



# Academic Outcomes for Division I Postgraduate Student-Athletes

June 2019



# Study Methods

- Using the 2015-16 and 2016-17 APR cohorts, NCAA research staff identified 5,042 student-athletes attending 337 Division I institutions who earned undergraduate degrees and continued to compete as postgraduates.
- To understand these postgraduates' enrollment patterns and eventual academic outcomes, a request for information specific to each postgraduate was sent to compliance directors at these 337 campuses in November 2018. The data requested included:
  - Program type (e.g. second undergraduate major/minor, graduate degree)
  - Length of program
  - Outcome at the end of two years (completed, still enrolled, left program)
  - Time of exit (if applicable)
  - Whether athletic aid was offered after athletics eligibility was exhausted
- Responses were received from 244 (72%) of the campuses by January 2019.
- This yielded two-year academic outcome information for 3,800 postgraduate student-athletes.
- A similar study of postgraduate enrollment patterns and academic outcomes was conducted in summer 2015. Results across the two studies are compared where possible.

# Postgraduate Study Survey Response

	% Schools Responding to Survey	Average Number of Postgraduates per Institution
<b>Overall</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Autonomous Governance</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Other FBS</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>FCS</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Division I, No Football</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Limited Resource Institutions</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>HBCUs</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>10</b>

# Summary of Findings

## Postgraduate enrollment

- 81% of postgraduates continued their eligibility at their undergraduate institution.
- A majority of postgraduates (76%) enrolled in graduate programs or courses, although there was variation in program type by sport.
- Only 12% of graduate programs were one year in length.

## Academic Outcomes

- 17% of postgraduates enrolled in a second undergraduate degree or major completed the program.
- 70% of postgraduates enrolled in graduate degree programs at their undergraduate institution completed their degree within two years. This was an increase from the 2015 study (62%). Men's basketball and football saw even larger increases in graduate degrees earned.
- 50% of graduate transfers completed their graduate degree program within two years. There was little change in the graduation rates among graduate transfers from the 2015 study.
- Postgraduates who received athletics aid post-eligibility graduated at higher rates than those who did not. This relationship was stronger among graduate transfers and revenue sports athletes (men's basketball and football).

# Academic Programs of Postgraduates

- 81% of postgraduates remained at their undergraduate institution.
- A majority of postgraduates (76%) enrolled in graduate programs or courses.

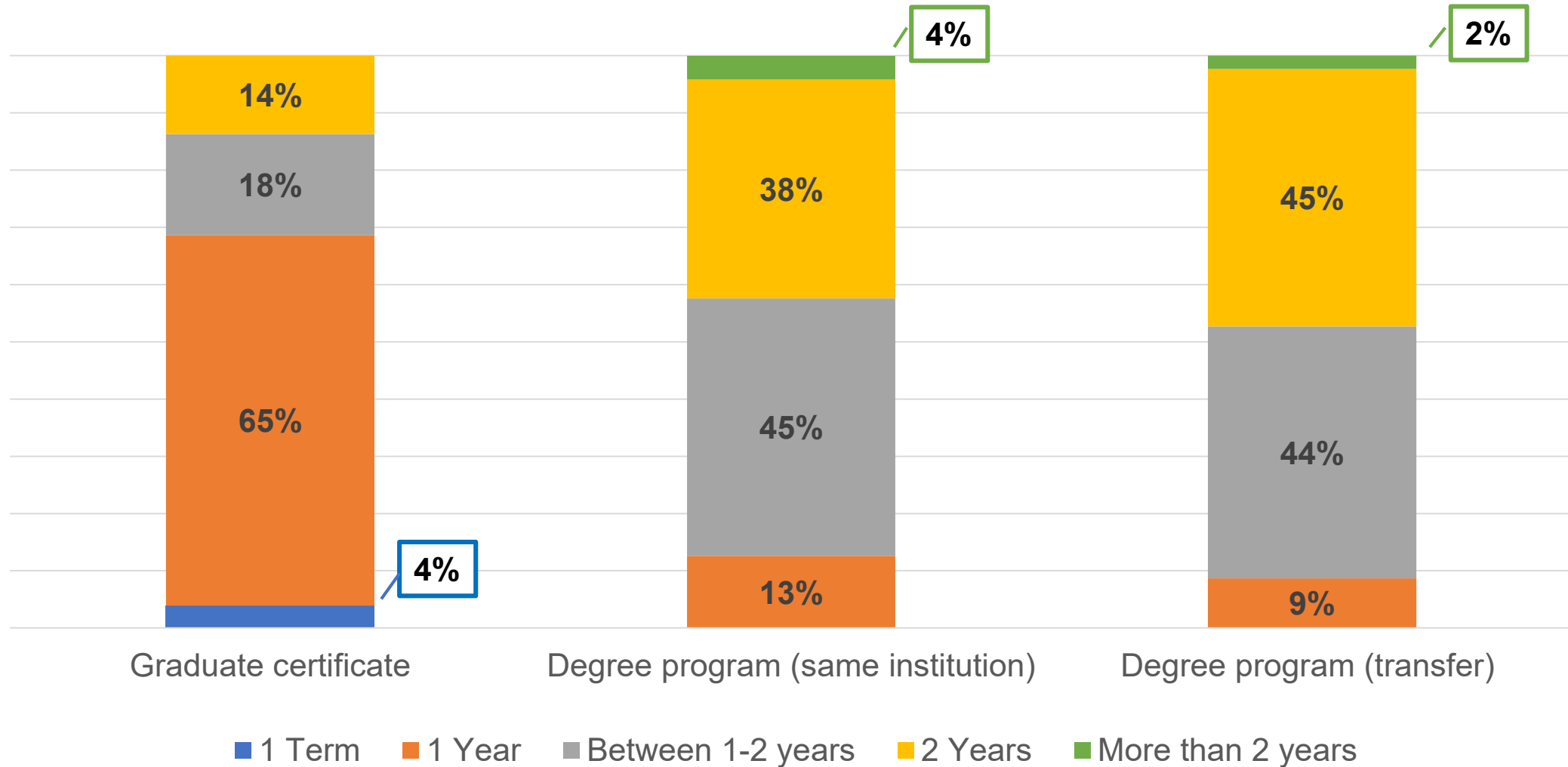
Program Type	% of Postgraduate Enrollment	Estimated Number per Year
<b>Undergraduate</b>		
Second degree or second major	16%	508
General coursework	7%	225
Certificate program	<1%	6
<b>Graduate</b>		
Graduate degree (same institution)	54%	1,697
Graduate degree (transfer)	19%	580
General studies (non-degree seeking)	2%	59
Certificate program	1%	41

Note: Estimated number per year uses the most recent number of postgraduates in the 2018 academic data, approximately 3,100.

# Academic Programs of Postgraduates by Sport

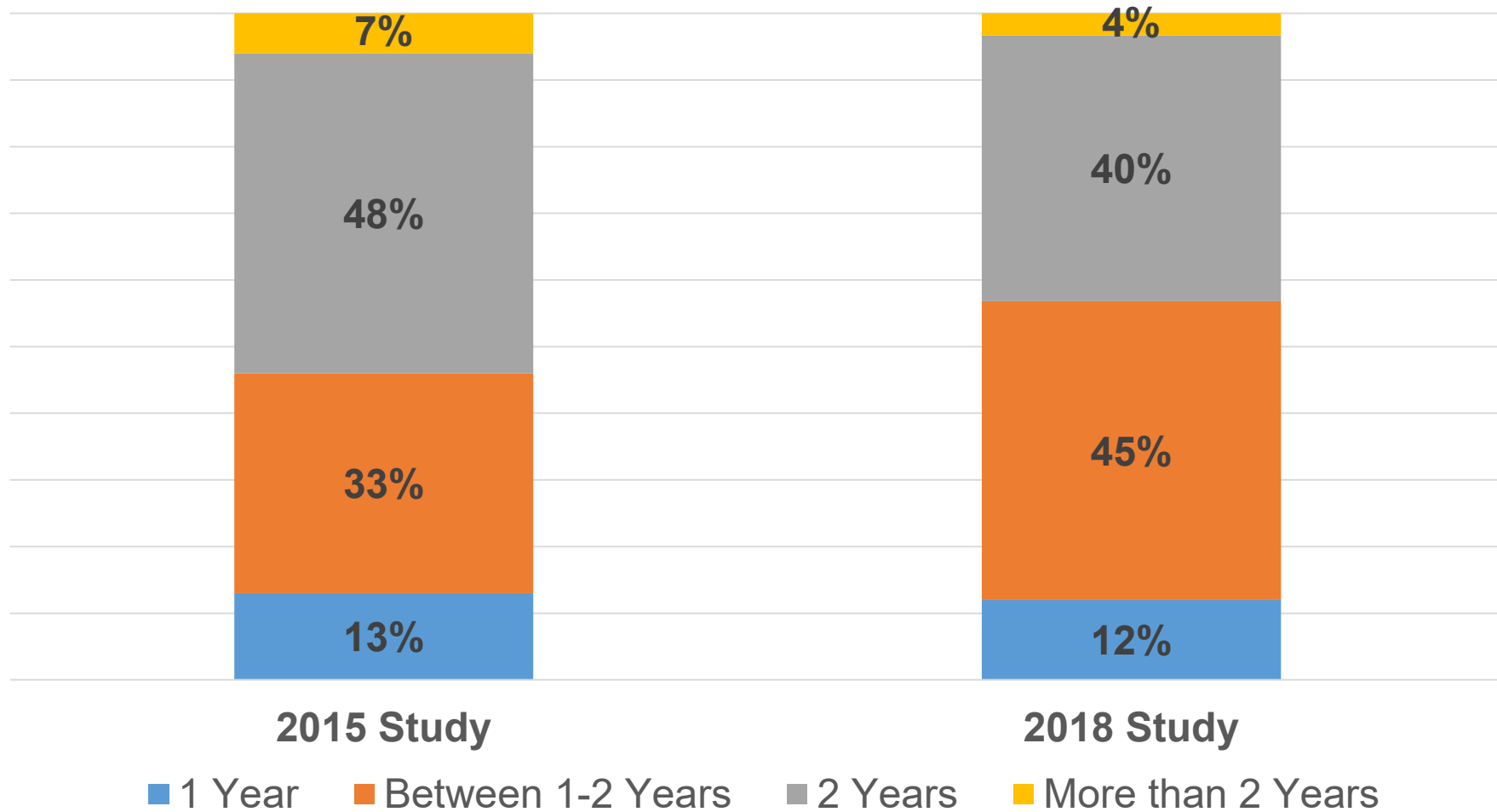
Program Type	% of Postgraduate Enrollment				
	Men's Basketball	Football	Men's Other	Women's Basketball	Women's Other
<b>Undergraduate</b>					
Second degree or second major	14%	25%	11%	14%	9%
General coursework	6%	11%	4%	5%	5%
Certificate program	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%
<b>Graduate</b>					
Graduate degree (same institution)	38%	45%	64%	57%	65%
Graduate degree (transfer)	40%	14%	18%	19%	18%
General studies (non-degree seeking)	1%	3%	2%	3%	1%
Certificate program	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%

# Length of Graduate Degree Programs



Note: Graduate certificate N=51; Graduate degree program, same institution N=2,069; Graduate transfer N=706.

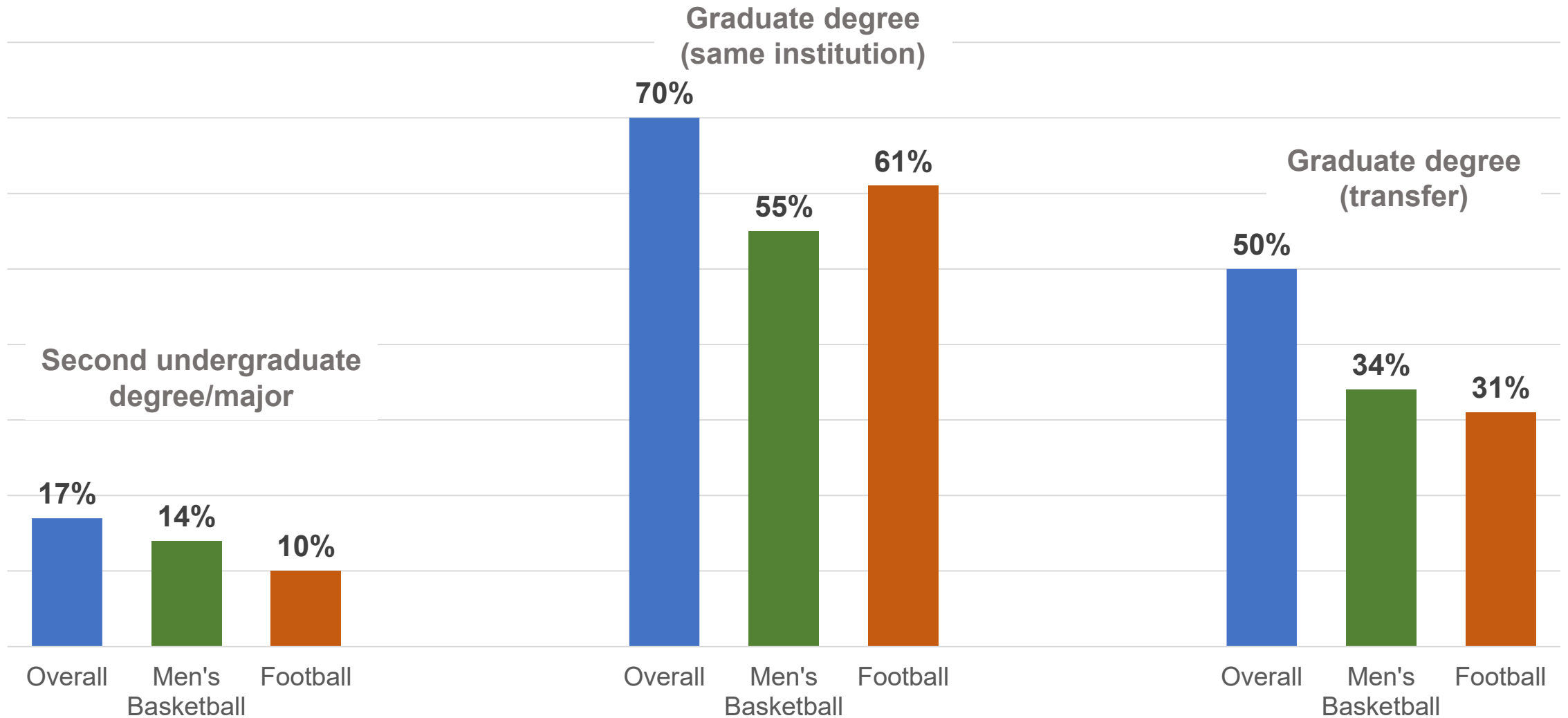
# Change in Length of Graduate Degree Programs



Note: Length of graduate degree program data includes graduates remaining at their undergraduate institution and graduate transfers. Certificate programs excluded from analyses.

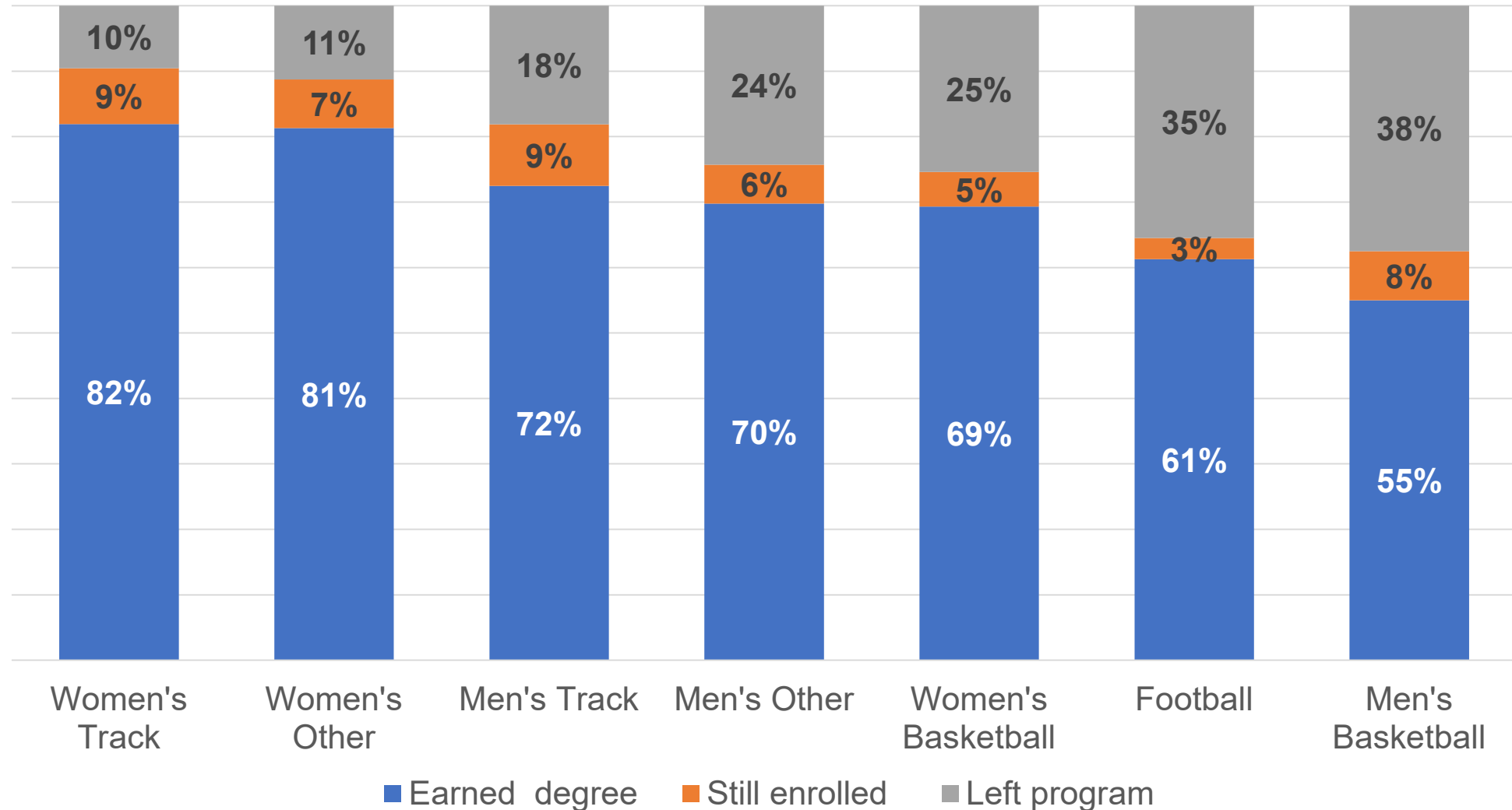


# Two-Year Graduation Rates by Program Type

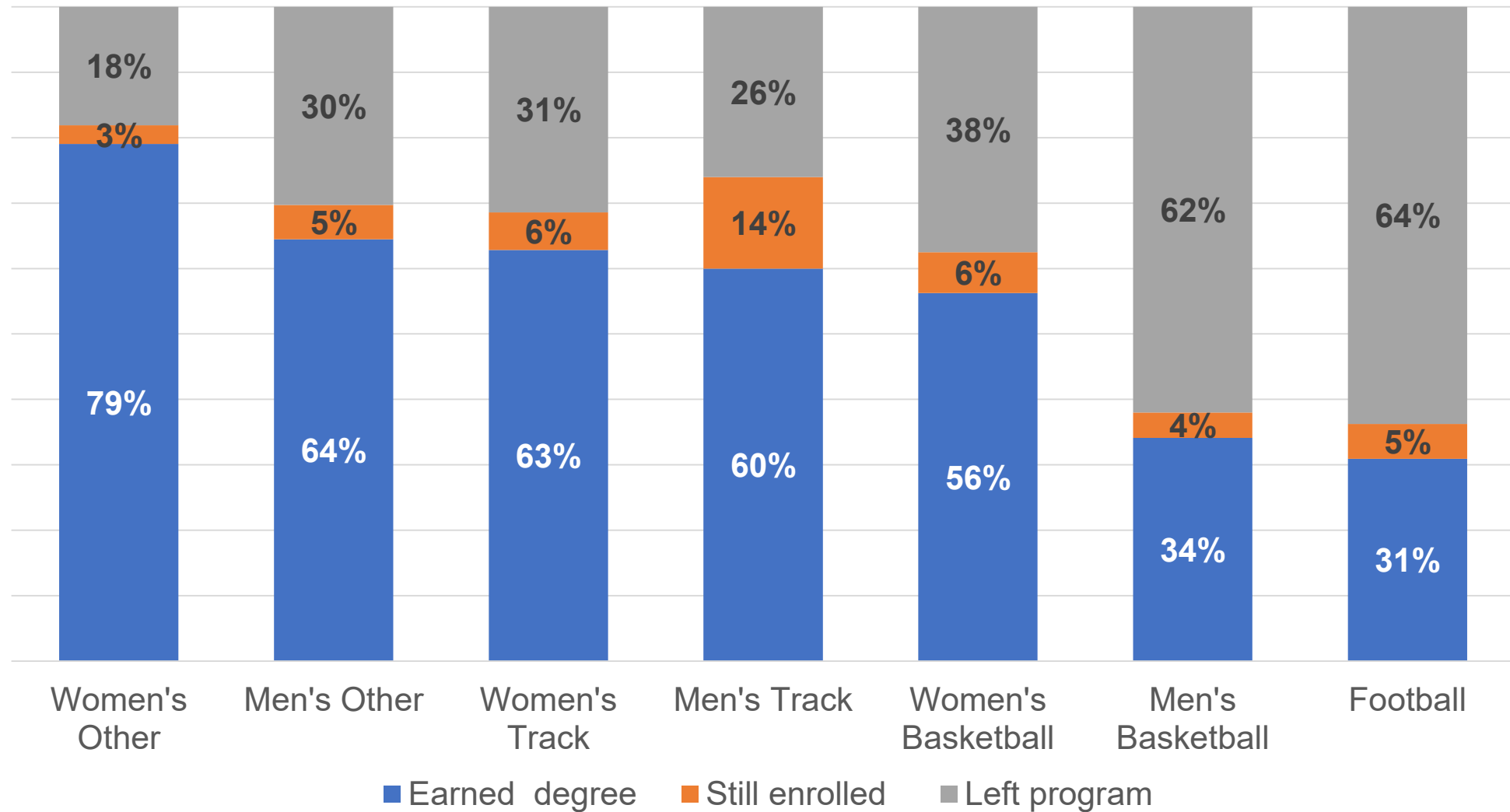


Note: Overall includes men's basketball and football.

# Two-Year Academic Outcomes for Graduate Students Remaining at their Undergraduate Institution



# Two-Year Academic Outcomes for Graduate Transfers by Sport



# Change in Two-Year Graduation Rates by Graduate Program Type

(2015 Study v. 2018 Study)

Sport	2015	2018
<b>Graduate Degree (Same Institution)</b>		
Overall	<b>62%</b>	<b>70%</b>
Women's Basketball	<b>62%</b>	<b>69%</b>
Football	<b>50%</b>	<b>61%</b>
Men's Basketball	<b>43%</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Graduate Degree (Transfer)</b>		
Overall	<b>51%</b>	<b>50%</b>
Women's Basketball	<b>46%</b>	<b>56%</b>
Football	<b>28%</b>	<b>31%</b>
Men's Basketball	<b>34%</b>	<b>34%</b>

## Availability of Athletics Aid for Postgraduates After Completion of Athletics Eligibility

	Autonomous Governance	Other FBS	FCS	Division I No Football	Limited Resource Institutions
Graduate Degree (Same Institution)					
Aid Available	56%	51%	44%	54%	51%
No Aid	44%	49%	46%	46%	49%
Graduate Degree (Transfer)					
Aid Available	60%	51%	46%	48%	53%
No Aid	40%	49%	54%	52%	47%



## Percent Graduated within Program Type by Aid Availability

	Men's Basketball and Football	Olympic Sports
<b>Graduate Degree (Same Institution)</b>		
Athletic aid available post-eligibility	<b>63%</b>	<b>75%</b>
No athletic aid post-eligibility	<b>55%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Graduate Degree (Transfer)</b>		
Athletic aid available post-eligibility	<b>34%</b>	<b>74%</b>
No athletic aid post-eligibility	<b>25%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Second Undergraduate Major/Degree</b>		
Athletic aid available post-eligibility	<b>10%</b>	<b>43%</b>
No athletic aid post-eligibility	<b>9%</b>	<b>20%</b>





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