



Trends in NCAA Division I Graduation Rates

November 2022



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Summary

2019-22 Four-Class Division I Graduation Rates

(2012-15 Entering Cohorts)

	Student-Athletes		Student Body
	GSR	Federal Rate	Federal Rate
DI Overall	89% <small>+0</small>	69% <small>+0</small>	69% <small>+1</small>
DI Men	85% <small>+0</small>	62% <small>-1</small>	66% <small>+1</small>
DI Women	95% <small>+1</small>	75% <small>+0</small>	71% <small>+0</small>

Notes: Numbers in blue indicate percentage point change in four-class rate from 2018-21.

GSR = Graduation Success Rate.



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Summary

- Many 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 I student-athlete graduation rates (Graduation Success Rate and federal rate) and all subgroup rates are at or near their highest-ever levels.
- Since the implementation of Division I academic reform initiatives in the early 2000s, long-term graduation rate increases have been observed. The initiatives included modified initial eligibility and progress-toward-degree standards, as well as application of the Academic Performance Program.



Summary

- Notable increases in single-year Graduation Success Rate over the 20 years of calculating this rate in Division I:
 - Overall student-athletes — 74% to 90%.
 - Black student-athletes — 56% to 81%.
 - Hispanic/Latino student-athletes — 64% to 88%.
 - Black FBS football student-athletes — 53% to 81%.
 - Black men's basketball student-athletes — 46% to 81%.



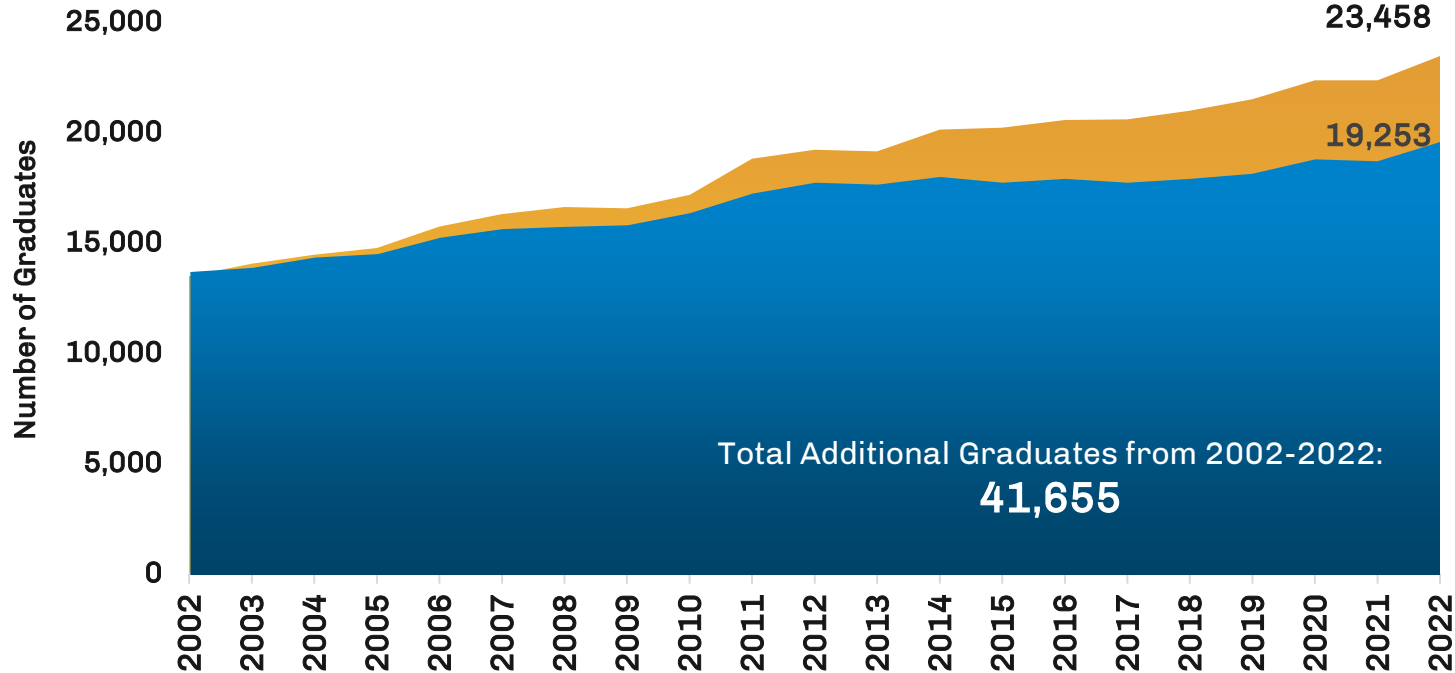
Summary

- Using the federal graduation rate to examine student-athlete vs. student body graduation from initial school in Division I, we see that Black men who are student-athletes have an aggregate federal graduation rate that is 12 percentage points higher than observed among Black men generally at those same schools. The federal rate for Black women favors student-athletes by 13 percentage points.
- Even though Division I has seen an increase in transfer behavior, which negatively impacts the federal graduation rate, many subgroup federal graduation rates continue to trend higher for student-athletes.



Number of Actual Graduates Since 2002 vs. Number Who Would Have Graduated With No Increase in GSR

■ Graduates at 2002 Rate ■ Actual Graduates



Total Additional Graduates from 2002-2022:
41,655

4,205

Number of additional graduates in 2022 than there would have been had the rate remained constant.

Four-Class Graduation Success Rates

Four-Class Division I Graduation Success Rates

(2019-22 by Group)

Student-Athlete Group	GSR
Overall	89%
Black	80%
Hispanic/Latino	87%
White	93%
Black Men	76%
Hispanic/Latino Men	83%
White Men	90%
Black Women	88%
Hispanic/Latino Women	91%
White Women	96%

Four-Class GSR for Division I Women's Sports

(2019-22)

SPORT	GSR
Basketball	93%
Bowling	91%
Cross Country/Track	91%
Fencing	98%
Field Hockey	97%
Golf	96%
Gymnastics	98%
Ice Hockey	98%
Lacrosse	98%
Rowing	95%
Skiing	98%
Soccer	95%
Softball	94%
Swimming	96%
Tennis	97%
Volleyball	95%
Water Polo	94%

Four-Class GSR for Division I Men's Sports

(2019-22)

SPORT	GSR
Baseball	87%
Basketball	84%
Cross Country/Track	84%
Fencing	91%
Football (FBS)	82%
Football (FCS)	78%
Golf	90%
Gymnastics	94%
Ice Hockey	92%
Lacrosse	91%
Rifle	95%
Skiing	98%
Soccer	88%
Swimming	91%
Tennis	93%
Volleyball	89%
Water Polo	89%
Wrestling	84%

Four-Class Division I Graduation Success Rates for Football and Basketball

(2019-22 by Group)

Student-Athlete Group	GSR
Football (FBS)	82%
Black Football (FBS)	78%
White Football (FBS)	91%
Men's Basketball	84%
Black Men's Basketball	81%
White Men's Basketball	92%
Women's Basketball	93%
Black Women's Basketball	90%
White Women's Basketball	97%

Trends in Graduation Success Rates

Division I Graduation Success Rate Trends

(Differences in Single-Class GSR for Select Groups of Student-Athletes)

Student-Athlete Group	2002* GSR	2022 GSR
Overall	74%	90%
Black	56%	81%
Hispanic/Latino	64%	88%
White	81%	94%
Black Men	51%	77%
Hispanic/Latino Men	56%	84%
White Men	76%	91%
Black Women	71%	90%
Hispanic/Latino Women	79%	92%
White Women	88%	97%

*2002 was the last cohort that entered under the former initial-eligibility rules known as Proposition 48. It was also the first cohort for which GSR data was collected.

Division I GSR Trends in Football and Basketball

(Differences in Single-Class GSR for Select Groups of Student-Athletes)

Student-Athlete Group	2002* GSR	2022 GSR
Football (FBS)	63%	84%
Black Football (FBS)	54%	81%
White Football (FBS)	76%	94%
Men's Basketball	56%	84%
Black Men's Basketball	46%	81%
White Men's Basketball	76%	92%
Women's Basketball	80%	93%
Black Women's Basketball	70%	91%
White Women's Basketball	87%	96%

*2002 was the last cohort that entered under the former initial-eligibility rules known as Proposition 48. It was also the first cohort for which GSR data was collected.

Graduation Success Rate Trends for Division I Men's Sports

(Differences in Single-Class GSR)

SPORT	2002 GSR	2022 GSR
Baseball	66%	89%
Basketball	56%	84%
Cross Country/Track	72%	85%
Football (FBS)	63%	84%
Football (FCS)	62%	79%
Golf	77%	89%
Ice Hockey	78%	90%
Lacrosse	91%	92%
Soccer	75%	88%
Swimming	81%	92%
Tennis	85%	92%
Wrestling	61%	85%

Note: Only those sports with more than 150 Division I graduates in 2022 are shown.

Graduation Success Rate Trends for Division I Women's Sports

(Differences in Single-Class GSR)

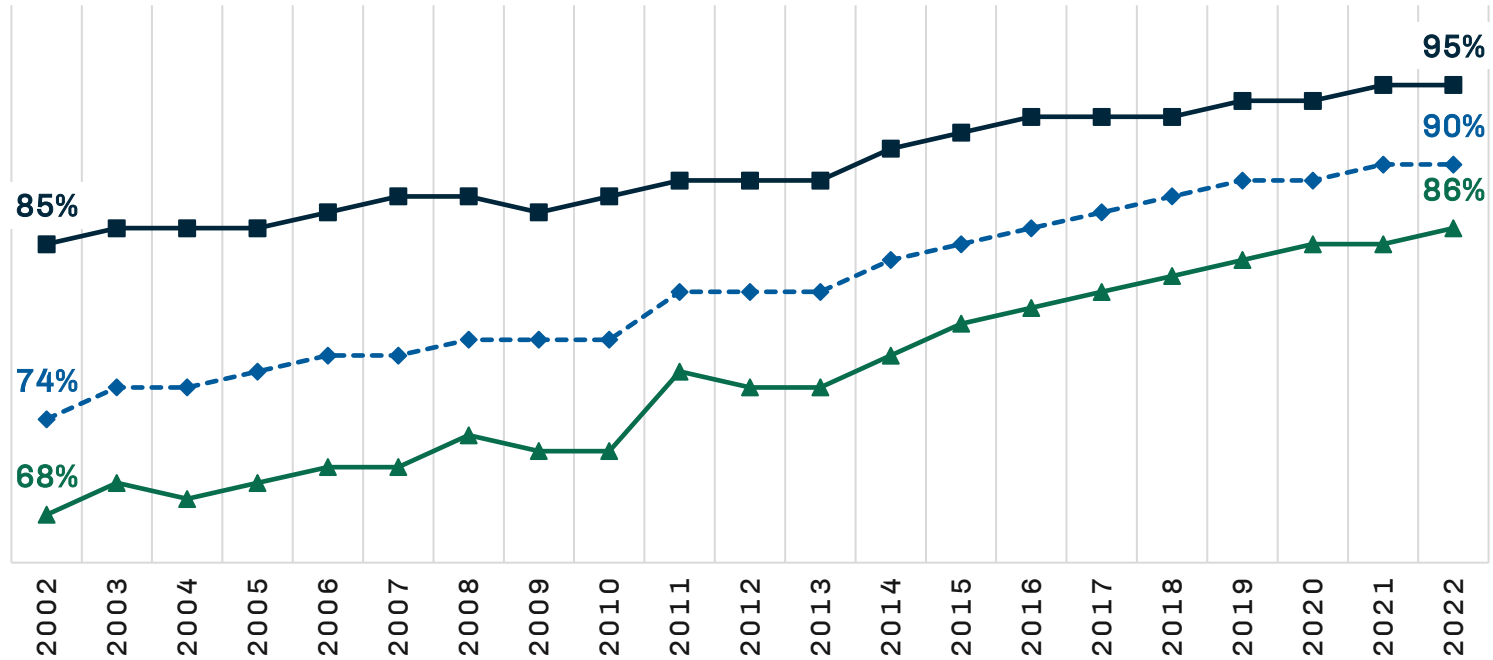
SPORT	2002 GSR	2022 GSR
Basketball	80%	93%
Cross Country/Track	82%	93%
Field Hockey	93%	96%
Golf	88%	95%
Gymnastics	93%	99%
Lacrosse	94%	98%
Rowing	90%	95%
Soccer	86%	96%
Softball	82%	95%
Swimming	91%	98%
Tennis	86%	97%
Volleyball	83%	95%

Note: Only those sports with more than 150 Division I graduates in 2022 are shown.

Graduation Success Rate Trends of Division I Student-Athletes

Single-Class Rates

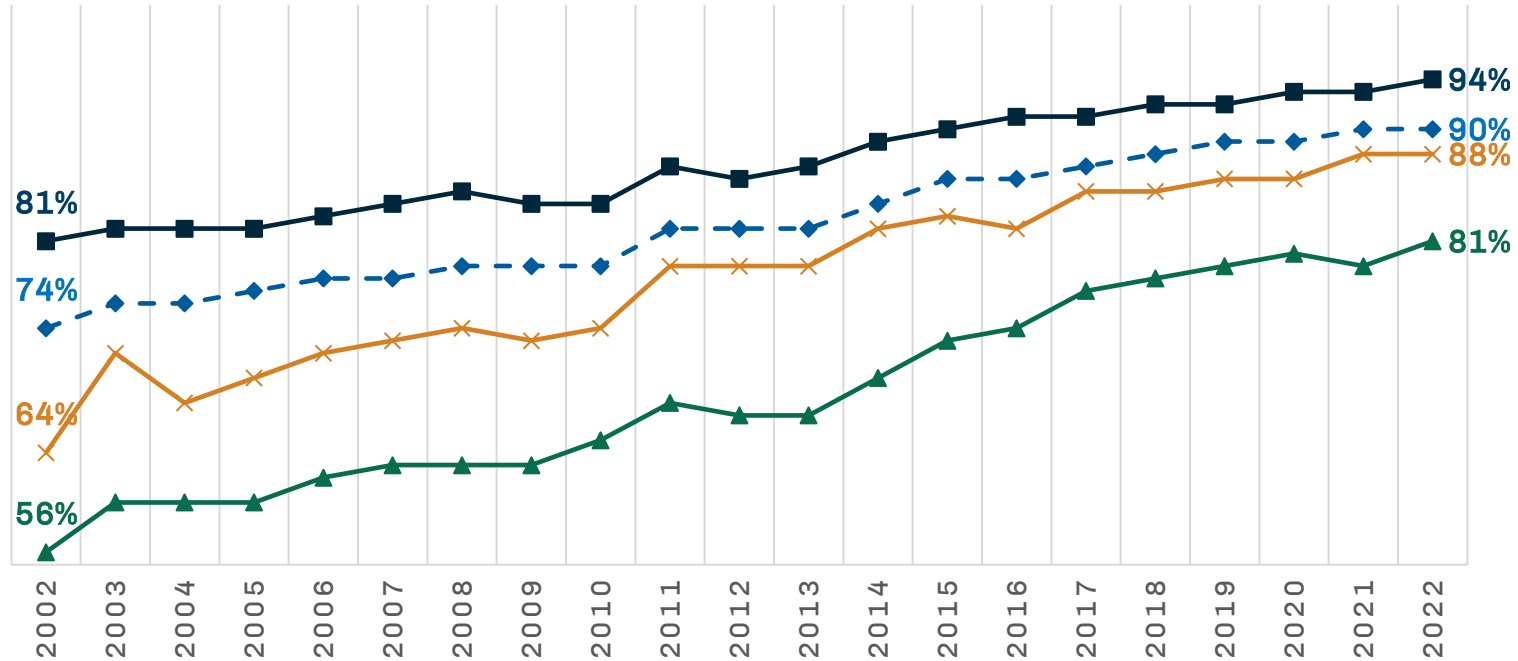
—◆— All Student-Athletes —▲— Men —■— Women



Graduation Success Rate Trends of Division I Student-Athletes

Single-Class Rates by Race/Ethnicity

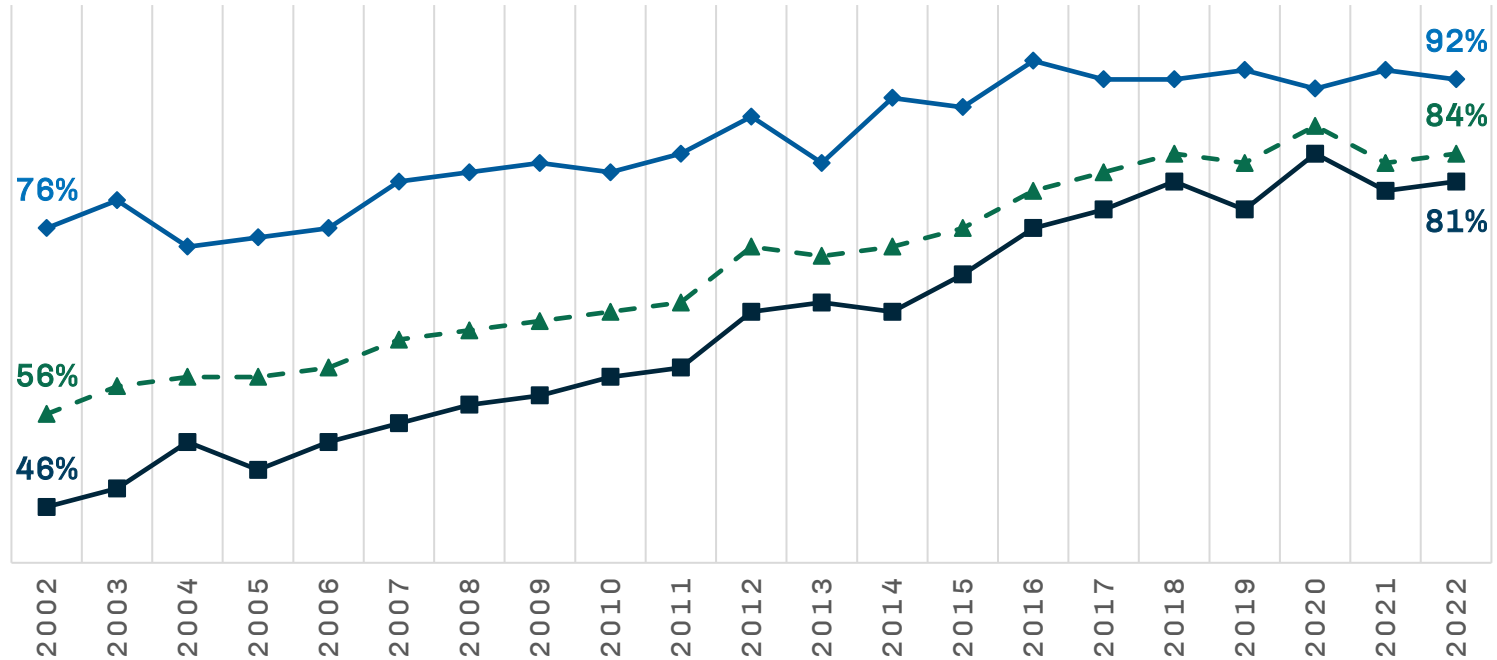
Overall Black Hispanic/Latino White



Graduation Success Rate Trends of Division I Men's Basketball Players

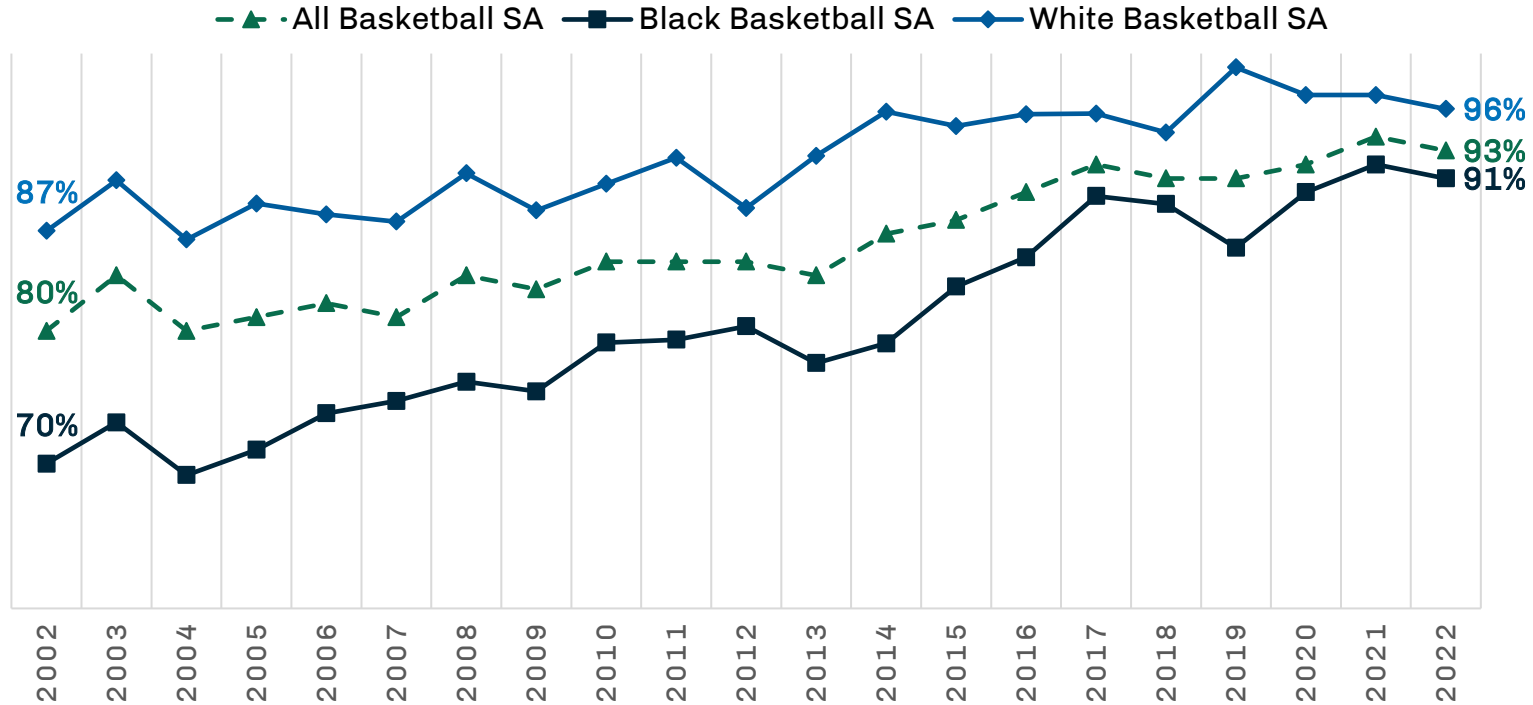
Single-Class Rates by Race/Ethnicity

—▲— All Basketball SA —■— Black Basketball SA —◆— White Basketball SA



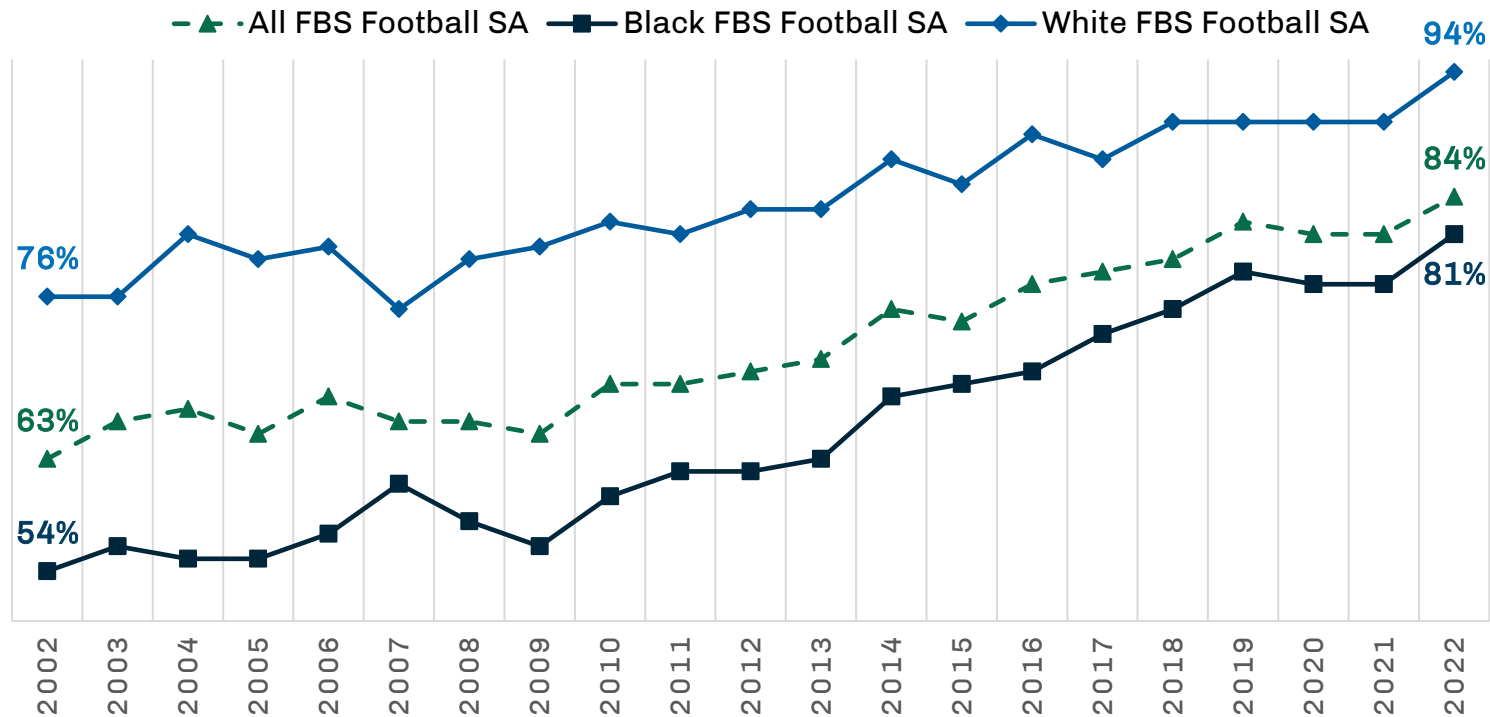
Graduation Success Rate Trends of Division I Women's Basketball Players

Single-Class Rates by Race/Ethnicity



Graduation Success Rate Trends of FBS Football Players

Single-Class Rates by Race/Ethnicity



Federal Graduation Rates



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Comparison of Federal Graduation Rates Between Division I Student-Athletes and Student Body

Four-Class Rates for 2019-22

Population Group	Student-Athlete Federal Rate	Student Body Federal Rate
Overall	69%	69%
Men	62%	66%
Women	75%	71%
Black	59%	50%
Hispanic/Latino	65%	63%
White	73%	71%
Black Men	56%	44%
Hispanic/Latino Men	59%	59%
White Men	67%	69%
Black Women	67%	54%
Hispanic/Latino Women	72%	66%
White Women	78%	74%

Division I Federal Graduation Rate Trends

(Differences in Single-Class Federal Graduation Rate for Select Groups of Student-Athletes)

Student-Athlete Group	1991* Federal Rate	2022 Federal Rate
Overall	52%	69%
Black	35%	59%
Hispanic/Latino	43%	64%
White	59%	74%
Black Men	33%	55%
Hispanic/Latino Men	40%	59%
White Men	55%	68%
Black Women	45%	67%
Hispanic/Latino Women	48%	70%
White Women	66%	78%

*1991 was the first cohort for which federal graduation rate data was collected.

Division I Federal Graduation Rate Trends in Football and Basketball

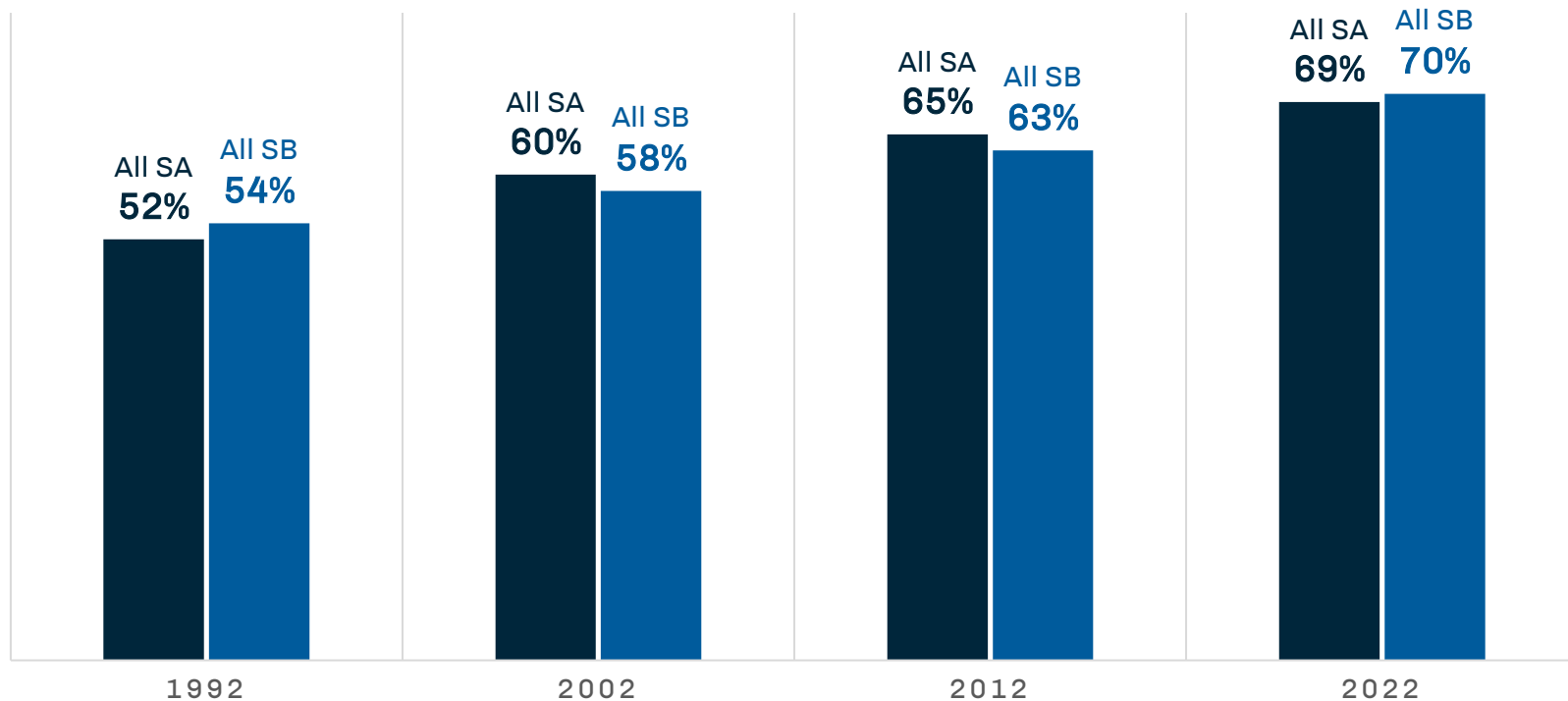
(Differences in Single-Class Federal Graduation Rates)

Student-Athlete Group	1991* Federal Rate	2022 Federal Rate
Football (FBS)	47%	65%
Black Football (FBS)	35%	60%
White Football (FBS)	56%	76%
Men's Basketball	38%	47%
Black Men's Basketball	29%	42%
White Men's Basketball	53%	58%
Women's Basketball	57%	59%
Black Women's Basketball	42%	55%
White Women's Basketball	66%	67%

*1991 was the first cohort for which federal graduation rate data was collected.

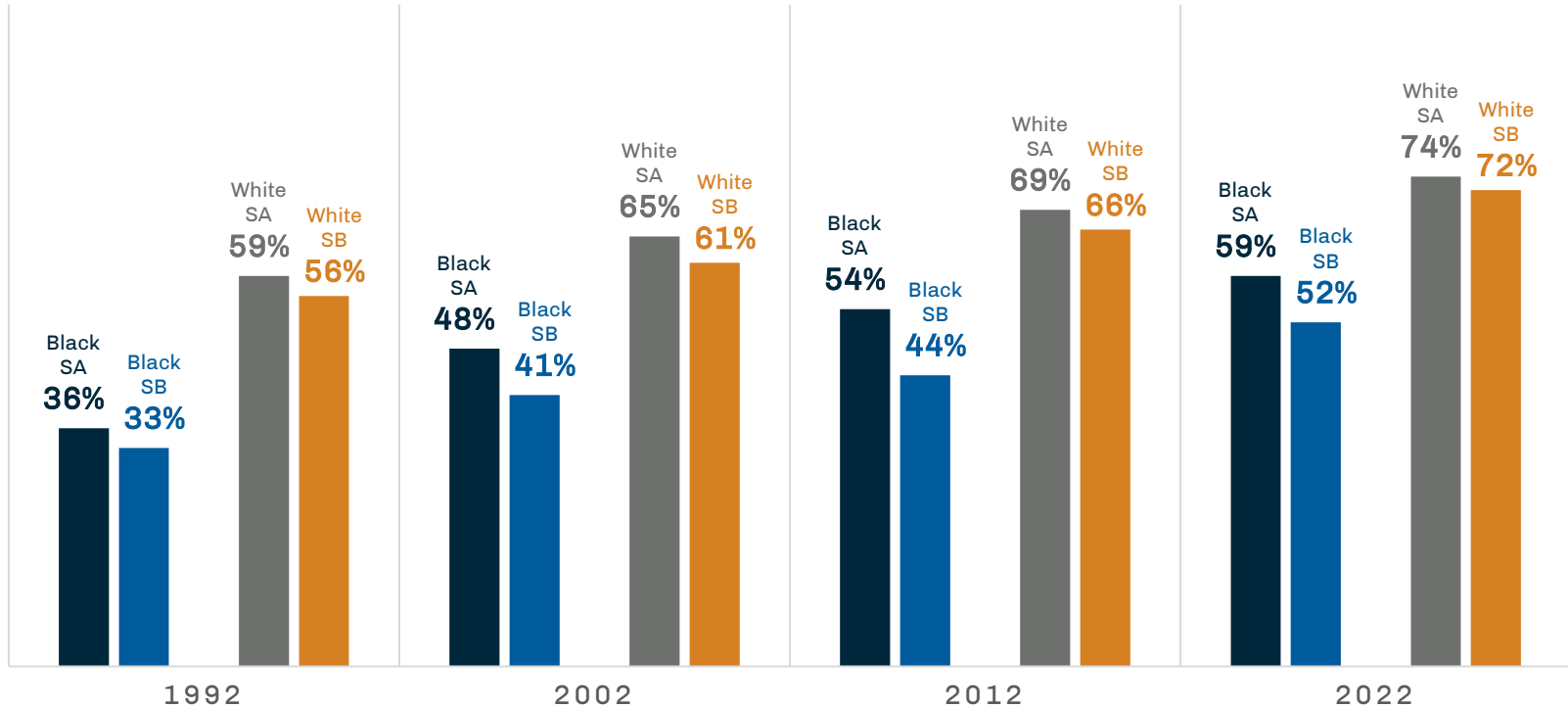
Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division I Student-Athletes vs. Student Body

Single-Class Rates



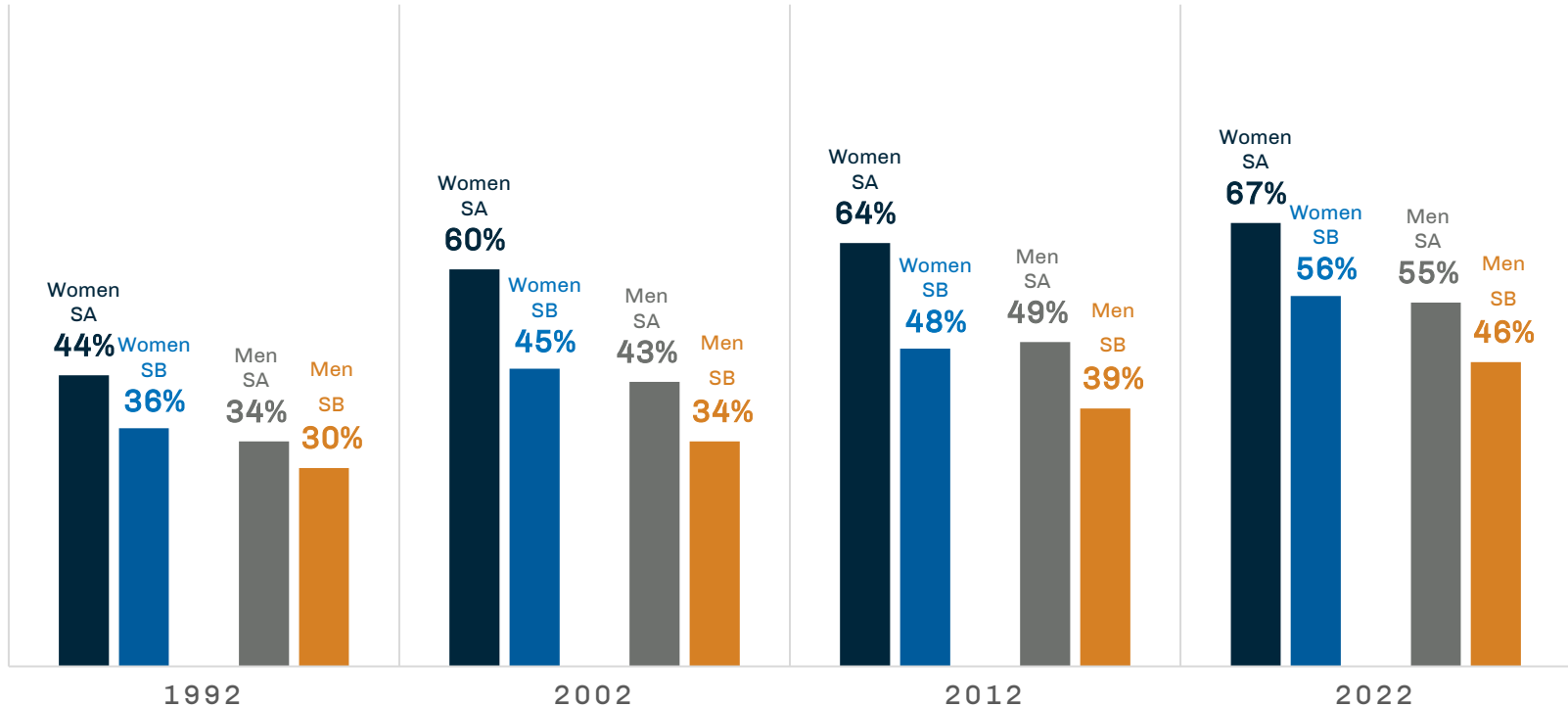
Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division I Student-Athletes vs. Student Body

Single-Class Rates by Race/Ethnicity



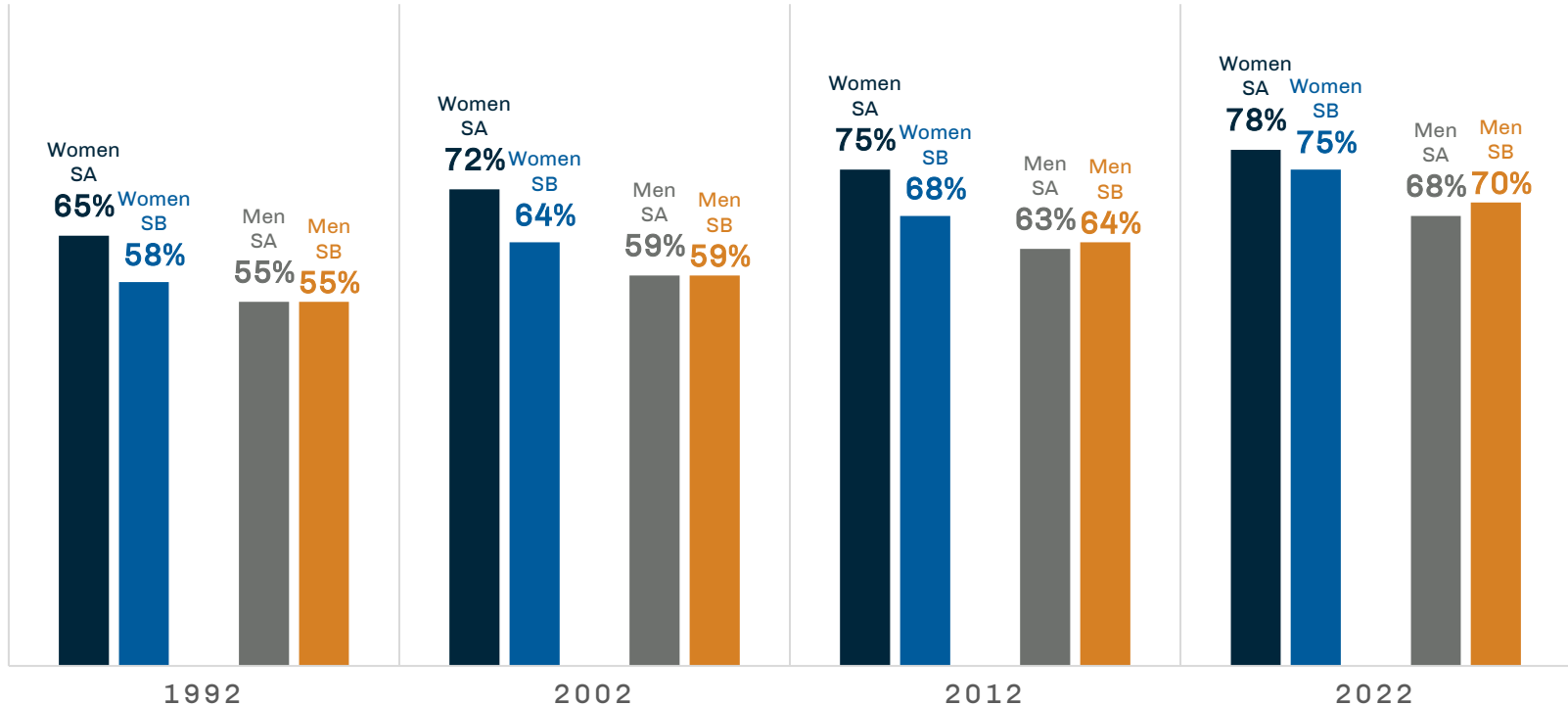
Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division I Student-Athletes vs. Student Body

Single-Class Rates, Race/Ethnicity=Black



Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division I Student-Athletes vs. Student Body

Single-Class Rates, Race/Ethnicity=White



Definitions and Methods

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.
- The years 2019-22 refer to the reporting years of the cohorts that entered college in 2012-15. Single years in the tables and figures also refer to the reporting years of the respective cohort (2022 reporting year represents 2015-16 cohort; 2021 represents 2014-15 cohort, etc.).
- Schools can submit student-athlete outcome adjustments for the past four years; all updates are reflected in this report and on the interactive analysis dashboard.



Federal Graduation Rate Calculation

- The federal graduation rate is federally mandated reporting of student body and student-athlete (if on athletics aid) graduation from an initial college/university. The rate essentially measures retention at that school.
- Graduation must occur within six years of initial entry.
- The federal rate 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.
- The federal rate is the only published rate that allows a direct comparison between student-athletes and the general student body.



Graduation Success Rate Calculation

- The graduation metric was developed by NCAA presidents.
- The calculation is mandated for student-athletes only. It should not be compared with the federal rate.
- Graduation must occur within six years of initial entry.
- The GSR is more inclusive than the federal rate because it includes transfers into the school, midyear enrollees and nonscholarship students at schools that do not offer athletics aid.
- 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 rate (student earns a degree from some college within six years of entering higher education).



Comparison of Graduation Success Rate and Federal Rate Cohorts

(2019-22 Reporting Cohorts)

	Federal Rate	GSR
Enrolled (Under Federal Definition)	96,438	96,438
Enrolled as Freshman in January	0	3,851
Two-Year College Transfers	0	10,638
Four-Year College Transfers	0	8,999
Nonscholarship Athletes (Only at Schools Not Offering Aid)	0	11,544
Total Enrolled	96,438	131,470 (+36%)
Allowable Exclusions (Death, Military, Church Mission, etc.)	276	351
Left Eligible	0	26,829
Participants on Teams No Longer Sponsored by School	0	2,144
Total Denominator	96,162	102,146 (+6%)



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