



Trends in NCAA Division II Graduation Rates

December 2021



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Summary

2018-21 Four-Class Division II Graduation Rates

(2011-14 Entering Cohorts)

	Student-Athletes		Student Body
	ASR	Federal Rate	Federal Rate
DII Overall	76% +2	60% +1	52% +1
DII Men	68% +2	53% +1	47% +1
DII Women	88% +1	69% +1	55% +1

Notes: Numbers in red indicate percentage point change in four-class rate from 2017-2020.
ASR = Academic Success Rate.



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Summary

- Nearly all members of this reporting cohort completed their six-year graduation window before the beginning of the pandemic. Potential pandemic-related impacts on graduation rates will not be fully known for several years.
- Overall Division II student-athlete graduation rates (Academic Success Rate and federal graduation rate) and many subgroup rates are at or near their highest-ever levels.



Summary

- Notable student-athlete increases in Academic Success Rate over the 15 years of calculating this rate in Division II:
 - Overall (69% to 76%).
 - Black women (62% to 77%).
 - Hispanic/Latino men (49% to 65%) and women (63% to 83%).
- Decrease in Academic Success Rate observed for nonscholarship student-athletes (74% to 69% over the past 10 years).



Summary

- Using the federal graduation rate to examine student-athlete vs. student body graduation from initial school in Division II, we see higher rates for student-athletes within every demographic subgroup studied.



Four-Class Academic Success Rates



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Four-Class Division II Academic Success Rates

(2018-2021 by Group)

Student-Athlete Group	ASR
Overall	76%
Black	54%
Hispanic/Latino	71%
White	83%
Black Men	48%
Hispanic/Latino Men	64%
White Men	76%
Black Women	75%
Hispanic/Latino Women	81%
White Women	91%



Four-Class ASR for Division II Women's Sports

(2018-2021)

SPORT	ASR
Basketball	83%
Cross Country/Track	86%
Field Hockey	96%
Golf	90%
Ice Hockey	94%
Lacrosse	92%
Rowing	88%
Soccer	88%
Softball	88%
Swimming	91%
Tennis	91%
Volleyball	88%

Note: Only those sports with more than 150 Division II graduates are shown.



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Four-Class ASR for Division II Men's Sports

(2018-2021)

SPORT	ASR
Baseball	76%
Basketball	65%
Cross Country/Track	72%
Football	55%
Golf	81%
Ice Hockey	88%
Lacrosse	75%
Soccer	76%
Swimming	79%
Tennis	84%
Volleyball	74%
Wrestling	57%

Note: Only those sports with more than 150 Division II graduates are shown.



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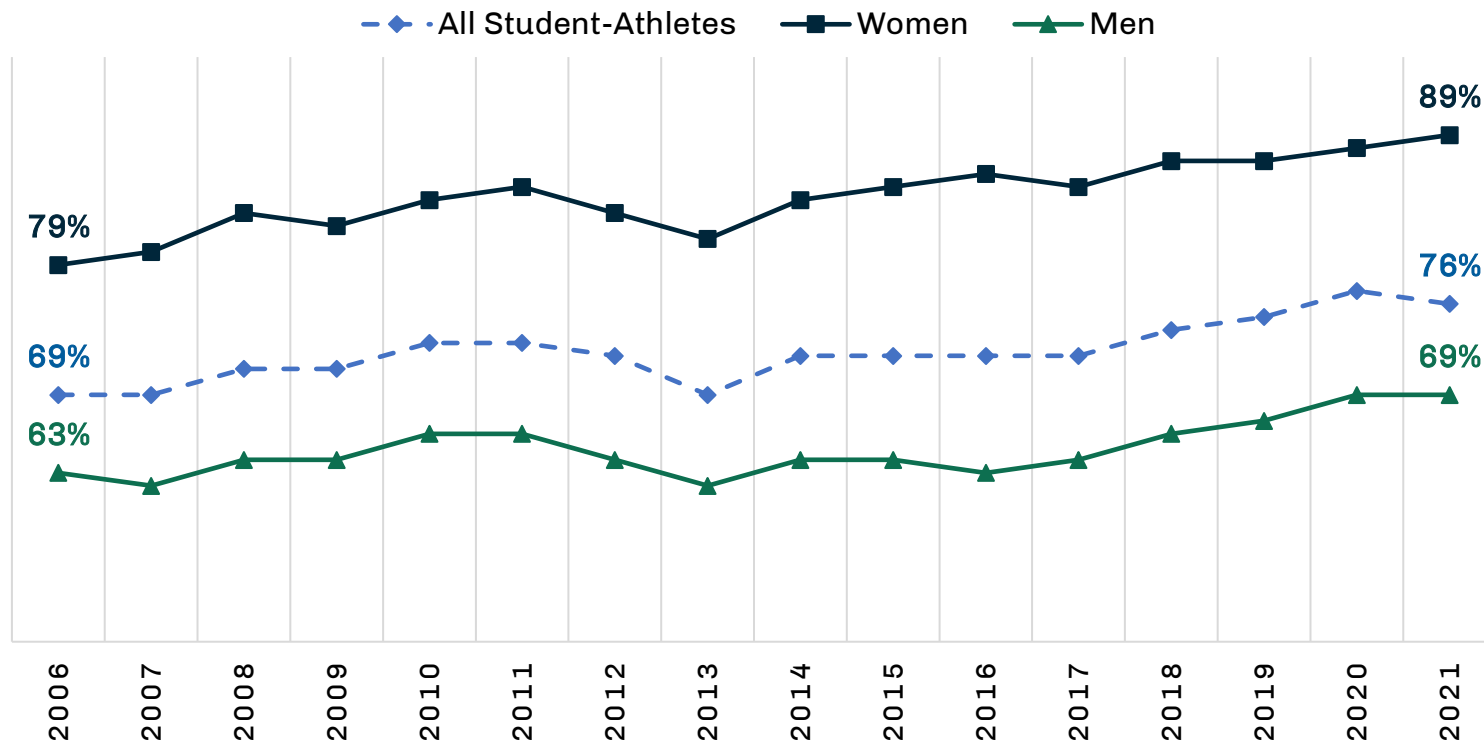
Trends in Academic Success Rates



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Academic Success Rate Trends of Division II Student-Athletes

Single-Class Rates



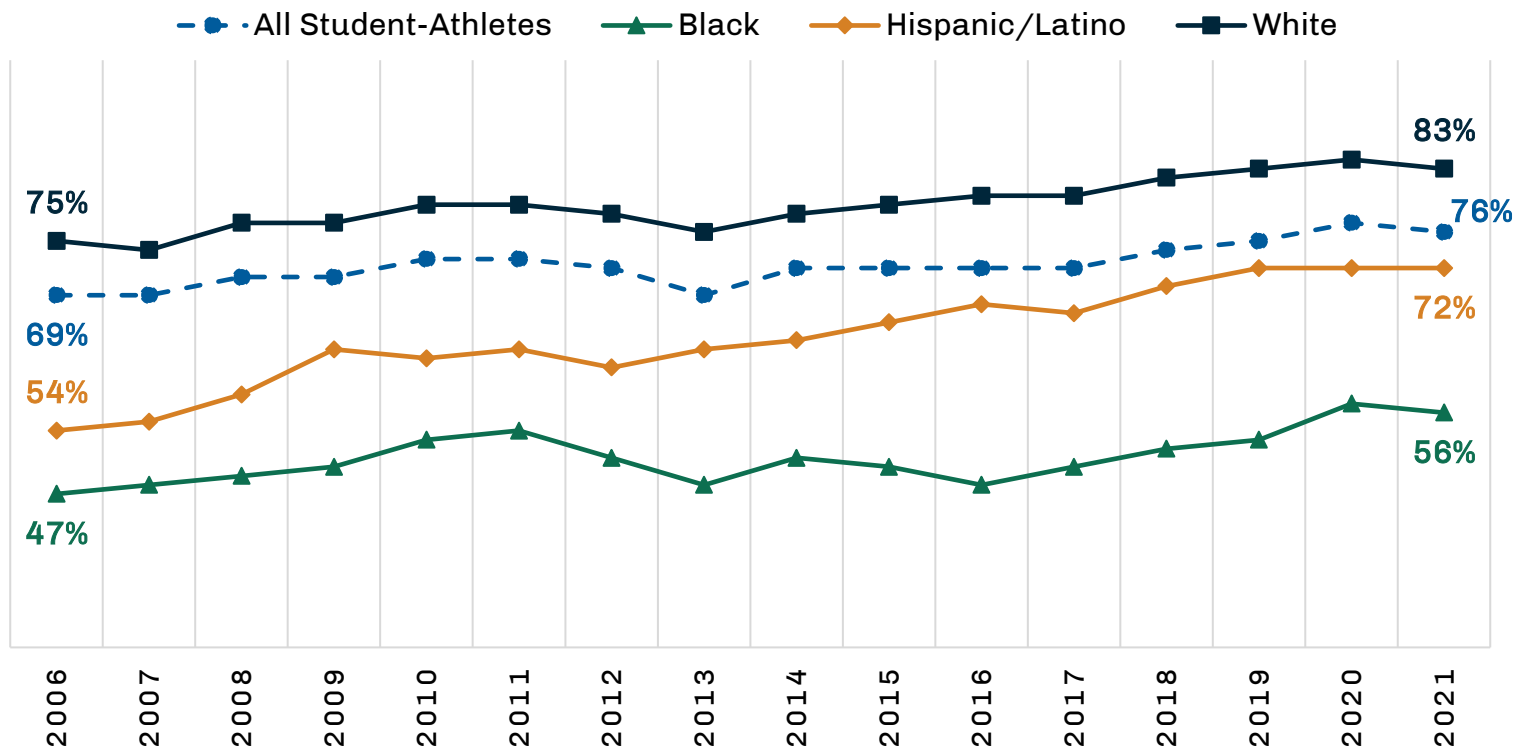
* 2021 reporting year represents 2014-15 cohort; 2020 represents 2013-14 cohort, etc.



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Academic Success Rate Trends of Division II Student-Athletes

Single-Class Rates by Race/Ethnicity



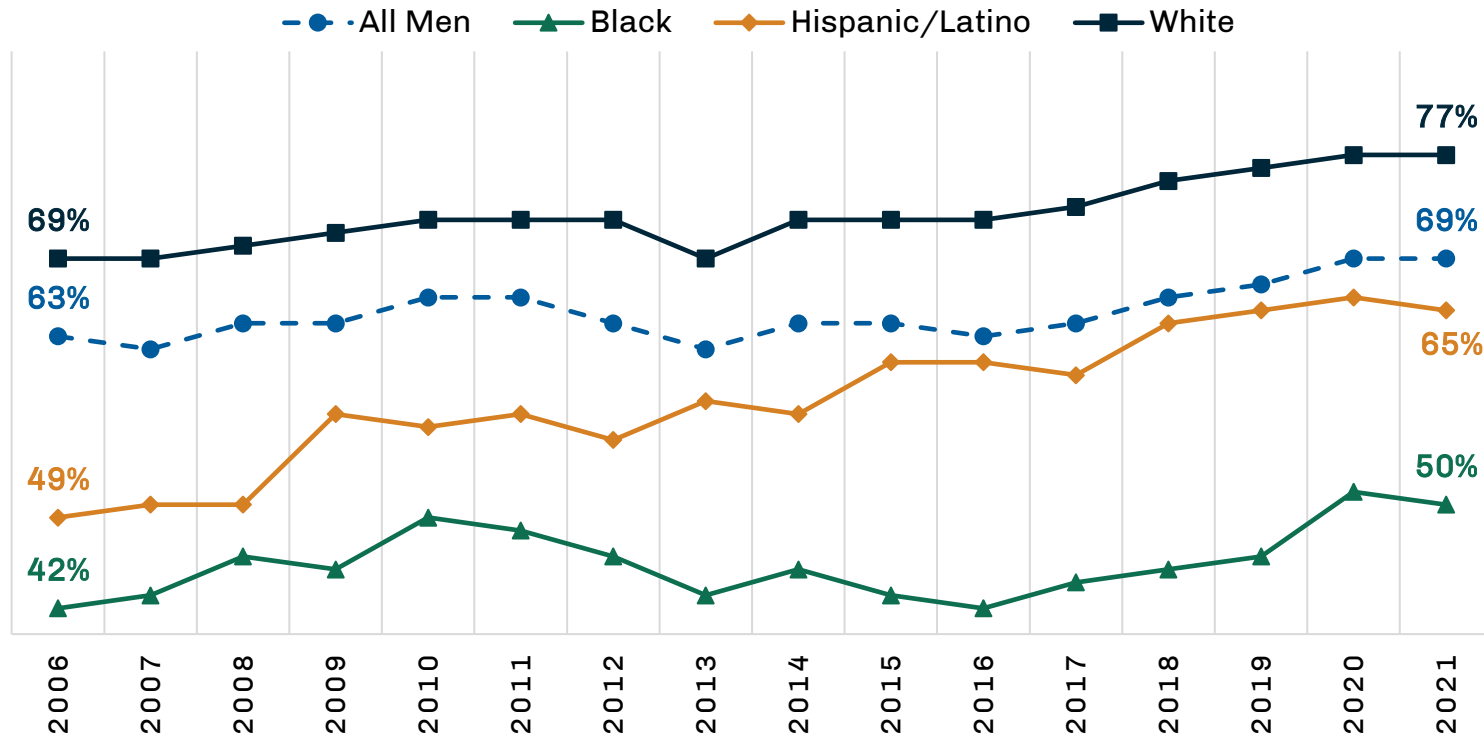
* 2021 reporting year represents 2014-15 cohort; 2020 represents 2013-14 cohort, etc.



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Academic Success Rate Trends of Division II Student-Athletes

Single-Class Rates for Men by Race/Ethnicity



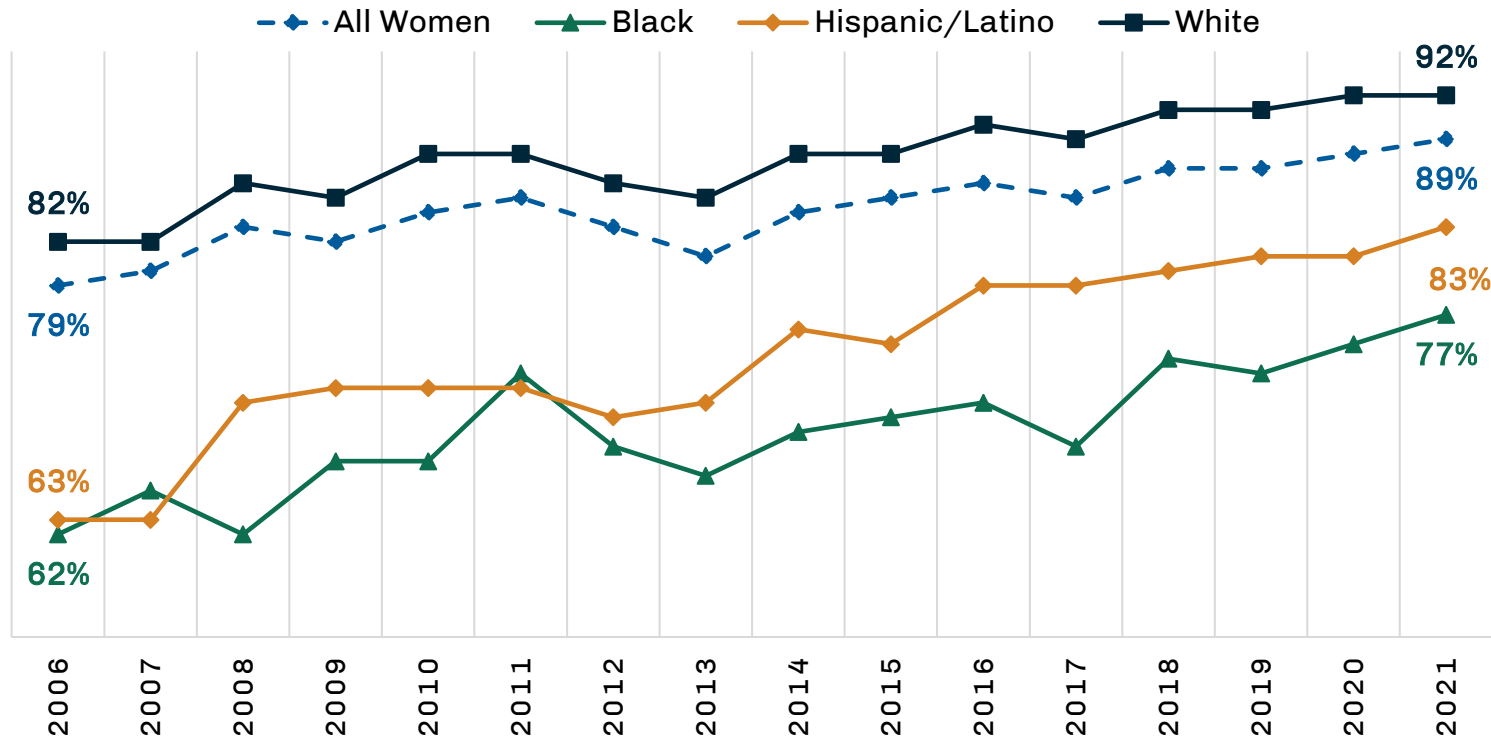
* 2021 reporting year represents 2014-15 cohort; 2020 represents 2013-14 cohort, etc.



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Academic Success Rate Trends of Division II Student-Athletes

Single-Class Rates for Women by Race/Ethnicity



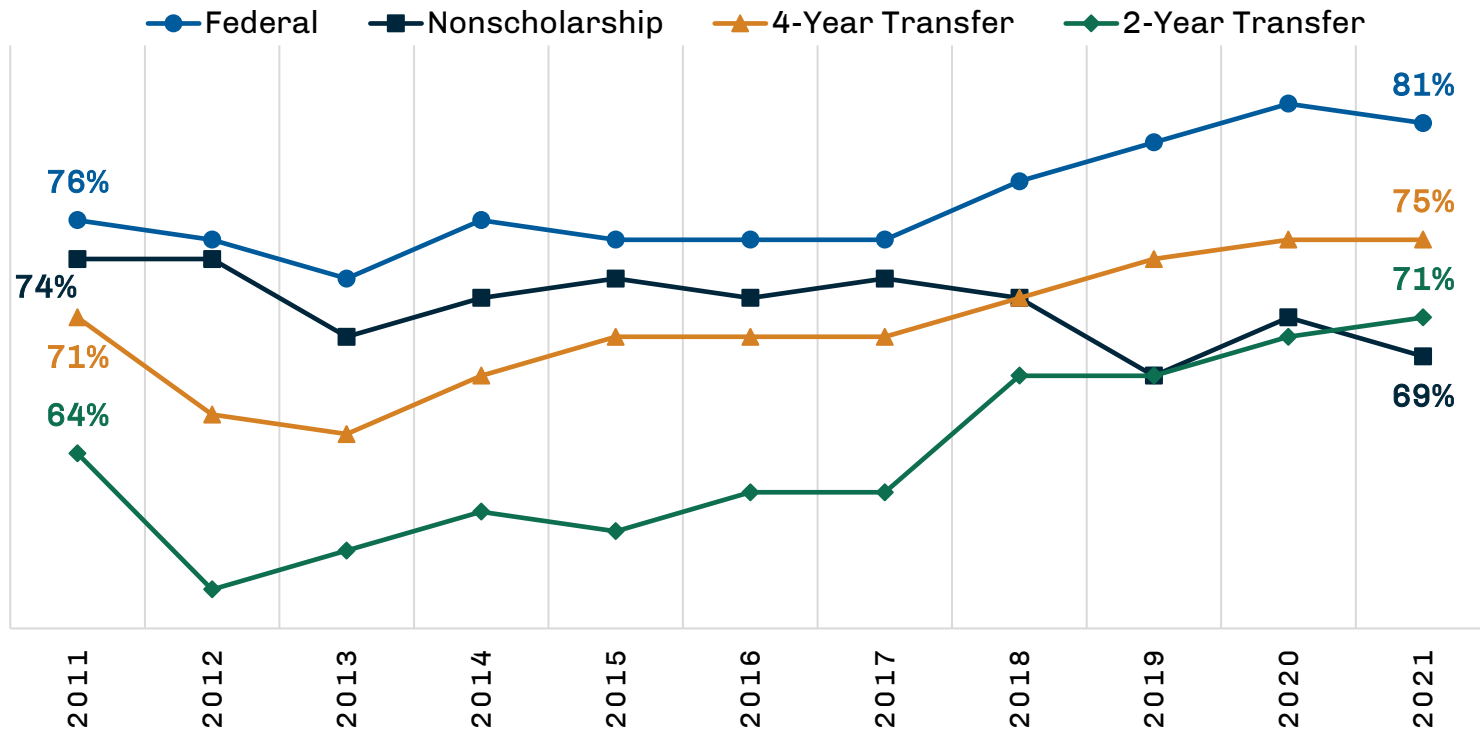
* 2021 reporting year represents 2014-15 cohort; 2020 represents 2013-14 cohort, etc.



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Academic Success Rate Trends of Division II Student-Athletes

Single-Class Rates by Student Type



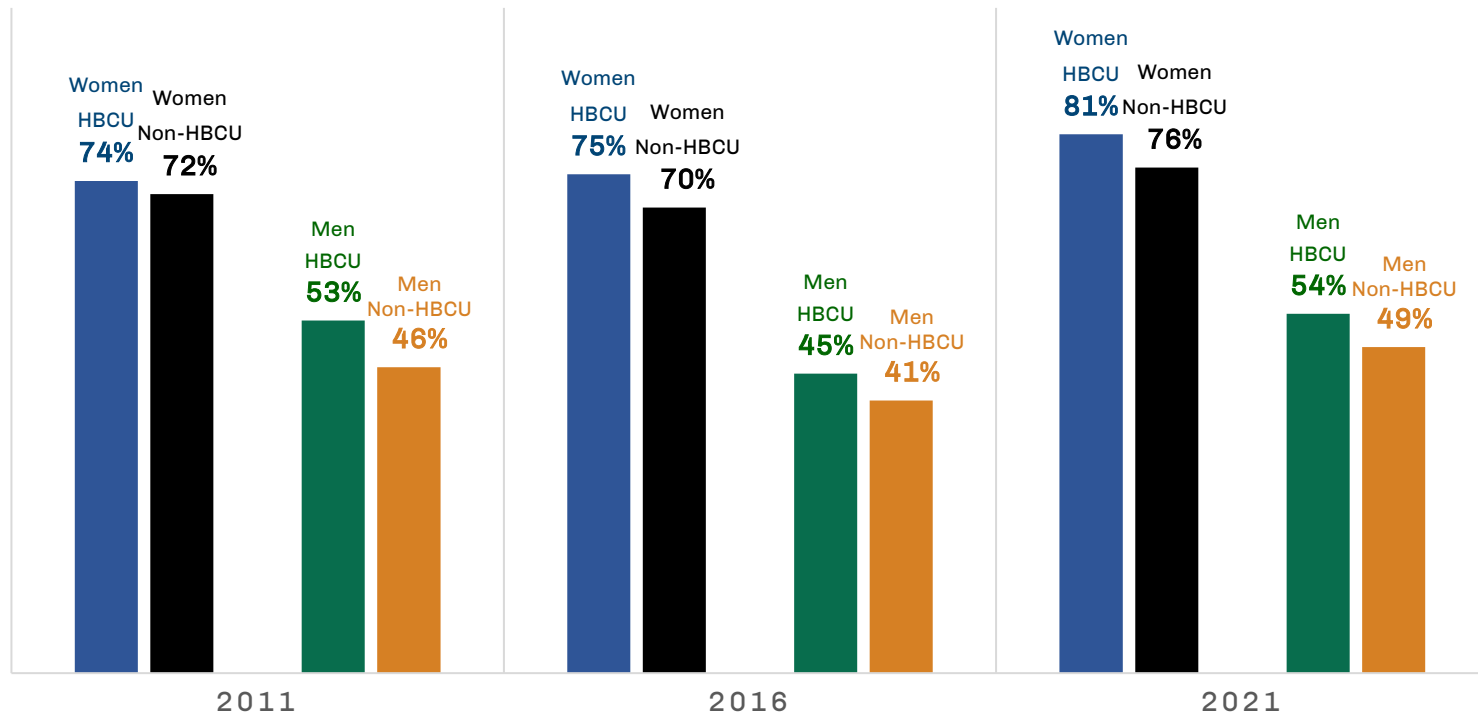
* 2021 reporting year represents 2014-15 cohort; 2020 represents 2013-14 cohort, etc.



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Academic Success Rate Trends of Black Division II Student-Athletes

Single-Class Rates by Gender and HBCU Status



* 2021 reporting year represents 2014-15 cohort; 2020 represents 2013-14 cohort, etc.
HBCU = Historically Black Colleges and Universities



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Federal Graduation Rates



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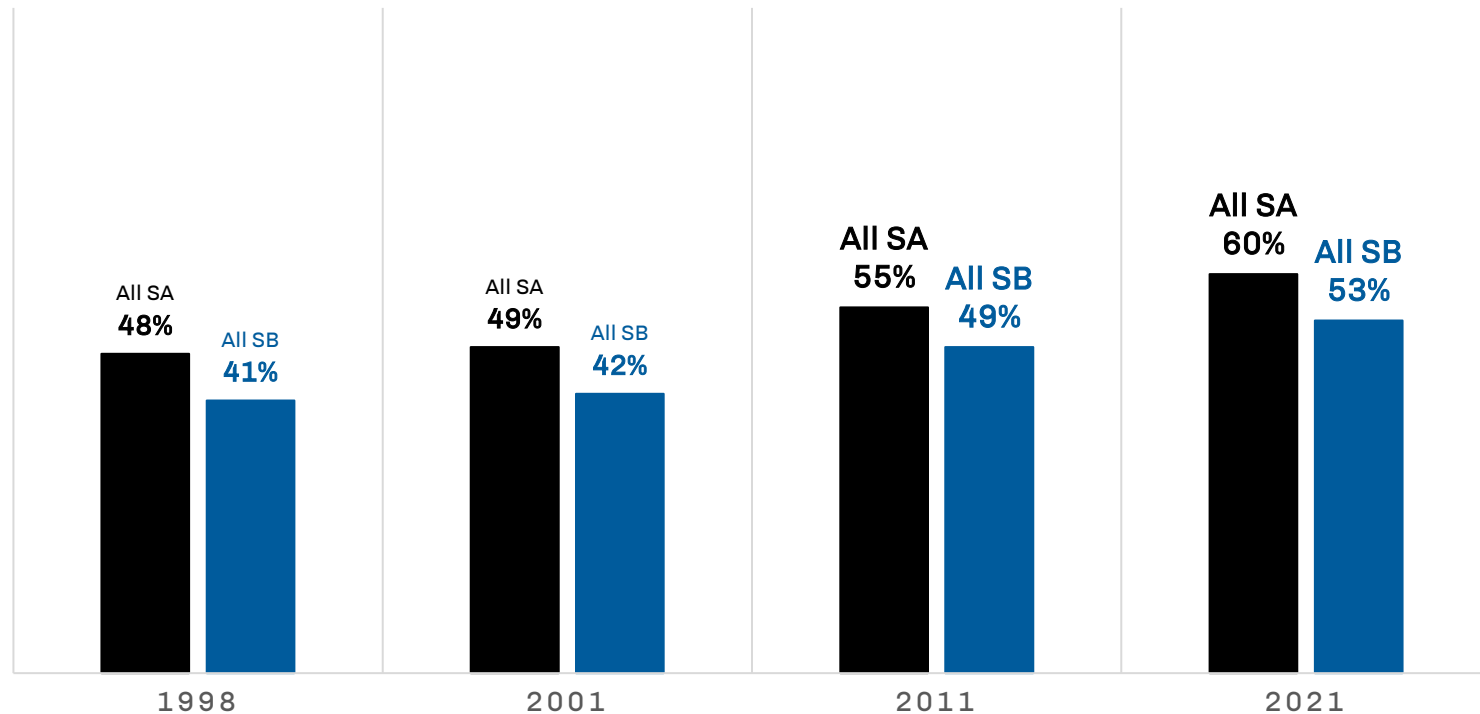
Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates Between Scholarship Student-Athletes and Student Body

Four-Class Rates for 2018-21

Student-Athlete Group	Student-Athlete Federal Rate	Student Body Federal Rate
Overall	60%	52%
Men	53%	47%
Women	69%	55%
Black	44%	35%
Hispanic/Latino	55%	50%
White	65%	56%
Black Men	38%	30%
Hispanic/Latino Men	47%	44%
White Men	59%	52%
Black Women	58%	40%
Hispanic/Latino Women	64%	54%
White Women	72%	60%

Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division II Scholarship Student-Athletes (SA) vs. Student Body (SB)

Single-Class Rates



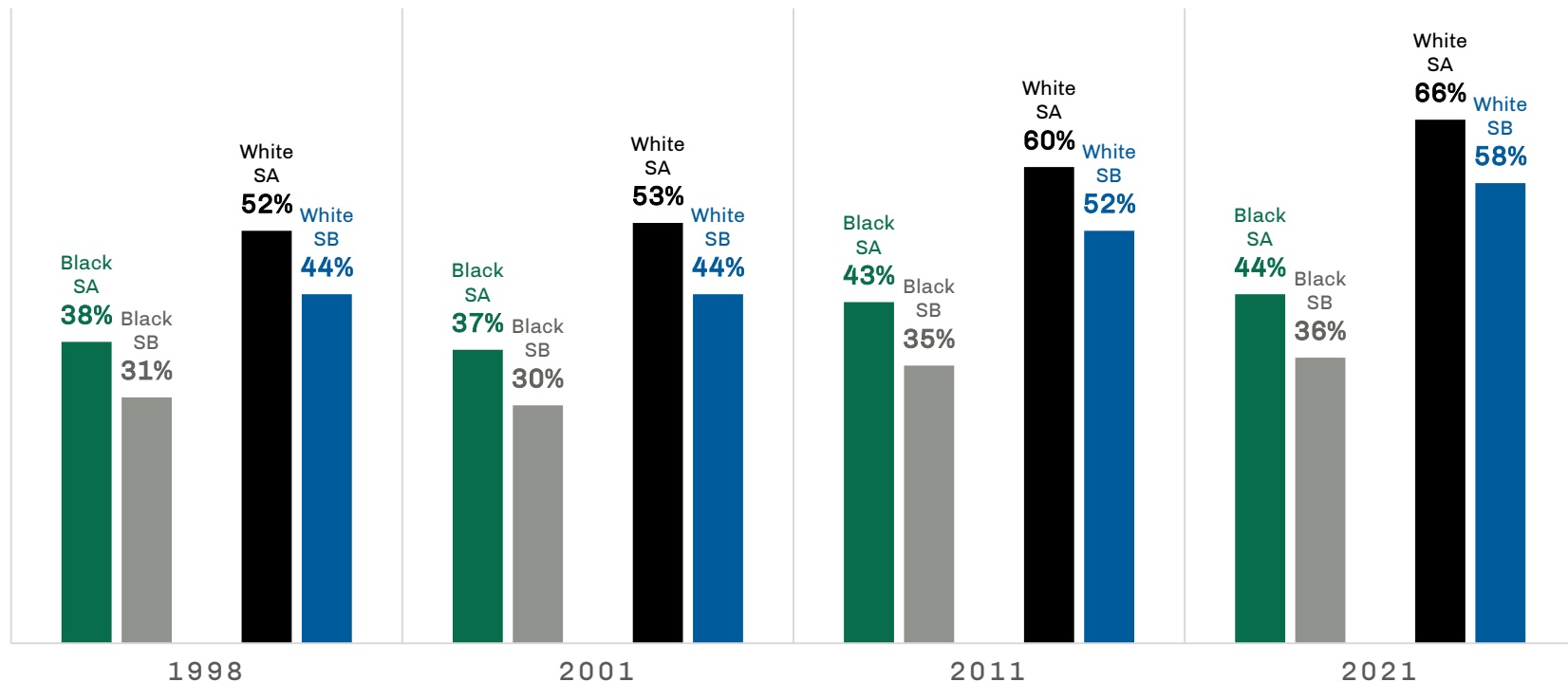
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Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division II Scholarship Student-Athletes (SA) vs. Student Body (SB)

Single-Class Rates by Race/Ethnicity



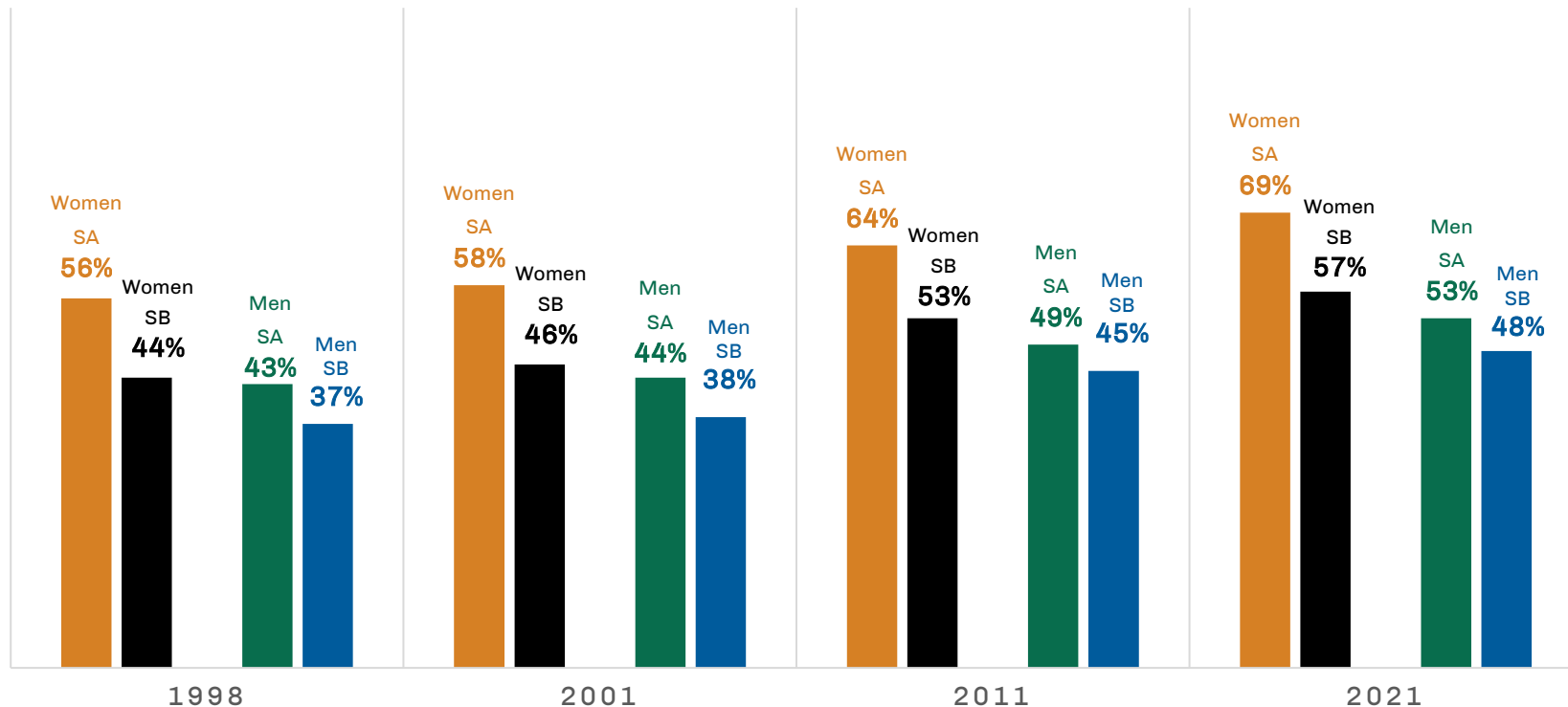
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Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division II Scholarship Student-Athletes (SA) vs. Student Body (SB)

Single-Class Rates



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Definitions and Methods



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Methods

- Detailed information on graduation reporting requirements and graduation rate calculations, as well as links to school reports and an interactive analysis dashboard can be found on the NCAA research website (graduation rates tab) or at ncaa.org/about/resources/research/graduation-rates.
- Generally, four-class aggregations are used for reporting rates in isolation; single-class rates are used for examining trends over time.



Federal Graduation Rate Calculation

- Federally mandated reporting of student body and student-athlete (if on athletics aid) graduation from initial college/university. Essentially measures retention at that school.
- Graduation must occur within six years of initial entry.
- Makes no accommodation for transfers into or out of a school. Transfers out are recorded as academic failures. Transfers into the school are not tracked.
- Only published rate that allows a direct comparison between student-athletes and the general student body.



Academic Success Rate Calculation

- Graduation metric developed by NCAA presidents.
- Calculation mandated for student-athletes only. Should not be compared to the federal rate.
- Graduation must occur within six years of initial entry.
- More inclusive than the federal rate because it includes transfers into the school, midyear enrollees and nonscholarship student-athletes.
- Student-athletes who leave school while academically eligible to compete are removed from the calculation (assumed transfers passed on to another school's cohort). Student-athletes who leave school while ineligible to compete are coded as nongraduates (even though many are known to transfer). Both assumptions are imperfect but lead to a graduation rate that better approximates a true student-centered graduation rate (student earns a degree from some college within six years of entering higher education).



Rate Calculations

Federal

- First-time fall freshmen on athletics aid.

$$\frac{\text{Graduates}}{\text{Cohort} - \text{Exclusions}^*}$$

ASR

- First-time fall freshmen on athletics aid.
- **Transfers.**
- **Midyear enrollees.**
- **Nonscholarship student-athletes.**

$$\frac{\text{Graduates}}{\text{Cohort} - \text{Exclusions}^* - \text{Left Eligible}}$$

* Exclusions include death, permanent disability, church mission, and military or foreign service.
Note: Both rates use a six-year window from initial collegiate enrollment.



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Comparison of Academic Success Rates and Federal Rate Cohorts

(2018-21 Reporting Cohorts)

	Federal Rate	ASR
Enrolled (Under Federal Definition)	75,548	75,548
Enrolled as Freshmen in January	0	1,568
Two-Year College Transfers	0	18,186
Four-Year College Transfers	0	15,416
Nonscholarship Athletes (Only at Schools Not Offering Aid)	0	31,107
Total Enrolled	75,548	141,825 (+88%)
Allowable Exclusions (Death, Military, Church Mission, etc.)	95	281
Left Eligible	0	33,741
Participants on Teams No Longer Sponsored by School	0	3,426
Total Denominator	75,453	104,377 (+38%)



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