



# Trends in NCAA Division III Graduation Rates

November 2025



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# Summary



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# Notes on the Graduation Rates Presented

- All graduation rates presented here are based on completion within six years of entry into college (see federal Student-Right-To-Know Act, 1990).
- The Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) is required by law to be calculated and published for all full-time college students and separately for student-athletes who receive athletics aid. Division III calculates a federal rate for nonscholarship student-athletes. This is NOT federally mandated. These rates are NOT available publicly.
- The federal calculation has long been considered an outdated graduation measure in part due to its failure to account for transfer (transfers-out are counted as nongraduates; transfers-in are not included in the calculation). FGR is best characterized as the percentage of students entering directly from high school who graduate from their initial college.



# Notes on the Graduation Rates Presented

- FGR, with these major limitations, is the only rate for which we can currently compare graduation outcomes for student-athletes with the student body at Division III schools.
- The Academic Success Rate (ASR) is a calculation required by the NCAA for all Division III student-athletes. This rate was designed to approximate a true student-centered measure of graduation (the student graduated from any four-year college within the six-year window) by essentially passing likely transfers from one college's cohort to another's cohort. ASR calculations also deal better with circumstances such as mid-year college entry (such entrants are not included in the FGR).
- For both FGR and ASR, four-cohort aggregations are used here for group comparisons or when describing rates in isolation. Single-cohort rates are more appropriate for examining change over time.
- It is typically not appropriate to compare an ASR with an FGR.



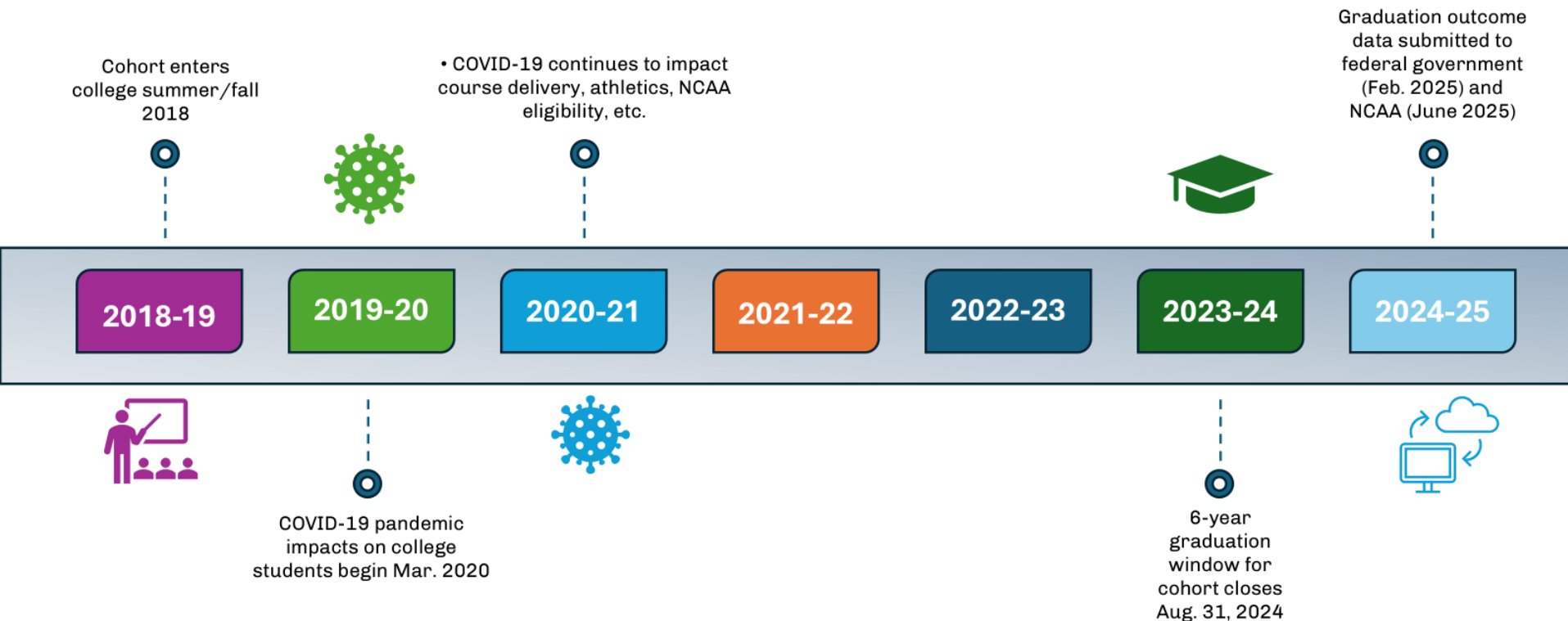
# 2025 Division III Federal Graduation Rates Cohort Demographics

| Student-Athlete Group        | Student-Athlete Federal Cohort | Student Body Federal Cohort |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Overall</b>               | 57,949                         | 266,075                     |
| <b>Men</b>                   | 34,856 (60%)                   | 120,060 (45%)               |
| <b>Women</b>                 | 23,093 (40%)                   | 146,015 (55%)               |
| <b>Black</b>                 | 5,887 (10%)                    | 23,818 (9%)                 |
| <b>Hispanic/Latinx</b>       | 5,194 (9%)                     | 36,472 (14%)                |
| <b>White</b>                 | 39,545 (68%)                   | 154,094 (58%)               |
| <b>Black Men</b>             | 4,528 (13%)                    | 10,771 (9%)                 |
| <b>Hispanic/Latinx Men</b>   | 3,244 (9%)                     | 14,972 (12%)                |
| <b>White Men</b>             | 22,589 (65%)                   | 70,460 (59%)                |
| <b>Black Women</b>           | 1,359 (6%)                     | 13,047 (9%)                 |
| <b>Hispanic/Latinx Women</b> | 1,950 (8%)                     | 21,500 (15%)                |
| <b>White Women</b>           | 16,956 (73%)                   | 83,634 (57%)                |



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## Division III Academic Success Rates Timeline for the Most Recent Cohort to Enter the Calculation (November 2025 Report)



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# 2025 Four-Cohort Division III Graduation Rates

(Aggregate six-year graduation rates for 2015-2018 entering cohorts)

|                     | Student-Athletes |              | Student Body |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                     | ASR              | Federal Rate | Federal Rate |
| <b>DIII Overall</b> | 88%<br>+0        | 69%<br>-1    | 67%<br>+0    |
| <b>DIII Men</b>     | 84%<br>+0        | 64%<br>+0    | 63%<br>+0    |
| <b>DIII Women</b>   | 94%<br>+0        | 79%<br>+0    | 70%<br>+0    |

Notes: ASR = Academic Success Rate. The four-cohort rates reported above are based on the last four single-year cohorts with six-year outcomes available (those first reported in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025). Numbers in blue indicate percentage point differences in four-cohort rates from those reported in 2024.

# Summary

- The students in the most-recently added cohort (2018 entry) would typically have been in the second semester of their sophomore year when the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. See the chart on Slide 6 for a historical timeline relative to when this cohort was in college.
- Using the federal graduation rate to examine student-athlete vs. student body graduation from the initial school in Division III, we see higher rates for student-athletes within each demographic subgroup other than Black men. This finding is consistent across six years of mandatory data collection for Division III.





# **Four-Cohort Academic Success Rates (ASR)**



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# 2025 Four-Cohort Division III Academic Success Rates

(Aggregate six-year graduation rates for 2015-2018 entering cohorts)

| Student-Athlete Group | ASR    |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Overall               | 88% +0 |
| Black                 | 66% -1 |
| Hispanic/Latinx       | 83% +1 |
| White                 | 91% +0 |
| Black Men             | 61% -1 |
| Hispanic/Latinx Men   | 78% +1 |
| White Men             | 88% +0 |
| Black Women           | 82% -1 |
| Hispanic/Latinx Women | 89% +0 |
| White Women           | 95% +0 |

Note: Numbers in blue indicate percentage point differences in four-cohort rates from those reported in 2024.



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# 2025 Four-Cohort ASR for Division III Men's Sports

(Aggregate six-year graduation rates for 2015-2018 entering cohorts)

| SPORT               | ASR    |
|---------------------|--------|
| Baseball            | 90% +1 |
| Basketball          | 81% +0 |
| Cross Country/Track | 87% -1 |
| Football            | 74% -1 |
| Golf                | 90% +0 |
| Ice Hockey          | 91% +2 |
| Lacrosse            | 88% +0 |
| Soccer              | 85% +0 |
| Swimming            | 92% +0 |
| Tennis              | 92% +0 |
| Volleyball          | 86% +0 |
| Wrestling           | 80% +0 |

Notes: Only those sports with more than 150 Division III graduates are shown. Numbers in blue indicate percentage point differences in four-cohort rates from those reported in 2024.



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# 2025 Four-Cohort ASR for Division III Women's Sports

(Aggregate six-year graduation rates for 2015-2018 entering cohorts)

| SPORT               | ASR |    |
|---------------------|-----|----|
| Basketball          | 91% | -1 |
| Cross Country/Track | 93% | -1 |
| Field Hockey        | 96% | +1 |
| Golf                | 93% | -1 |
| Ice Hockey          | 94% | -1 |
| Lacrosse            | 95% | +0 |
| Rowing              | 96% | +0 |
| Soccer              | 94% | +0 |
| Softball            | 94% | +1 |
| Swimming            | 96% | +1 |
| Tennis              | 95% | +0 |
| Volleyball          | 93% | +0 |

Notes: Only those sports with more than 150 Division III graduates are shown. Numbers in blue indicate percentage point differences in four-cohort rates from those reported in 2024.



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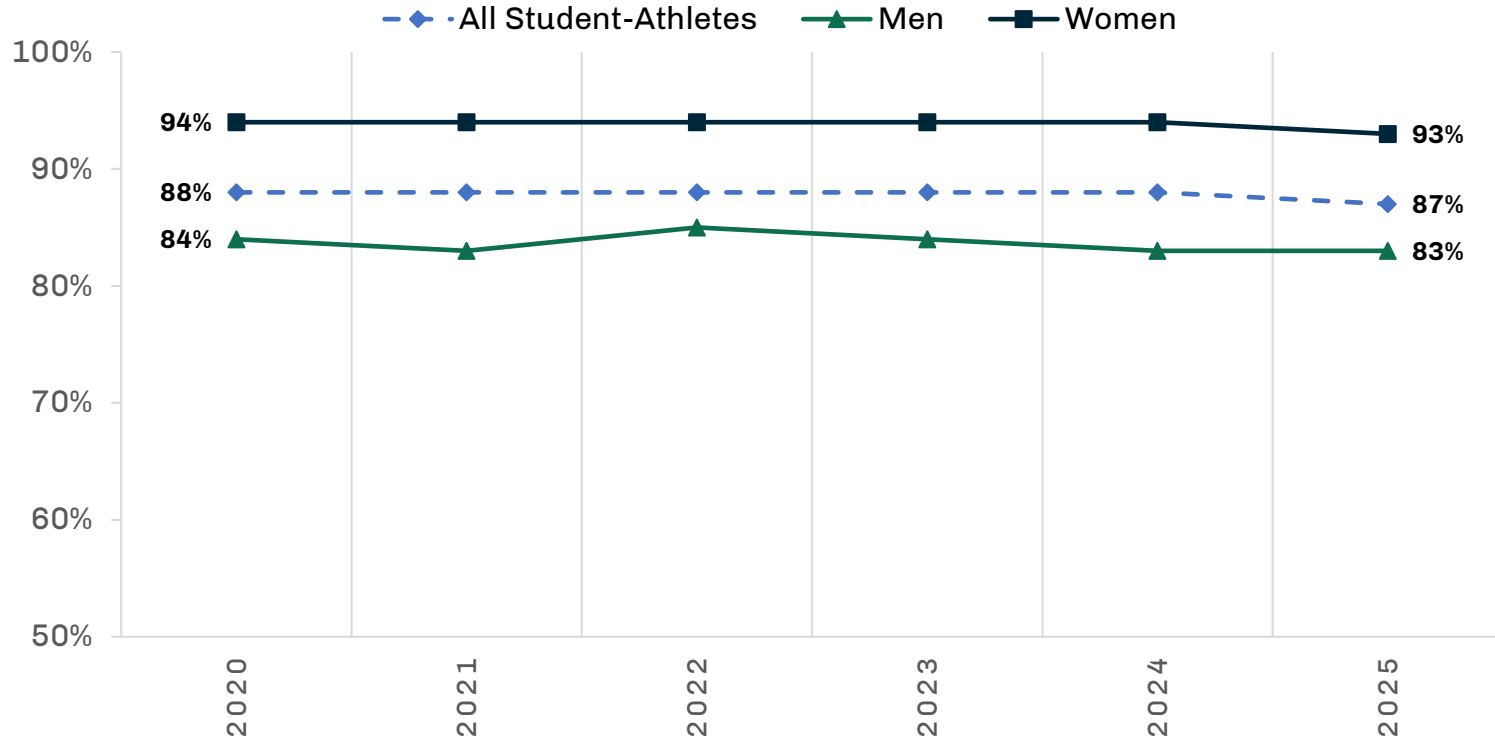
# **Trends in Single-Cohort Academic Success Rates (ASR)**



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# Academic Success Rate (ASR) Trends of Division III Student-Athletes

(Single-cohort six-year graduation rates)



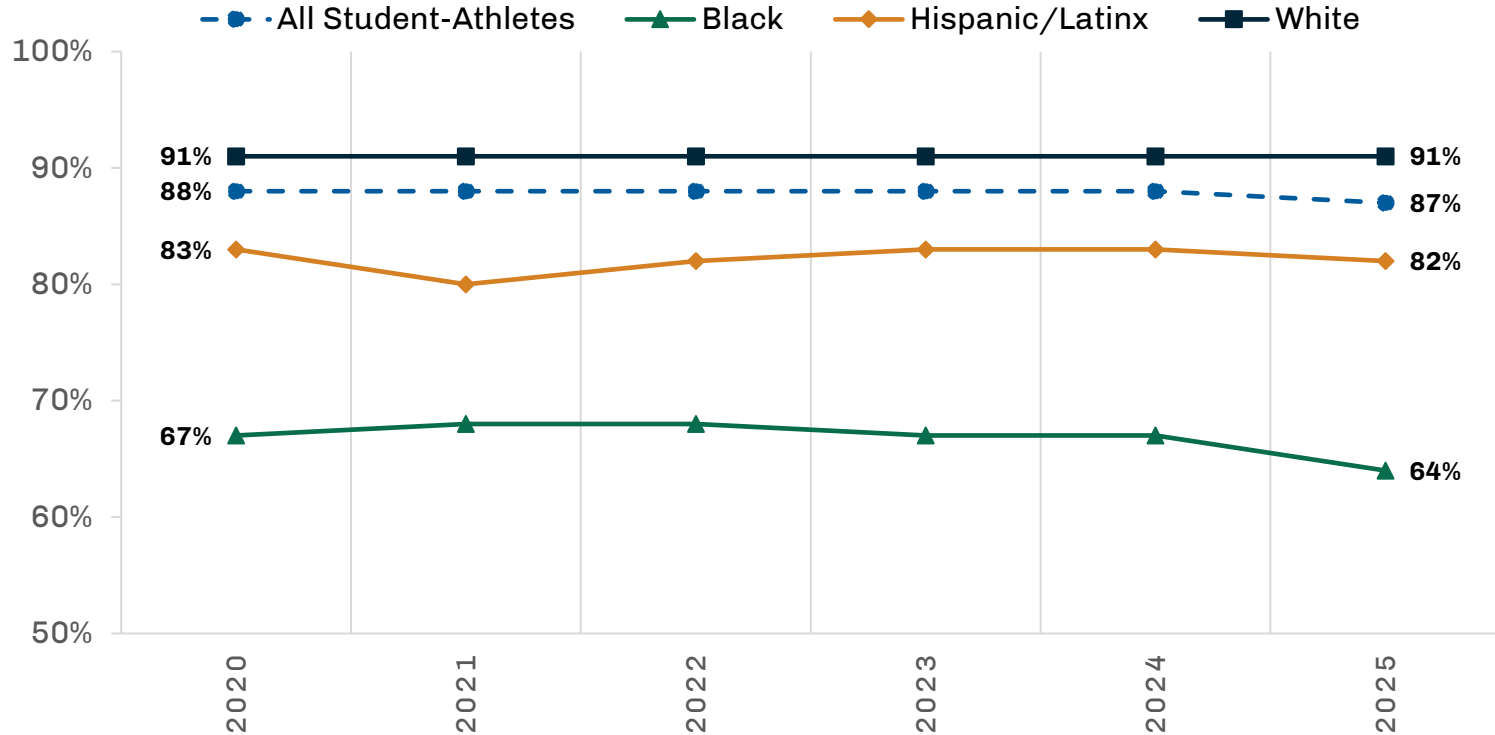
Note: 2025 reporting year represents 2018-19 entering cohort; 2024 represents 2017-18 entering cohort, etc.



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# Academic Success Rate (ASR) Trends of Division III Student-Athletes

(Single-cohort six-year graduation rates by race/ethnicity)



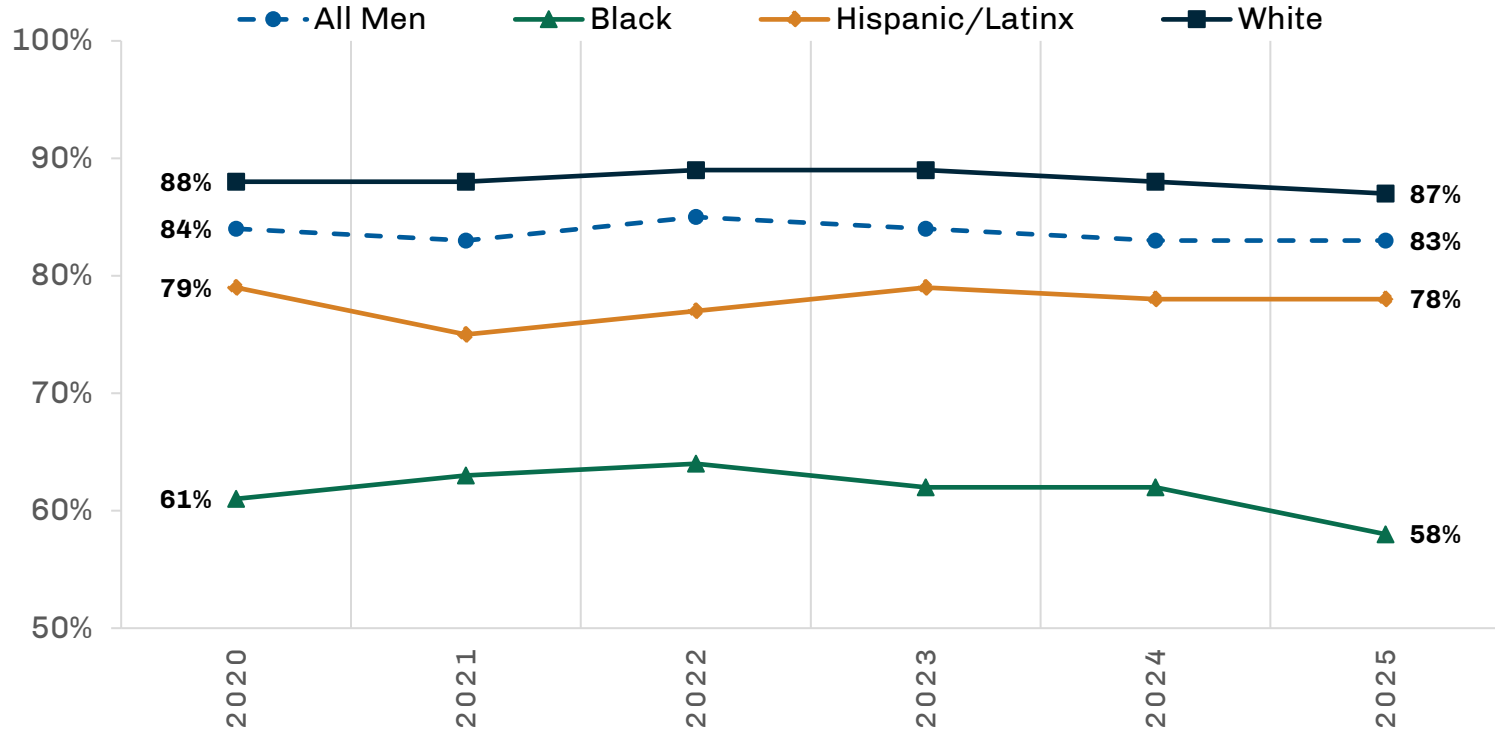
Note: 2025 reporting year represents 2018-19 entering cohort; 2024 represents 2017-18 entering cohort, etc.



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# Academic Success Rate (ASR) Trends of Division III Student-Athletes

(Single-cohort six-year graduation rates for men by race/ethnicity)



Note: 2025 reporting year represents 2018-19 entering cohort; 2024 represents 2017-18 entering cohort, etc.

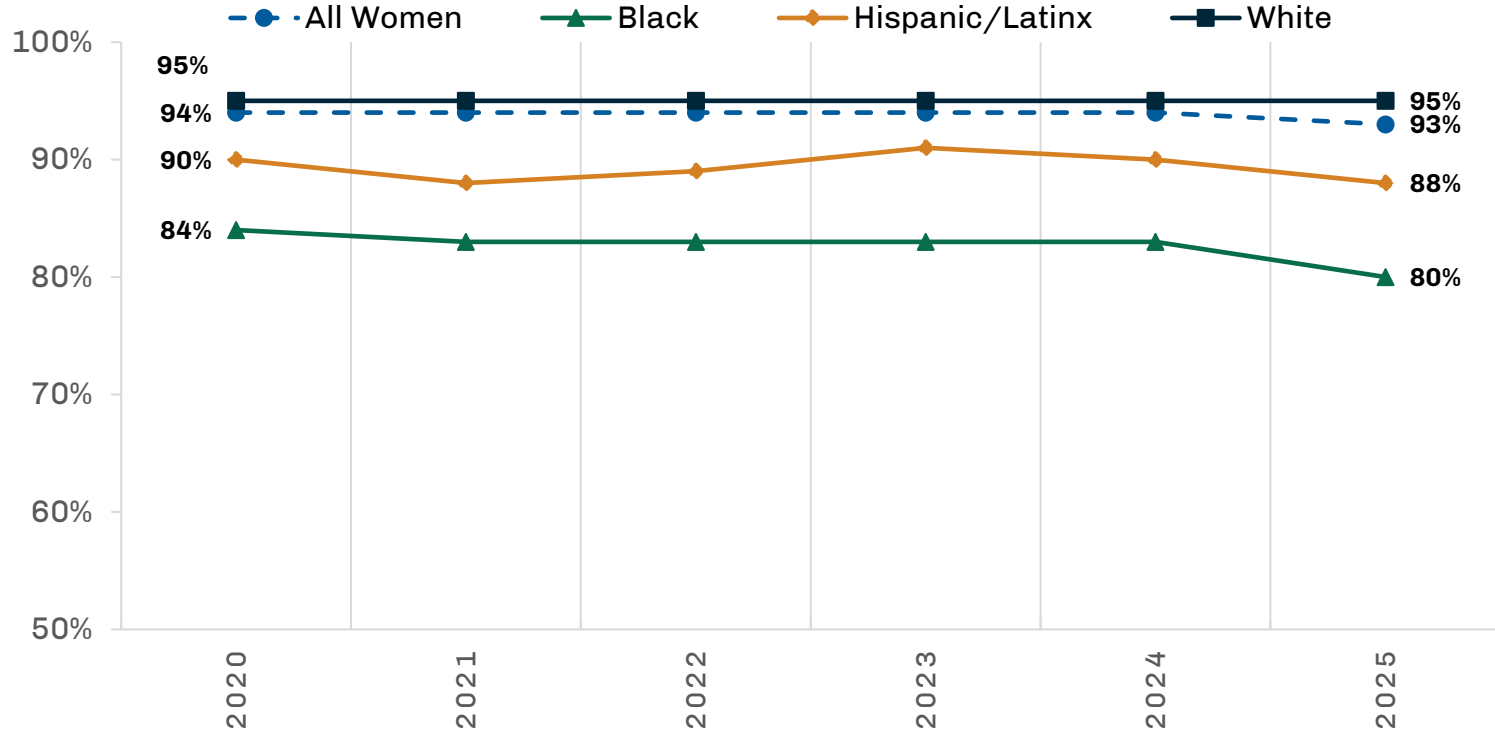


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# Academic Success Rate (ASR) Trends of Division III Student-Athletes

(Single-cohort six-year graduation rates for women by race/ethnicity)



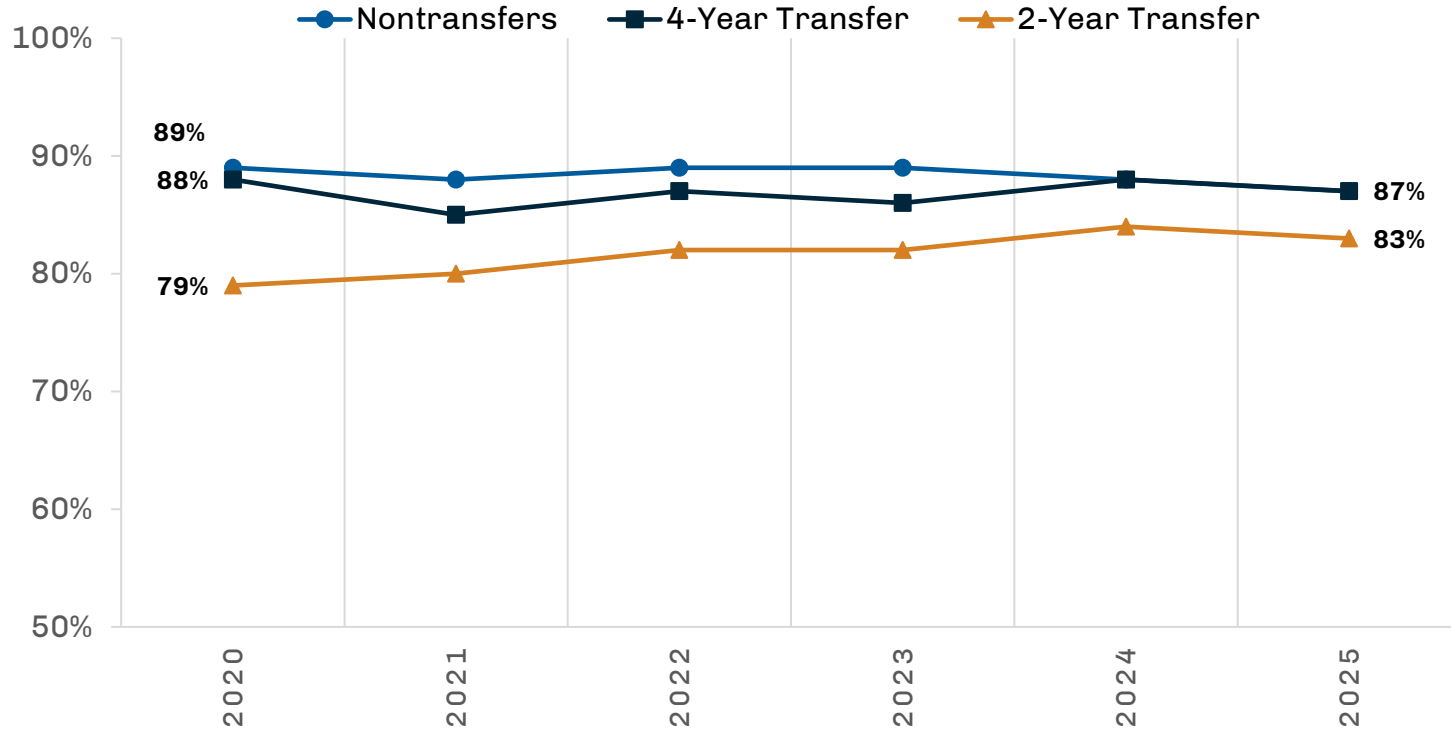
Note: 2025 reporting year represents 2018-19 entering cohort; 2024 represents 2017-18 entering cohort, etc.



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# Academic Success Rate (ASR) Trends of Division III Student-Athletes

(Single-cohort six-year graduation rates by student type)



Note: 2025 reporting year represents 2018-19 entering cohort; 2024 represents 2017-18 entering cohort, etc.



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# Federal Graduation Rates



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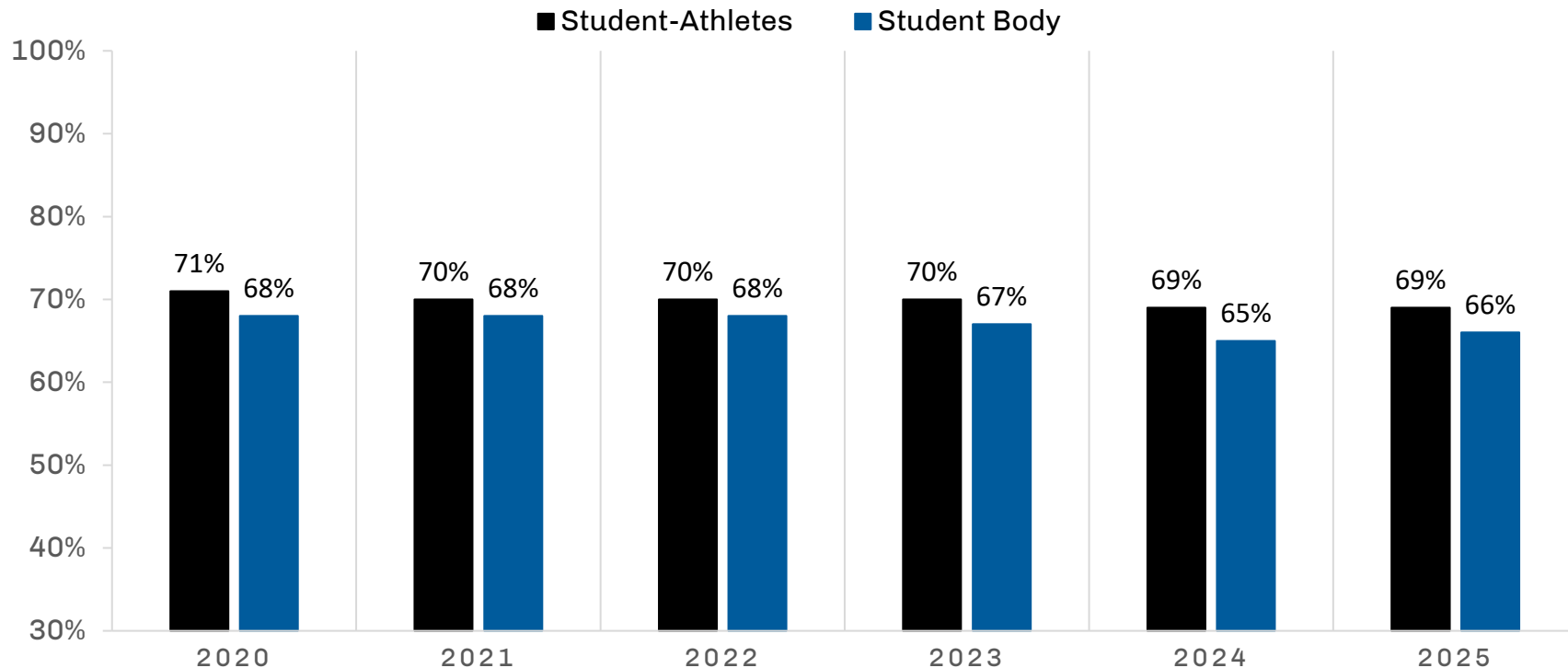
# 2025 Comparison of Four-Cohort Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) of Division III Student-Athletes with Student Body

(Aggregate six-year FGR for 2015-2018 entering cohorts)

| Student-Athlete Group        | Student-Athlete Federal Rate | Student Body Federal Rate |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Overall</b>               | 69%                          | 67%                       |
| <b>Men</b>                   | 64%                          | 63%                       |
| <b>Women</b>                 | 79%                          | 70%                       |
| <b>Black</b>                 | 46%                          | 49%                       |
| <b>Hispanic/Latinx</b>       | 62%                          | 59%                       |
| <b>White</b>                 | 74%                          | 69%                       |
| <b>Black Men</b>             | 41%                          | 43%                       |
| <b>Hispanic/Latinx Men</b>   | 56%                          | 55%                       |
| <b>White Men</b>             | 69%                          | 66%                       |
| <b>Black Women</b>           | 62%                          | 55%                       |
| <b>Hispanic/Latinx Women</b> | 72%                          | 62%                       |
| <b>White Women</b>           | 81%                          | 73%                       |

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

(Single-cohort six-year graduation rates)



Note: 2025 reporting year represents 2018-19 entering cohort; 2024 represents 2017-18 entering cohort, etc.

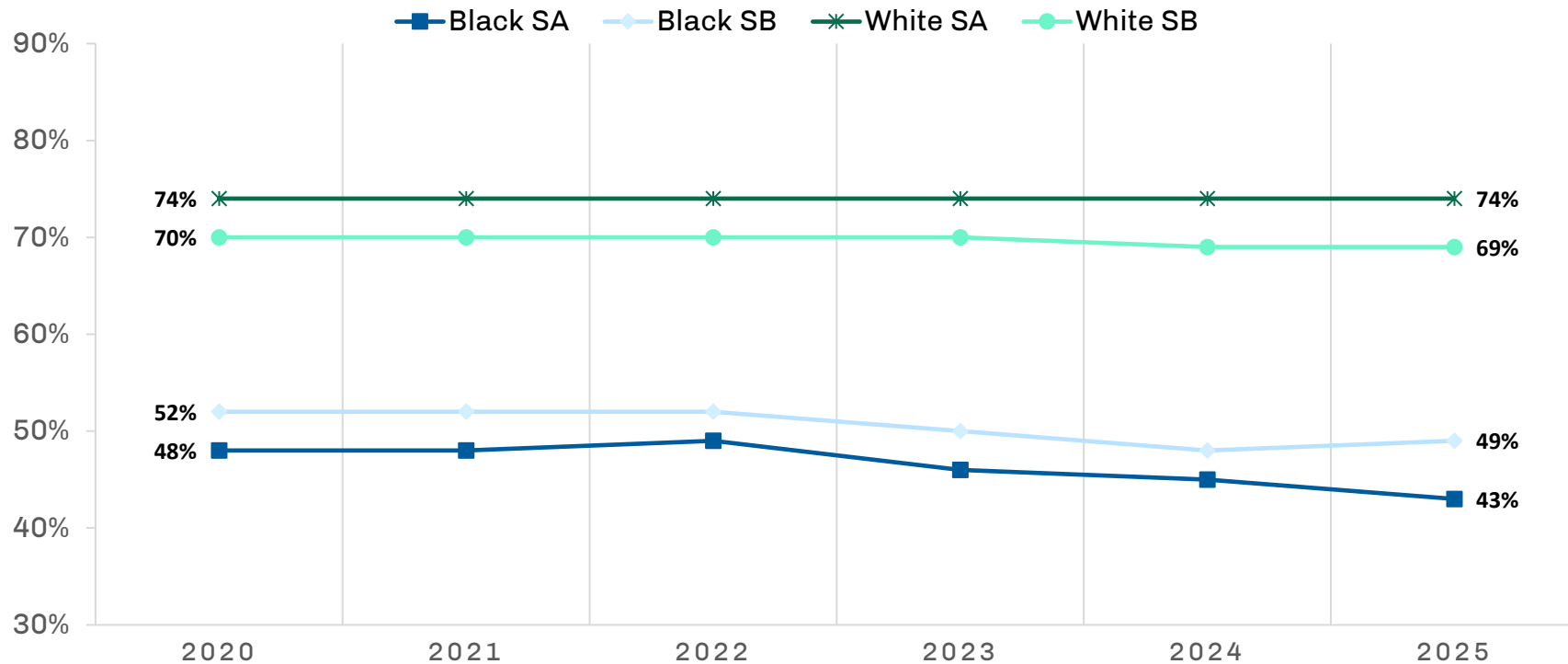


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# Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division III

## Student-Athletes vs. Student Body

(Single-cohort six-year graduation rates by race/ethnicity)



Note: 2025 reporting year represents 2018-19 entering cohort; 2024 represents 2017-18 entering cohort, etc.



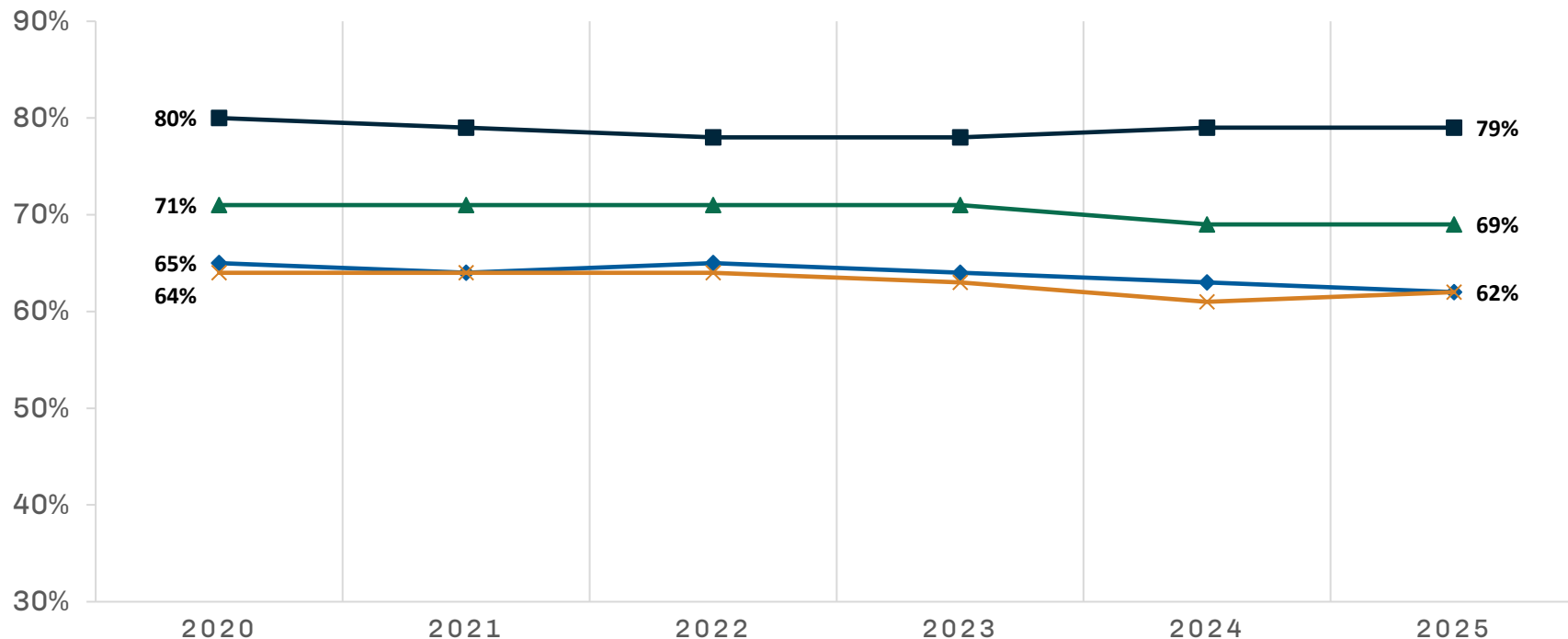
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# Trends in Federal Graduation Rates: Division III

## Student-Athletes vs. Student Body

(Single-cohort six-year graduation rates by gender)

■ Women SA ▲ Women SB ◆ Men SA ✕ Men SB



Note: 2025 reporting year represents 2018-19 entering cohort; 2024 represents 2017-18 entering cohort, etc.



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# Definitions and Methods





# Methods

- Detailed information on graduation reporting requirements and graduation rate calculations, as well as links to Federal student-body school reports can be found on the NCAA research website (graduation rates tab) or at [ncaa.org/about/resources/research/graduation-rates](https://ncaa.org/about/resources/research/graduation-rates).
- Generally, cohort aggregations are used for reporting rates in isolation; single-cohort rates are used for examining trends over time.



# 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 school. 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.
  - Incoming transfers into the school are not tracked.
  - Outgoing transfers are recorded as academic failures.
- The federal rate is the only published rate that allows for a direct comparison between student-athletes and the general student body.
- Division III calculates a federal rate for nonscholarship student-athletes. This is NOT federally mandated. These rates are NOT available publicly.



# Academic Success Rate Calculation

- The ASR is a graduation metric developed by NCAA presidents and chancellors.
- The calculation is mandated for student-athletes only and should not be compared with the federal rate.
- Graduation must occur within six years of initial entry.
- The ASR is more inclusive than the federal rate because it includes transfers into the school, midyear enrollees and nonscholarship student-athletes. Two assumptions are made:
  1. Student-athletes who leave school while academically eligible to compete are removed from the calculation (assumed transfers passed on to another school's cohort).
  2. 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 an ASR that better approximates a true student-centered graduation rate (student earns a degree within six years of entering higher education).



# Division III Rate Calculations

## Federal

- First-time nonscholarship fall freshmen.

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

## ASR

- First-time nonscholarship fall freshmen.
- *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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