

Arkansas Division of Higher Education

Annual Report of Retention and Graduation Rates at Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education

2017-18



Research & Analytics

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Arkansas Division of Higher Education

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ANNUAL REPORT ON STUDENT RETENTION AND GRADUATION

Statewide student retention and graduation rates for students entering Arkansas higher education institutions are presented in this report for both public 4-Year and 2-Year institutions, and private/independent institutions. ADHE's Student Information System (SIS) enables multi-year student retention and graduation tracking in compliance with Student-Right-to-Know legislation and Act 267 of 1989.

Statewide Retention

The retention calculations are based on fall-to-fall comparisons of students in the IPEDS cohort of first-time entering, full-time, and credential-seeking students from the fall term only for all institution types. The following represents the percentage of each cohort who returned in the next fall term for the five most recent cohorts for all Arkansas Higher Education Sectors.

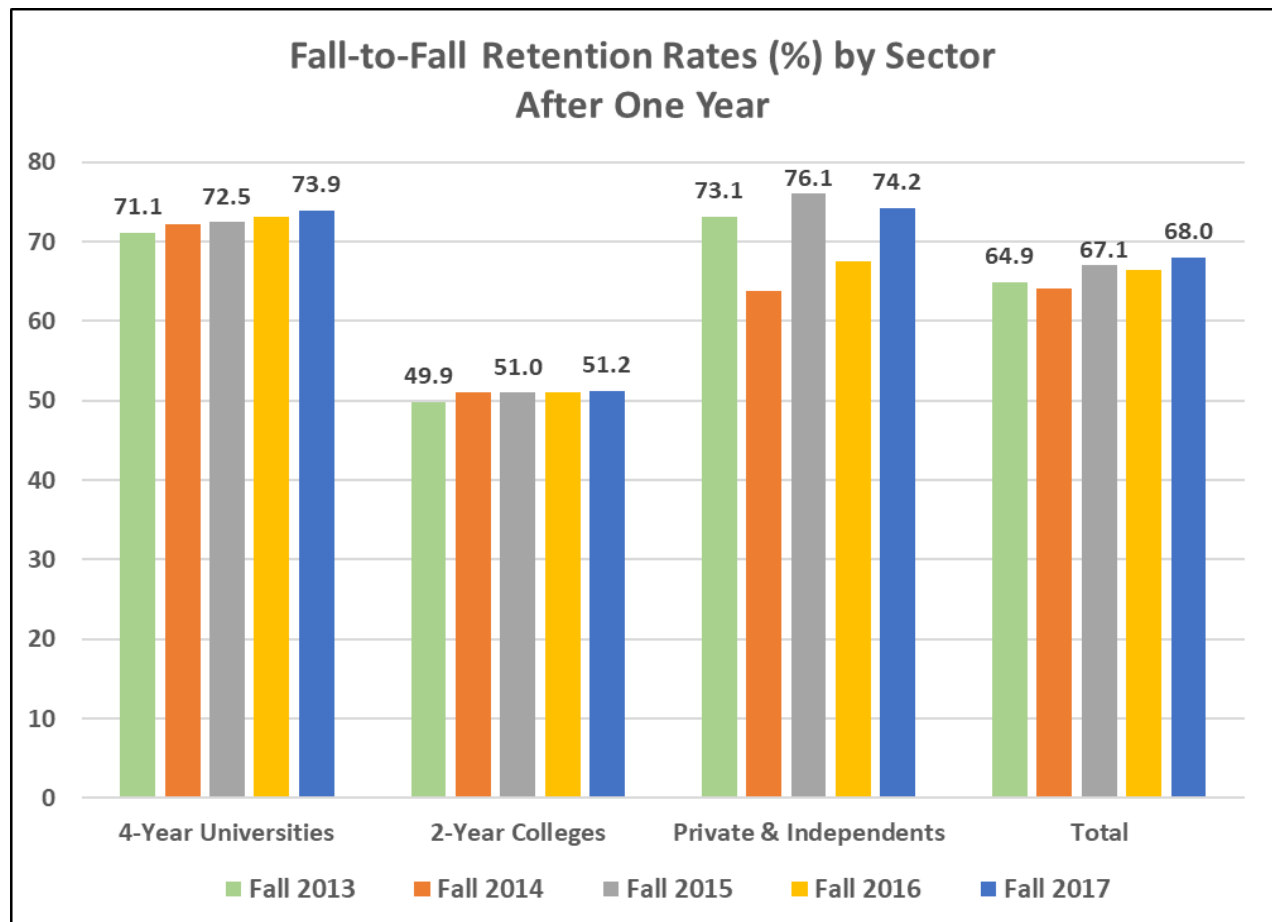


Chart 4.1: Student Retention Rates by Sector

When looking at all sectors together, the state's fall-to-fall retention rate of 68.0% for the Fall 2017 cohort has increased 3.1% over the Fall 2013 rate of 64.9%. The 4-Year public institutions have consistently reported a slight increase in the fall-to-fall retention

rate for the last five cohorts. Most recently, 73.9% of the Fall 2017 first-time in college cohort returned for their second year in Fall 2018.

The 2-Year college fall-to-fall retention rates remain consistent at around 50% - 51% for each cohort. The Private/Independent institutions retention rates vary more than those of the public institutions. The private institution Fall 2015 cohort produced a 76.1% retention rate, which is the highest fall-to-fall retention rate on record. Private institutions also reported the highest Fall 2017 cohort retention rate of 74.2%, which is slightly higher than the 4-Year public institutions rate of 73.9%.

Female students return for their second year at a higher retention rate than male students in all sectors. Both male and female student retention has shown modest improvements for the past three cohorts at the 4-Year institutions. The Fall 2017 male student cohort returned in Fall 2018 with a 70.5% retention rate, while 76.7% of the Fall 2017 female student cohort returned in their second year.

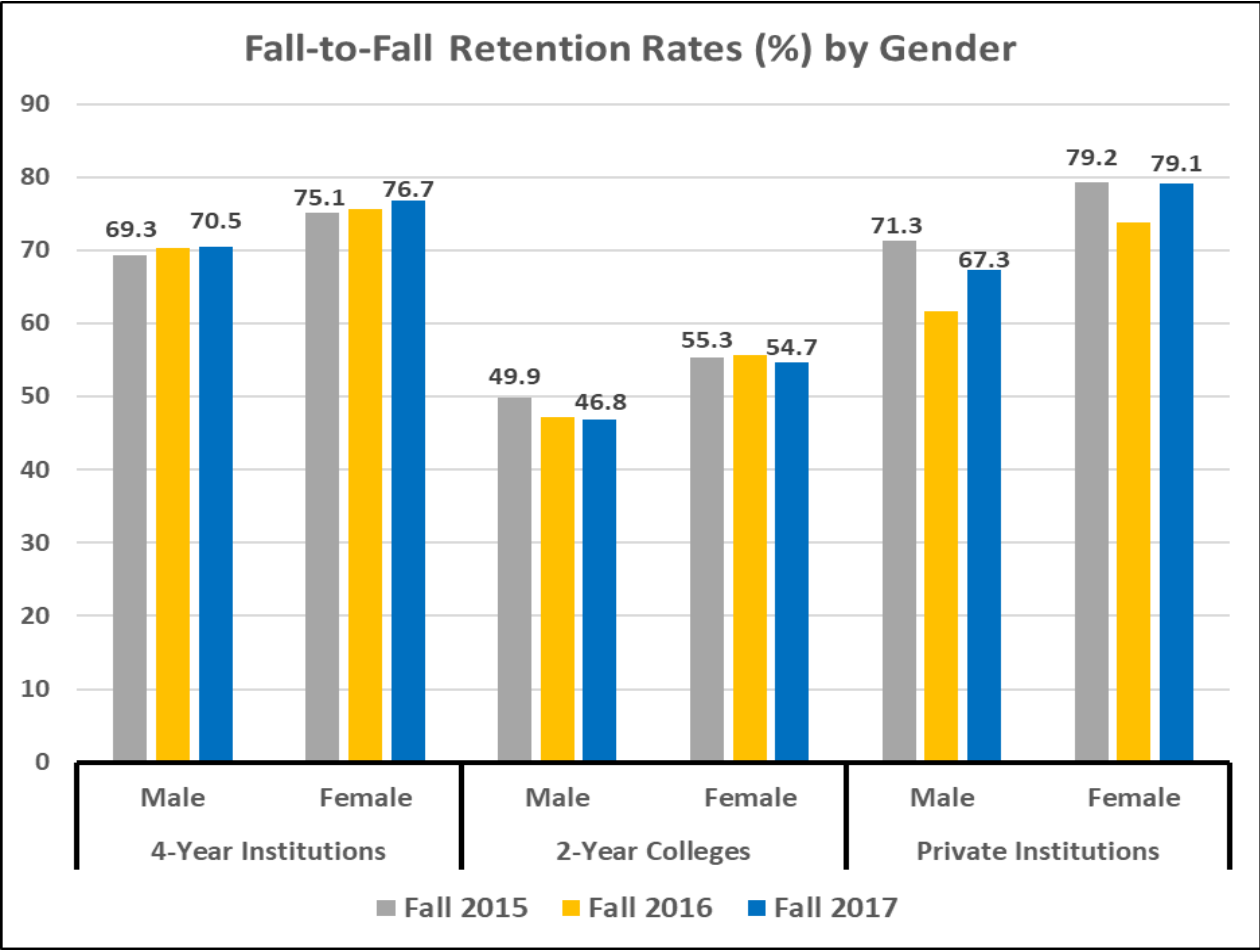


Chart 4.2: Student Retention Rates by Gender

For the 2-Year college cohorts, the male students' retention rate has decreased 3% when

comparing the Fall 2015 cohort to the Fall 2017 cohort. Females also showed a decline, but it was less than 1%.

Female students at our private institutions, claim the highest fall-to-fall retention rate of 79% for both the Fall 2015 cohort and the Fall 2017 cohort. The Fall 2015 male student cohort rate was 71.3%, but the Fall 2015 rate fell to 61.6%, but the Fall 2017 male cohort recovered some for a retention rate of 67.3%.

Chart 4.3 below provides fall-to-fall retention rates for the four race/ethnicity categories with the largest student cohorts. Hispanic student cohorts reported an increased retention rate for both the 4-Year institutions and the Private institutions comparing the Fall 2016 and Fall 2017 cohorts. Specifically, the Private institutions reported a 15% improvement in the fall-to-fall retention rate of Hispanic students as the Fall 2017 rate jumped to 78.8% over the Fall 2016 cohort rate of 63.7%.

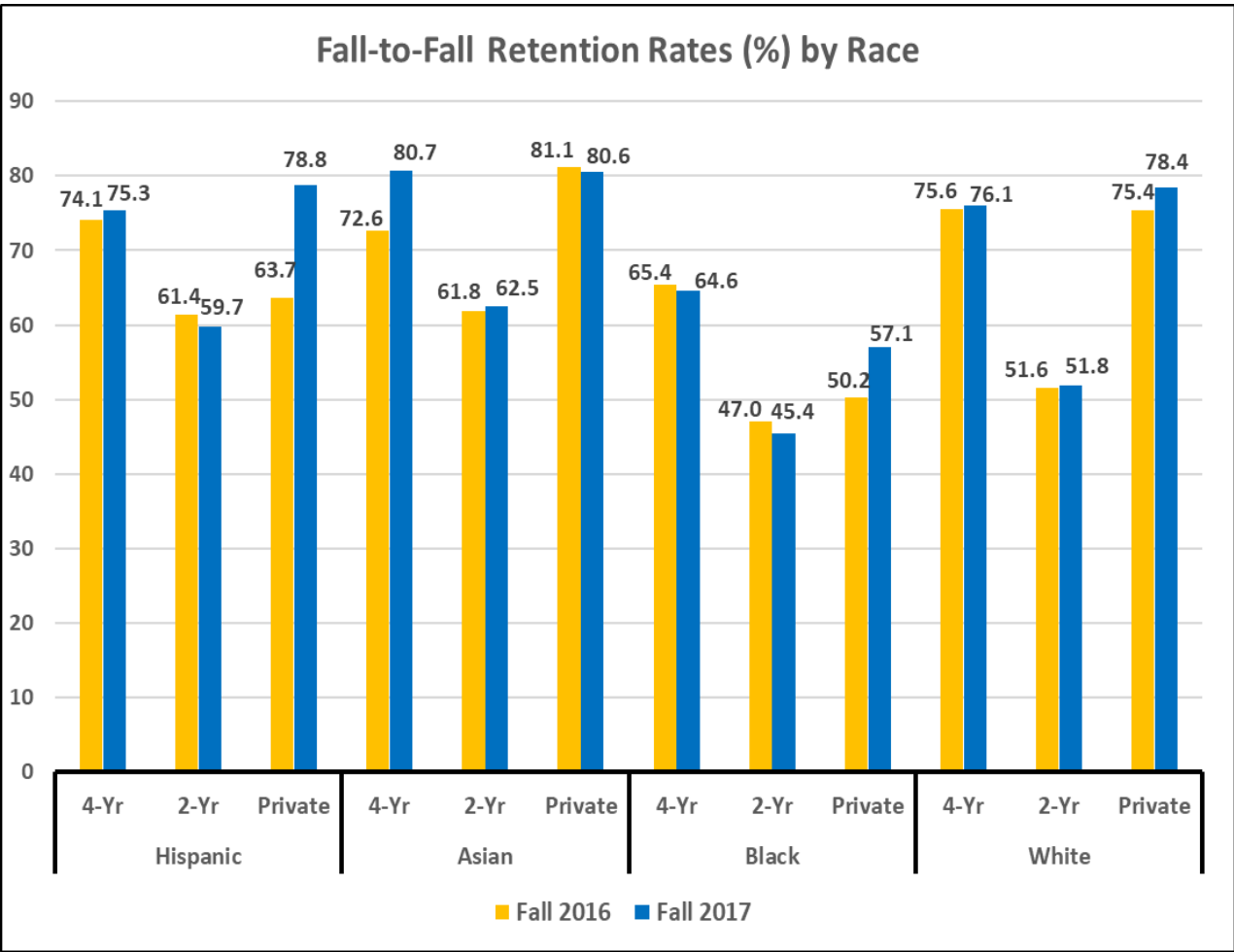


Chart 4.3: Student Retention Rates by Race/Ethnicity

The 4-Year institutions reported a significant improvement in fall-to-fall retention rates for Asian students when comparing Fall 2016 to Fall 2017. The Fall 2017 cohort returned for their second year at 80.7% which is more than 8% higher than the Fall 2016 fall-to-fall retention rate of 72.6% for the Asian student cohort.

The Private institutions reported the largest improvement for Black students. The fall-to-fall retention rate for the Fall 2017 cohort jumped to 57.1% over 50.2% reported for the Fall 2016 black student cohort.

The 4-Year and 2-Year public institutions' white student cohorts were retained at consistent rates for both the Fall 2016 and Fall 2017 cohorts. The 4-Year rate averages 76%, while the 2-Year rate reports 52%. There was a 3% increase for the Fall 2017 white student cohort at the Private institutions when compared to the Fall 2016 cohort.

The graph below provides fall-to-fall retention rates for students' age 25 to 54 years old, which qualifies them to receive additional weighting in the Productivity Funding Model. The 4-Year institutions have experienced a decline in the retention rate for the last three cohorts, dropping from a 61.0% rate for the Fall 2015 cohort to 55.8% rate for the most recent Fall 2017 cohort. 2-Year college students in this 25-54 age group cohort show a consistent fall-to-fall retention rate between 47% and 48%.

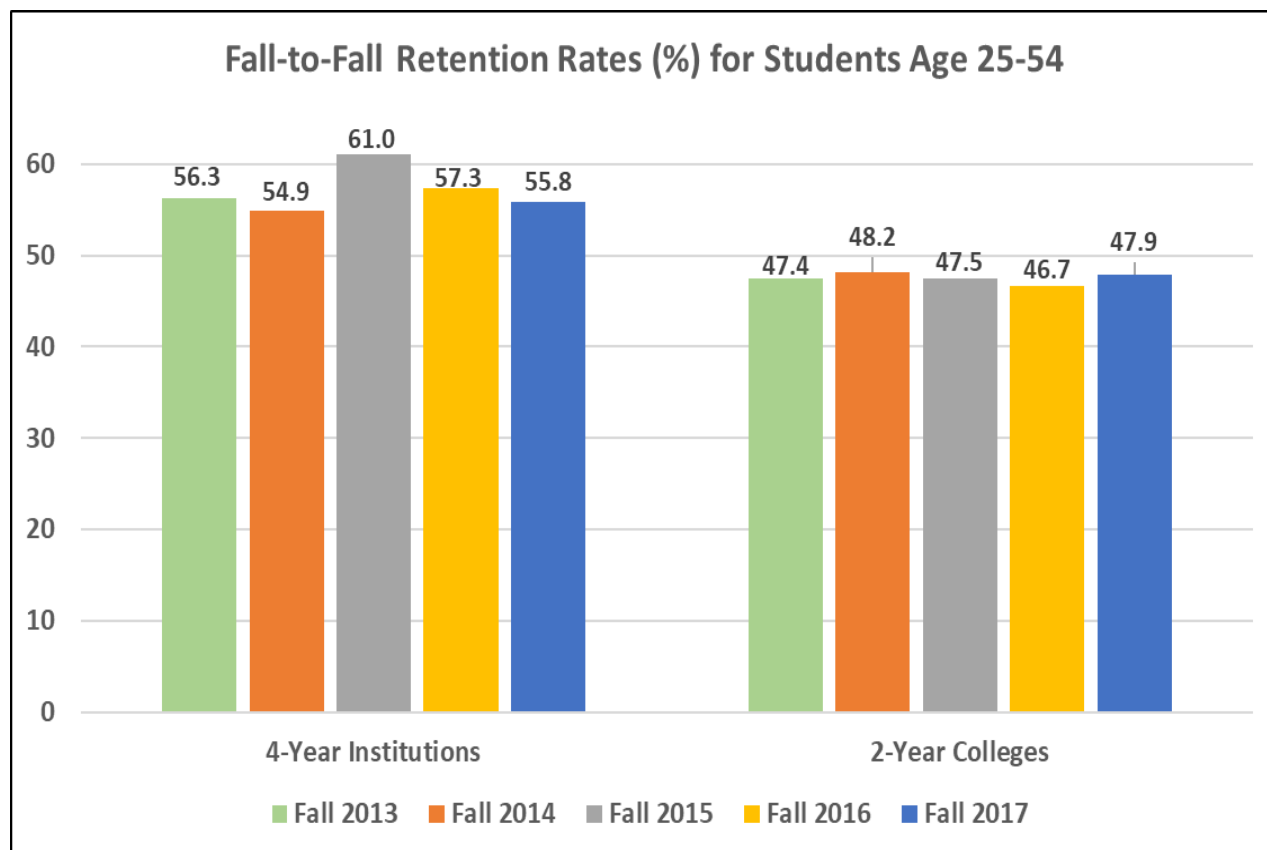


Chart 4.4: Student Retention Rates by Productivity Adult Age Range

As expected, fall-to-fall retention rates for students taking remedial coursework is considerably lower, between 17% and 18% lower, than the overall 4-Year student retention rates as seen in Chart 4.1. The retention rates for the 4-year institutions range between 54% for the Fall 2013 cohort, and 58% for the Fall 2016 cohort.

The retention rate for the remedial student cohort for the 2-Year colleges falls between 47% and 53%. The Fall 2017 cohort for the 2-Year colleges was 3.5% higher than their Fall 2016 remediated student cohort.

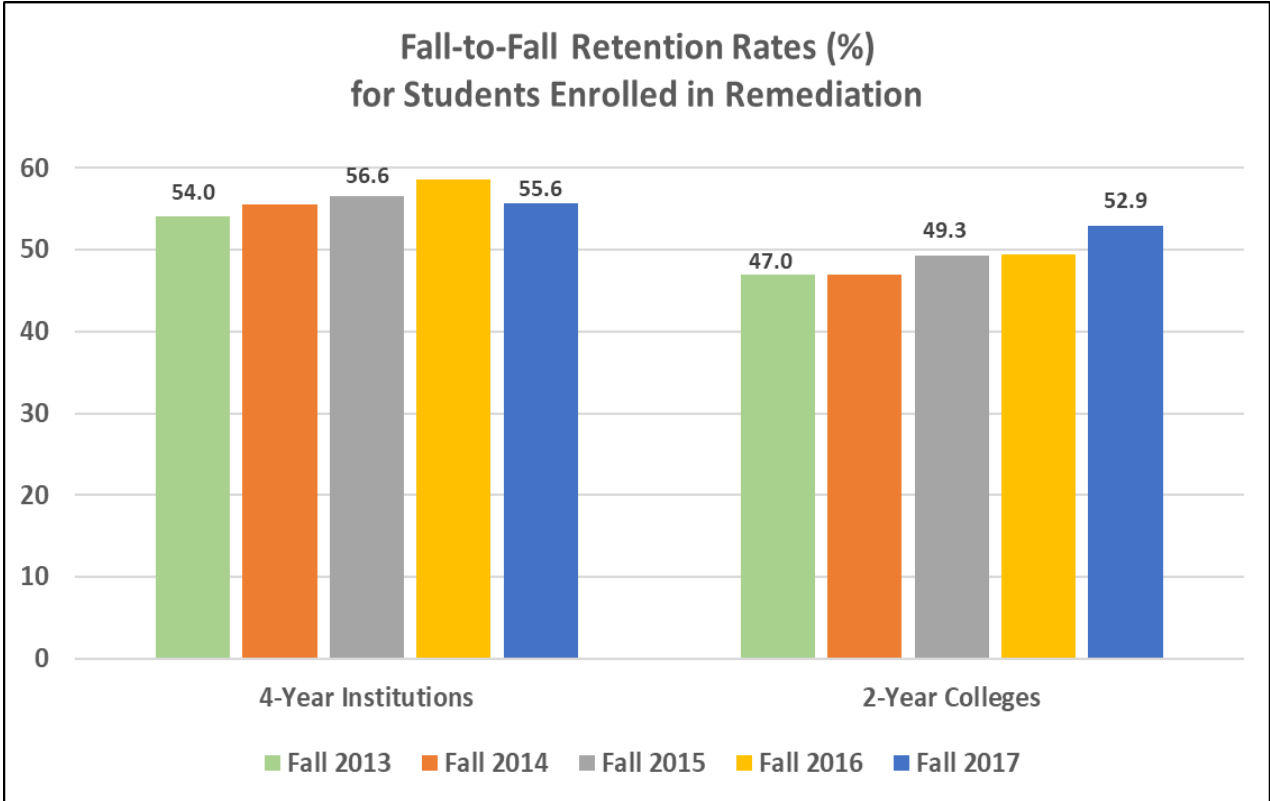


Chart 4.5: Student Retention Rates by Remediated Students

Retention Rates by Institution

In order to create charts that are readable and easier to understand, the fall-to-fall retention rates by institution are presented in several separate charts. The next several pages provide fall-to-fall retention rate information for each public and private college and university in the state.

Each 4-Year institution listed in Chart 4.6 below, reported an increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate when comparing the Fall 2013 cohort to the Fall 2017 cohort. ASUJ, ATU, and SAUM experienced improved retention rates between 2.4% and 2.8%. HSU and UCA reported increases in their retention rates of 4.7% and 4.2% respectively, when comparing their Fall 2013 cohort to their Fall 2017 cohort.

When comparing the most recent Fall 2017 cohort to the Fall 2016 cohort, ASUJ had the largest retention rate increase, from 72.8% to 76.4%, which is a 3.6% improvement. UCA also reported a 1.9% growth for the Fall 2017 cohort retention rate of 74.1%, compared to their Fall 2016 cohort retention rate of 69.9%.

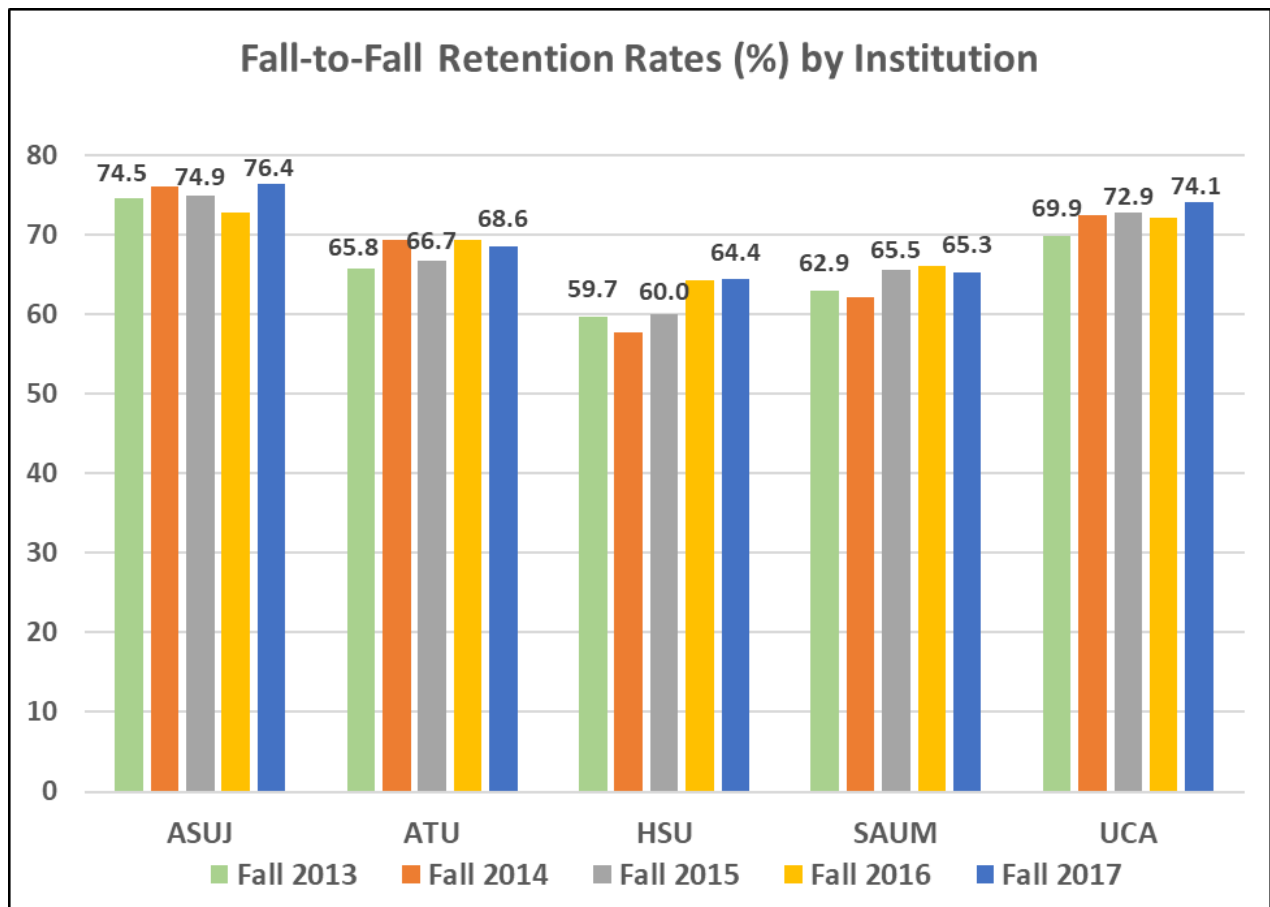


Chart 4.6: Student Retention Rates by Institution

Chart 4.7 provides fall-to-fall retention rate data for the University of Arkansas System institutions. UAF showed a .9% increase in their Fall 2017 fall-to-fall retention rate when compared to their Fall 2013 cohort rate of 82.8%.

UAFS experienced a 3.4% decrease when comparing their Fall 2016 retention cohort to their Fall 2017 cohort. UALR reported the only decline in retention rate when looking at Fall 2013 and Fall 2017 cohorts. UAM retention rates have improved each of the last four retention cohorts, and UAPB rates have remained constant for the last four years, reporting rates around 70%.

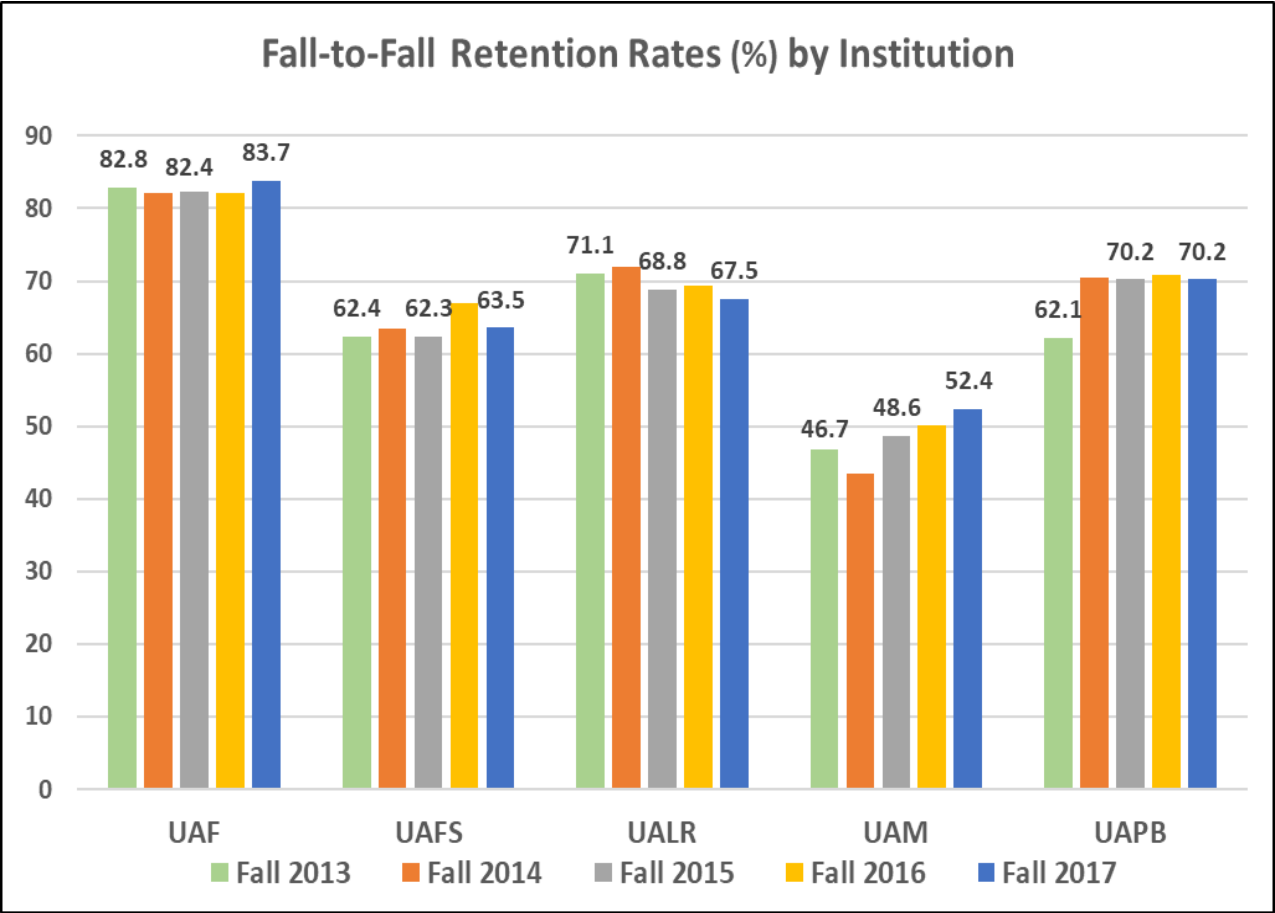


Chart 4.7: Student Retention Rates by Institution – UA System

Fall-to-Fall retention rates for the following 2-Year colleges show some rate variance between the cohorts. The Fall 2015 cohort for BRTC reported their highest retention rate of 51.4%, while their Fall 2017 cohort reported a much lower rate of 32.4%. EACC’s Fall 2017 cohort posted their highest retention rate of 53.8%.

NPC’s Fall 2013 retention rate was 56.3%, but later cohorts retention rates ranged between 43% and 47%. OZC’s Fall 2017 cohort showed a 7% improvement over the Fall 2016 cohort rate of 39%.

SACC experienced a decline in retention rate for the Fall 2017 cohort, down from the 54% rate of the Fall 2016 cohort. SAUT also experienced a drop for their Fall 2017 cohort rate of 38.7%, when compared to their Fall 2016 cohort rate of 42%.

Retention rate calculations for 2-Year colleges are challenging since the IPEDS cohort includes all credential-seeking students. Students who completed a certificate program may not continue past their first year of attendance, but are including in the cohort.

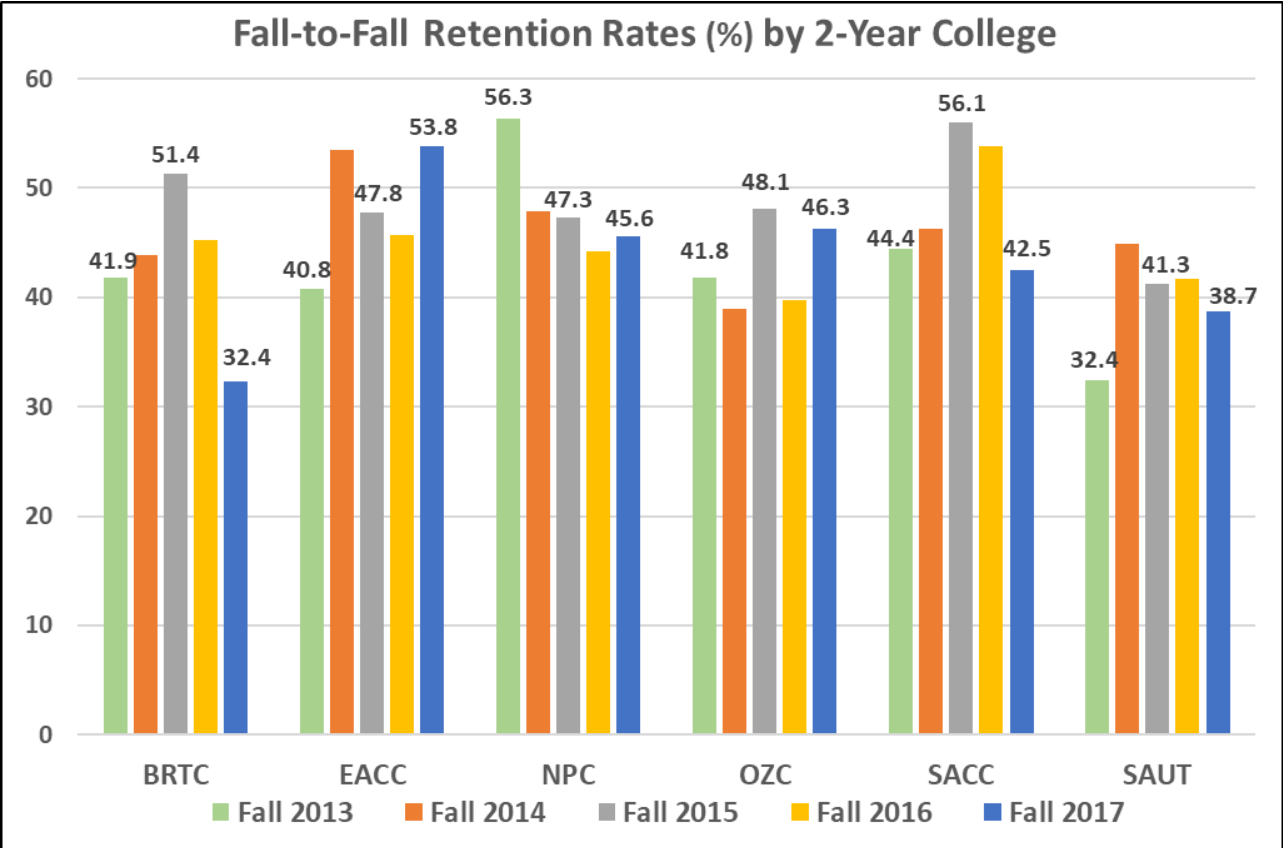


Chart 4.8: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

NWACC reports the most consistent fall-to-fall retention rates, ranging from 55% for the Fall 2014 cohort and 60% for their Fall 2016 cohort. SEAC has shown improved retention rates for the last four cohorts.

NAC reported a 2.5% fall-to-fall retention rate increase for the Fall 2017 cohort compared to their Fall 2016 cohort. ANC’s Fall 2017 retention rate held steady at 54.3%, and CotO’s Fall 2017 cohort experienced a decline of about 7% when looking at the Fall 2016 cohort rate of 53%.

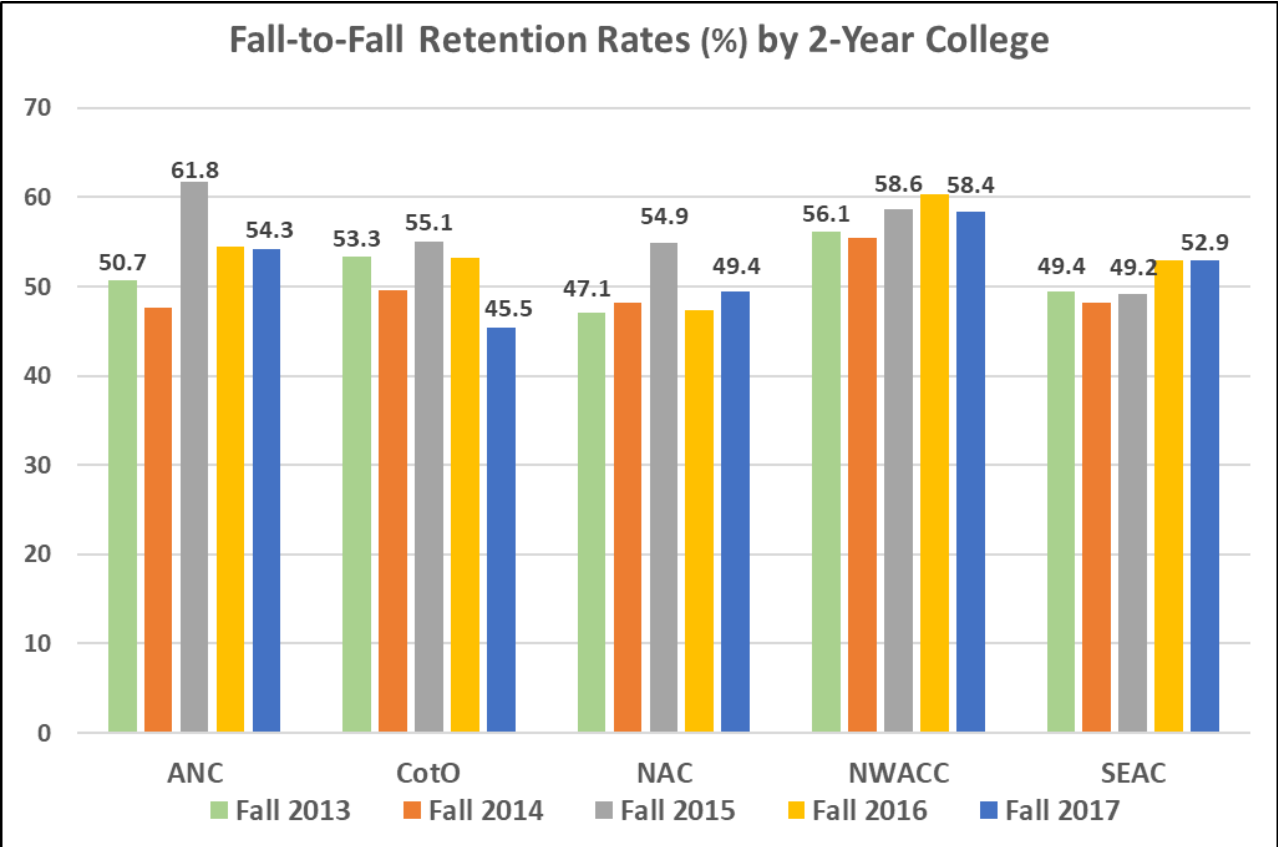


Chart 4.9: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

The ASU System had two colleges report an increase in their fall-to-fall retention rates. ASUB's Fall 2017 cohort showed a 4% improvement over their Fall 2016 cohort. ASUN's Fall 2017 cohort indicated a slight 1% increase over the Fall 2016 cohort. ASUMH reported a decline of about 2% for the Fall 2017 cohort compared to the Fall 2016 cohort, and ASUMS reported an 8% decline in retention for the Fall 2017 cohort over the Fall 2016 cohort.

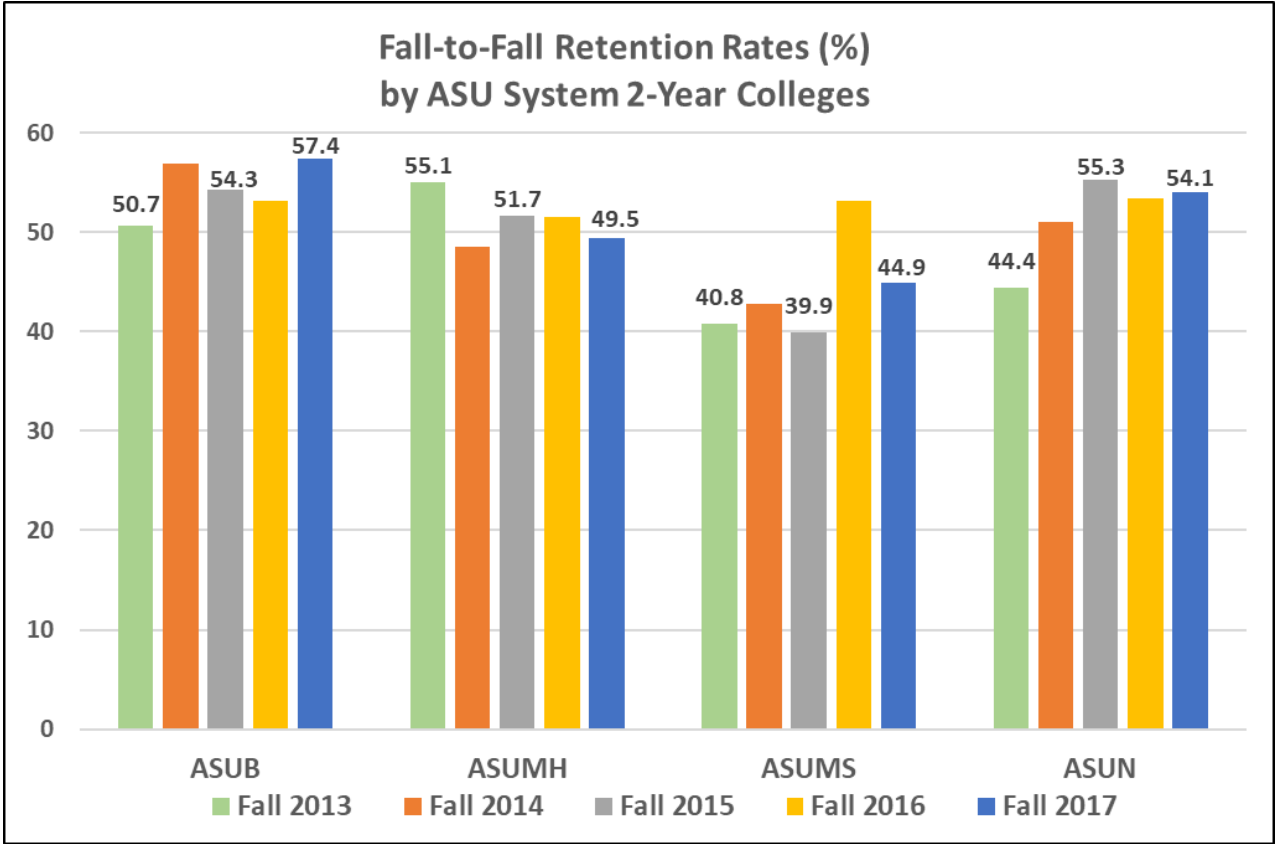


Chart 4.10: Student Retention Rates by Institution – ASU System 2-Year Colleges

The UA System had two colleges report an increase in their fall-to-fall retention rates. UACCB and UACCM both showed about a 4% improvement for their Fall 2017 cohort over their Fall 2016 cohort.

CCCUA, UACCH, UACCRM, and UAPTC all reported declines for their Fall 2017 cohort over the Fall 2016 cohort. PCCUA reported 57.8% retention rate for the Fall 2017 cohort, which is comparable to the Fall 2016 cohort rate.

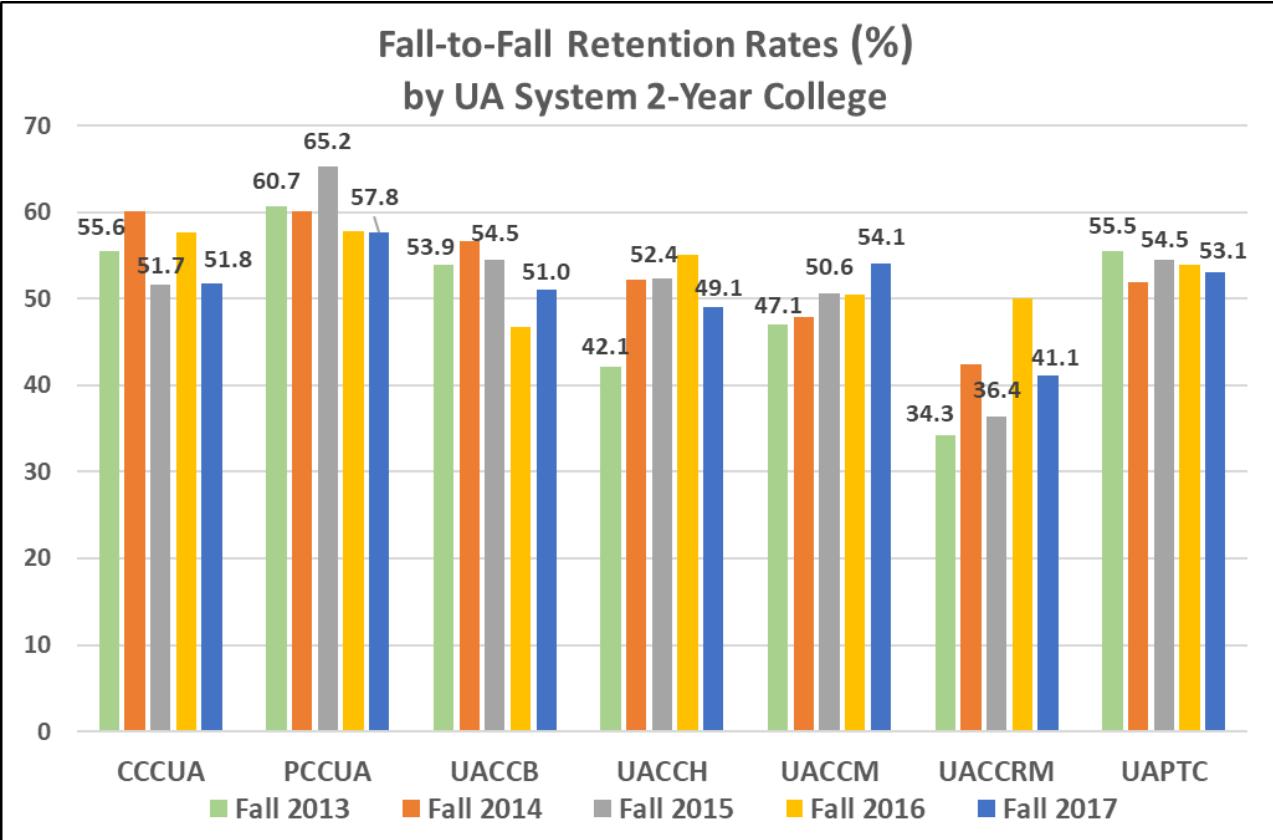


Chart 4.11: Student Retention Rates by Institution – UA System 2-Year Colleges

For our private/independent institutions, Hendrix College reported the highest Fall 2017 fall-to-fall retention rate of 87.1%, followed closely by Harding University at 84.2% and Ouachita Baptist University at 82.7%.

Lyon College reported an almost 10% improvement in retention rate for their Fall 2017 cohort rate of 70.5% over their Fall 2016 cohort rate of 61%.

University of the Ozarks reported the most significant increase of almost 20% for the Fall 2017 cohort rate of 72.4% over the Fall 2016 cohort rate of 52%.

Williams Baptist College reported the largest decrease in retention. Fall 2016 cohort reported a retention rate of 74%, while the most recent Fall 2017 cohort retention rate was 52.1%.

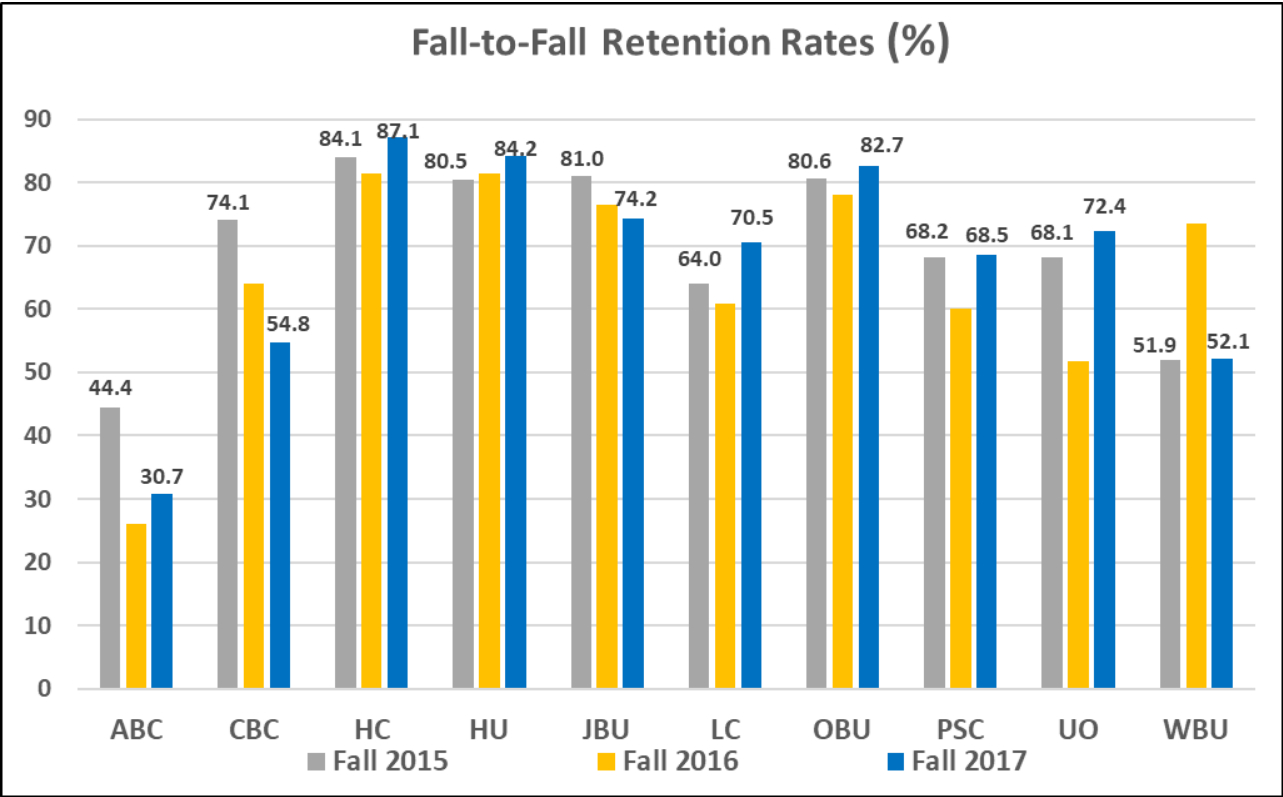


Chart 4.12: Student Retention Rates by Institution – Private Institutions

Statewide Graduation

The graduation rate for each institution is based on a cohort of first-time entering, credential-seeking students from the entire academic year, and includes all full-time and part-time students. In addition, the graduation rates use a 100%, 150%, and 250% time-to-degree for calculating graduation rates. For example, for the 4-Year University 100% rate, all credentials are counted if awarded within four academic years (plus the following summer graduates). The time-to-degree rates vary by institution type.

Institution Type	Graduation Rate	Time-to-Degree
4-Year Universities	100%	4 Academic Years + Summer Graduates in the 5th AY
&	150%	6 Academic Years + Summer Graduates in the 7th AY
Private/Independents	250%	10 Academic Years + Summer Graduates in the 11th AY
2-Year Colleges	100%	2 Academic Years + Summer Graduates in the 3rd AY
	150%	3 Academic Years + Summer Graduates in the 4th AY
	250%	5 Academic Years + Summer Graduates in the 6th AY

Table 4.13: Graduation Rate Definitions

For the 4-Year institutions, there has been steady increases in the 100% graduation rate for the past five cohort years. In AY 2011, the 100% rate was 25.8% and the most recent AY 2015 cohort graduation rate is 36.3%.

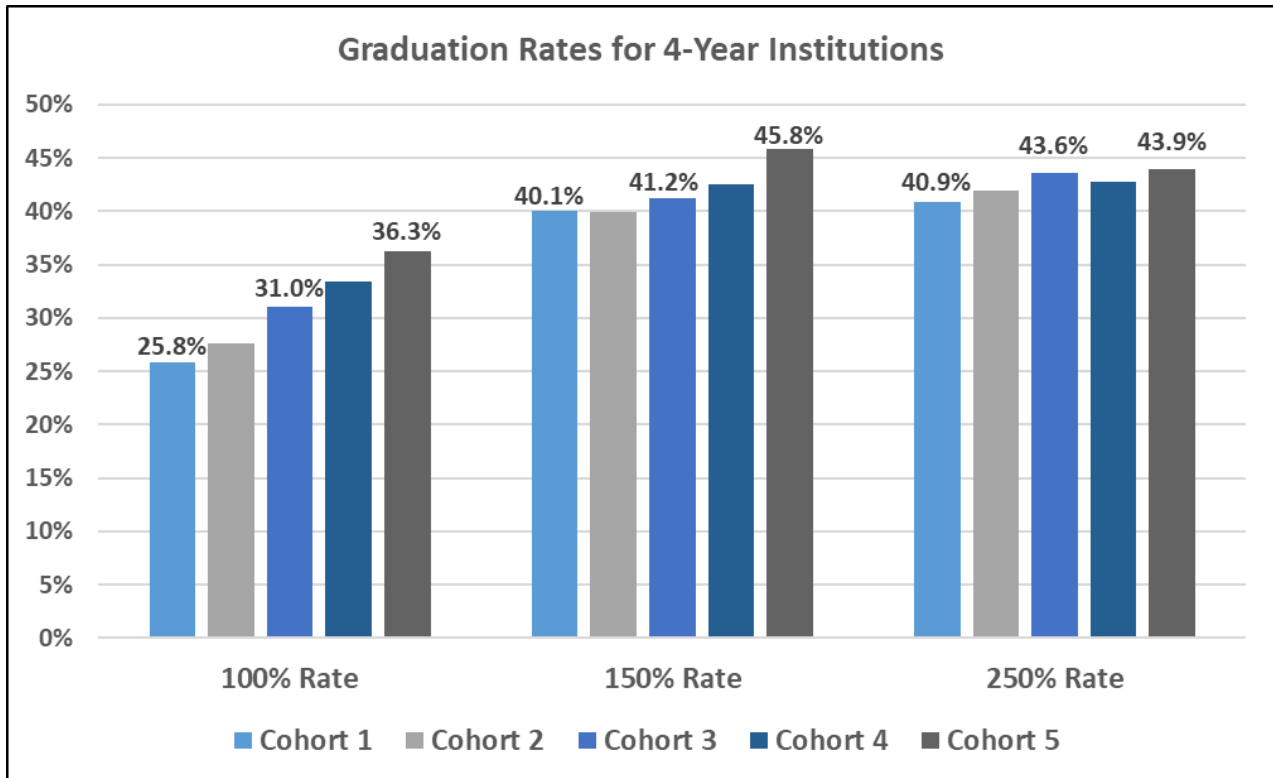


Chart 4.14: Graduation Rates - 4-Year Institutions

Graduation Rate - 4-Year Institution Cohorts		
100% Rate	150% Rate	250% Rate
Cohort 1 = AY2011	Cohort 1 = AY2009	Cohort 1 = AY2005
Cohort 2 = AY2012	Cohort 2 = AY2010	Cohort 2 = AY2006
Cohort 3 = AY2013	Cohort 3 = AY2011	Cohort 3 = AY2007
Cohort 4 = AY2014	Cohort 4 = AY2012	Cohort 4 = AY2008
Cohort 5 = AY2015	Cohort 5 = AY2013	Cohort 5 = AY2009

Table 4.15: Graduation Rate 4-Year institution Cohorts

The 150% rate for all 4-Year institutions has shown slight increases for the AY 2009 through AY 2012 cohorts. The AY 2013 cohort reported an almost 3% improved 150% graduation rate over the AY 2012 cohort.

The ADHE Annual Graduation Rates also provide information on students graduating at the home or at a transfer institution. Chart 4.16 shows that slightly more than 3% of all 4-Year institutions' entering 100% cohorts graduate from another institution after transferring.

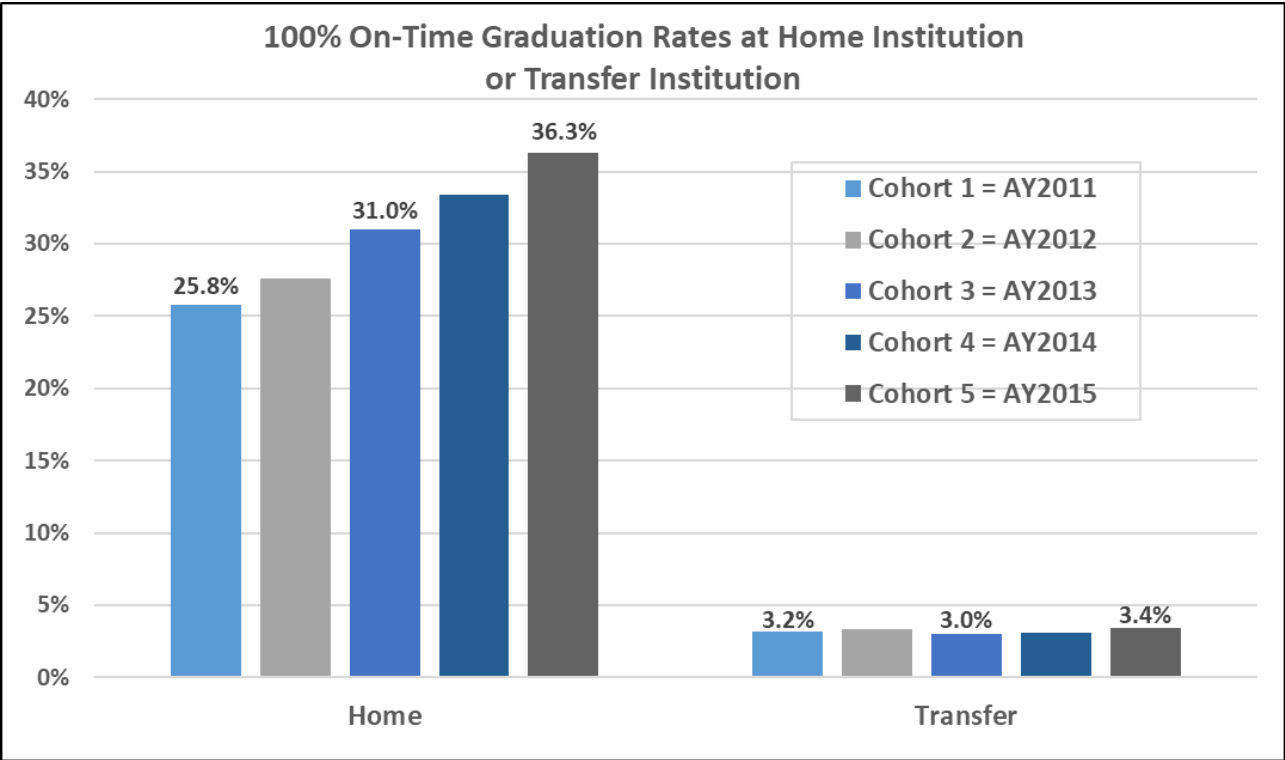


Chart 4.16: 100% Graduation Rate 4-Year institutions

Chart 4.17 below shows more than 6% of all 4-Year institutions' 150% cohorts graduate from another institution after transferring. The 250% graduation transfer rate jumps up to almost 9% for each of the AY 2005 through the AY 2009 cohorts.

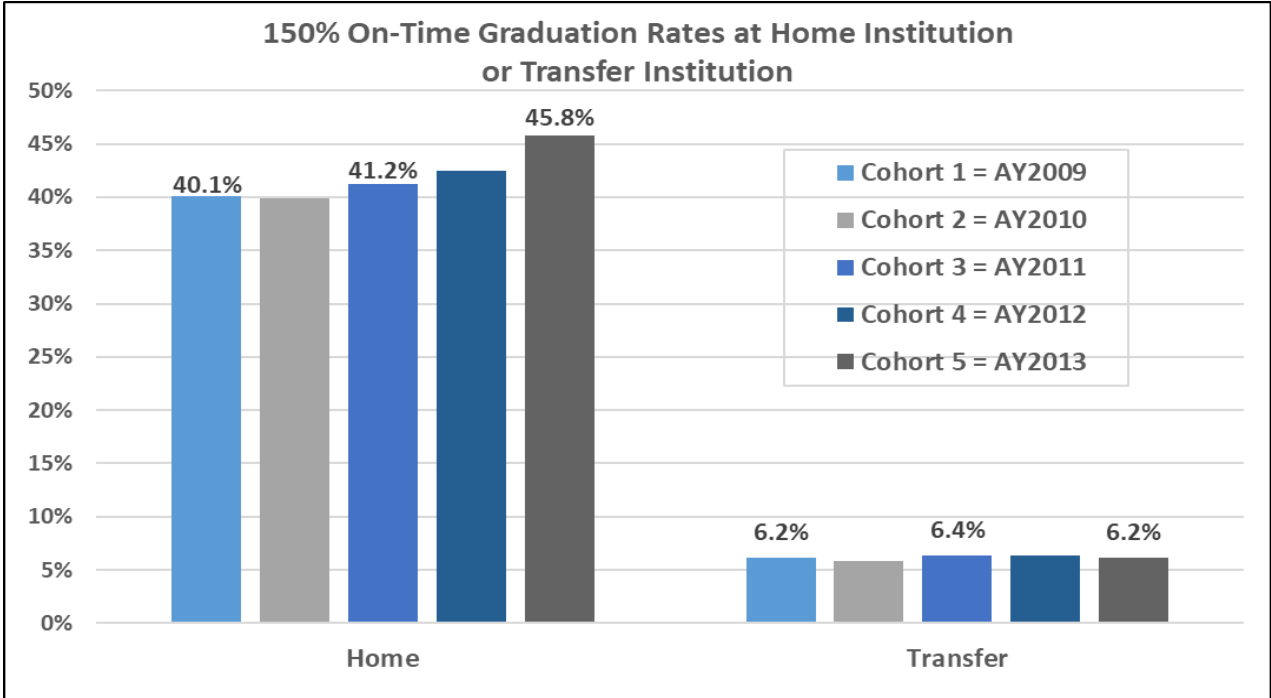


Chart 4.17: 150% Graduation Rate 4-Year institutions

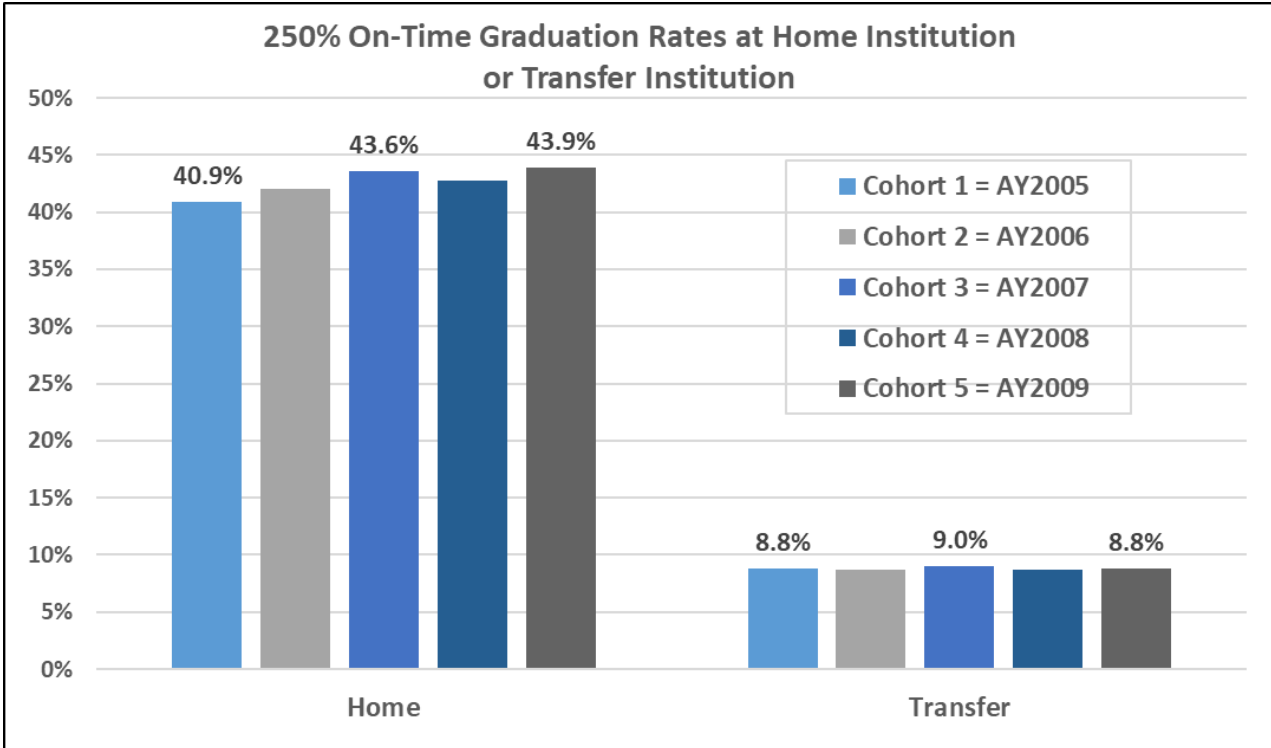


Chart 4.18: 250% Graduation Rate 4-Year institutions

All 4-Year institutions experienced an increased 100% graduation rate, comparing the two most recent cohorts, AY 2014 and AY 2015, except for HSU which showed a slight decrease. It is likely the focus on the Time-to-Degree and Credits at Completion Metrics of the Productivity Funding Model are contributing to increased 100% graduation rates.

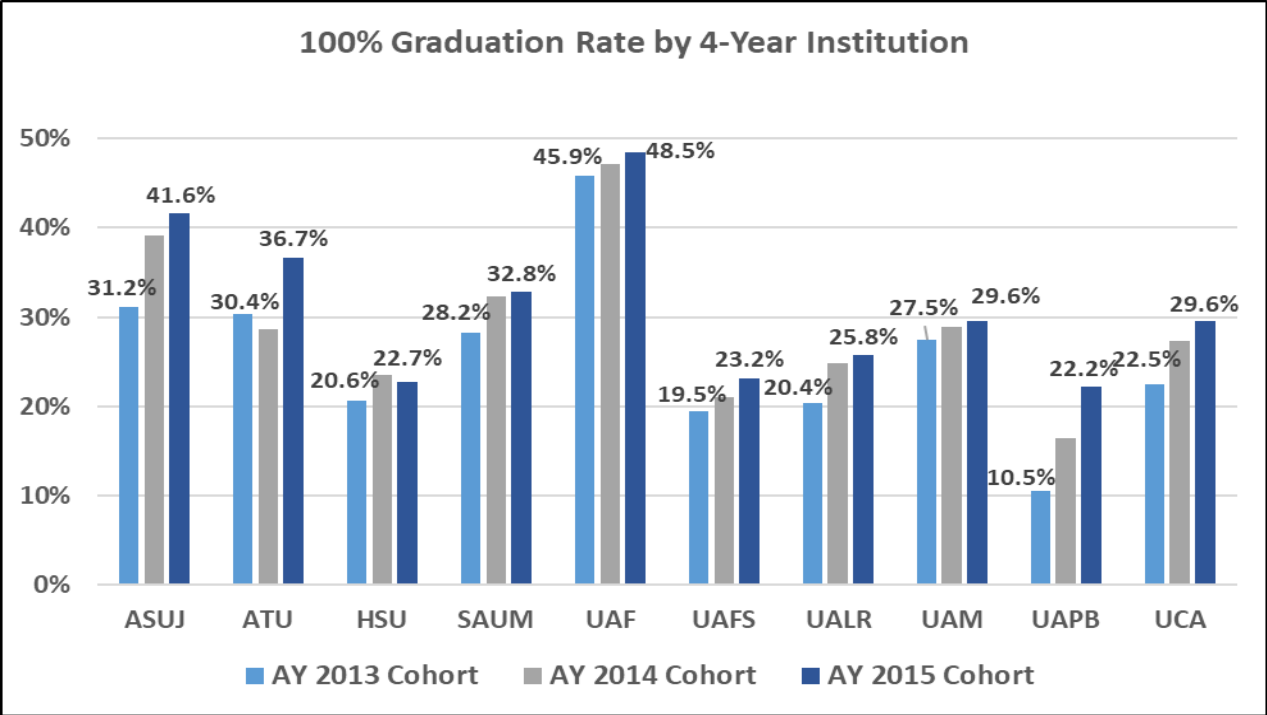


Chart 4.19: 100% Graduation Rate 4-Year institutions

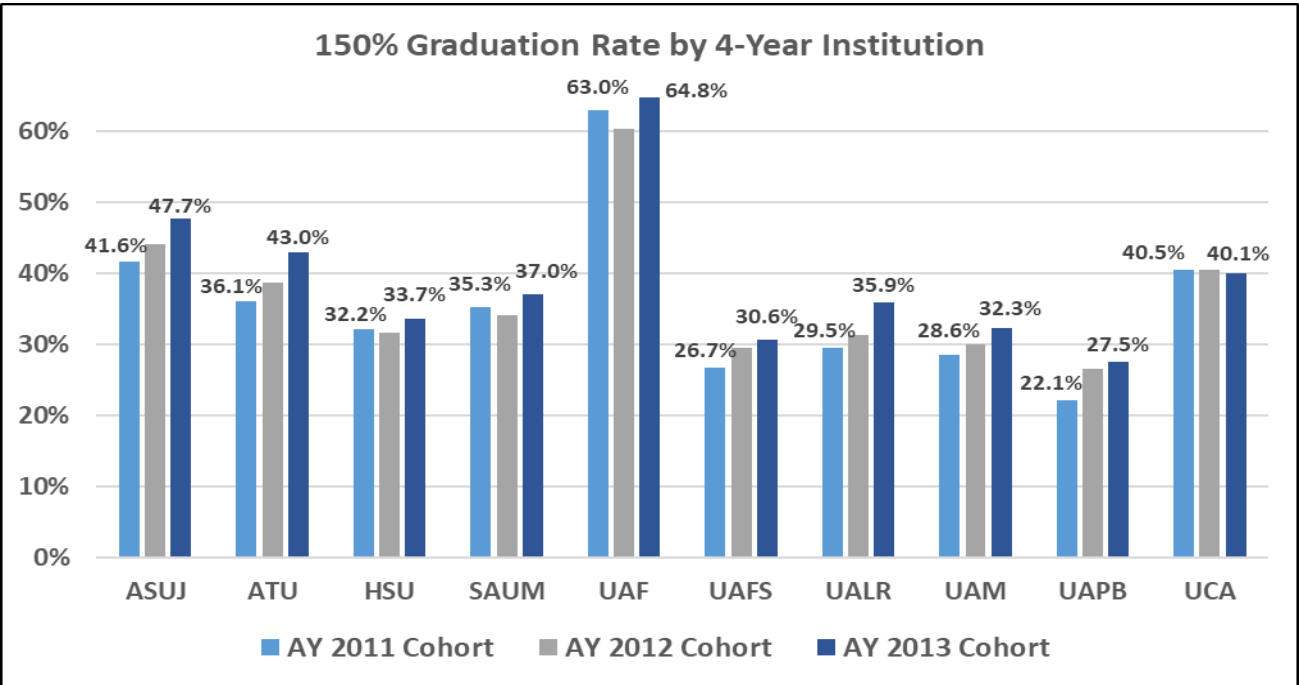


Chart 4.20: 150% Graduation Rate 4-Year institutions

For both the 100% Graduation Rate and the 150% Graduation Rate, both male and female cohorts report an increasing rate for all three cohorts.

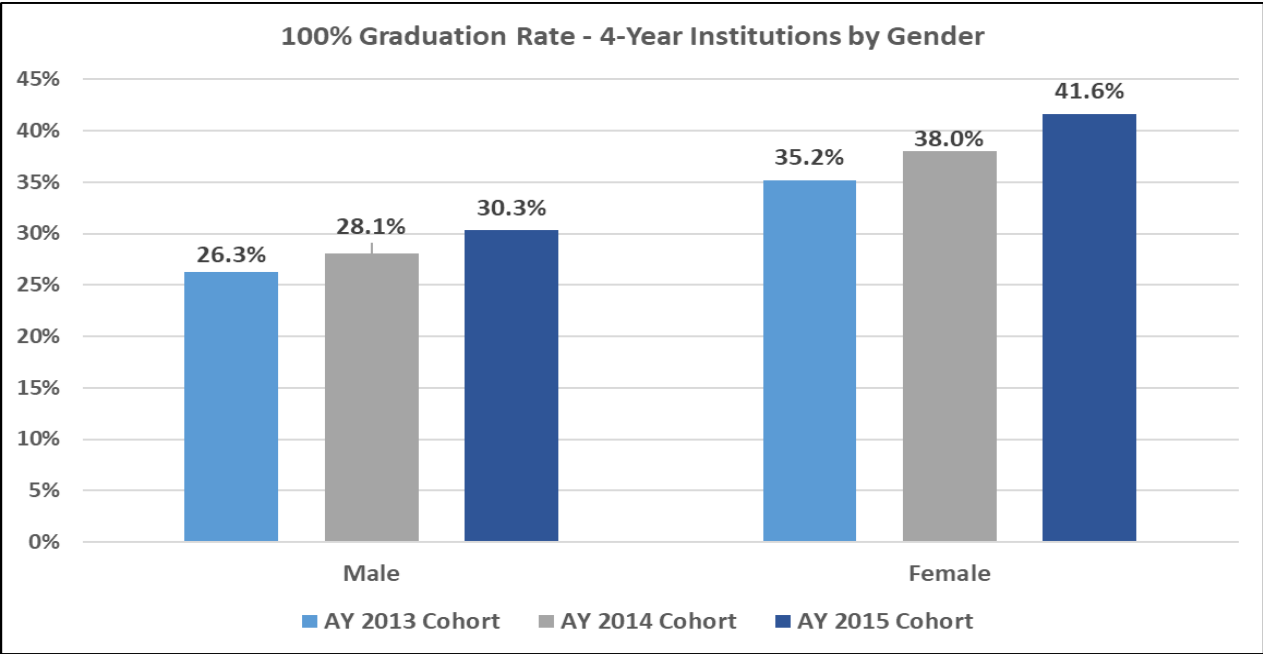


Chart 4.21: 100% Graduation Rate by Gender

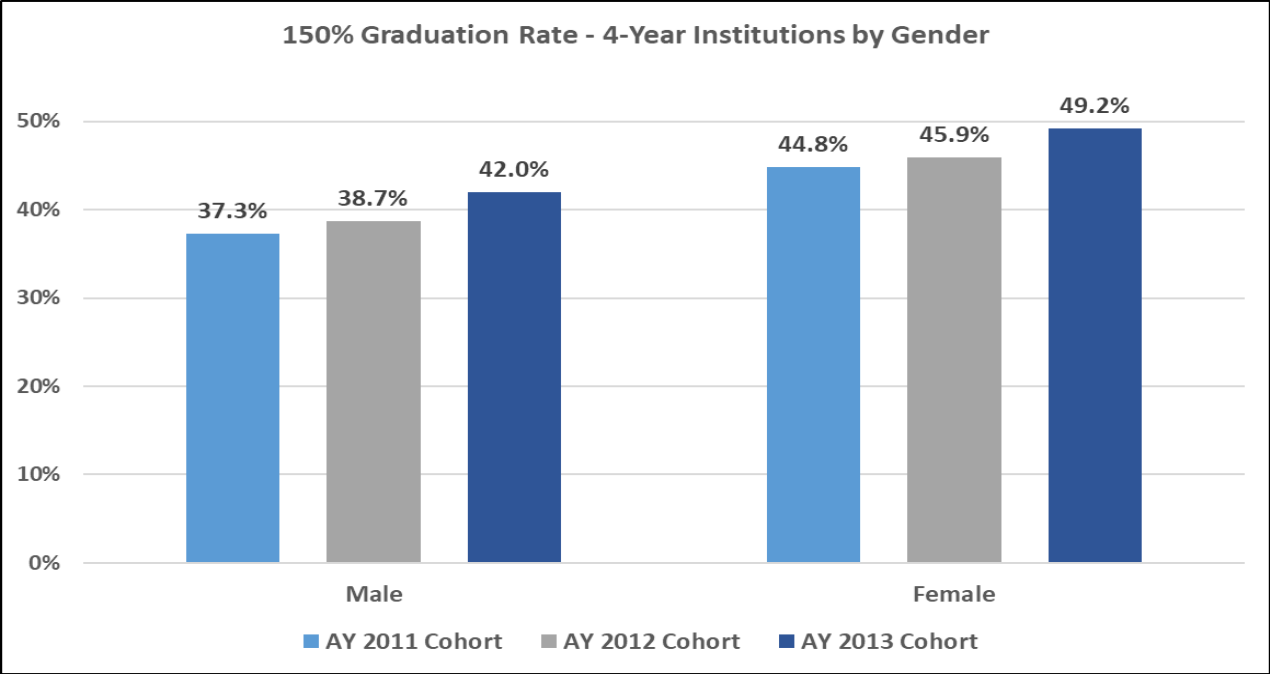


Chart 4.22: 150% Graduation Rate by Gender

2-Year College Graduation Rates

The Cohorts for the 2-Year Colleges are as follows:

Graduation Rate - 2-Year College Cohorts		
100% Rate	150% Rate	250% Rate
Cohort 1 = AY2013	Cohort 1 = AY2012	Cohort 1 = AY2010
Cohort 2 = AY2014	Cohort 2 = AY2013	Cohort 2 = AY2011
Cohort 3 = AY2015	Cohort 3 = AY2014	Cohort 3 = AY2012
Cohort 4 = AY2016	Cohort 4 = AY2015	Cohort 4 = AY2013
Cohort 5 = AY2017	Cohort 5 = AY2016	Cohort 5 = AY2014

Table 4.23: Graduation Rate 2-Year Cohorts

The graduation rates for 2-year colleges are increasing in the 100%, 150% and 250% rates. The most recent cohort completed at 21.2% in the 100% time frame—noted as the highest rate in the 5 years examined.

The 150% graduation rate for the 2-year colleges has increased with each year's cohort, with the most recent cohort reporting a 27.9% graduation rate for the AY 2016 cohort. The 250% graduation rate was 29.1% for the 2-year colleges AY 2014 cohort.

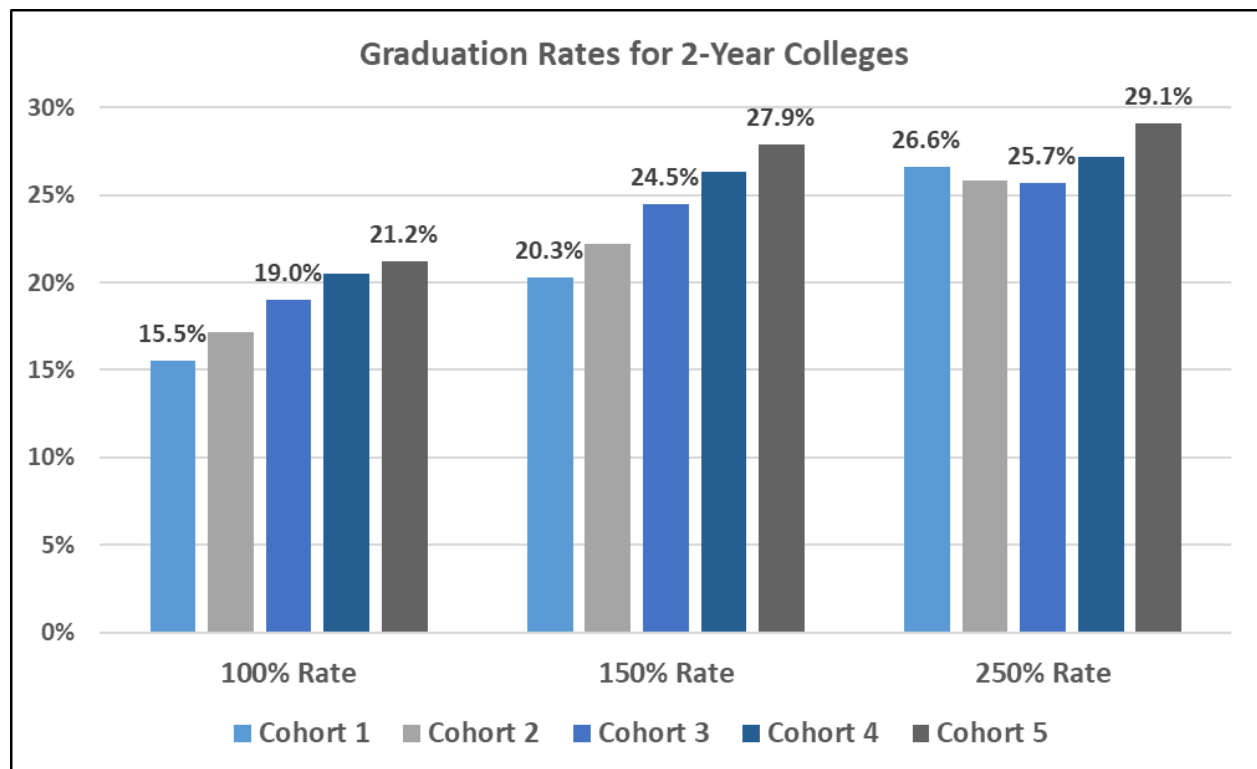


Chart 4.24: Graduation Rate 2-Year Cohorts

Only two of the 2-year colleges reported a 100% graduation rate above 30% for the AY 2017 cohort. ASUN had the greatest graduation rate of 38.9% and SAUT reported a 100% graduation rate of 32.9%. UACCB and ASUMH both have 100% graduation rates above 25%. UACCB rate was 28.9% and ASUMH claimed a 26.4% graduation rate.

The annual report provides information on students graduating at home or a transfer institution. The 100% graduation transfer rate is insignificant as seen in the chart below.

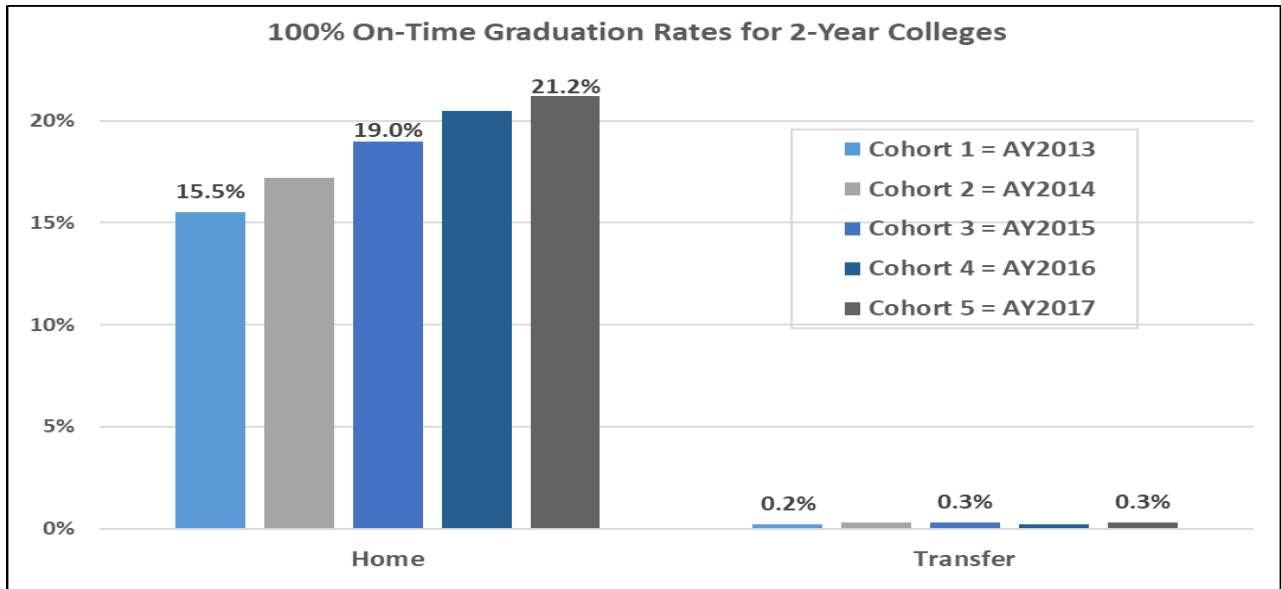


Chart 4.25: Graduation Rate 2-Year Colleges

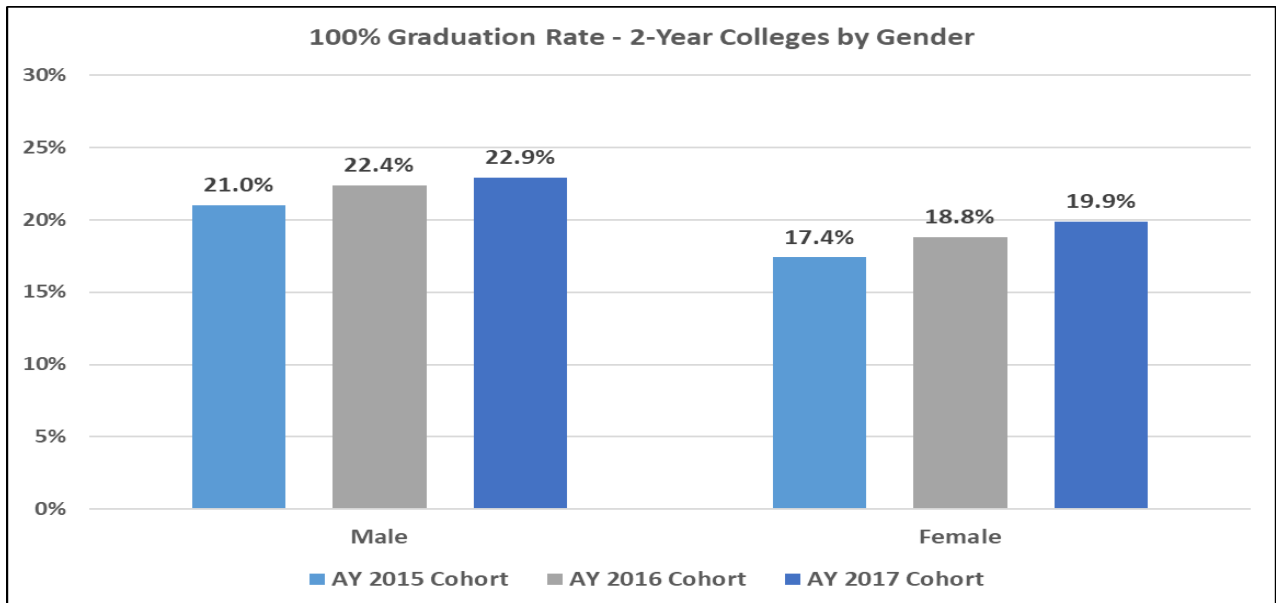


Chart 4.26: Graduation Rate 2-Year Colleges by Gender

More institution specific data for the 2-Year Colleges will be provided at the AHECB meeting.

Private/Independent Institutions

The 100% and 150% graduation rates remains relatively steady; however, 250% rates exhibit a 3% decline at the Private/Independent Institutions.

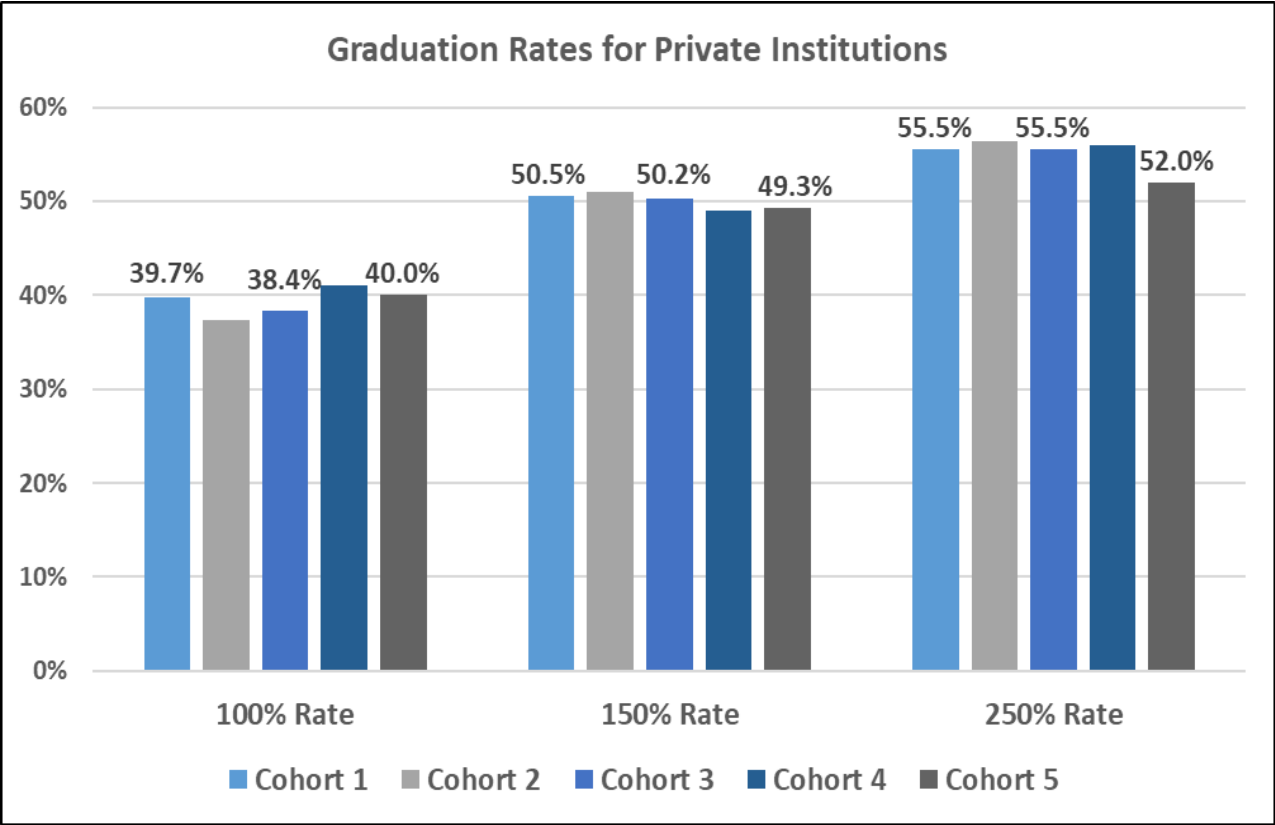


Chart 4.27: Graduation Rate Private Institutions

The private institution 100% Graduation Rate for all cohorts range between 35% and 40%, which was reported for the AY 2014 cohort.

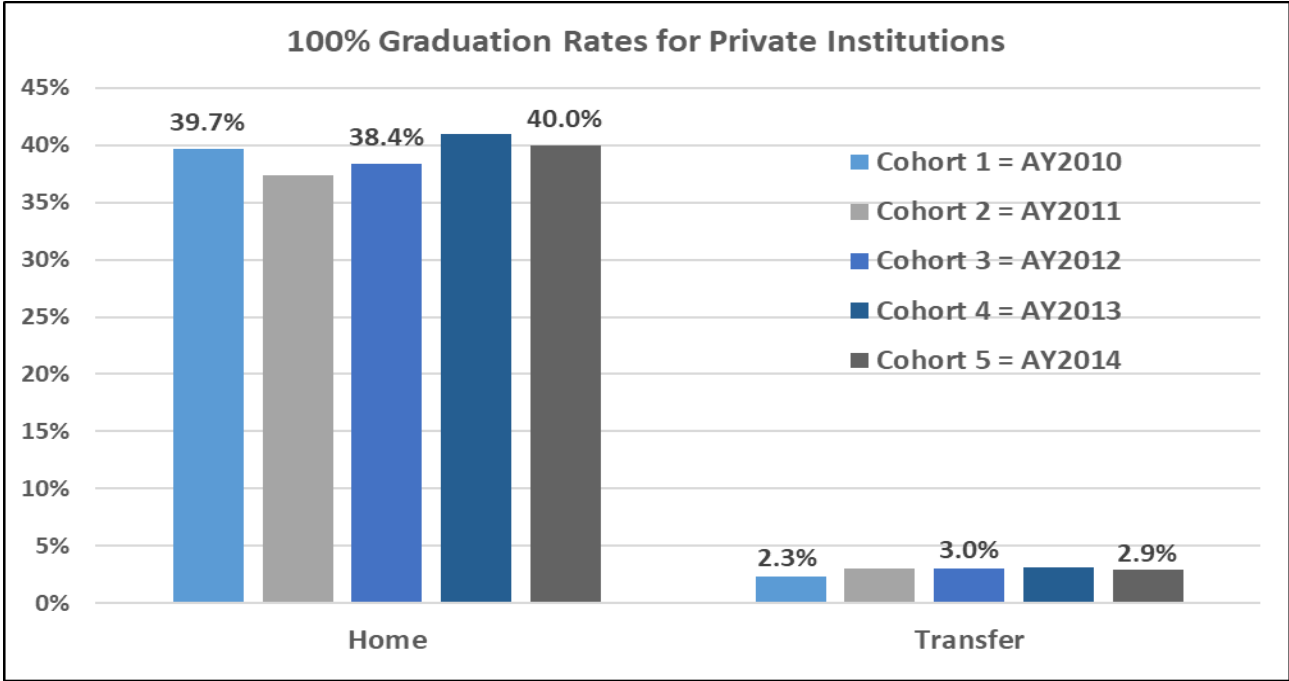


Chart 4.28: 100% Graduation Rate Private Institutions

The 150% Graduation Rate for the Private institutions remains steady at 50%.

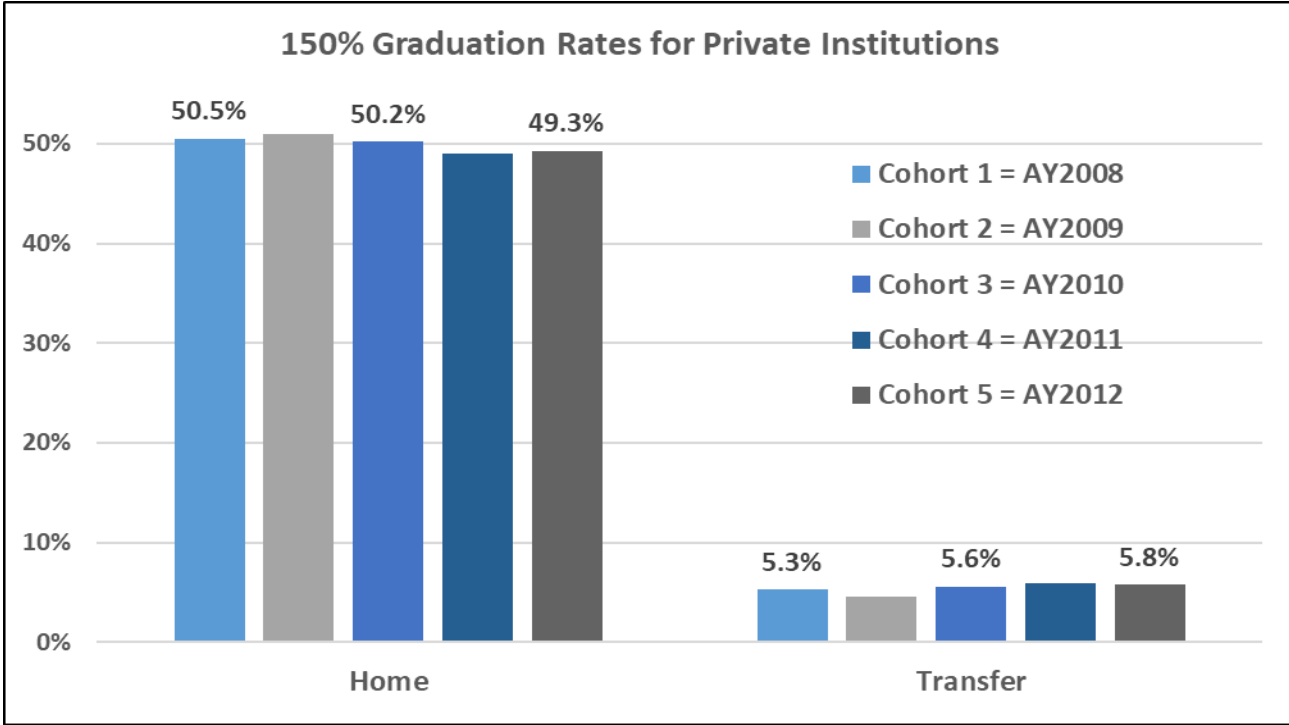


Chart 4.29: 150% Graduation Rate Private Institutions