

# **Arkansas Division of Higher Education**

## **Annual Report on Retention and Graduation of College Student-Athletes at Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education**

**Academic Year 2017-18**



**Research & Analytics**

**December 2019**

**Arkansas Division of Higher Education**  
423 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201

## ANNUAL REPORT ON RETENTION AND GRADUATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETES

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This report complies with Act 267 of 1989 that requires reporting retention and graduation rates for first-time in college students who participate in Arkansas intercollegiate athletics. This information is produced from data submissions through the Arkansas Higher Education Information System (SIS) for first-time, credential-seeking student athletes participating in football, basketball (men and women's), baseball, cross country/track and other sports programs. Information related to initial athletic scholarship status is also included. ADHE receives data from all public institutions with any athletic programs.

### Methodology

The methodology used closely follows the methodology used in the Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation. Institutions with athletic programs submit data to SIS that identify whether or not the athlete was first-time entering, what sport they participated in, and their athletic scholarship status. The retention calculations are based on fall-to-fall comparisons of the student-athletes in the IPEDS cohort of first-time entering, full-time, and credential-seeking students from the fall term only for all institution types.

Graduation rates use a cohort of first-time entering, credential-seeking students from the entire academic year and include all full- and part-time students. The graduation rates use a 100%, 150%, and 250% rate for counting graduates. Such time rate in years is used for counting all credentials. For example, for the 4-Year Universities 100% rate, all credentials are counted if awarded within four academic years (plus summer graduates). The time 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 5-1: Graduation Rate Definitions

NOTE: The methodology used herein does not correspond with the NCAA GSR (Graduation Success Rate) methodology.

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 5.2: 4-Year cohorts

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 5.3: 2-Year cohorts

## OVERVIEW OF ATHLETICS

In Academic Year 2018, 3,048 students participated in athletics at twelve colleges. In AY2015 there were 3,233 students participating in athletics.

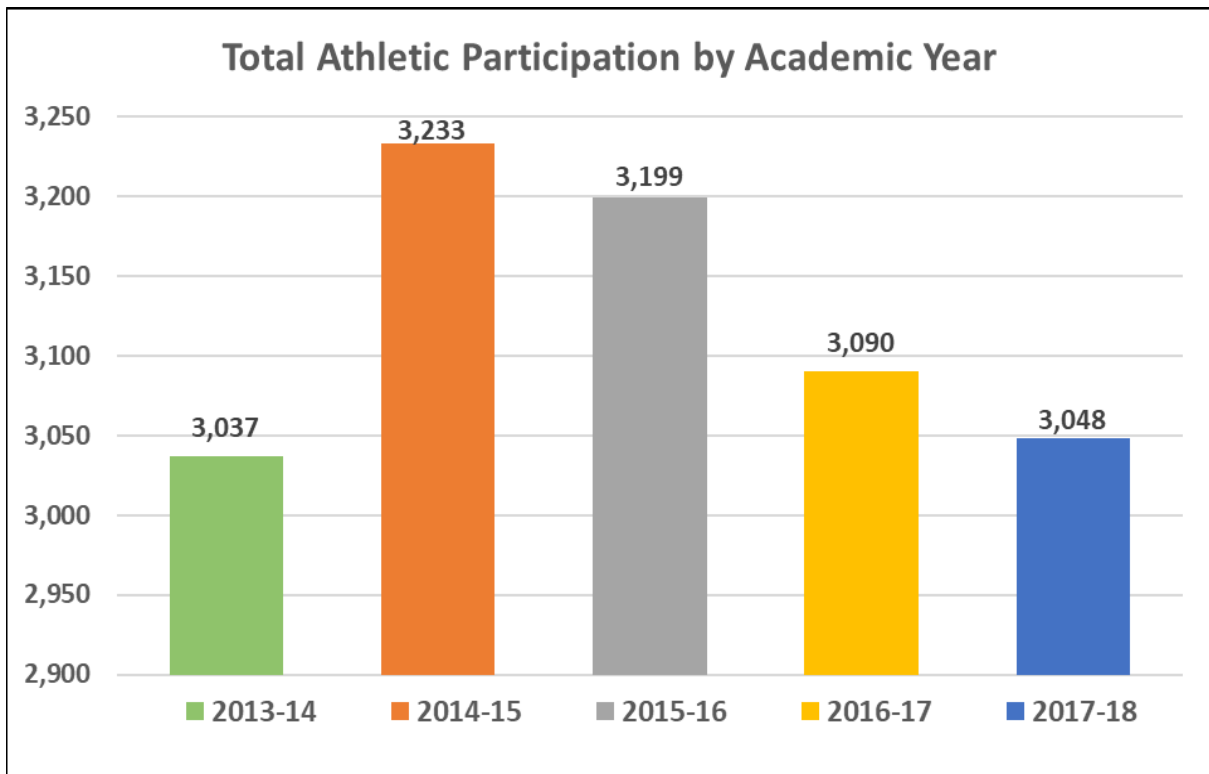


Chart 5.4: Athletic Participation by Academic Year

Ten sports categories are included in the athletics reporting: Football, Men's

Basketball, Women's Basketball, Baseball, Track, Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball, and Other Sports. In terms of the number of participants, Football has the most participants followed by Track, Baseball, and Other.

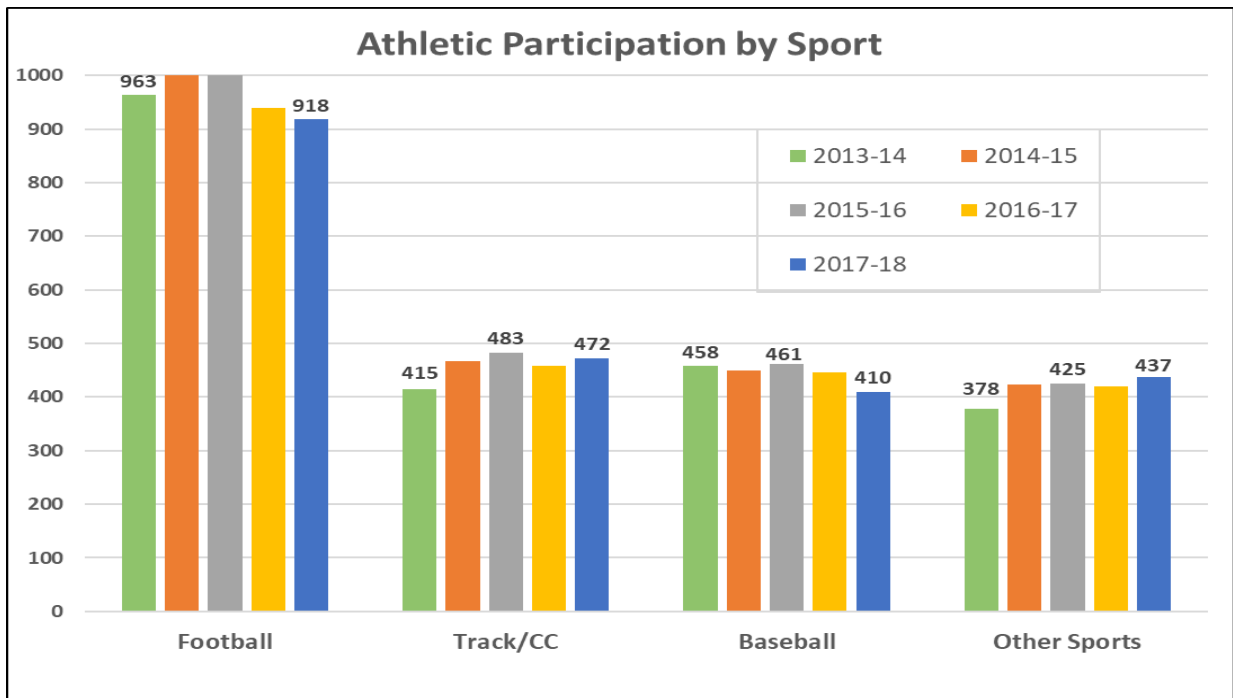


Chart 5.5: Athletes by Sport – Detailed

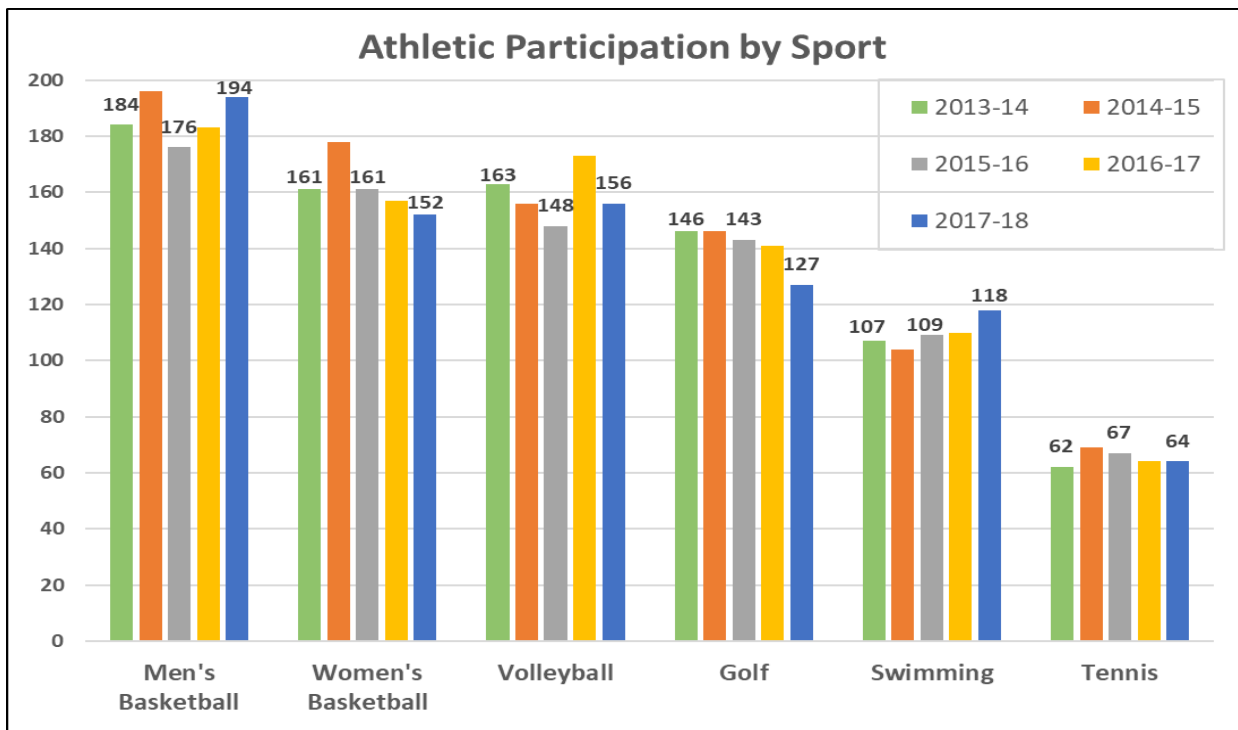


Chart 5.6: Athletes by Sport – Detailed

Many students receive scholarships to participate in athletics. The following graph illustrates that the majority of students participating in athletics receive a partial scholarship, 66%, and only 14% receive a full scholarship.

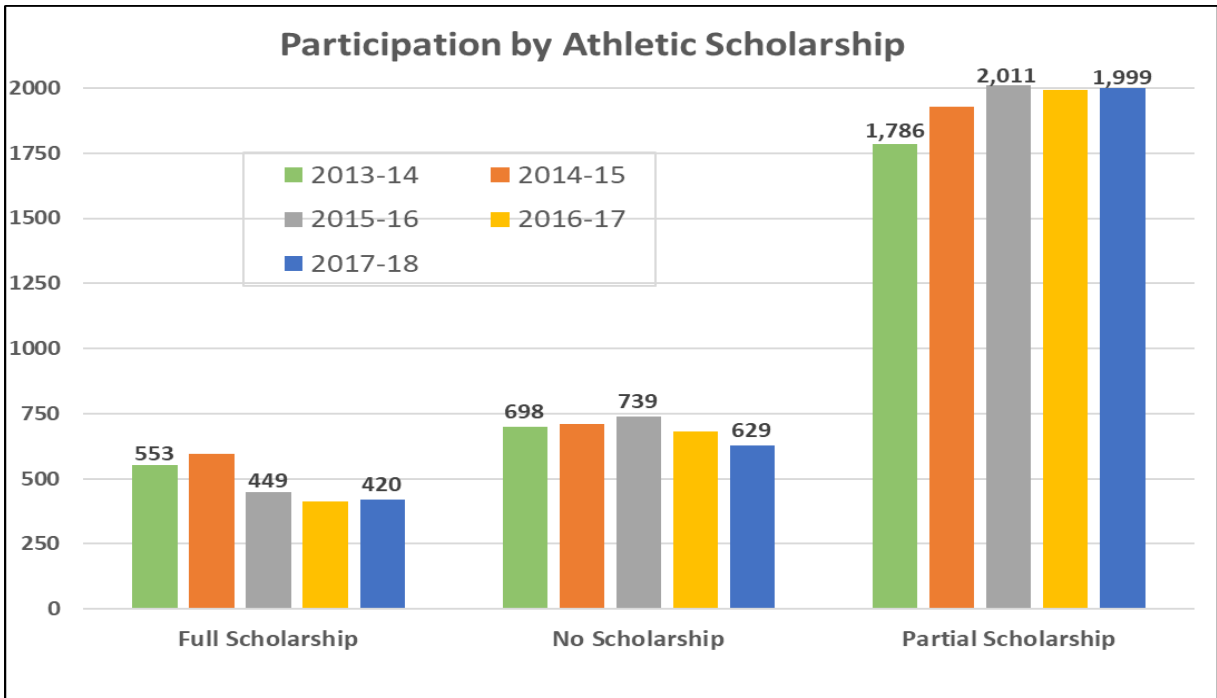


Chart 5.7: Athletes by Scholarship

The chart below shows that UAF has the most student athletes with UCA having the second largest number of athletes.

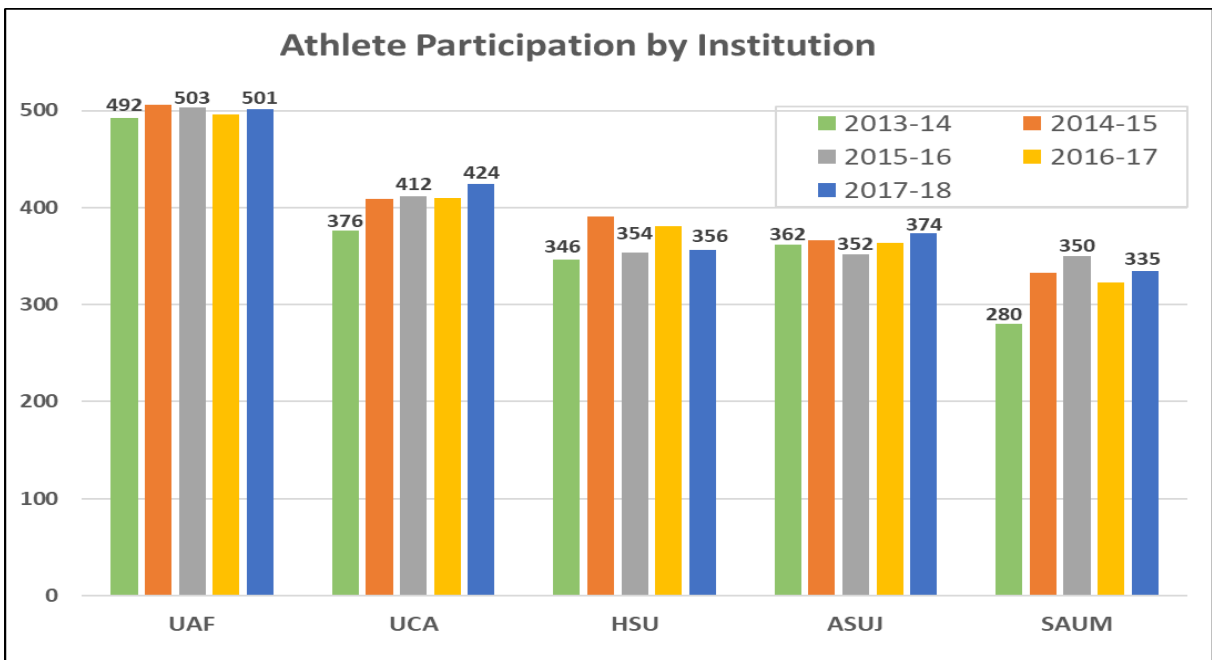


Chart 5.8: Athletes by Institution

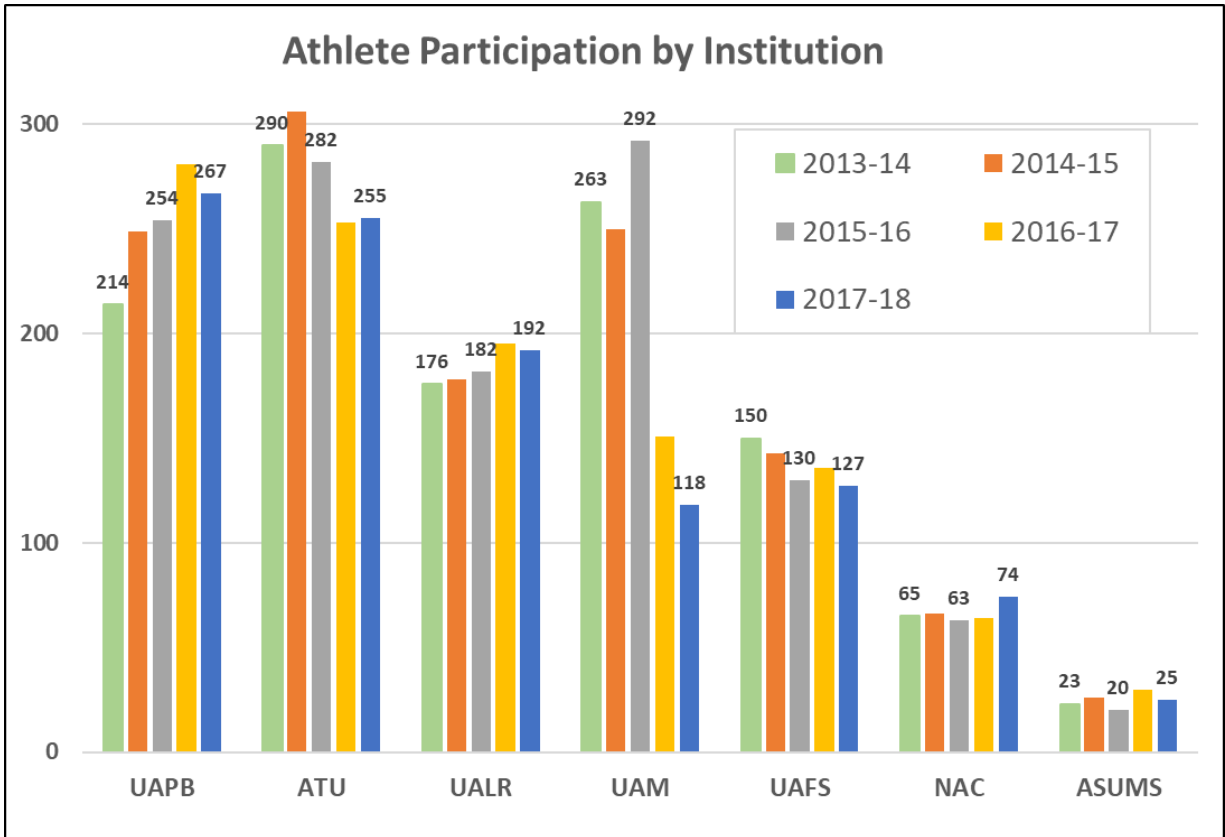


Chart 5.9: Athletes by Institution

## ATHLETIC FALL-TO-FALL RETENTION RATES

### Statewide

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 ancillary support services that many institutions provide to athletes.

The next two graph shows the retention rates for student athletes for the last five cohort years. ASUJ returned 83% of their Fall 2017 athlete cohort, while UCA returned 76.8%.

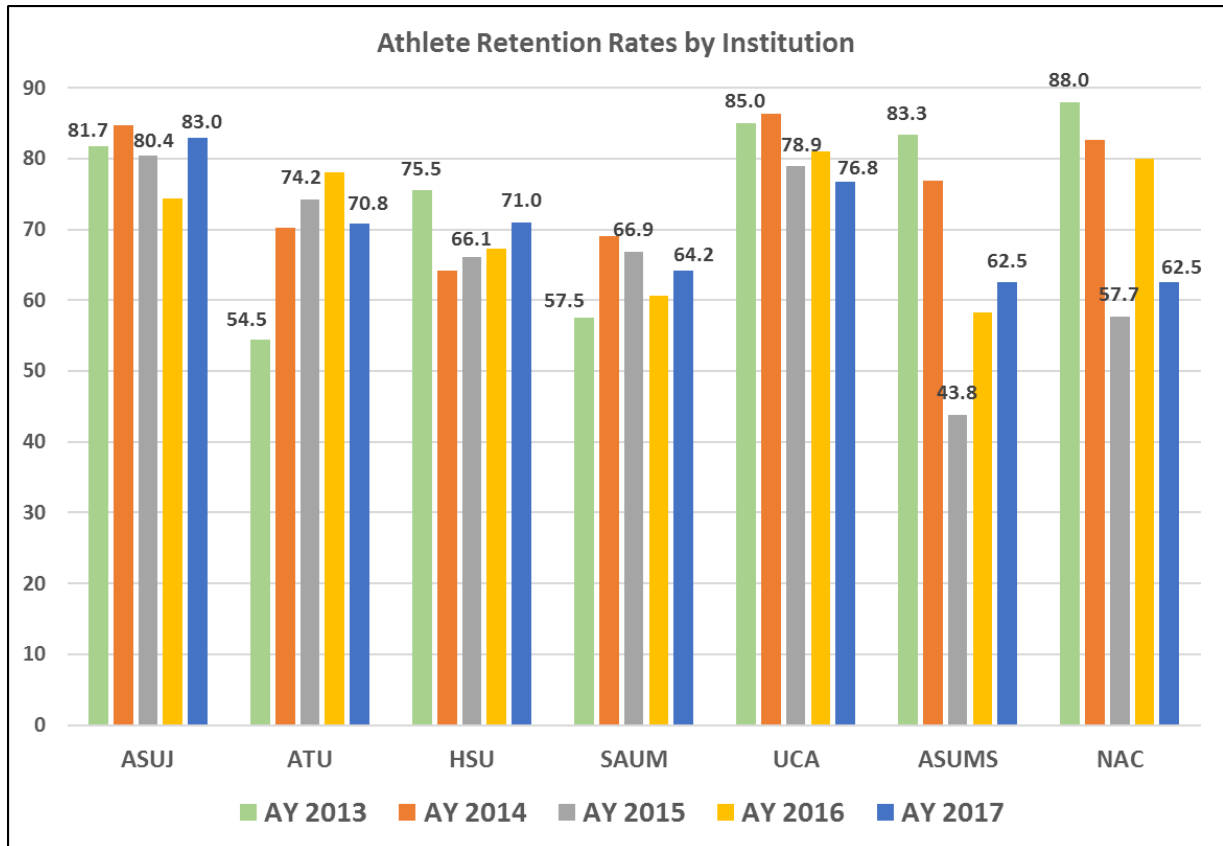


Table 5.10: Retention Rate of Athletes by Institution

UAF Fall 2017 athlete retention rate declined to 77.1% when compared to the Fall 2016 athlete cohort rate of 84%.UAM’s 2017 cohort also returned at a lower rate than the Fall 2016 cohort, dropping about 8%.

UALR experienced an athlete retention rate of 74.5% for the Fall 2017 cohort, which is about a 13% improvement over the Fall 2015 rate of 60.9%.

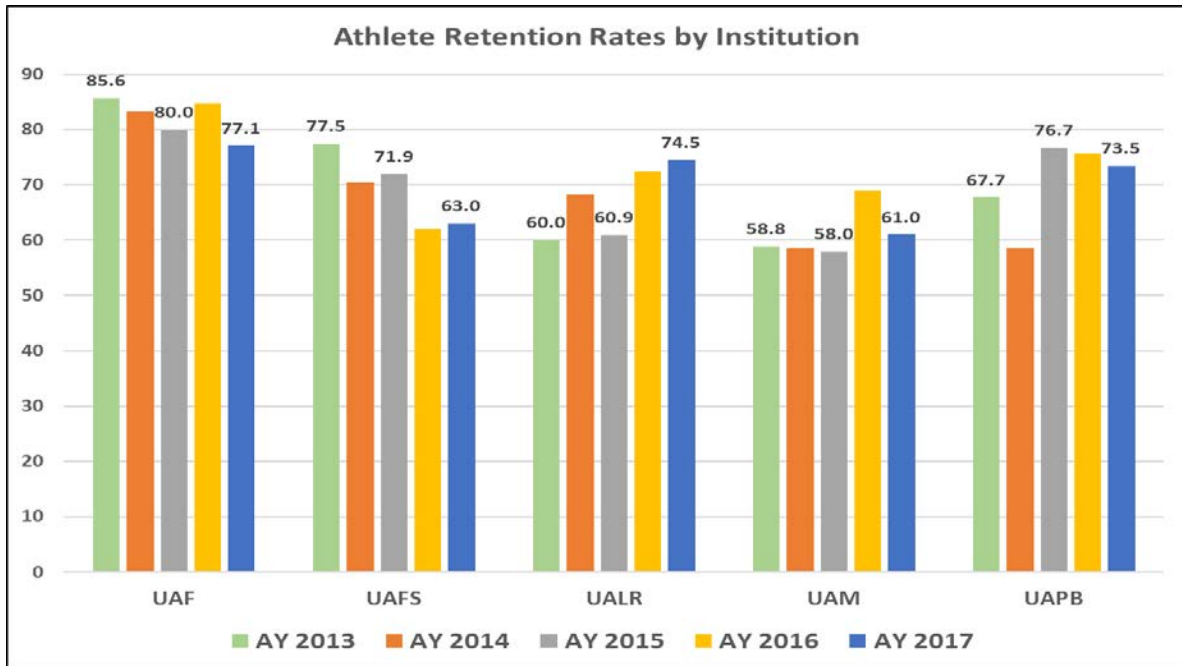


Table 5.11: Retention Rate of Athletes by Institution

### Statewide Overview

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 during the academic year define the cohorts. The chart below shows the graduation rate progression for three cohorts for the 4-year universities.

	% Graduate in 4-Years (100% Rate)		
	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015
4-Year Universities	27.0	34.1	37.1

	% Graduate in 5-Years (125% Rate)		
	AY 2012	AY 2013	AY 2014
4-Year Universities	45.2	45.0	47.6

	% Graduate in 6-Years (150% Rate)		
	AY 2011	AY 2012	AY 2013
4-Year Universities	47.7	47.4	46.7

Chart 5.12: Graduation rates, 4-year institution athletes



## ANNUAL GRADUATION RATES OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

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.

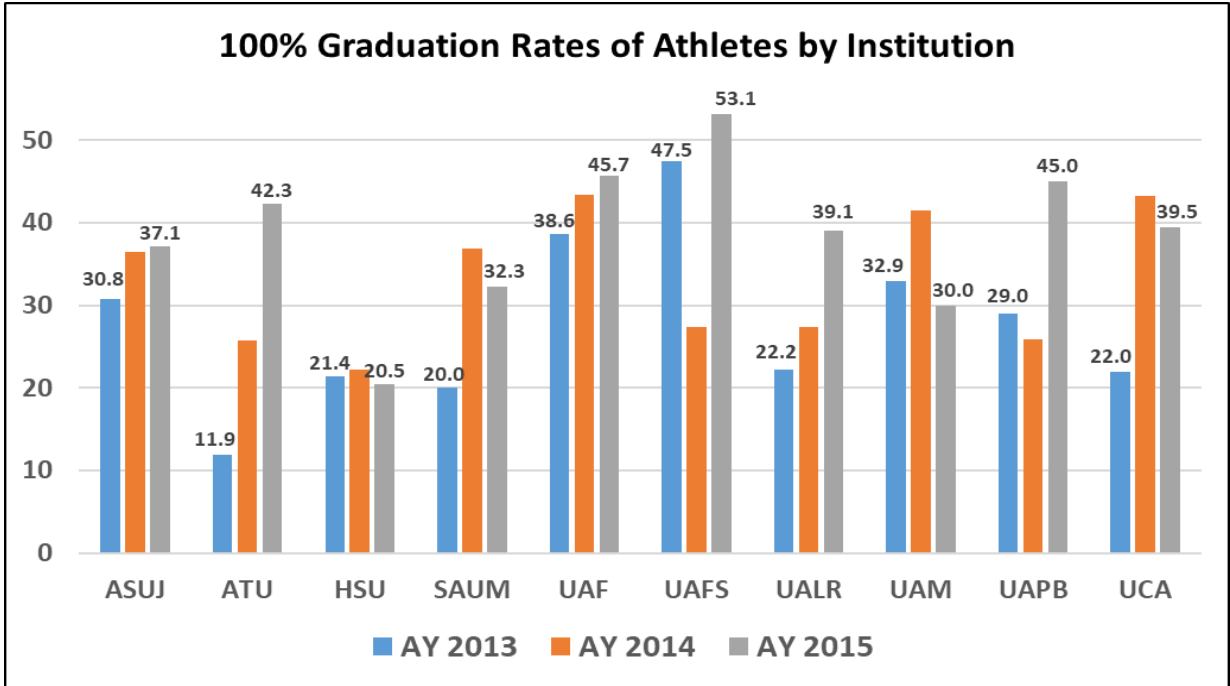


Table 5.13: 100% Graduation Rates of Athletes by Institution

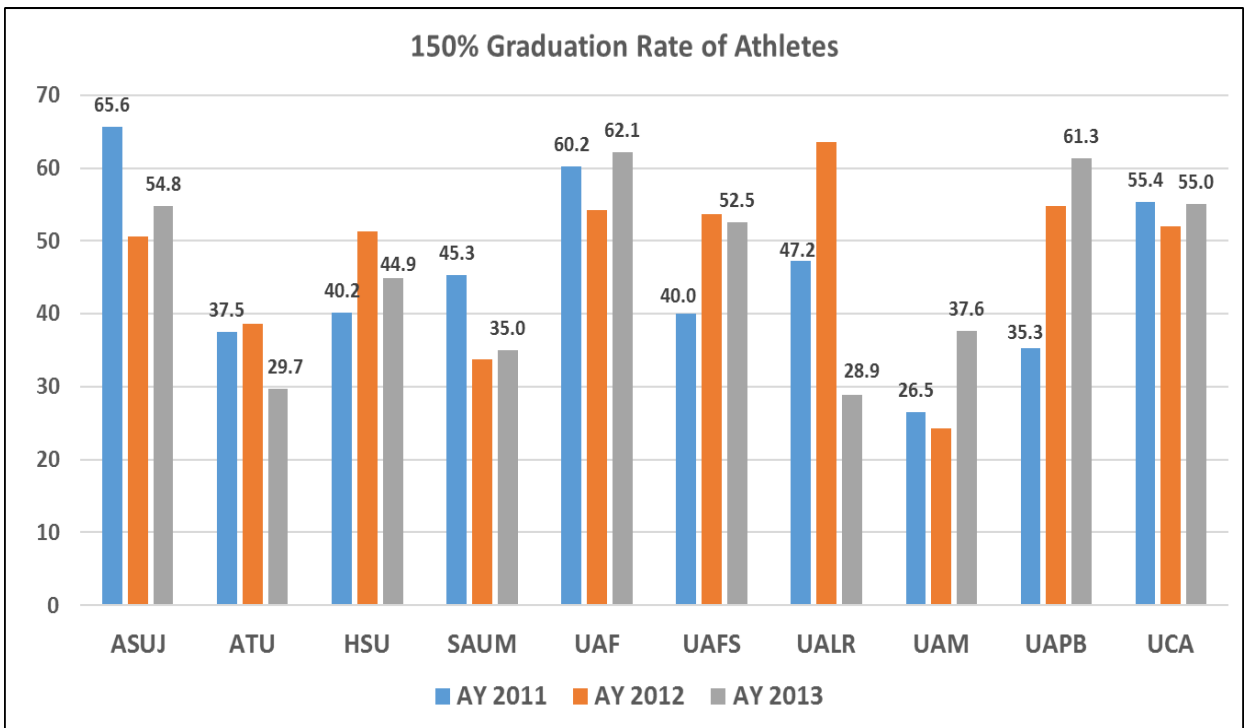


Table 5.14: 150% Graduation Rates of Athletes by Institution