

## **ANNUAL REPORT ON PARTICIPATION, RETENTION AND GRADUATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES**

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This report complies with Act 267 of 1989 that requires reporting of retention and graduation rates for first-time in college students who participate in Arkansas intercollegiate athletics. This information is collected through institutional data submissions to the Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS) from all public colleges and universities with athletic programs. In addition to retention and graduation rates, this report provides data on all athletic participation by sport and scholarship status.

### **Methodology**

The methodology used in this report closely follows the methodology used in the Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation. The retention calculations are based on fall-to-fall comparisons of the student-athletes in the cohort of first-time in college, full-time, and credential-seeking students from the fall term only. A student is considered retained if they returned to the same institution in the fall term of the next academic year.

Graduation rate calculations use the same cohort of first-time in college, full-time, credential-seeking students from the fall term. The graduation rates presented here include a 100% rate representing those graduating with a Bachelor's degree in four years, which is considered graduating 'on time', and a 150% graduation rate representing student-athletes graduating with a Bachelor's degree in six years.

The methodology used herein is not meant to and does not correspond with the NCAA GSR (Graduation Success Rate) methodology each institution is required to report to the NCAA.

### **Participation Overview**

In Academic Year 2022-23, 4,120 students participated in athletics at ten universities and nine 2-year colleges. This is the second most student-athletes ever reported for an academic year. This is a decrease of 12 student-athletes over the 2021-22 academic year, including 751 student-athletes reported by nine 2-year colleges.

Sports included in student-athlete reporting are Football, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Baseball, Track/Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball, Soccer, Softball, and an Other Sports category that includes student-athletes from all other sports.

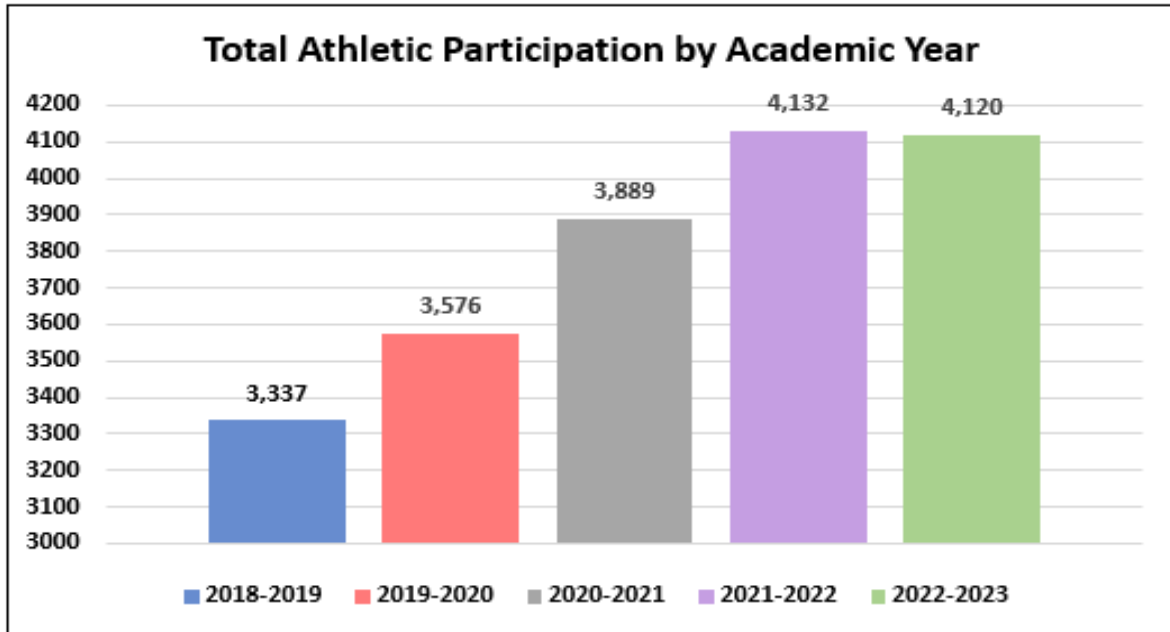


Chart 17.1: Athletic Participation by Academic Year

The number of student-athletes participating in football leads the way with 1,029 reported for the 2022-23 academic year. Softball had the largest increase in participation when compared to the 2021-2022 academic year.

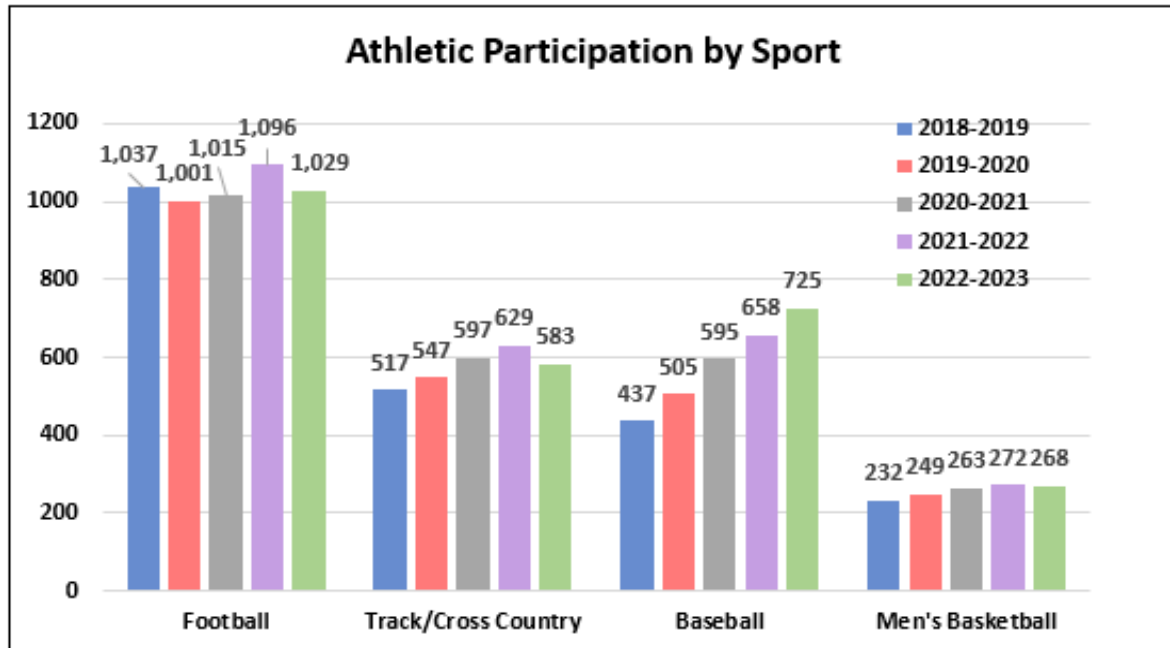


Chart 17.2: Athletes by Sport – Detailed

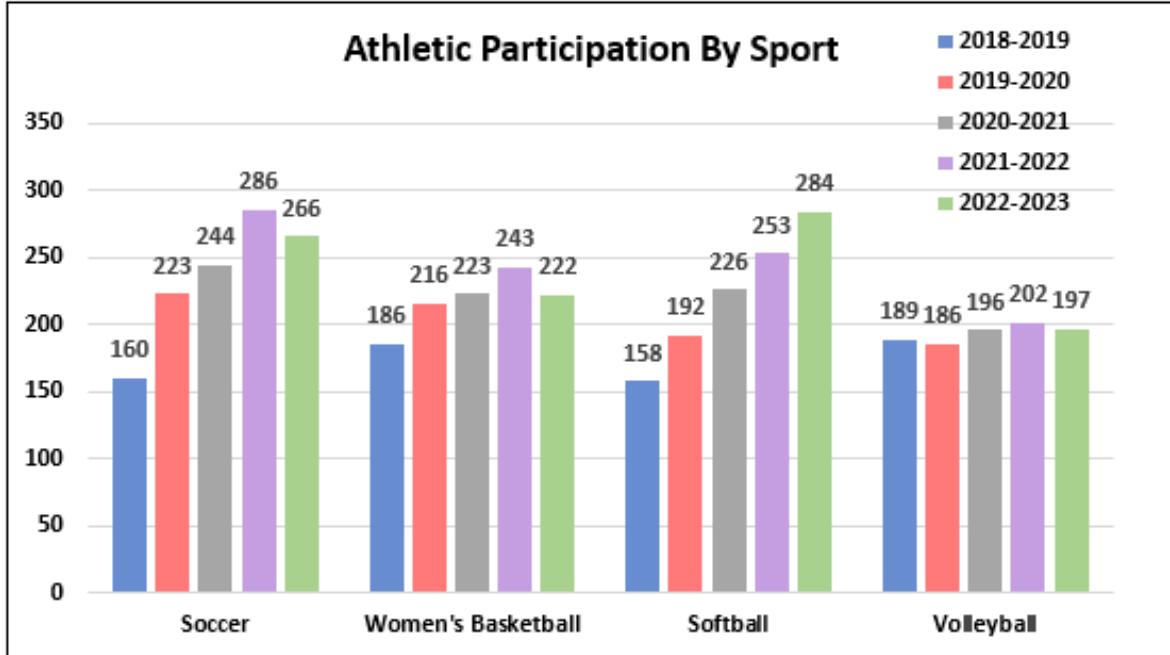


Chart 17.3: Athletes by Sport – Detailed

From academic year 2018-2019 to academic year 2022-2023, the Other Sports category participation ranged between 60 and 211 student-athletes.

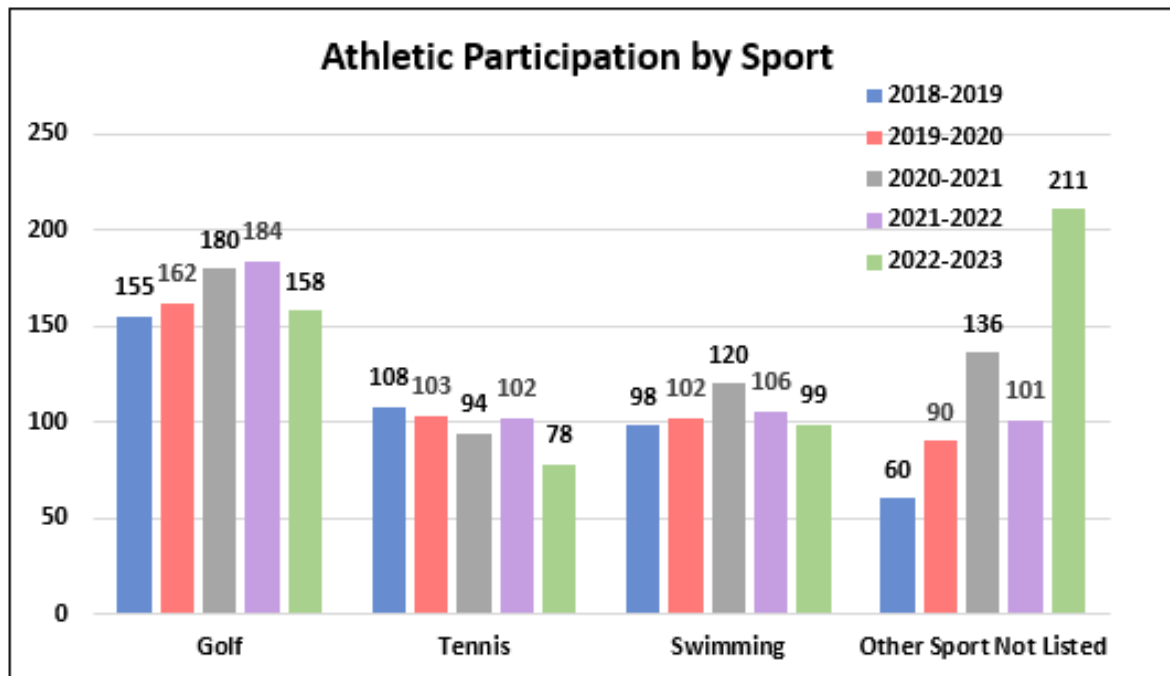


Chart 17.4: Athletes by Sport – Detailed

Many students receive scholarships to participate in athletics. The following graph illustrates the majority of students receive a partial scholarship, 2,438 of 4,120 student-athletes (59.2%), while only 589 (14.3%) receive a full scholarship.

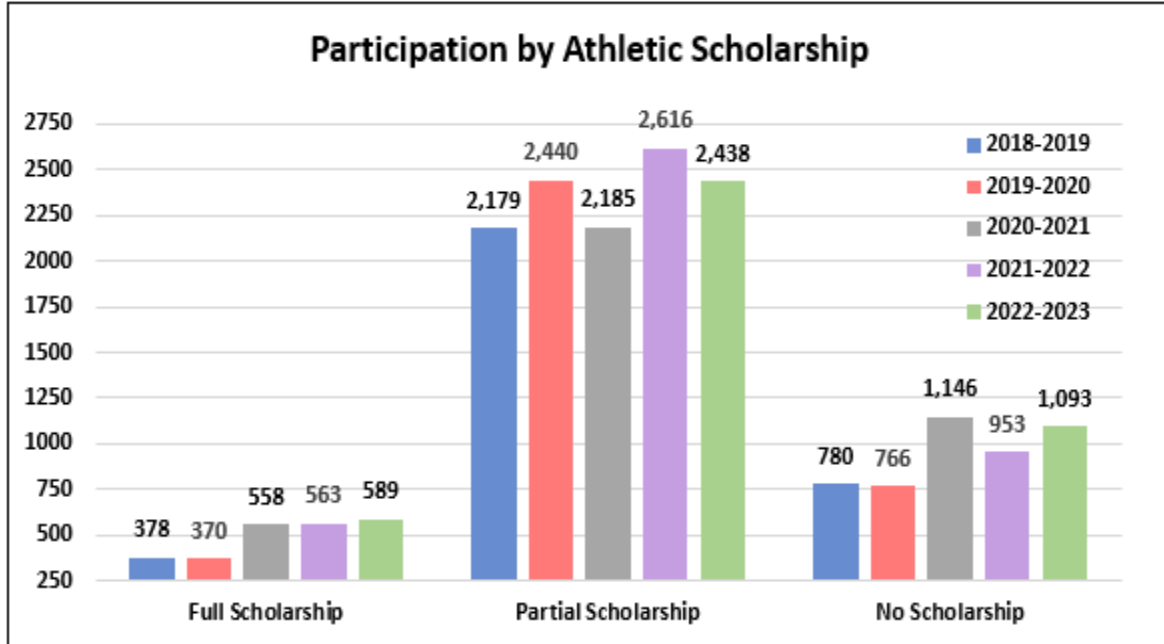


Chart 17.5: Athletes by Scholarship

The University of Central Arkansas reported the most student-athletes with the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville reporting the second largest number of athletes for the 2022-23 academic year.

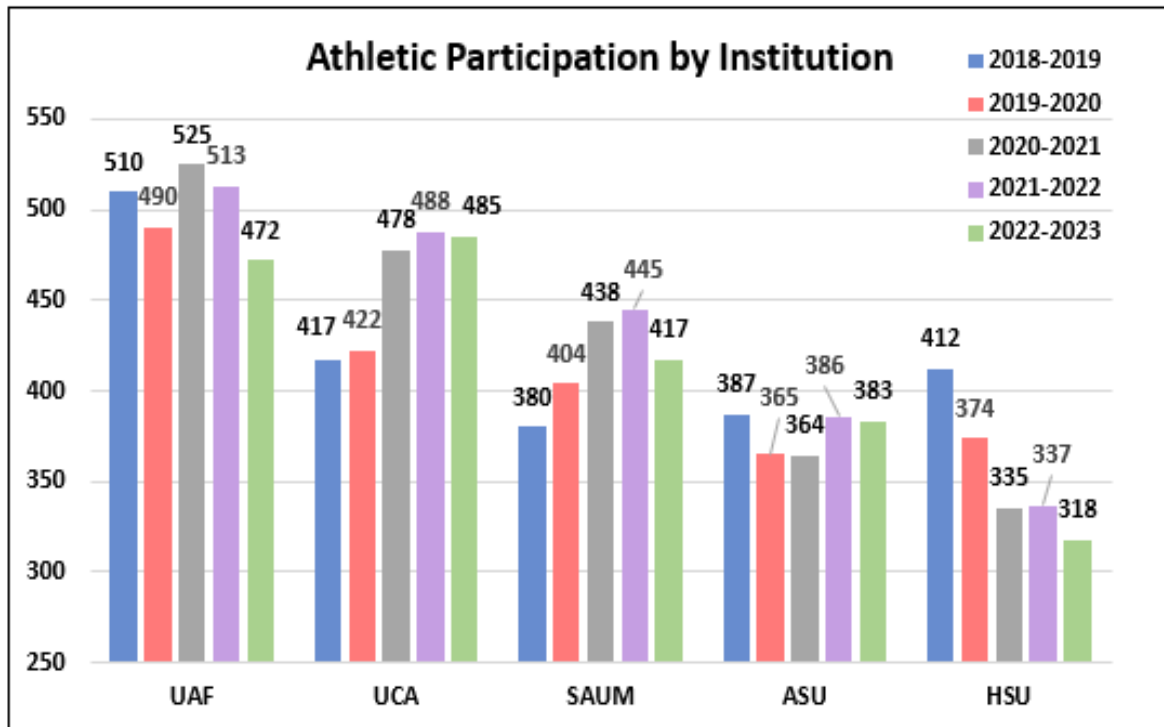


Chart 17.6: Athletes by Institution

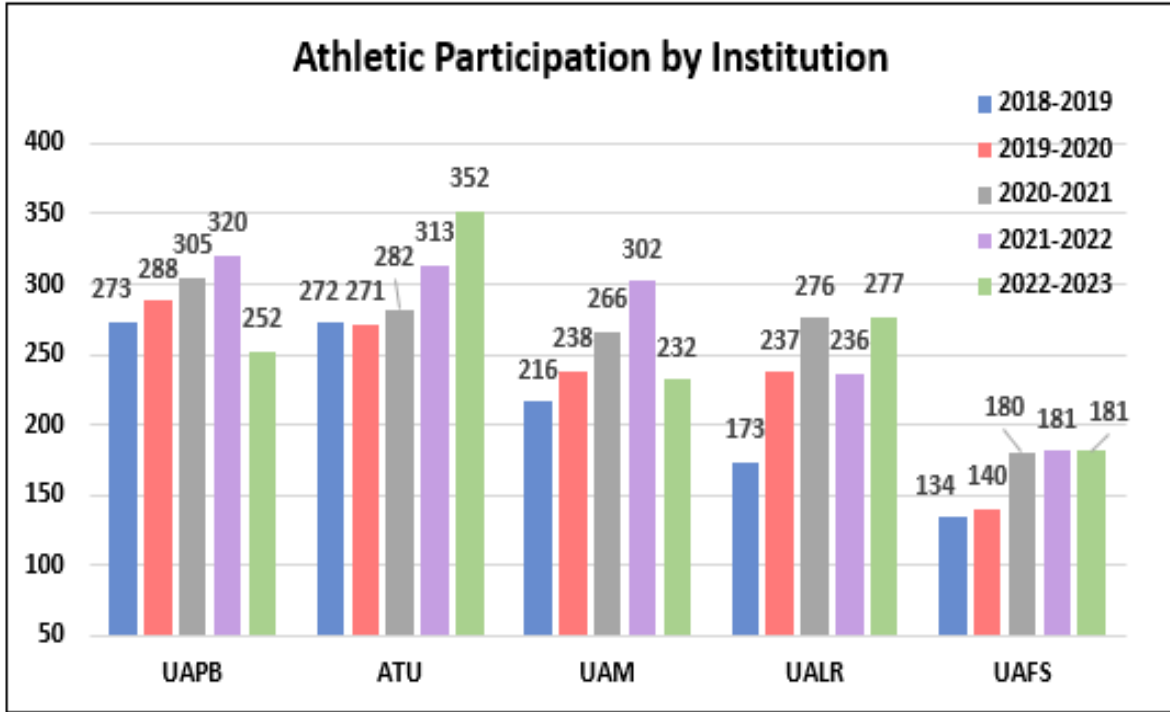


Chart 17.7: Athletes by Institution

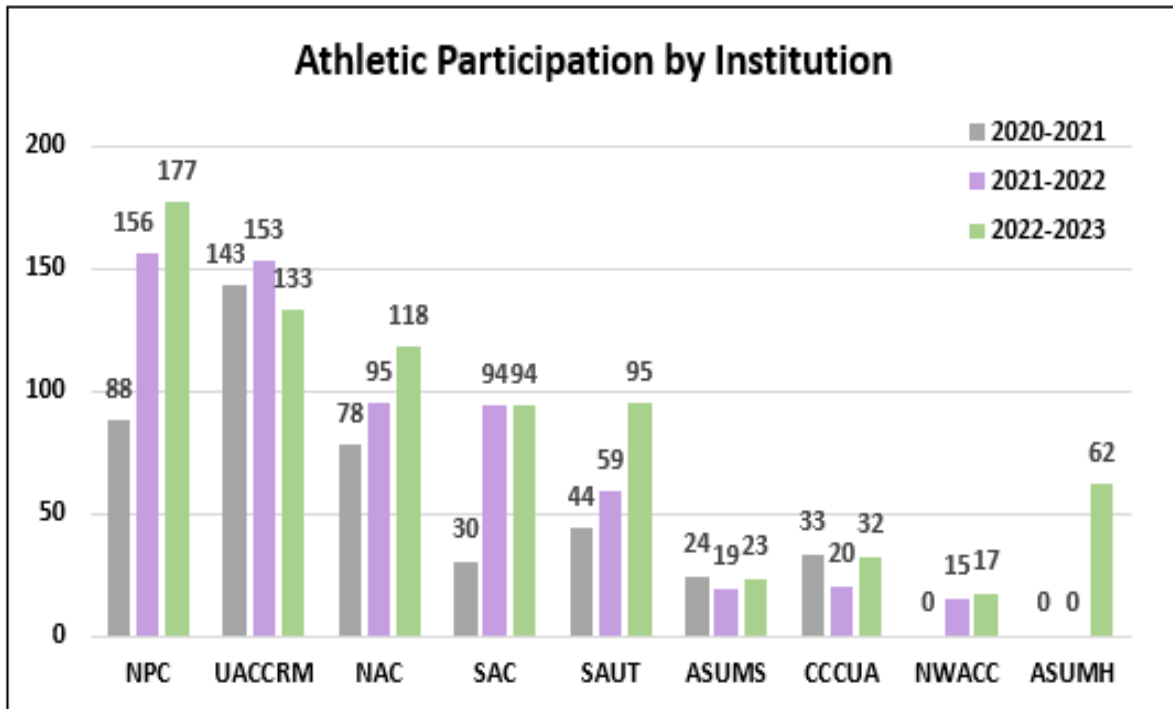


Chart 17.8: Athletes by Institution

### STUDENT-ATHLETE FALL-TO-FALL RETENTION

Athletes are retained at higher rates than non-athlete students due to the commitment to and interest in participating in college athletics; also, a correlation may be made between participation and the impact of support services many institutions provide.

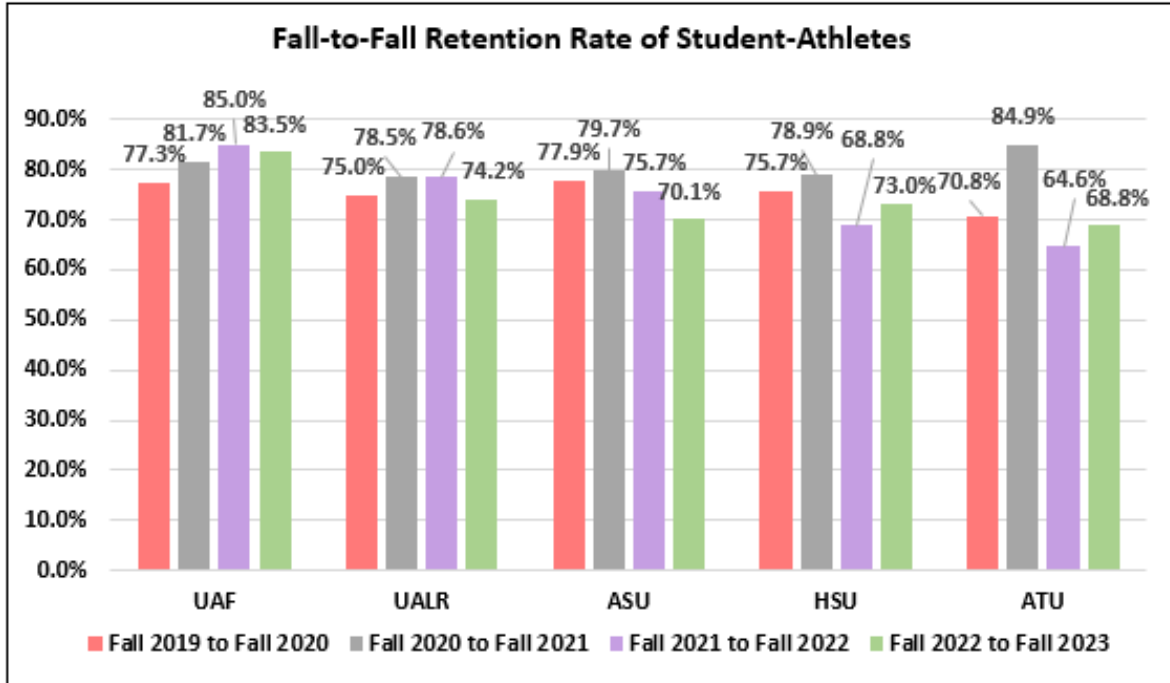


Chart 17.9: Retention Rate of Athletes by Institution

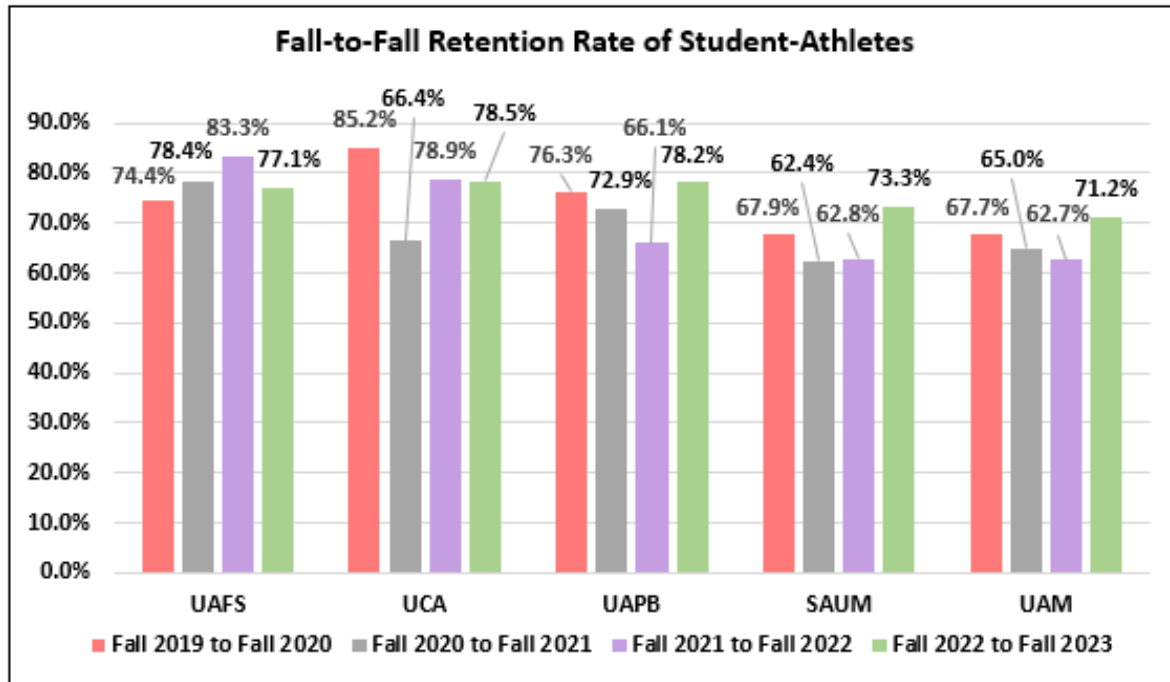


Chart 17.10: Retention Rate of Athletes by Institution

For our 2-year colleges, NWACC had the highest student-athlete retention rate of 80.0% of their Fall 2022 cohort to Fall 2023.

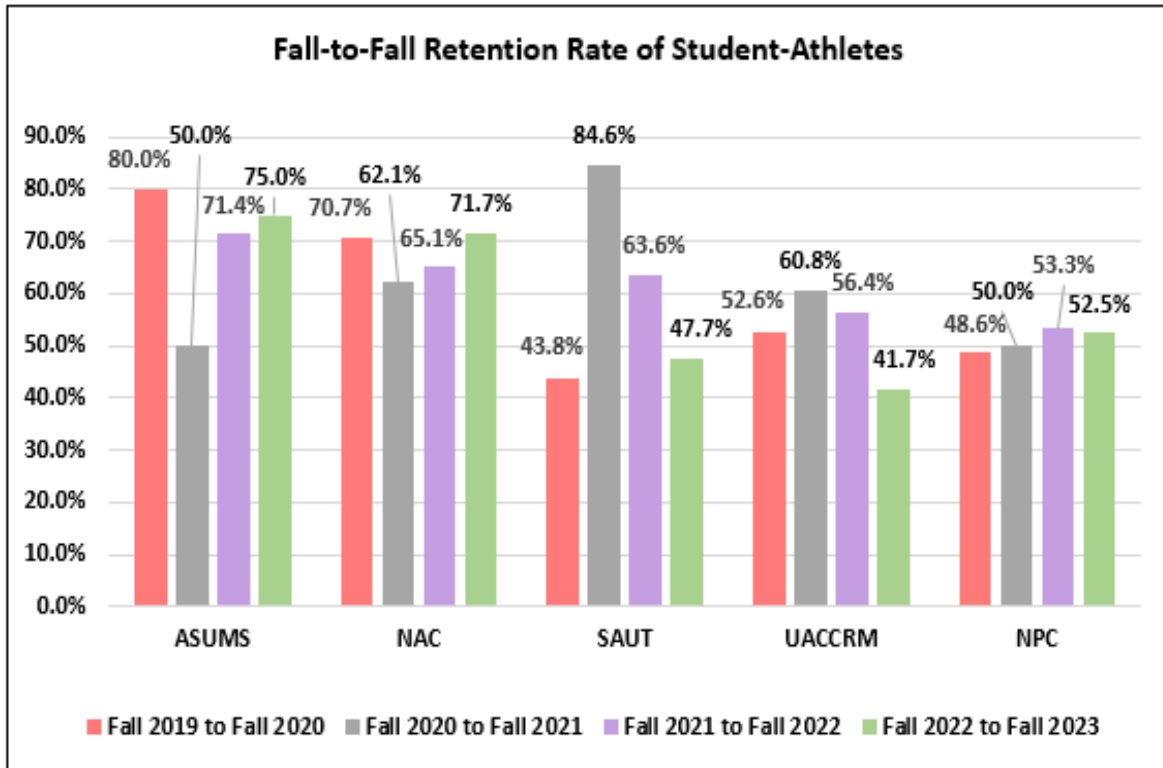


Chart 17.11: Retention Rate of Athletes by Institution

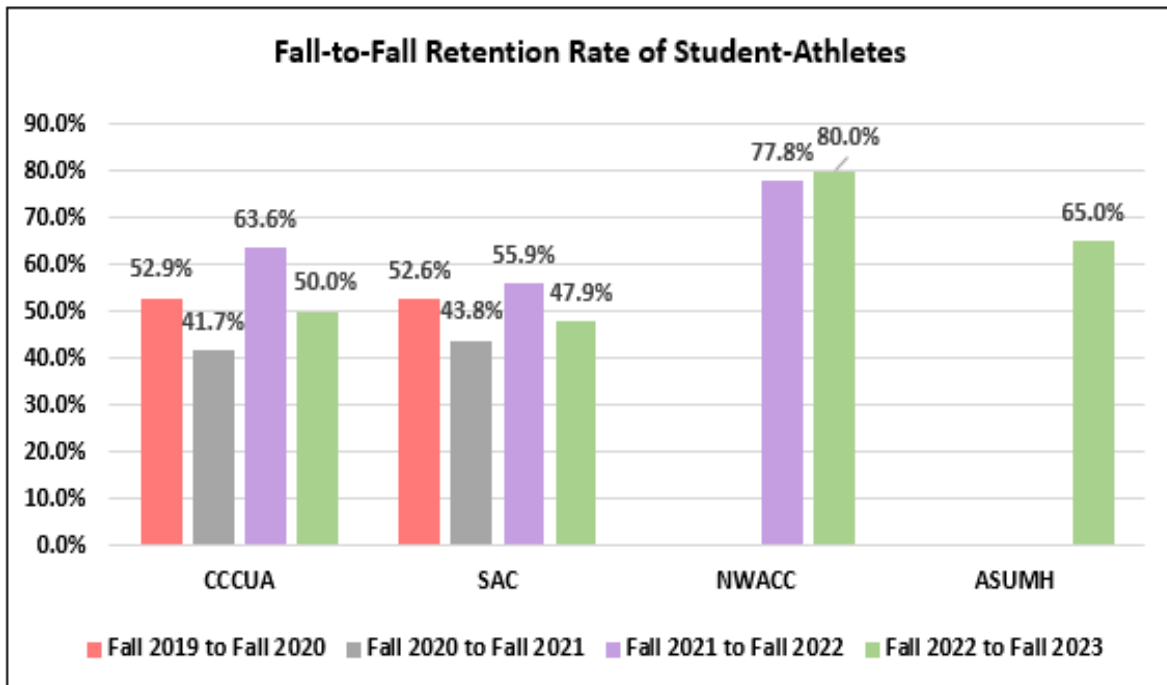


Chart 17.12: Retention Rate of Athletes by Institution

### STUDENT-ATHLETE GRADUATION RATES

The graduation rate calculations for student-athletes are based on the same methodology as the other graduation report. First-time in college, student-athletes enrolled for the first time define the cohorts. The chart below shows the graduation rate progression for three cohorts for the 4-year universities. Due to the varying sizes of the entering student-athlete cohorts each year, graduation rates for athletes tend to fluctuate more than rates of non-athletes. Graduating in four years (100%) is considered graduating on time for a Bachelor’s degree.

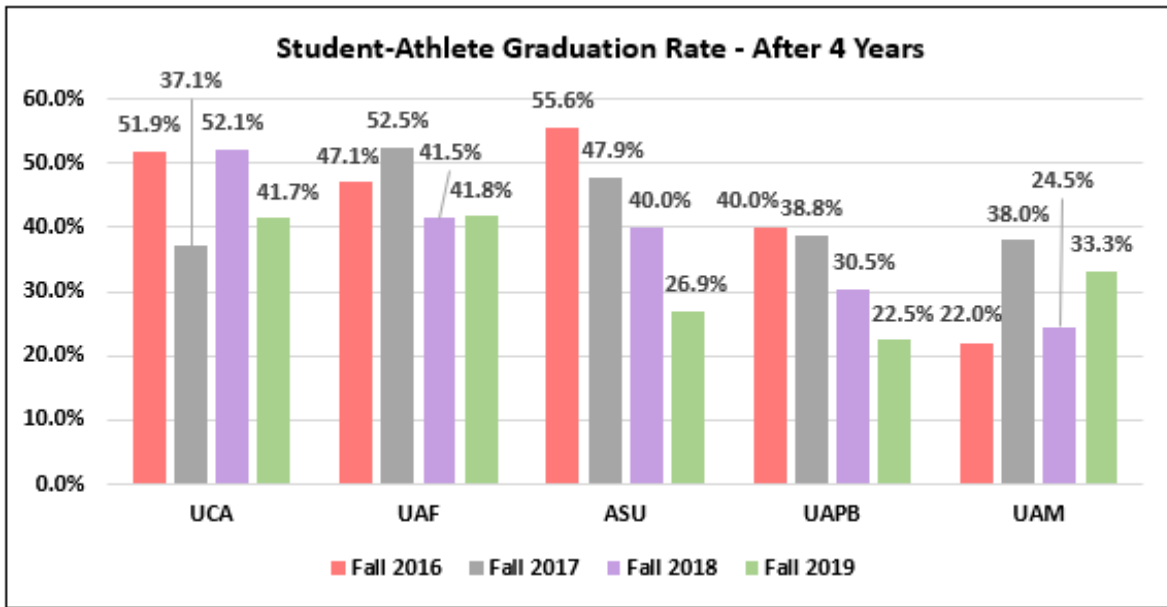


Chart 17.13: 100% Graduation Rates of Athletes by Institution

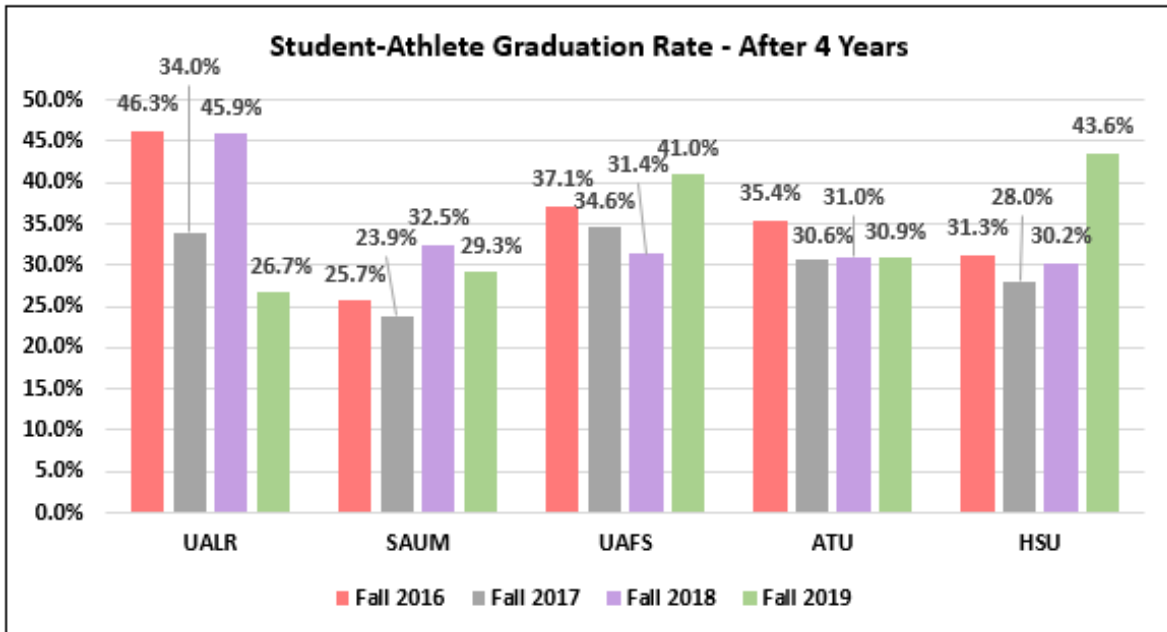


Chart 17.14: 100% Graduation Rates of Athletes by Institution



UAF and ASU reported a six-year (150%) graduation rate of 60.2% and 57.4% respectively.

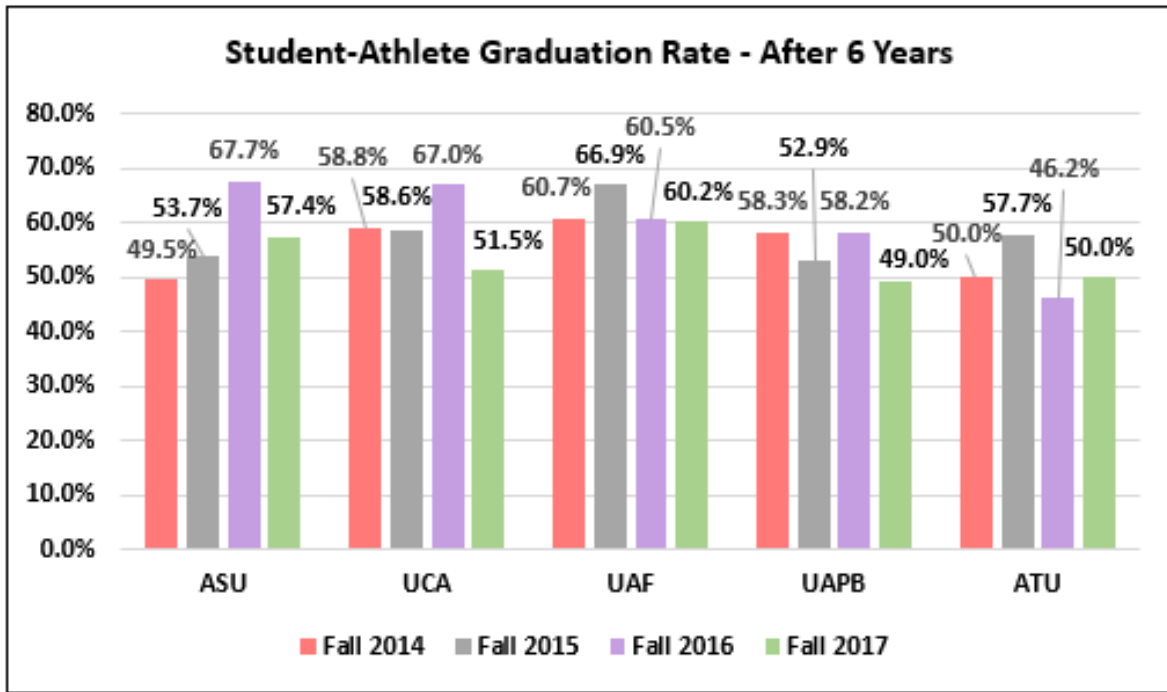


Chart 17.15: 150% Graduation Rates of Athletes by Institution

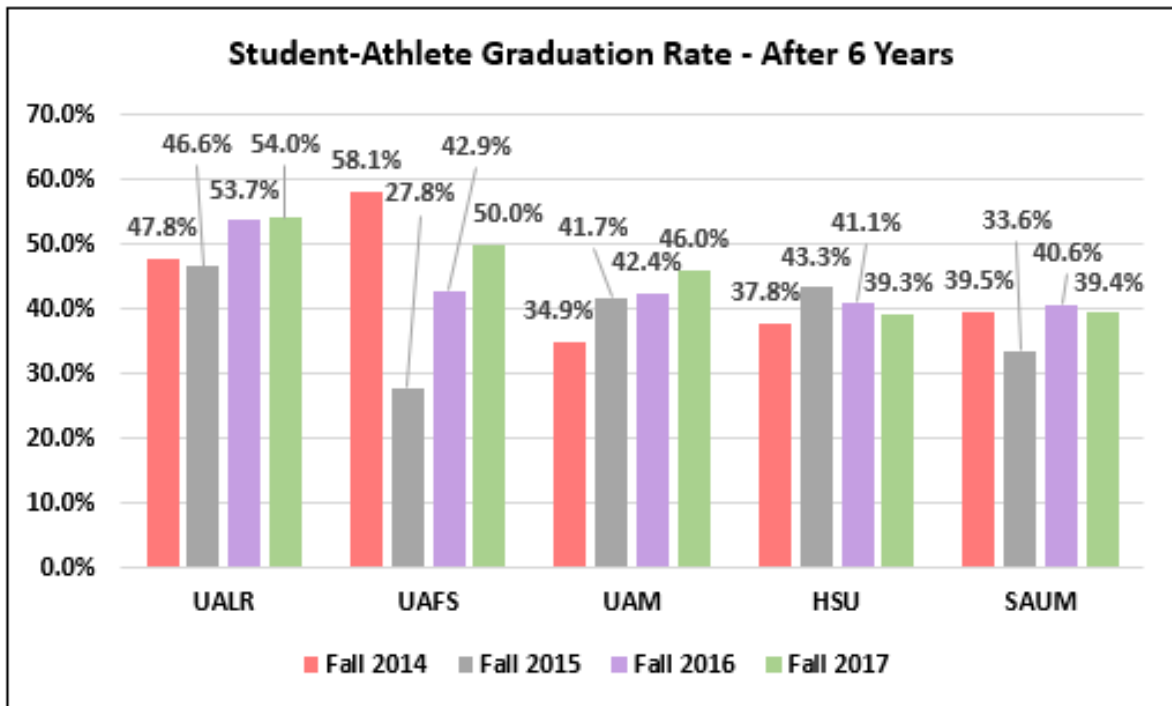


Chart 17.16: 150% Graduation Rates of Athletes by Institution