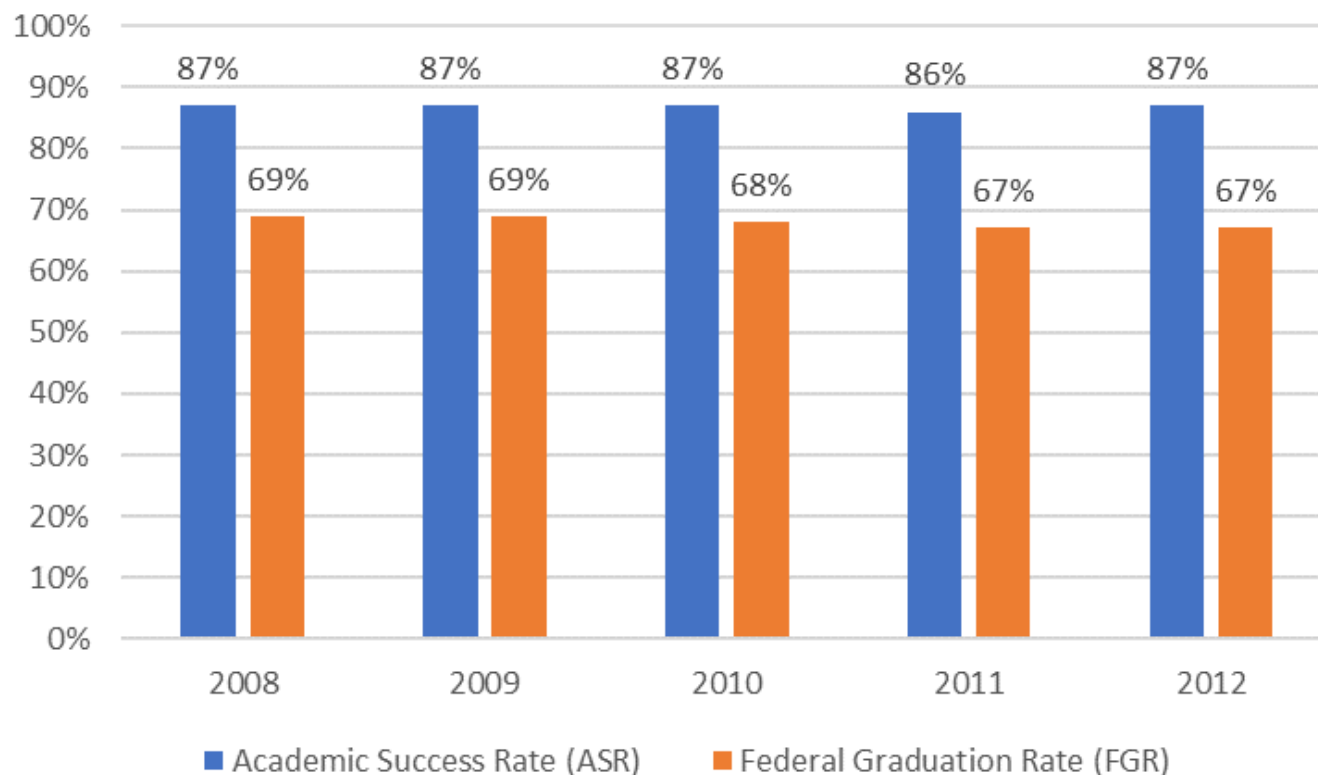
Federal Graduation Rates for Division III Student Body and Student-Athletes



FINDING:

After accounting for student-athletes that leave in good academic standing, nearly 90% graduate.

Academic Success Rates and Federal Graduation Rates for Division III Student-Athletes



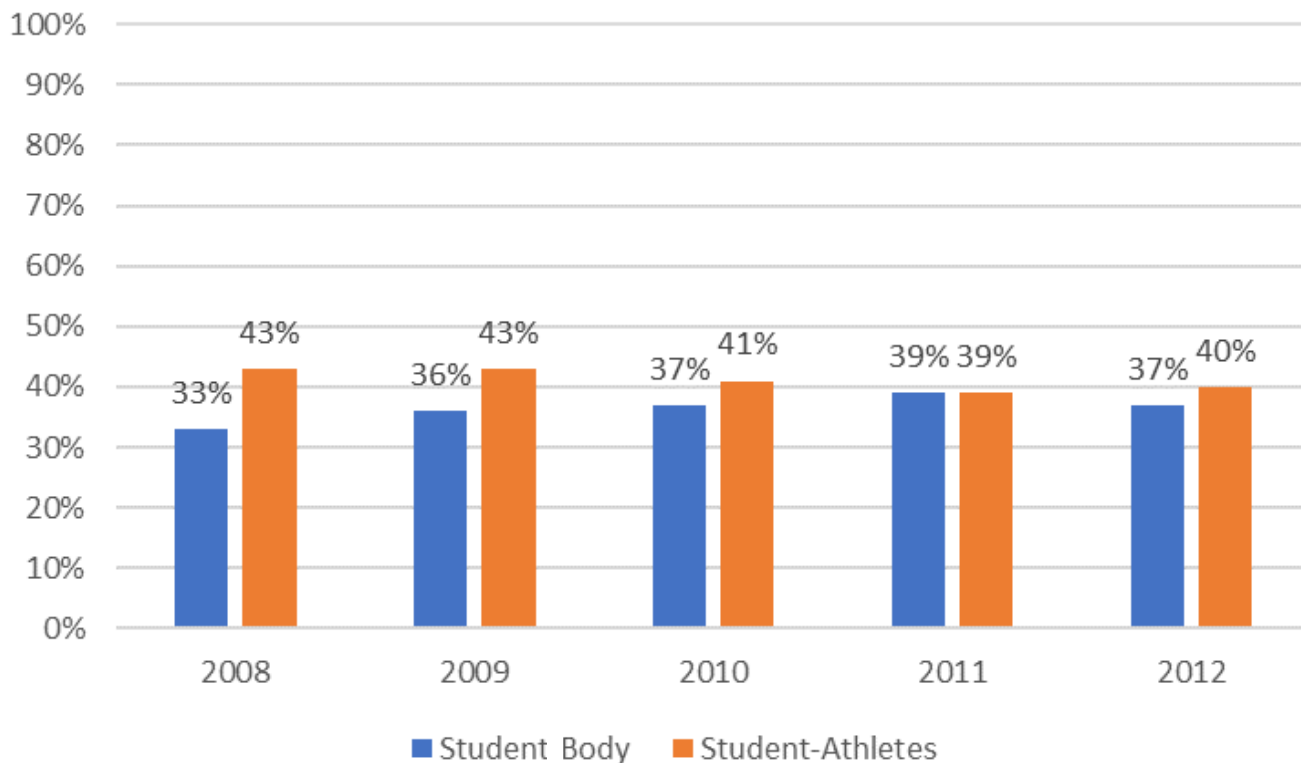
FINDING:

Black male students and student-athletes graduate at a lower rate than any other race/ethnicity group.

Federal Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity for Division III Men (2012)

Race/Ethnicity Group	Student Body	Student-Athletes
American Indian/Alaska Native	48	58
Asian	58	70
Black	37	40
Hispanic/Latino	47	52
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	52	47
Nonresident Alien	62	62
Two or More	57	56
Unknown	56	56
White	62	66

Federal Graduation Rates for Division III Black Male Student Body and Student-Athletes



CONTEXT:

Black males are overrepresented in football and basketball.

Division III

Black Representation

Cohort	Male Student Body (%)	Male Student-Athlete (%)	Football (%)	Men's Basketball (%)
2008	6.4	8.0	13.2	23.9
2009	6.9	10.0	17.6	26.5
2010	6.9	10.2	17.6	26.8
2011	7.3	11.1	20.2	26.6
2012	8.0	10.6	18.0	30.2

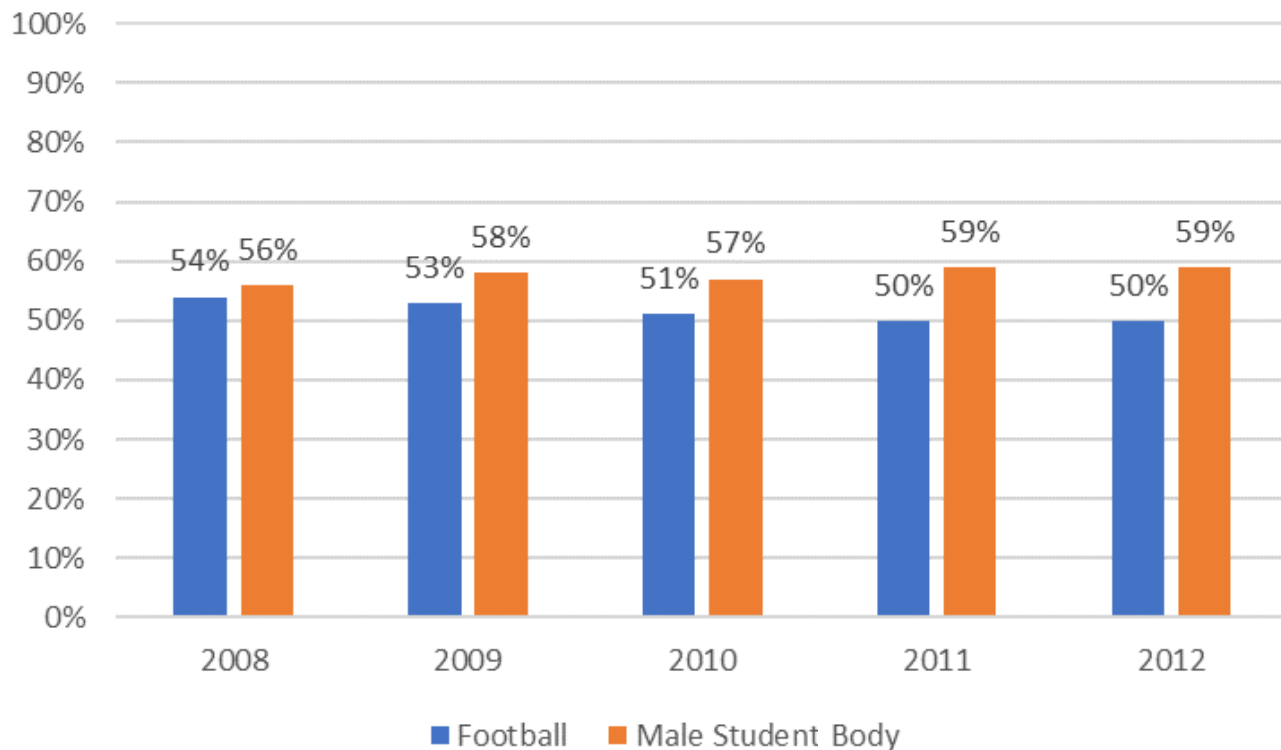
FINDING:

Half of football student-athletes do not graduate from the school they started at.

Division III Federal Graduation Rates by Team Sport (2012)

Sport	FGR
Field Hockey	80
Women's Lacrosse	80
Women's Soccer	75
Softball	74
Women's Volleyball	73
Women's Basketball	71
Men's Lacrosse	66
Baseball	66
Men's Soccer	64
Men's Basketball	57
Football	50

Division III Federal Graduation Rates for Football and Male Student Body



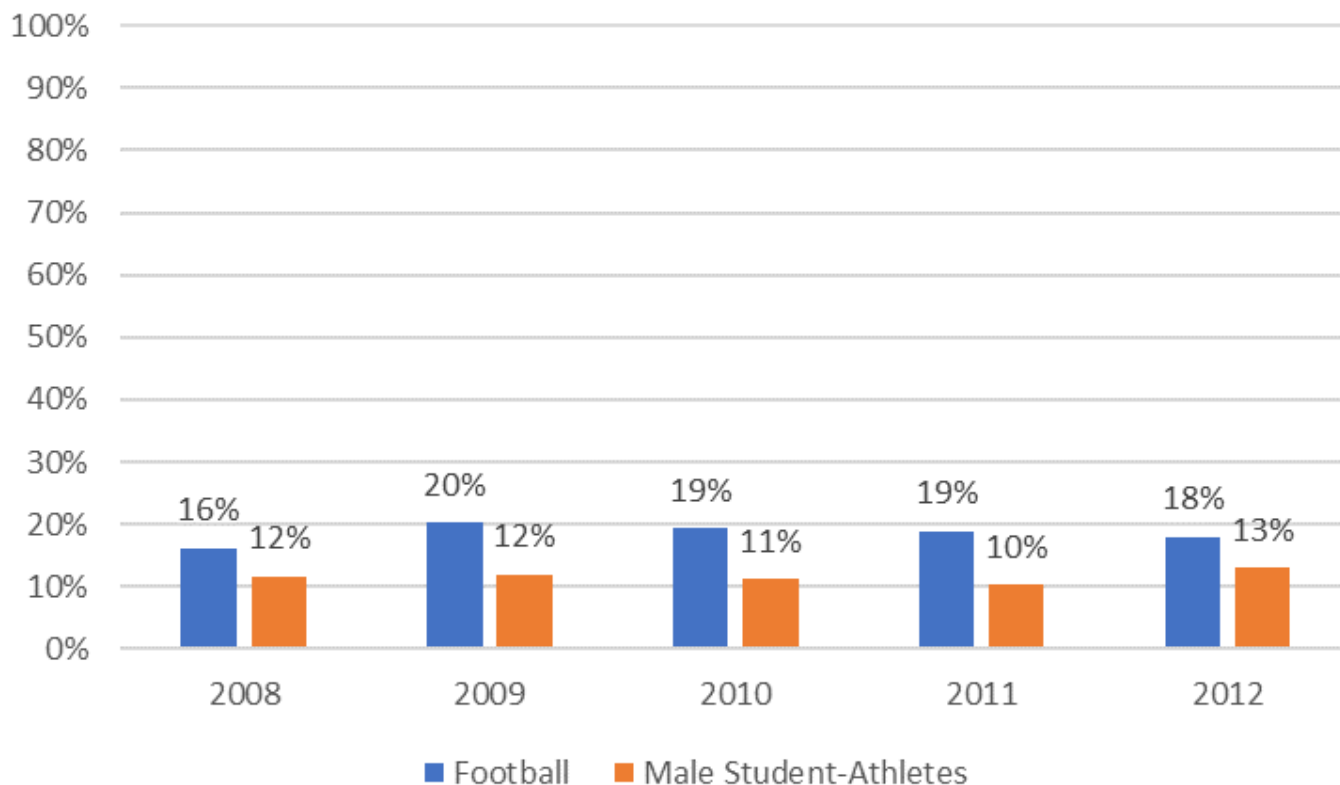
FINDING:

Nearly one out of five football student-athletes leave in bad academic standing.

Division III Percent Left in Bad Academic Standing by Team Sport (2012)

Sport	Percent
Field Hockey	4
Women's Lacrosse	4
Softball	5
Women's Soccer	5
Women's Volleyball	6
Women's Basketball	8
Baseball	9
Men's Lacrosse	11
Men's Soccer	12
Men's Basketball	16
Football	18

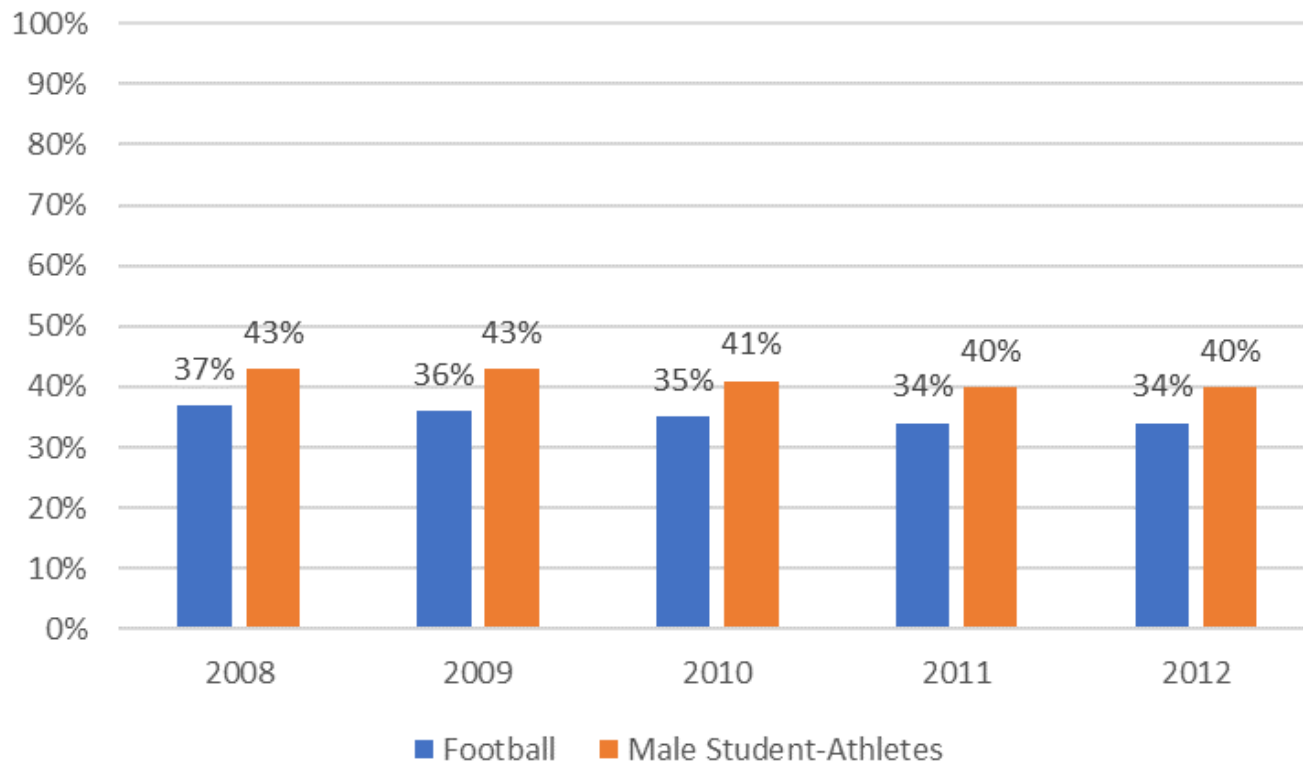
Division III Percent Left in Bad Academic Standing Football and Male Student-Athletes



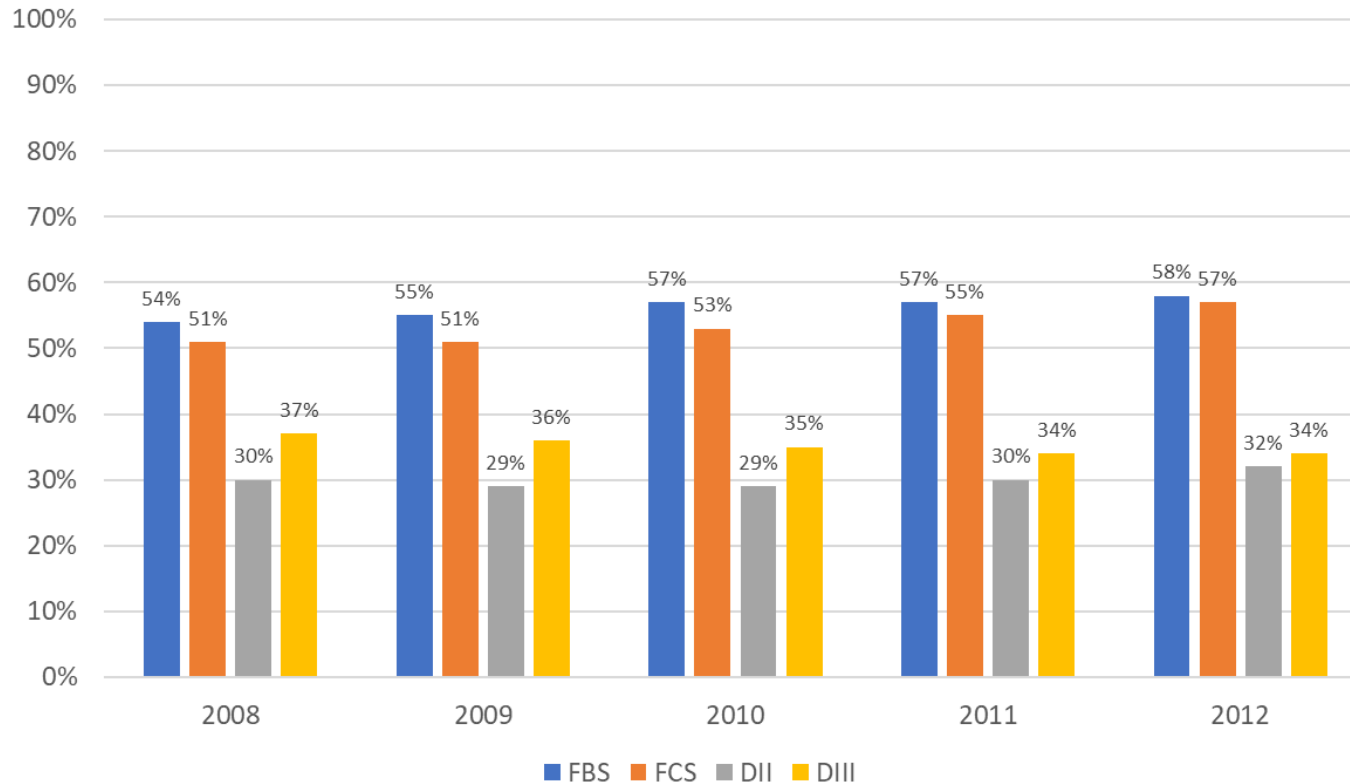
FINDING:

Approximately two-thirds of Black football student-athletes do not graduate from the school they started at.

Division III Federal Graduation Rates for Black Football and Male Student-Athletes



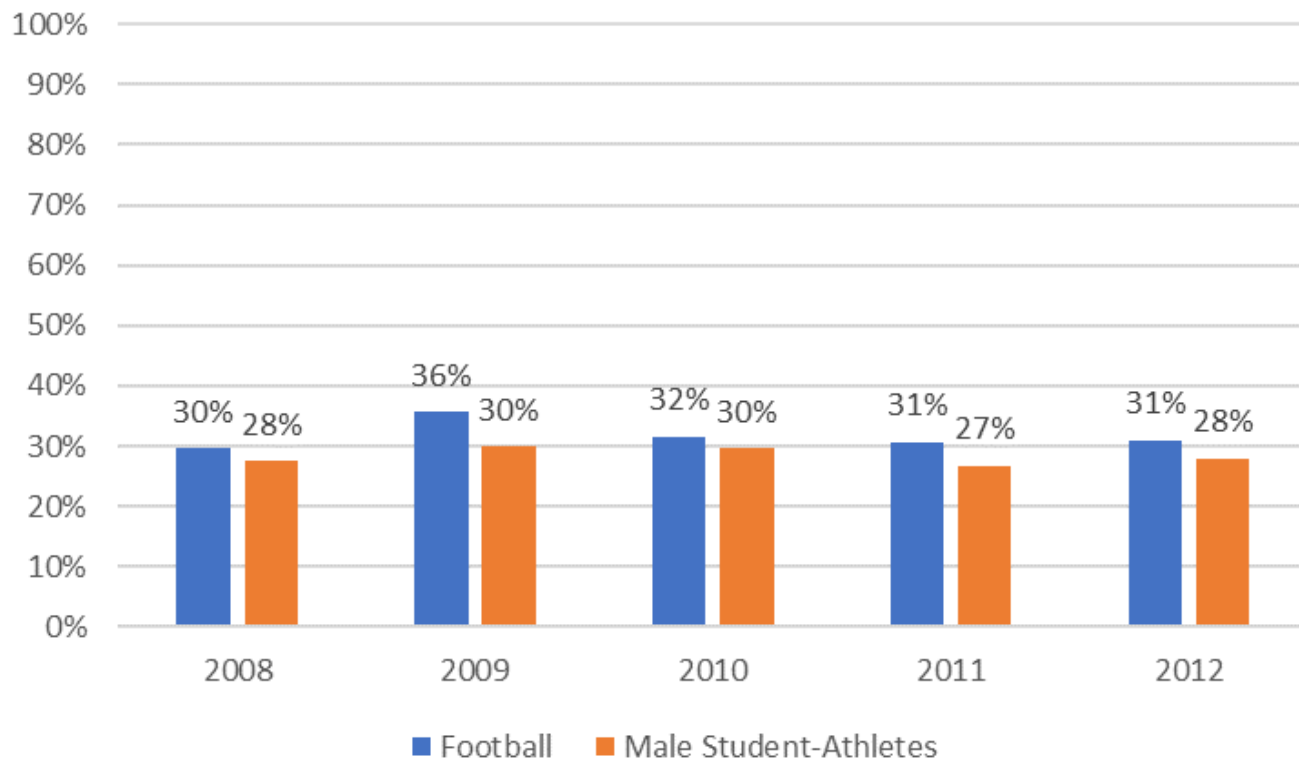
Federal Graduation Rates for Black Football Student-Athletes



FINDING:

Nearly one out of three Black football student-athletes leave in bad academic standing.

Division III Percent Left in Bad Academic Standing Black Football and Male Student-Athletes



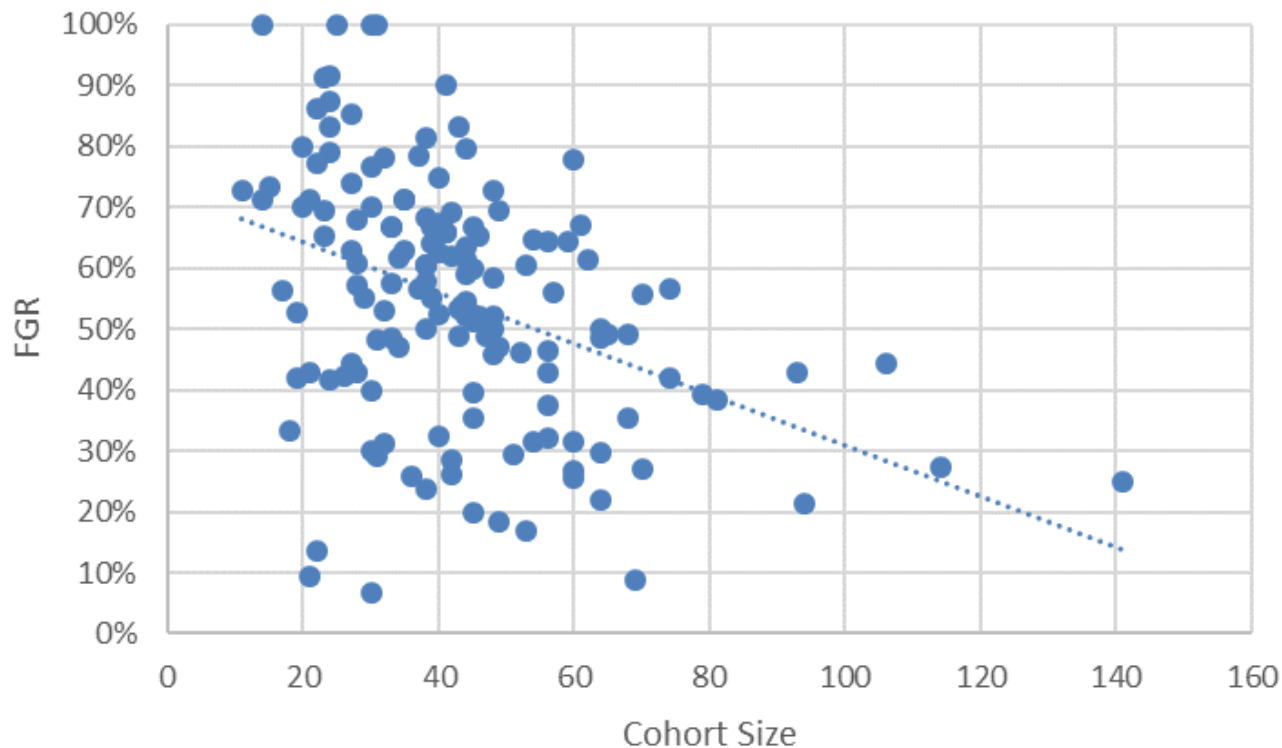
POTENTIAL FACTOR:

The larger the football cohort, the lower the Federal Graduation Rate.

Football Cohort Sizes

Cohort	Teams	Average Cohort	Minimum Cohort	Maximum Cohort	75 th Percentile
2008	76	40	14	102	51
2009	103	42	10	110	52
2010	107	44	14	109	56
2011	116	44	7	100	53
2012	148	43	11	141	52

Relationship Between Cohort Size and FGR (2012)



Division III Recap

- ▶ Student-athletes are graduating at a higher rate than the student body.
- ▶ After accounting for student-athletes that leave in good academic standing, nearly 90% graduate from the school they started at.

Division III Recap

- ▶ Black male students and student-athletes graduate at a lower rate than any other race/ethnicity group.
- ▶ Black males are overrepresented in football and basketball.

Division III Recap

- ▶ Half of football student-athletes do not graduate from the school they started at.
- ▶ Nearly one out of five football student-athletes leave in bad academic standing.
- ▶ Approximately two-thirds of Black football student-athletes do not graduate from the school they started at.
- ▶ Nearly one out of three Black football student-athletes leave in bad academic standing.

Division III Recap

- ▶ The larger the football recruiting class, the lower the Federal Graduation Rate.

Next Steps

- ▶ 2020 required data collection opens in March.
- ▶ Educational outreach to help transition to the required data submission.
- ▶ Further research.

THANK YOU

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Research

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