

Arkansas Division of Higher Education

Annual Report of Retention and Graduation Rates



Reporting and Analytics

December 2022

Arkansas Division of Higher Education
101 E. Capitol Ave, Suite 300 Little Rock, AR 72201

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. The Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS) 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 students in the fall term cohort of first-time entering, full-time, and credential-seeking students who returned the fall term of the next academic year. The methodology used for this report more closely aligns with IPEDS methodology. For 4-Year universities, only those students seeking a bachelor's degree are included. For 2-Year colleges, students who completed a credential by the next fall are included as part of the retention rate.

The following represents the overall retention rate of each cohort for the five most recent cohorts for both Arkansas Public Higher Education Sectors. When looking at both public sectors together, the state's fall-to-fall retention rate of 69.9% for the Fall 2020 cohort had less than a 1% decrease over the Fall 2016 cohort of 69%. The 2-Year college retention rate average from Fall 2016 to Fall 2020 comes in at 58.7%.

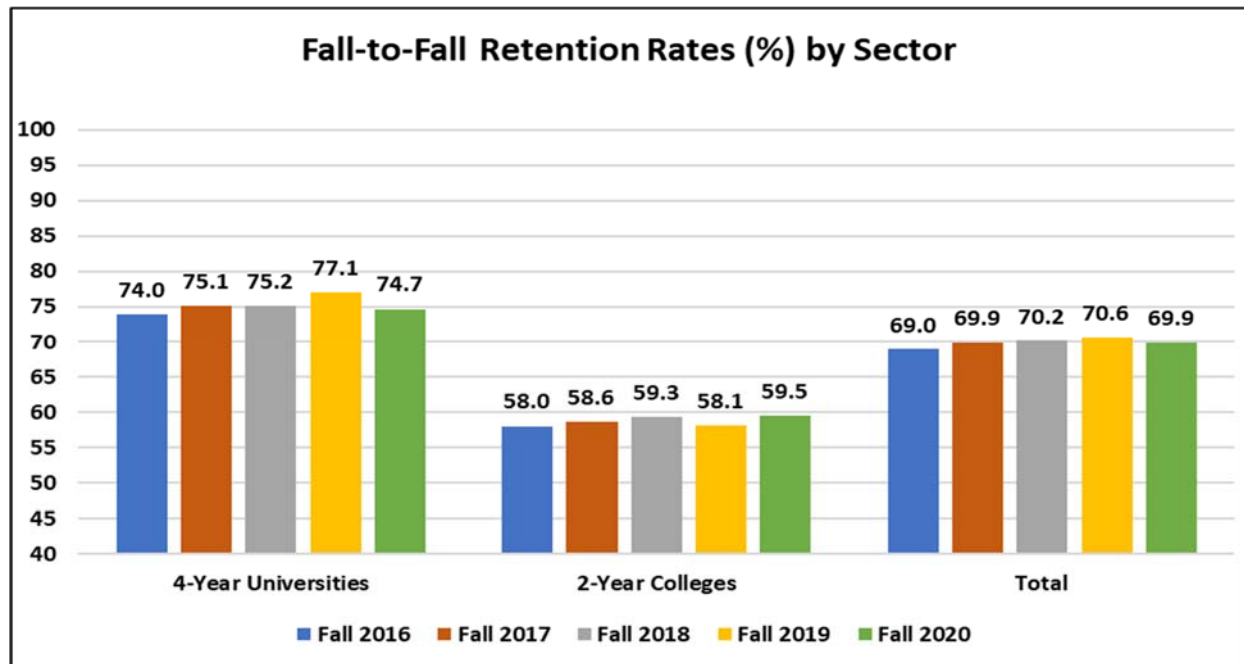


Chart 6.1: Student Retention Rates by Sector

Both male and female cohorts reported declines in their retention rates for our 4-year public institutions when comparing the Fall 2020 cohort to the Fall 2019 cohort. For the 2-Year college cohorts, when comparing the Fall 2017 cohort to the Fall 2020 cohort, the male students' retention rate has increased 2%, and females showed a retention rate decline of 0.2%.

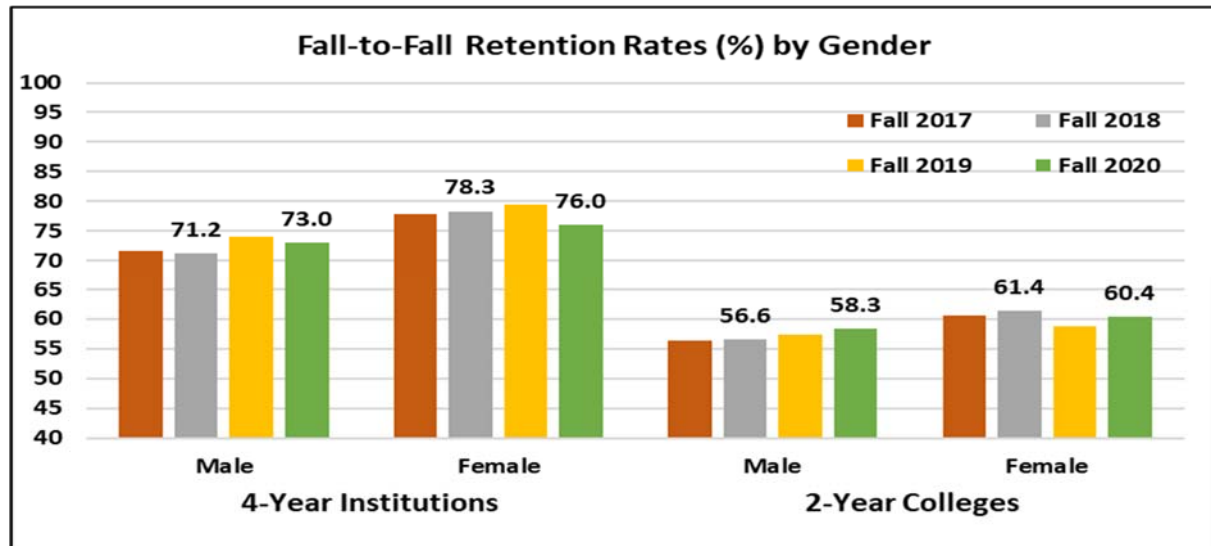


Chart 6.2: Student Retention Rates by Gender

Chart 6.3 below provides fall-to-fall retention rates for the four race/ethnicity categories with the largest student cohorts. The Hispanic, Black and White student cohorts reported declines in retention rate for 4-Year institutions comparing the Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 cohorts. The Black and White student cohorts reported increased retention rates for the 2-Year colleges.

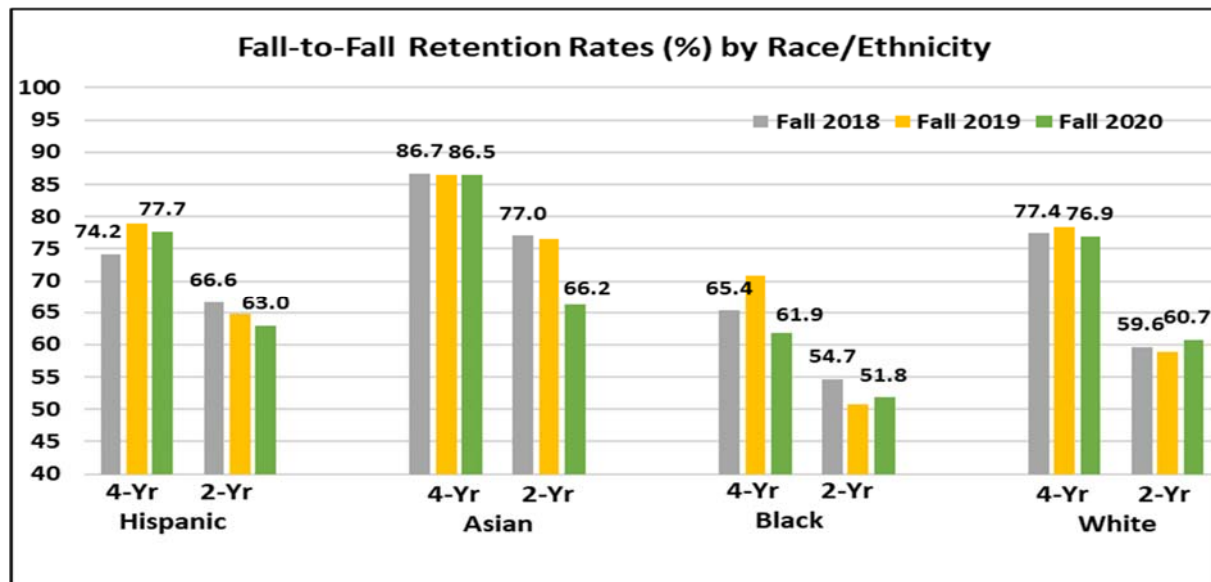


Chart 6.3: Student Retention Rates by Race/Ethnicity

The graph below provides fall-to-fall retention rates for students who are between 25 and 54 years old, which qualifies them to receive additional weighting in the Productivity Funding Model. The 4-Year institutions experienced an increase in the Fall 2020 cohort when comparing to the Fall 2019 cohort. The 2-Year colleges also experienced an increase in the Fall 2020 cohort at 59.5% when comparing to the Fall 2019 cohort at 59.2%.

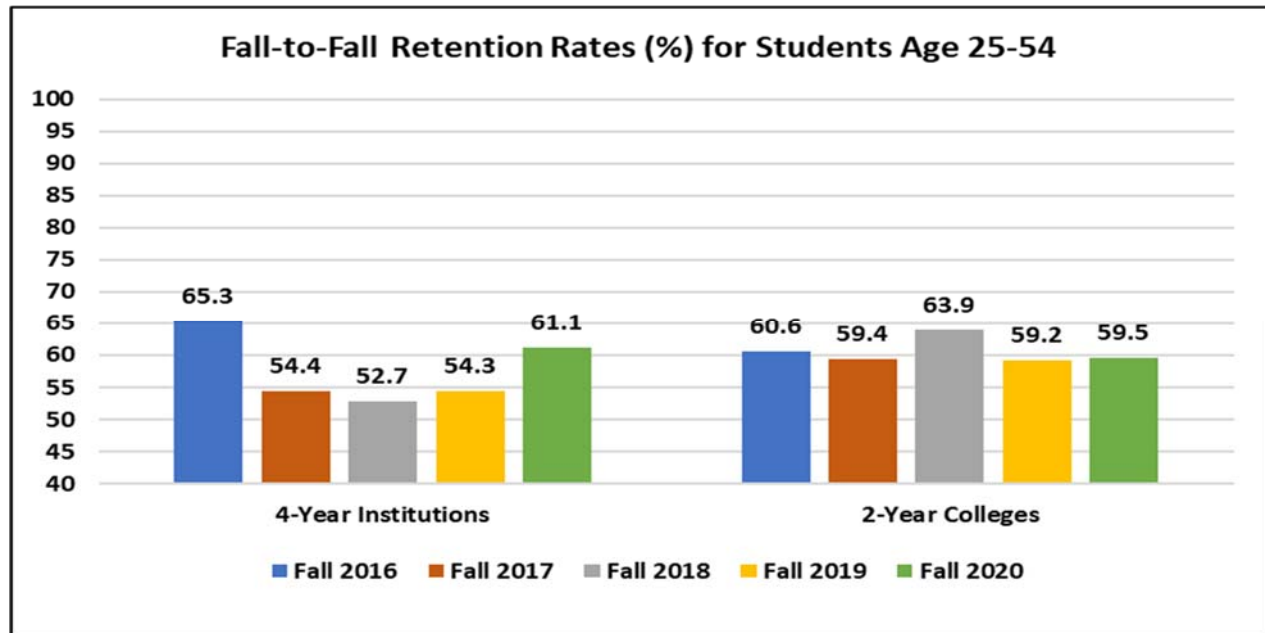


Chart 6.4: Student Retention Rates by Productivity Adult Age Range

Chart 6.5 provides fall-to-fall retention rates for students enrolled in remediation.

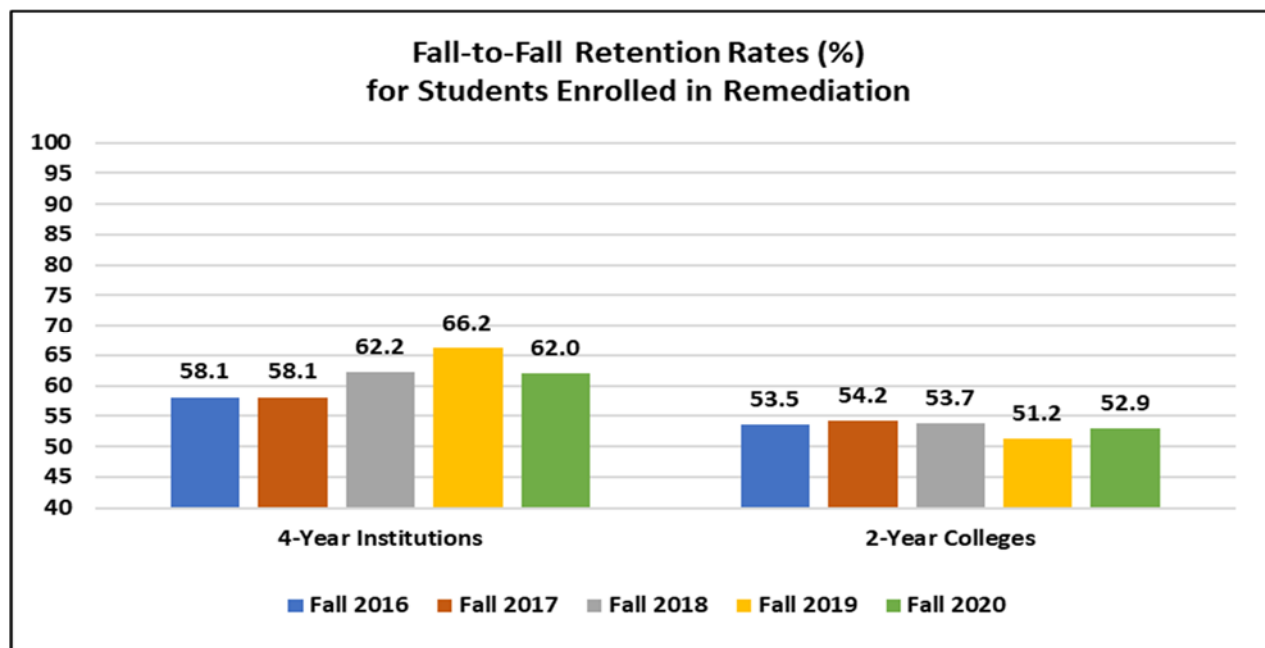


Chart 6.5: Student Retention Rates by Remediated Students

Retention Rates by Institution

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.

Three 4-year universities reported an increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate when comparing the Fall 2016 cohort to the Fall 2020 cohort. ASUJ, UAF and UAM experienced improved retention rates from 1.9% to 15.2%.

Chart 6.6 shows UAF reported a 4.8% increase from Fall 2020 cohort retention rate of 87% to Fall 2016 cohort retention rate of 82.2%. ASUJ reported a 1.9% increase for the Fall 2020 cohort retention rate of 74.7% compared to their Fall 2016 cohort retention rate of 72.8%. UCA reported a Fall 2020 cohort retention rate of 70.7% compared to their Fall 2016 retention rate of 72.2%.

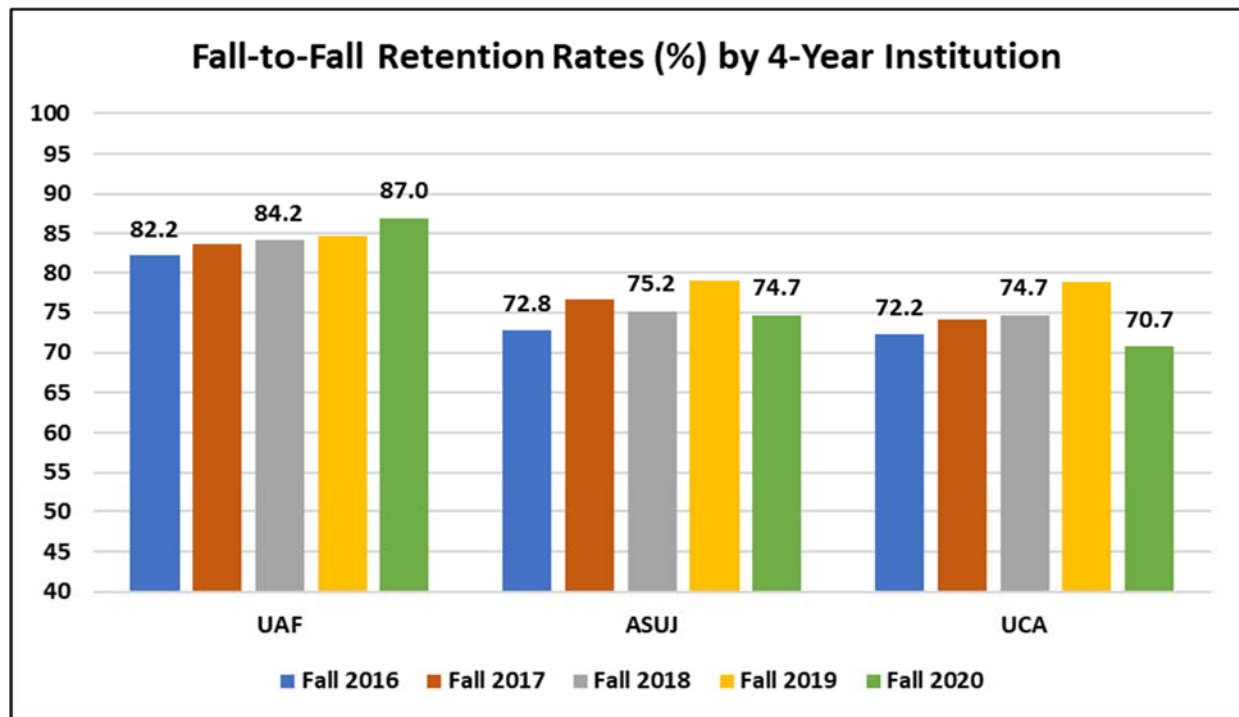


Chart 6.6: Student Retention Rates by 4-Year Institution

The following two charts provide fall-to-fall retention rate data for UAM, UAPB, ATU, UAFS, UALR, SAUM and HSU. UAM showed a decrease of 7.6% when comparing their Fall 2019 cohort rate of 75.6% to their Fall 2020 cohort rate of 68%. UAPB reported 64% for Fall 2020 cohort which is a decrease of 10% from their Fall 2019 cohort of 74%. ATU's Fall 2020 retention rate was 62.8% compared to 67.2% Fall 2019 cohort rate.

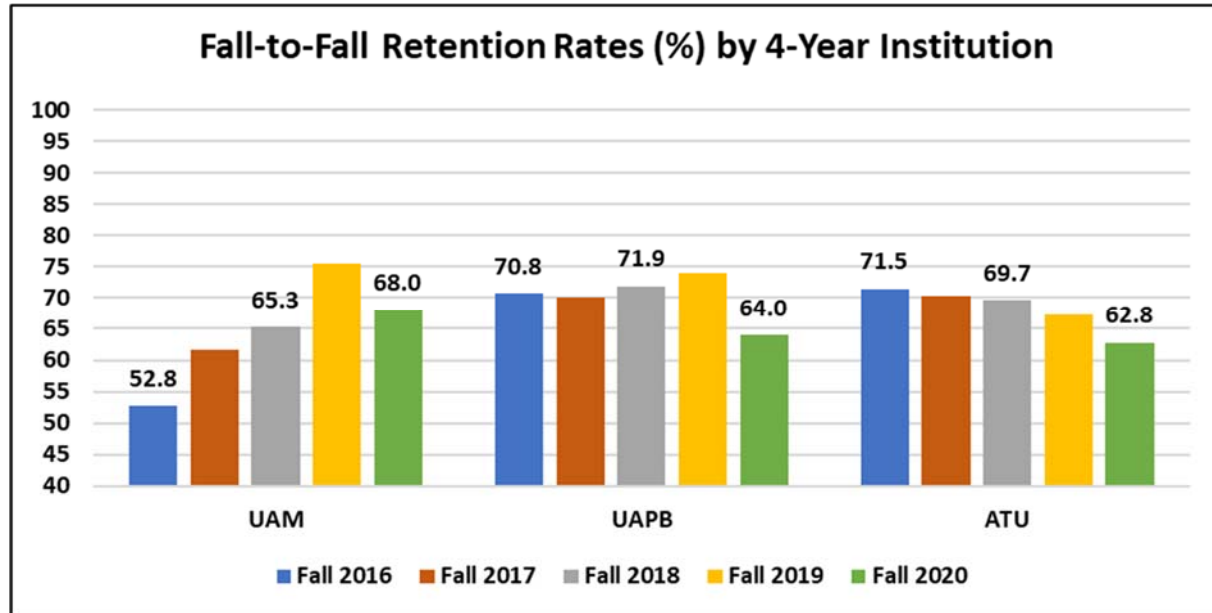


Chart 6.7: Student Retention Rates by 4-Year Institution

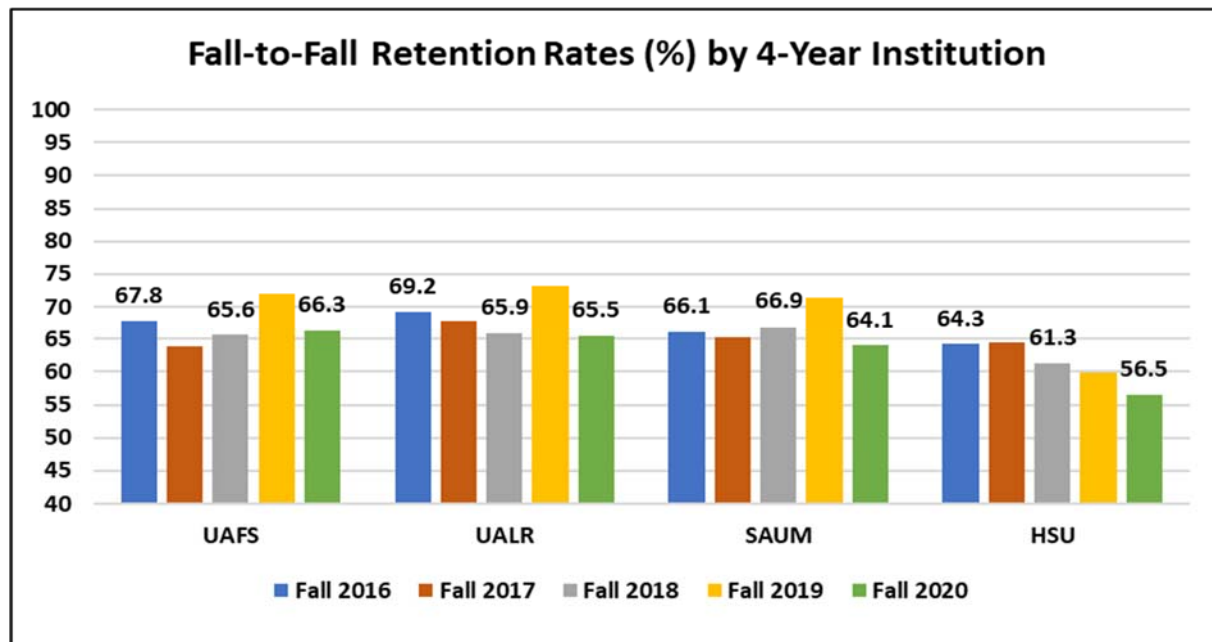


Chart 6.8: Student Retention Rates by 4-Year Institution

The following charts report retention rates for the 2-Year Colleges for Fall 2016 to Fall 2020. Eleven 2-year colleges reported increases in fall-to-fall retention rates when comparing the Fall 2020 cohort to the Fall 2019 cohort.

In the chart below, PCCUA reported the largest increase of 10.8% in their Fall 2020 retention rate when compared to their Fall 2019 cohort rate.

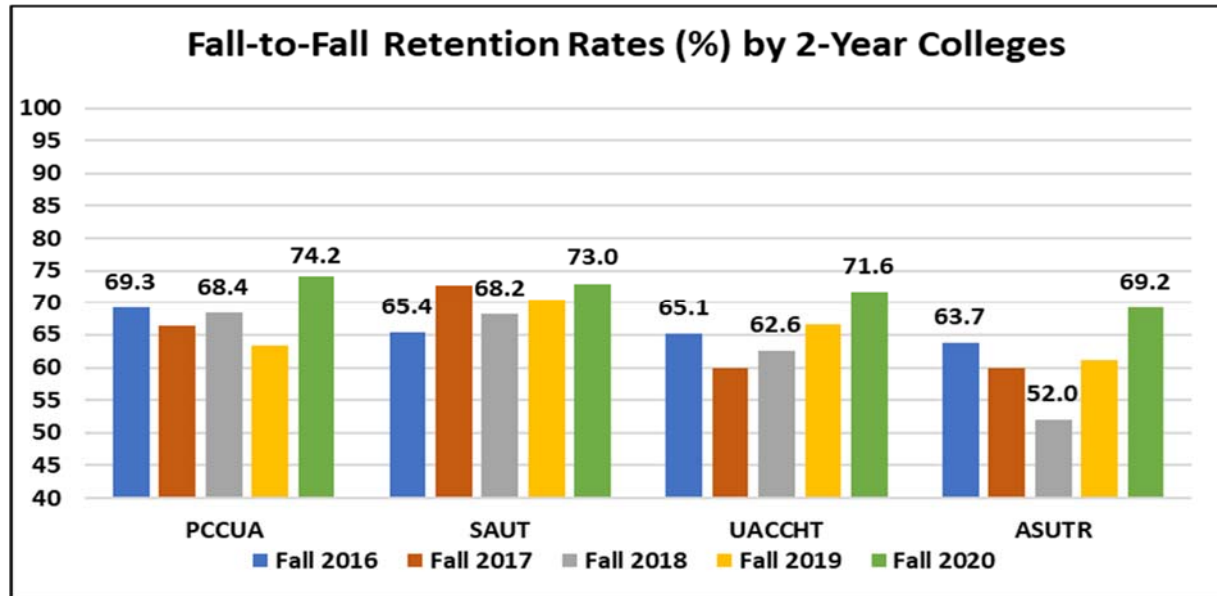


Chart 6.9: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

Fall-to-Fall retention rates for ASUMS reported a 2.8% increase in their Fall 2020 cohort rate of 64.9% from their Fall 2019 cohort rate of 62.1%. CCCUA showed a 5.1% decrease from their Fall 2019 cohort rate of 71.5% from their Fall 2020 cohort rate of 66.4%.

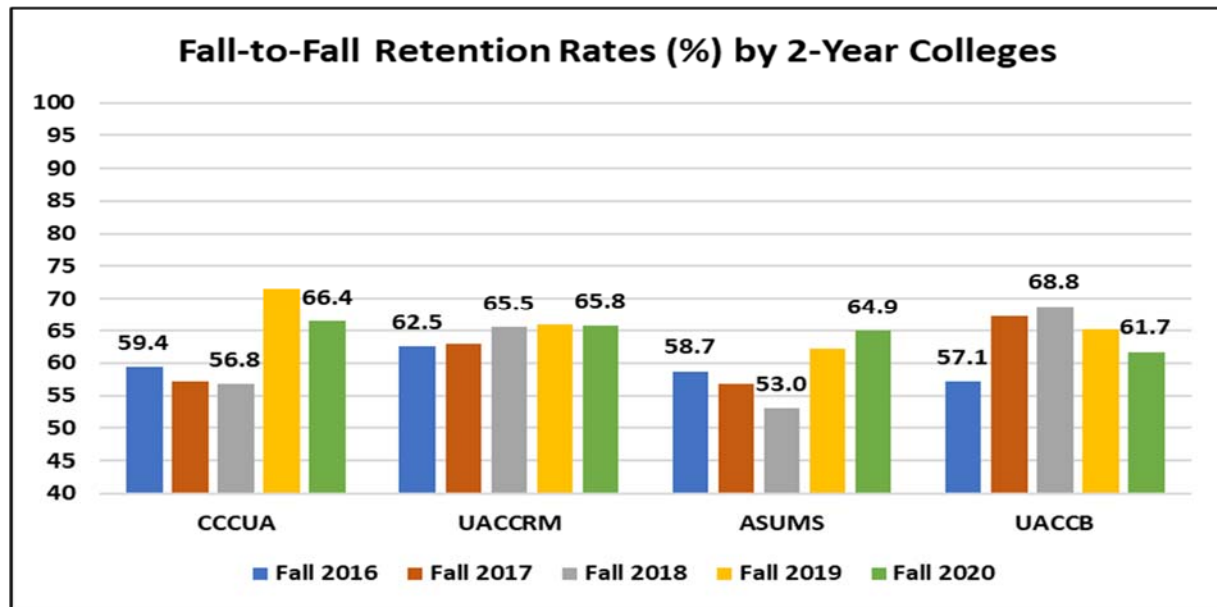


Chart 6.10: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

NPC and ASUMH both reported increases for their Fall 2020 cohort over their Fall 2019 cohort. UACCM reported a slight decline of .3% for their Fall 2020 retention rate of 58.2% from the Fall 2019 retention rate of 58.5%. NAC had a 2.3% decrease from their Fall 2020 cohort when compared to their Fall 2019 cohort.

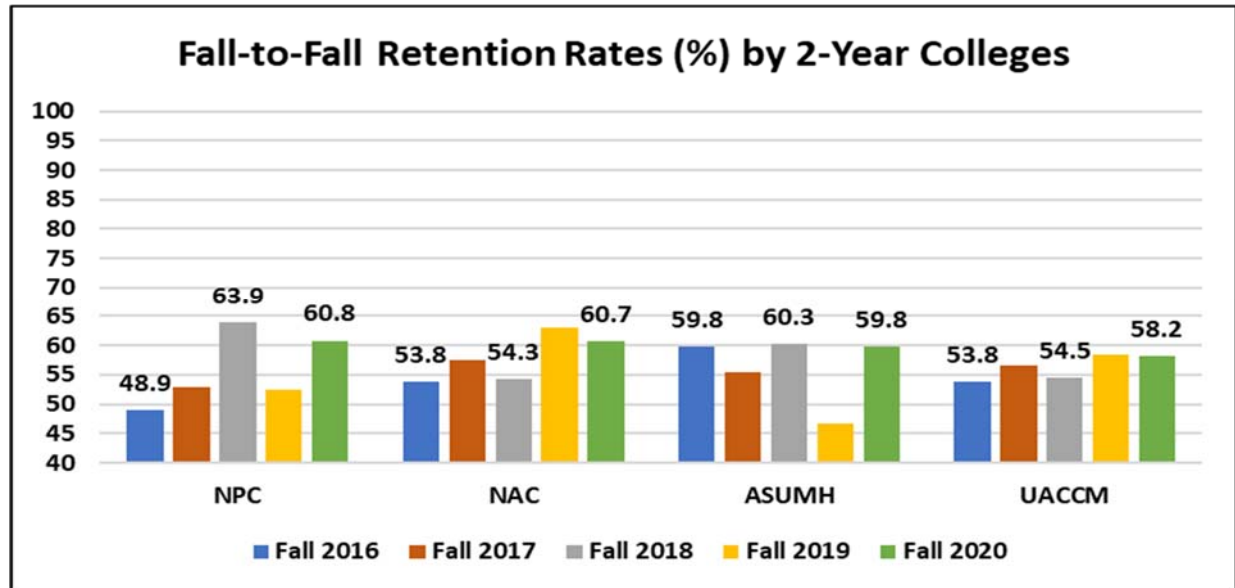


Chart 6.11: Student Retention Rates by Institution –2-Year Colleges

In the chart below, UAPTC reported the highest retention rate increase by 4.4% with their Fall 2020 retention rate of 56.8% when compared to their Fall 2019 retention rate of 52.4%.

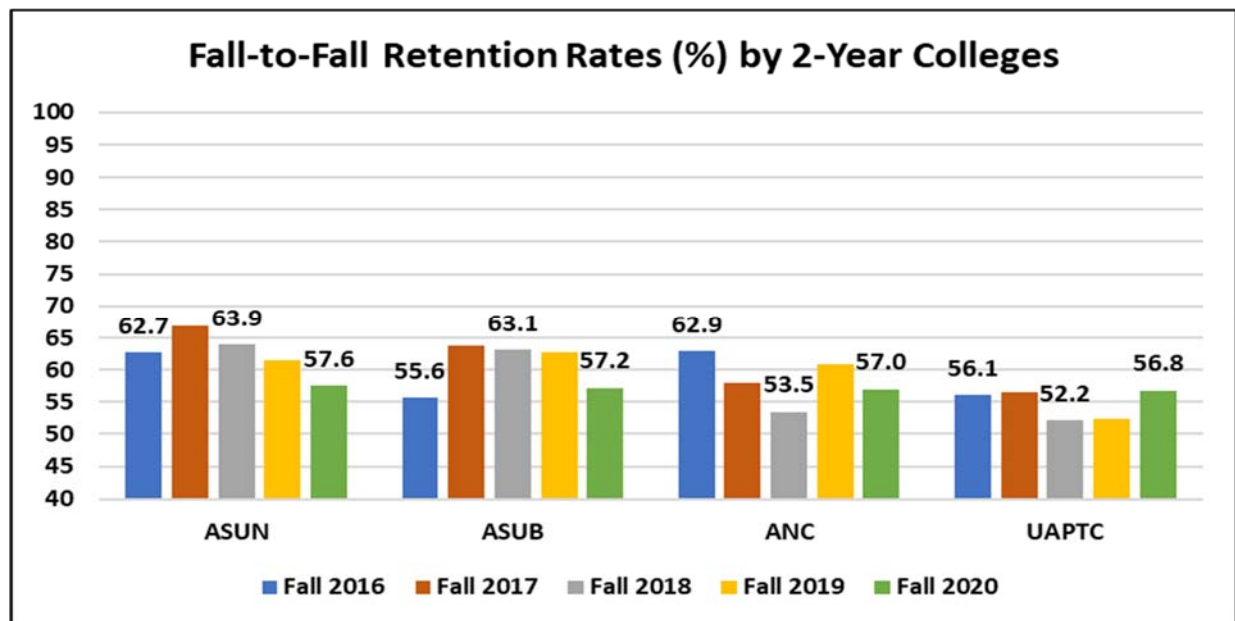


Chart 6.12: Student Retention Rates by Institution –2-Year Colleges

The following two charts show NWACC, BRTC and SEAC reported retention rate increases ranging from 6.9% to 2.6% for the Fall 2020 cohort compared to the Fall 2019 cohort. EACC, OZC and SACC reported decreases ranging from 1.8% to 3% for the Fall 2020 cohort compared to their Fall 2019 cohort.

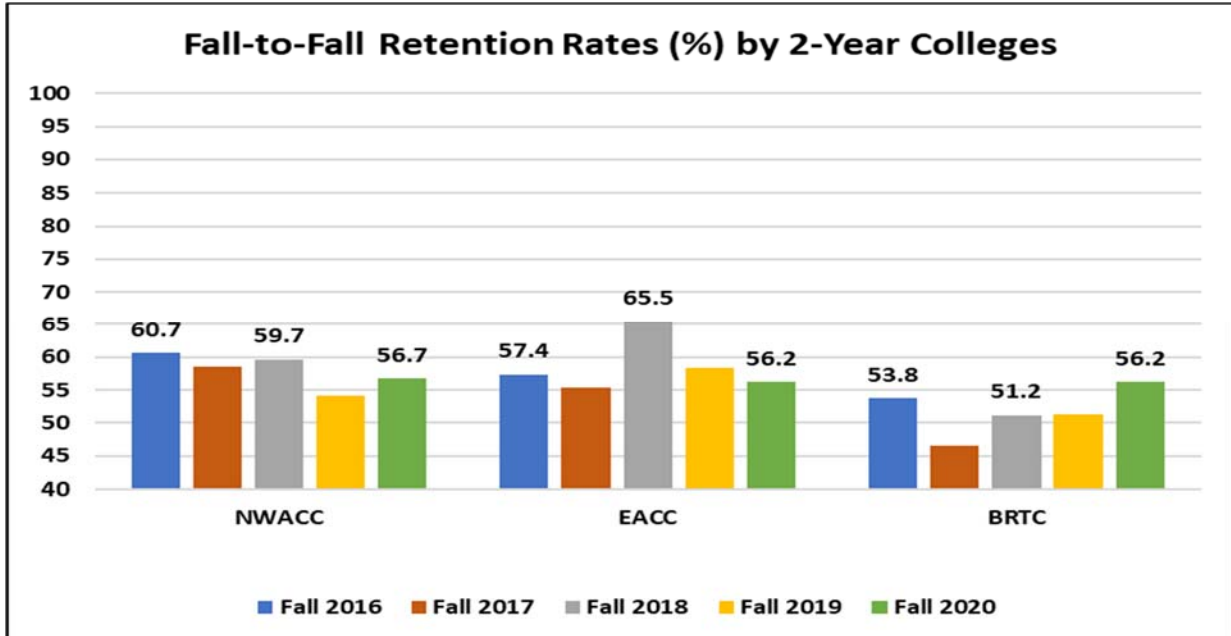


Chart 6.13: Student Retention Rates by Institution –2-Year Colleges

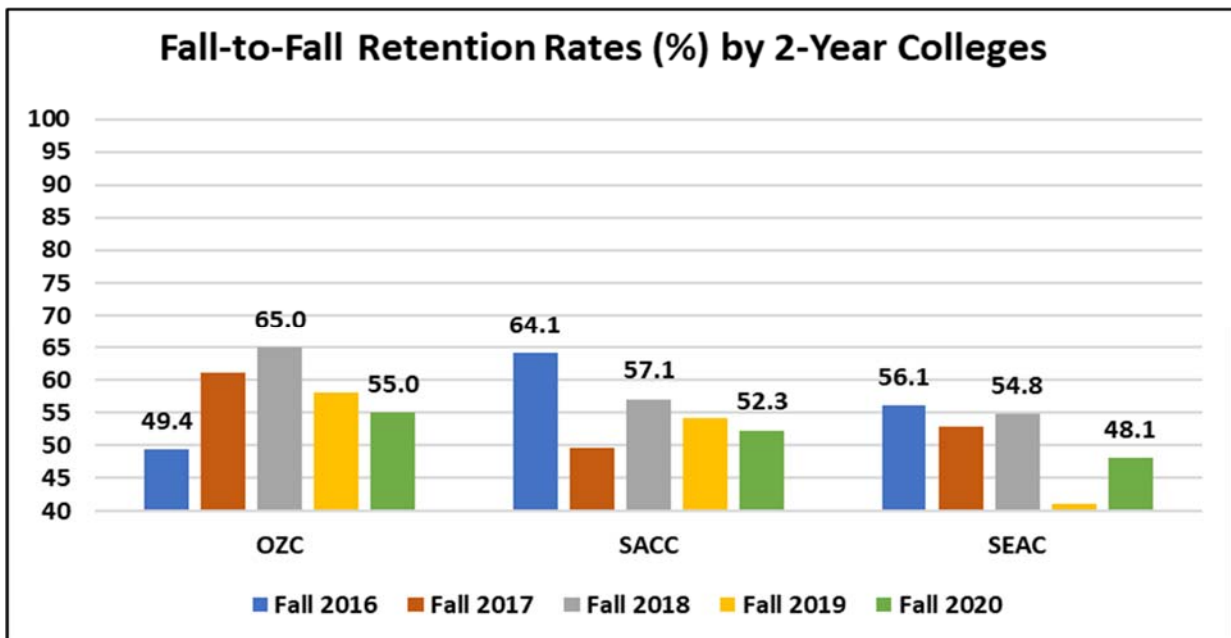


Chart 6.14: Student Retention Rates by Institution –2-Year Colleges

For our private/independent institutions, Ouachita Baptist University reported the highest Fall 2020 fall-to-fall retention rate of 83.3%, followed by Harding University at 81.2% and Hendrix College at 80%.

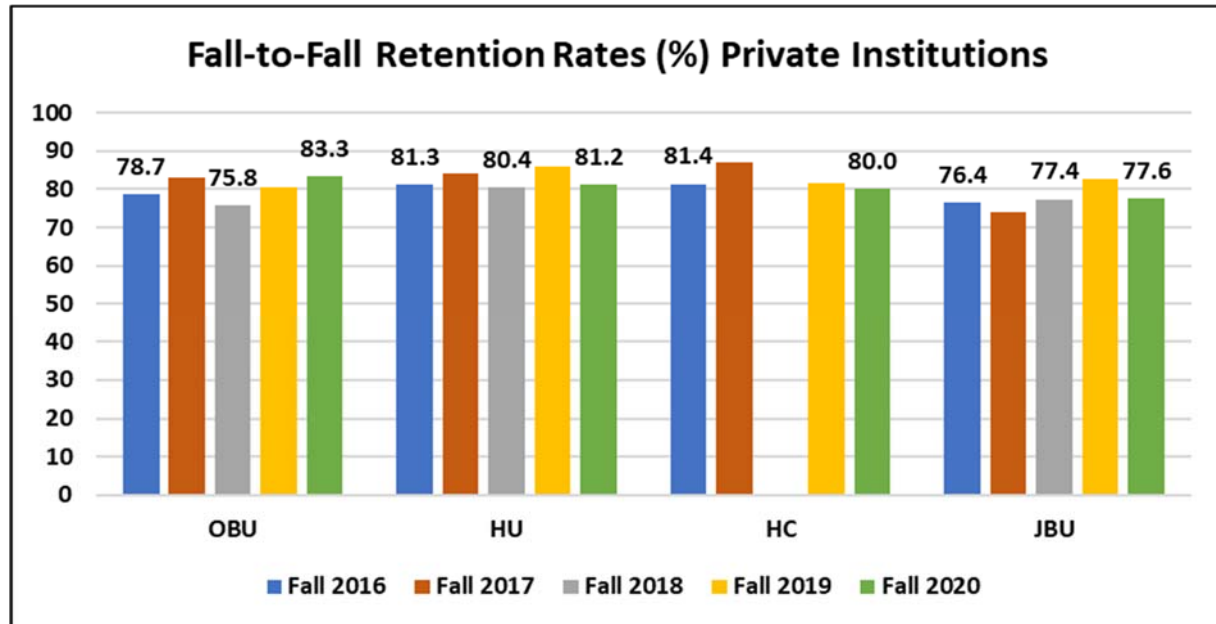


Chart 6.15: Student Retention Rates by Institution – Private Institutions

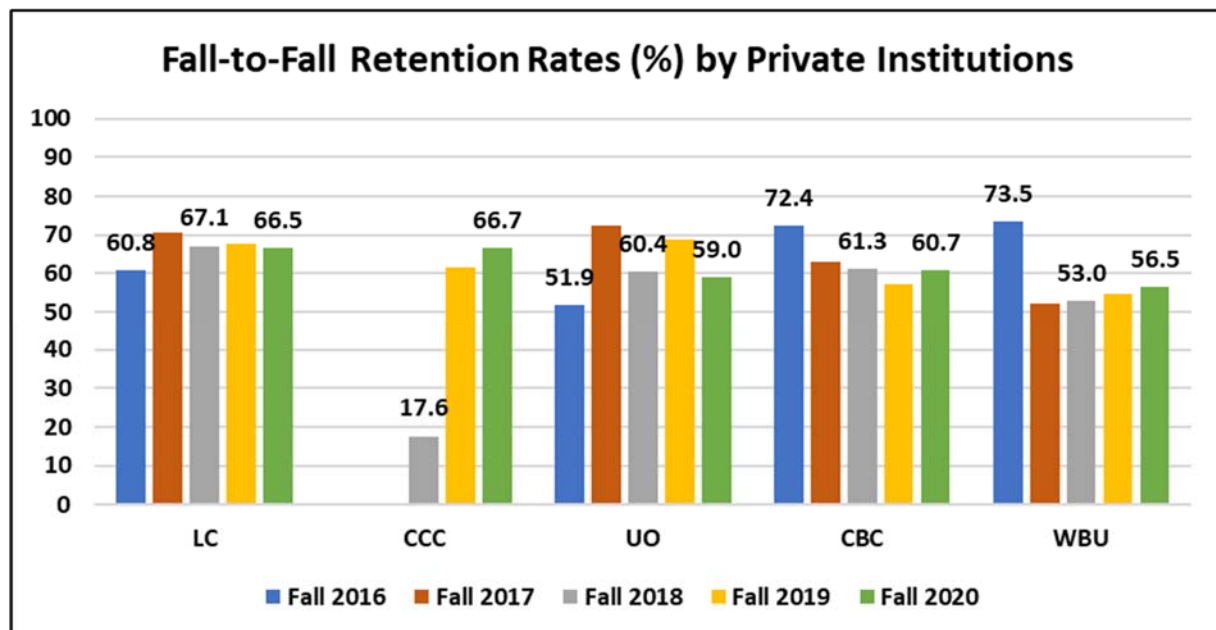


Chart 6.16: Student Retention Rates by Institution – Private Institutions

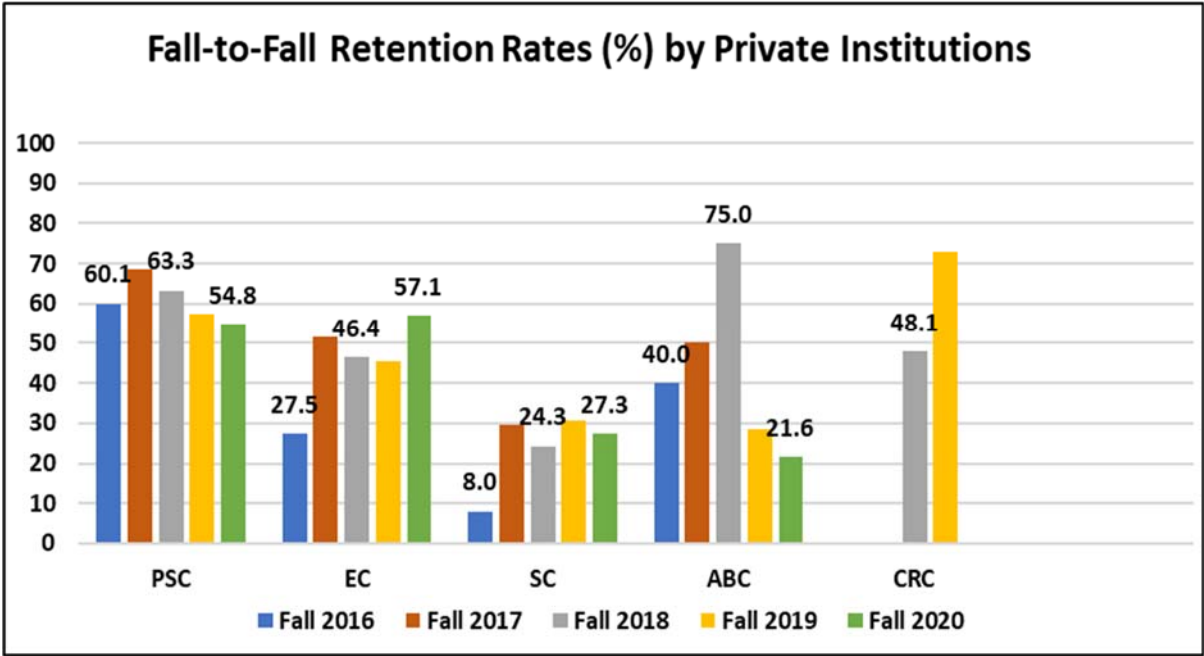


Chart 6.17: Student Retention Rates by Institution – Private Institutions

Statewide Graduation

Graduation rates for our 4-year public universities presented here are based on bachelor-seeking students who are first-time in college for the fall term of each cohort and attending full-time. Chart 6.18 below provides a four-year trend of graduation rates for both students graduating in four years which is considered on-time (100% rate) and those graduating in six years (150% rate).

There have been small but steady increases in the 100% graduation rate for our bachelor-seeking students the past several years. The most recent cohort, students who entered in the Fall 2017, reported an on-time graduation rate of 41.1%. Students graduating in six years have also shown small but steady increases. The most recent six-year cohort, Fall 2015, reported a 52.1% graduation rate.

The Fall 2015 bachelor-seeking cohort graduated 37.2% in four years (100% rate), but after the two additional years of study, 52.1% of this cohort had graduated with a bachelor's degree in six years.

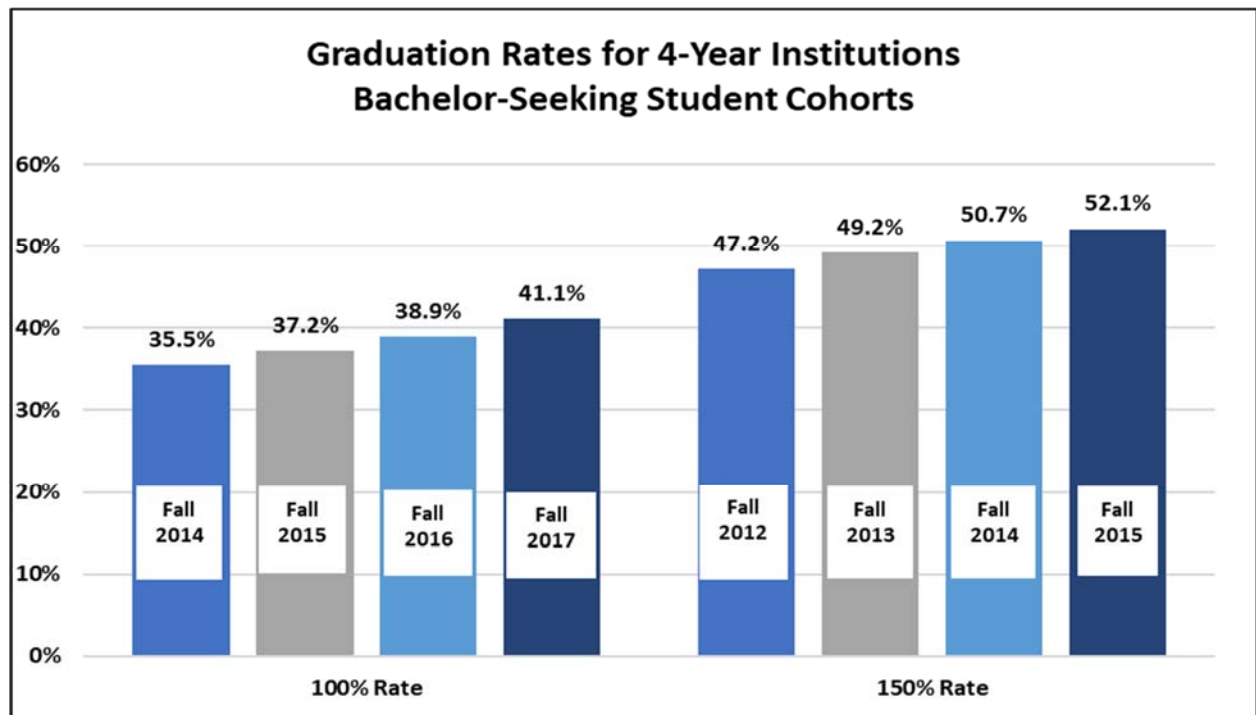


Chart 6.18: Graduation Rates - 4-Year Institution Trend

Charts 6.19 and 6.20 outline the on-time (100%) graduation rate for all of our public 4-year universities. The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville consistently reports the highest on-time graduation rates with the most recent cohort, Fall 2017 reporting a 55.4% on-time graduation rate. Arkansas State University and the University of Central Arkansas report graduation rates of 40.5% and 40.4% respectively for the Fall 2017 cohort

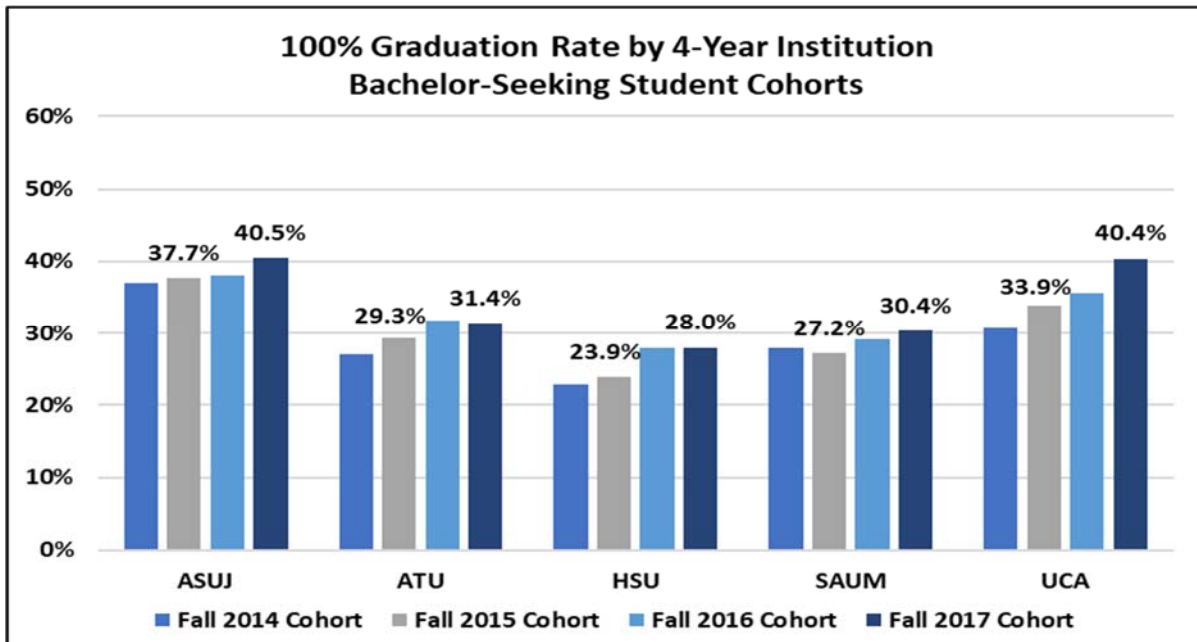


Chart 6.19: 100% Graduation Rates 4-Year institutions-1

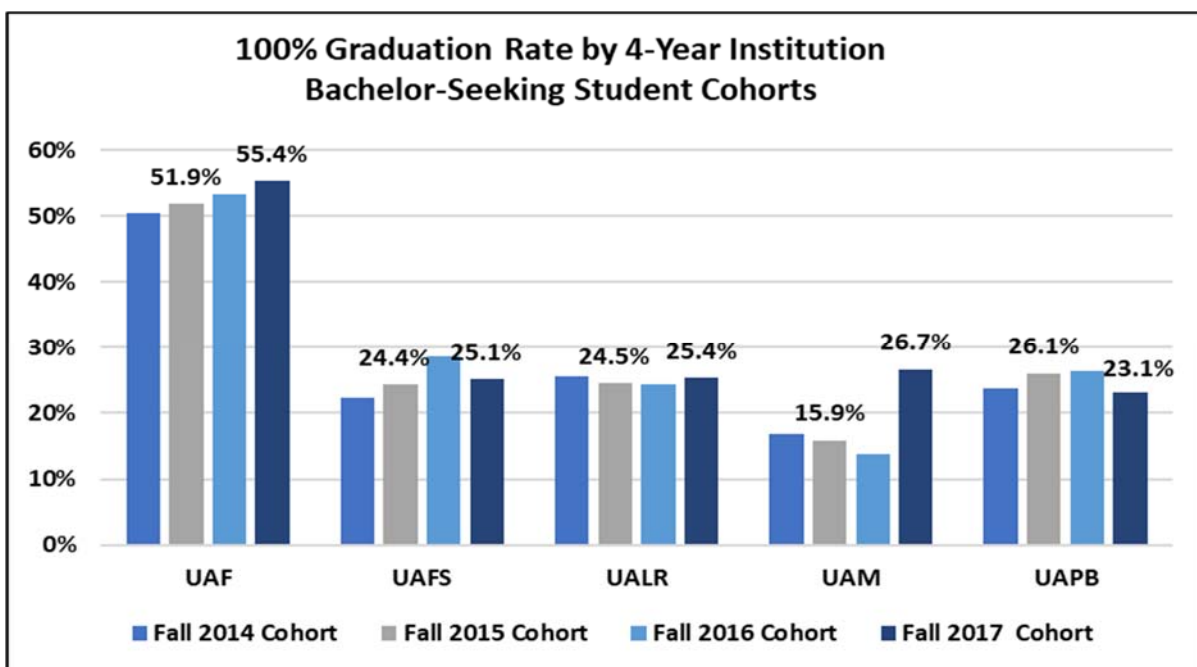


Chart 6.20: 100% Graduation Rates 4-Year institutions-2

Charts 6.21 and 6.22 provide trend data for the six-year graduation rate (150%) for the public 4-year universities. Seven 4-year universities reported an increase for the Fall 2015 cohort when compared to the Fall 2014 cohort.

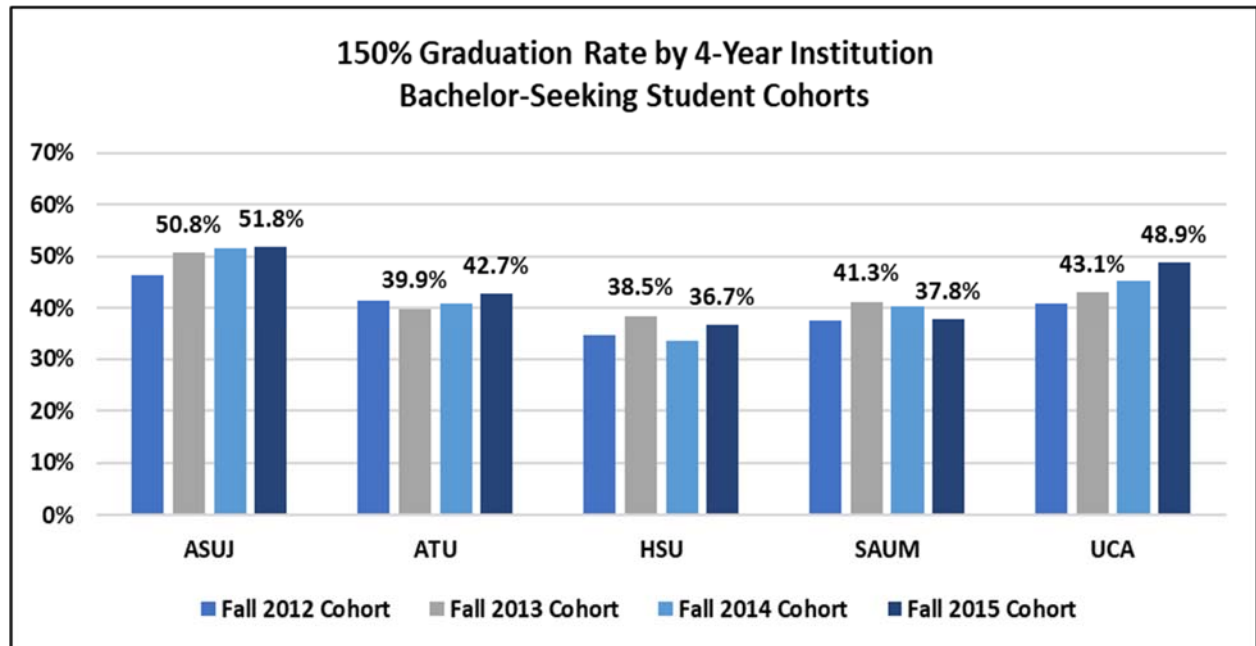


Chart 6.21: 150% Graduation Rates 4-Year institutions-1

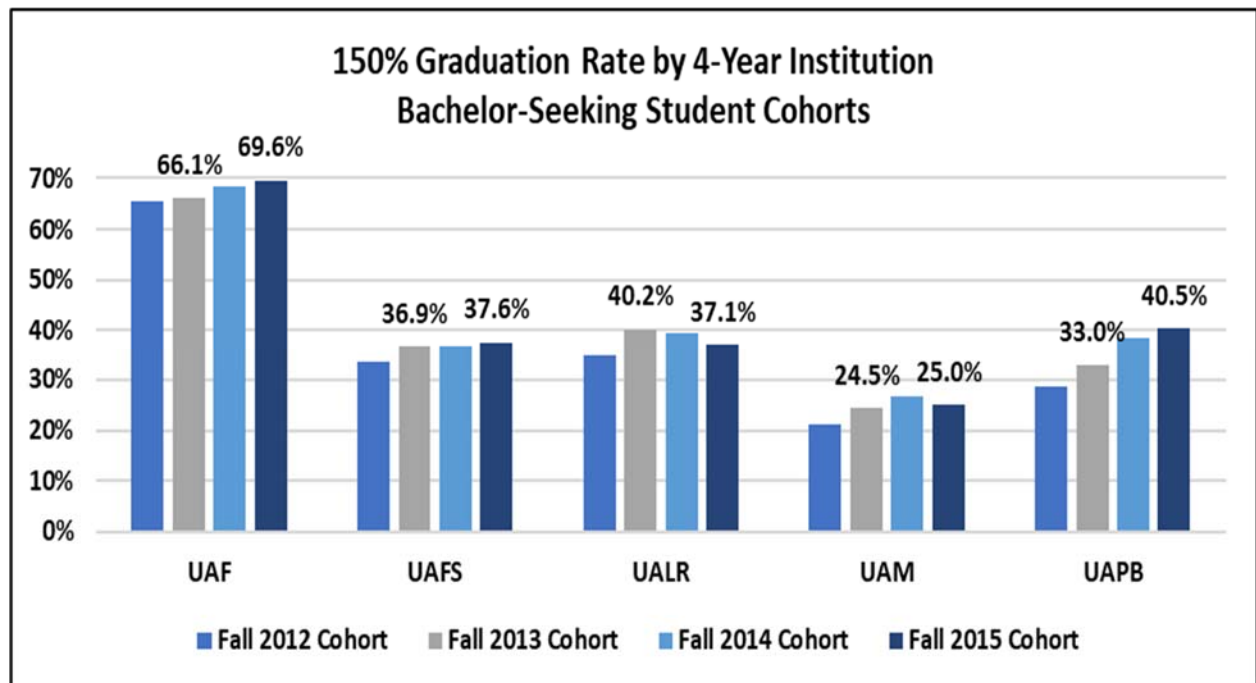


Chart 6.22: 150% Graduation Rates 4-Year institutions-2

Both male and female cohorts showed an improved six-year graduation rate. The Fall 2015 male cohort reported a 48.1% graduation rate, while the Fall 2015 female cohort reported 55.3% graduation rate.

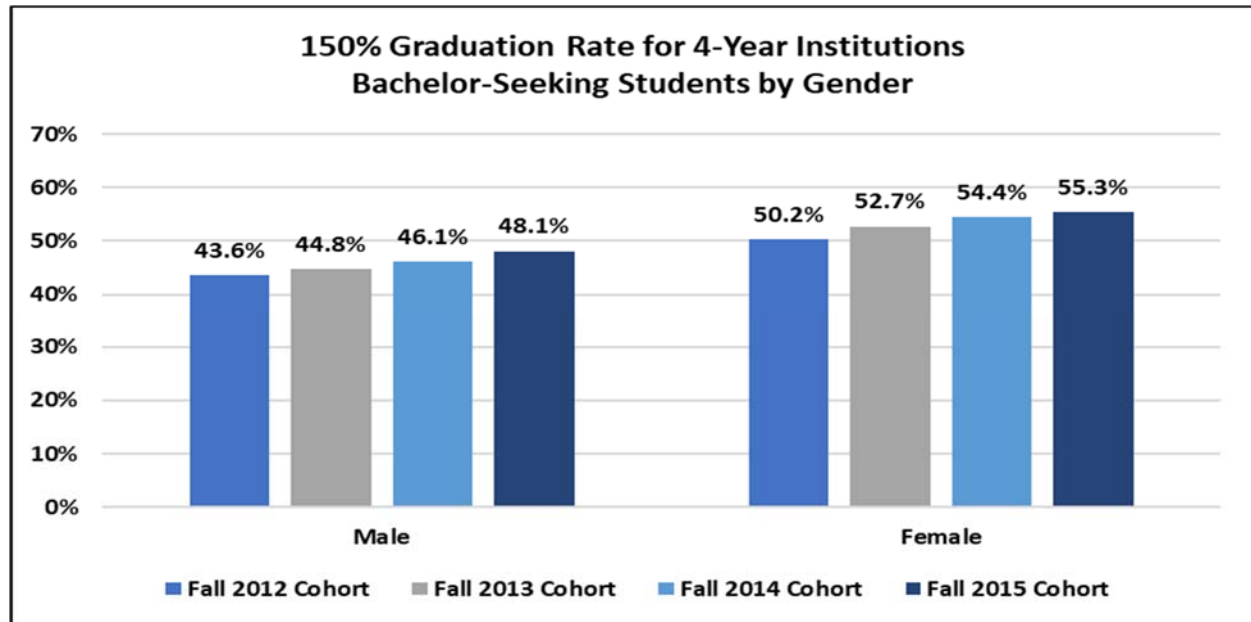


Chart 6.23: 150% Graduation Rates by Gender

All races/ethnicities showed six-year graduation rate improvements. Hispanic and White students both reported a graduation rate above 50% for the Fall 2015 Cohort and Asian students reported a graduation rate above 60% for the Fall 2015 Cohort.

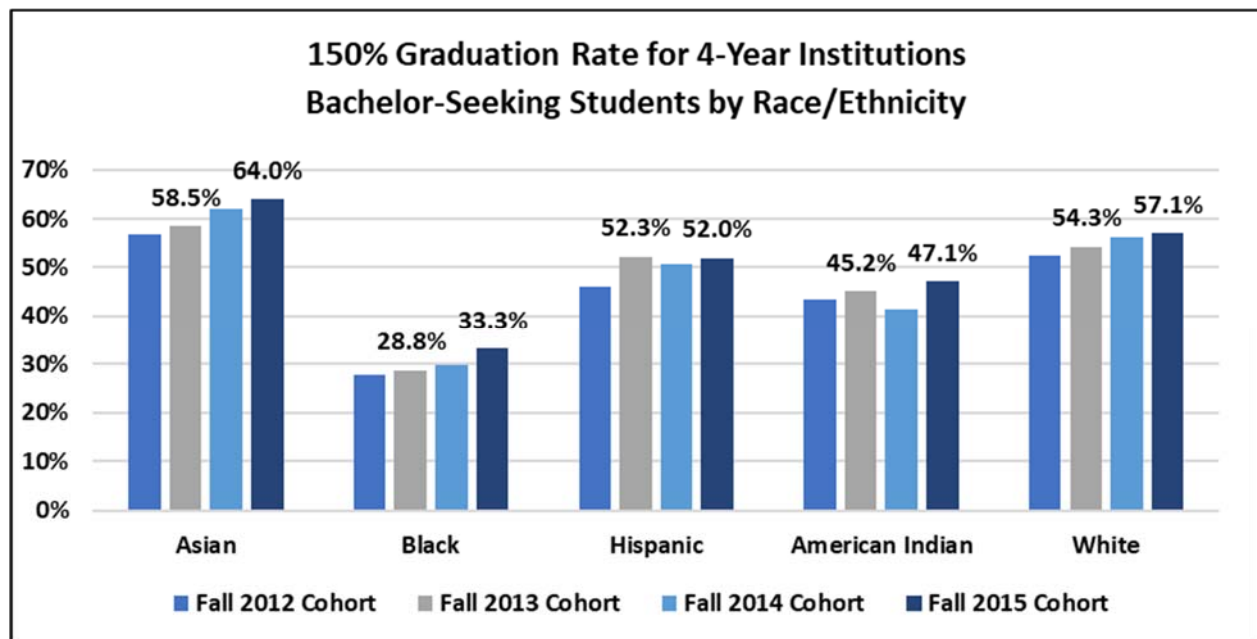


Chart 6.24: 150% Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

2-Year College Graduation Rates

Charts 6.25 through 6.28 outline the on-time (100%) graduation rate for associate-seeking students for all of our public 2-year colleges. UACCRM reports the highest on-time graduation rate with the most recent cohort, Fall 2018 reporting a 34.8% on-time graduation rate. OZC and ASUMH report the second and third highest on-time graduation rates of 24.6% and 24.4%, respectively, for the Fall 2018 cohort.

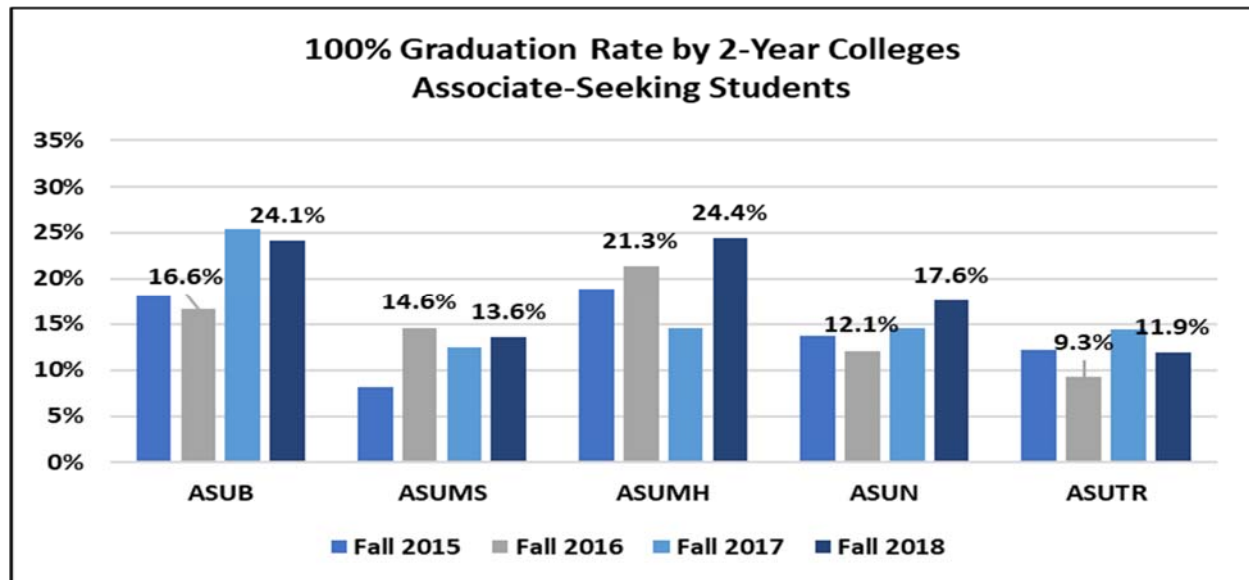


Chart 6.25 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts-1

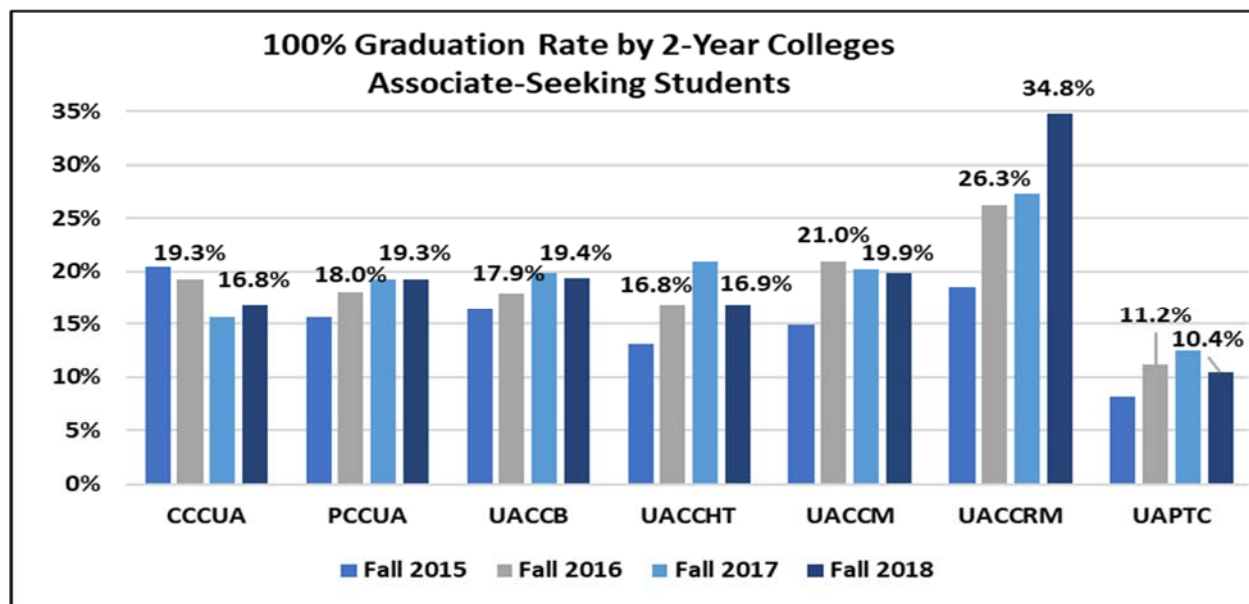


Chart 6.26 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts-2

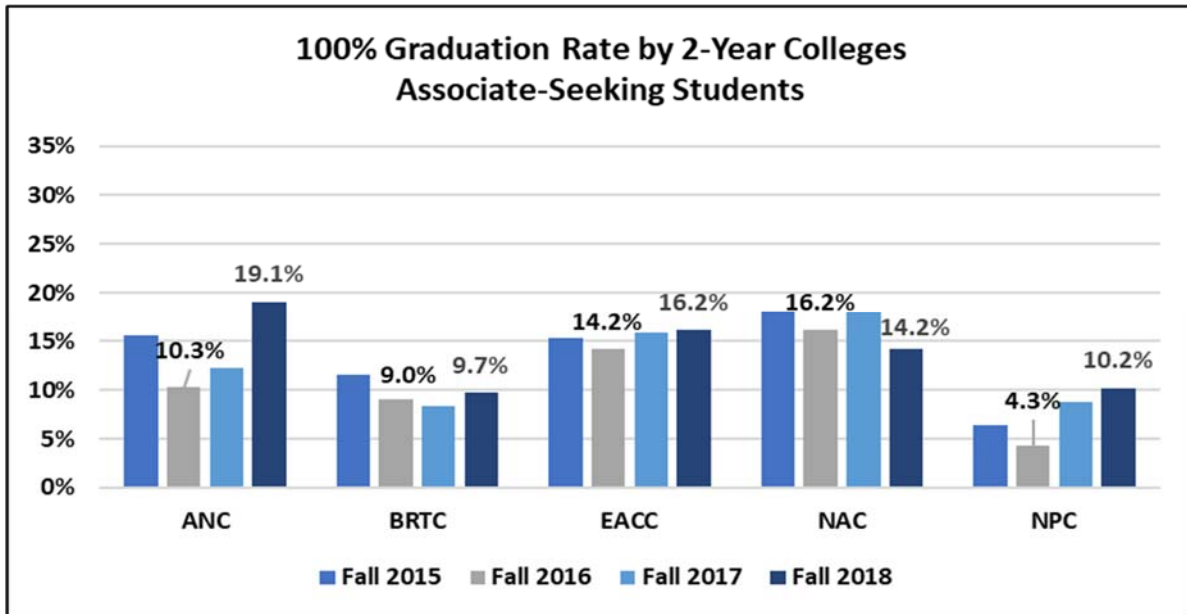


Chart 6.27 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts-3

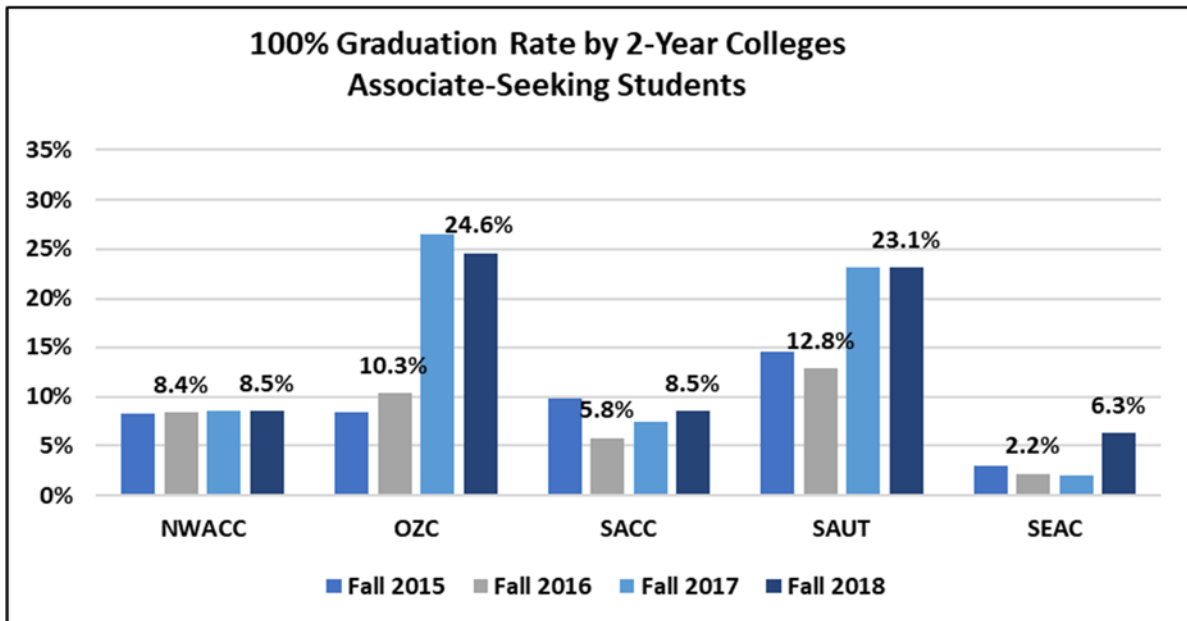


Chart 6.28 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts-4

Charts 6.29 through 6.32 provide a graduation rate for associate-seeking students for 2-year colleges for three years (150%). Twelve 2-year colleges reported a higher three-year graduation rate.

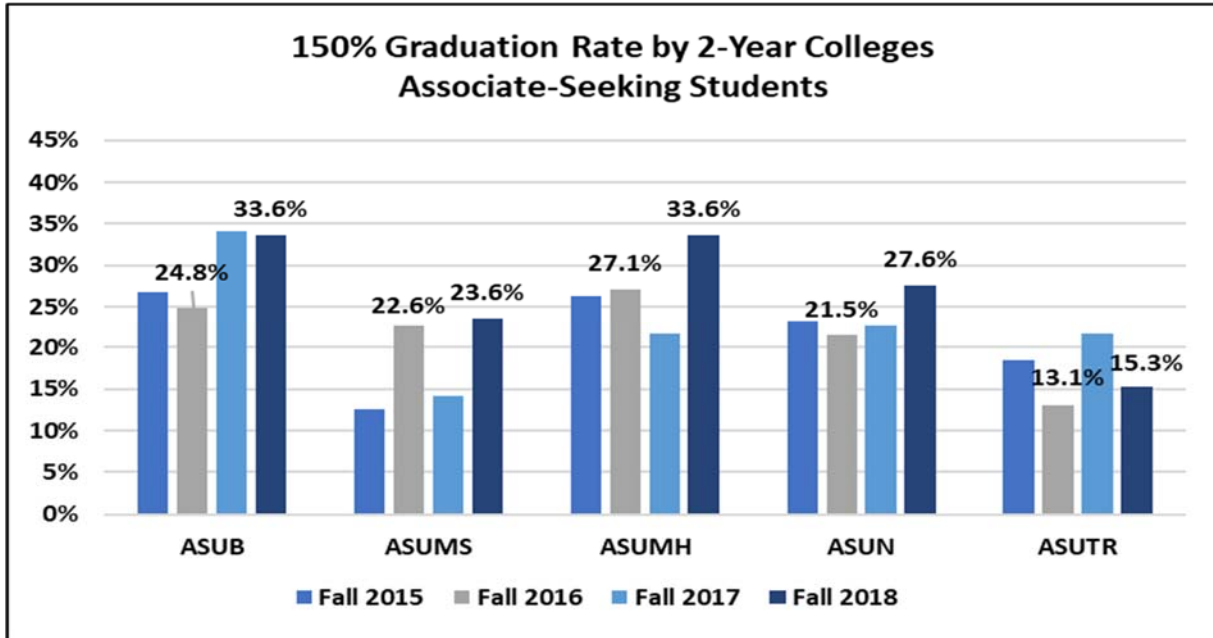


Chart 6.29 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts-1

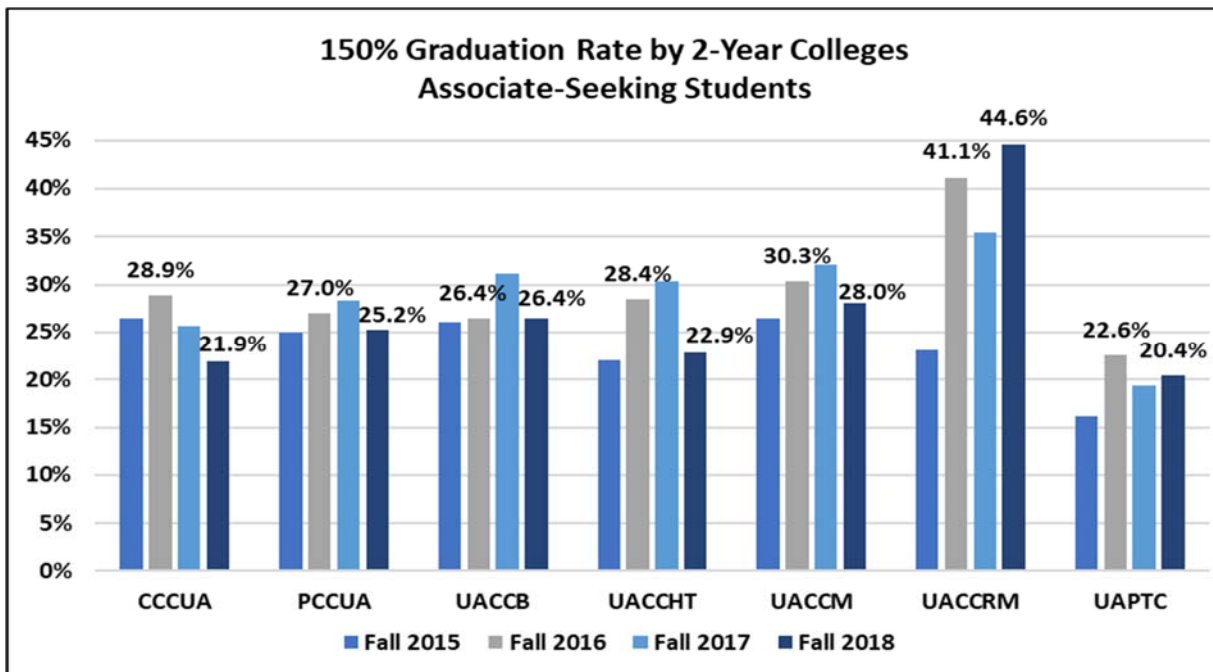


Chart 6.30 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts-2

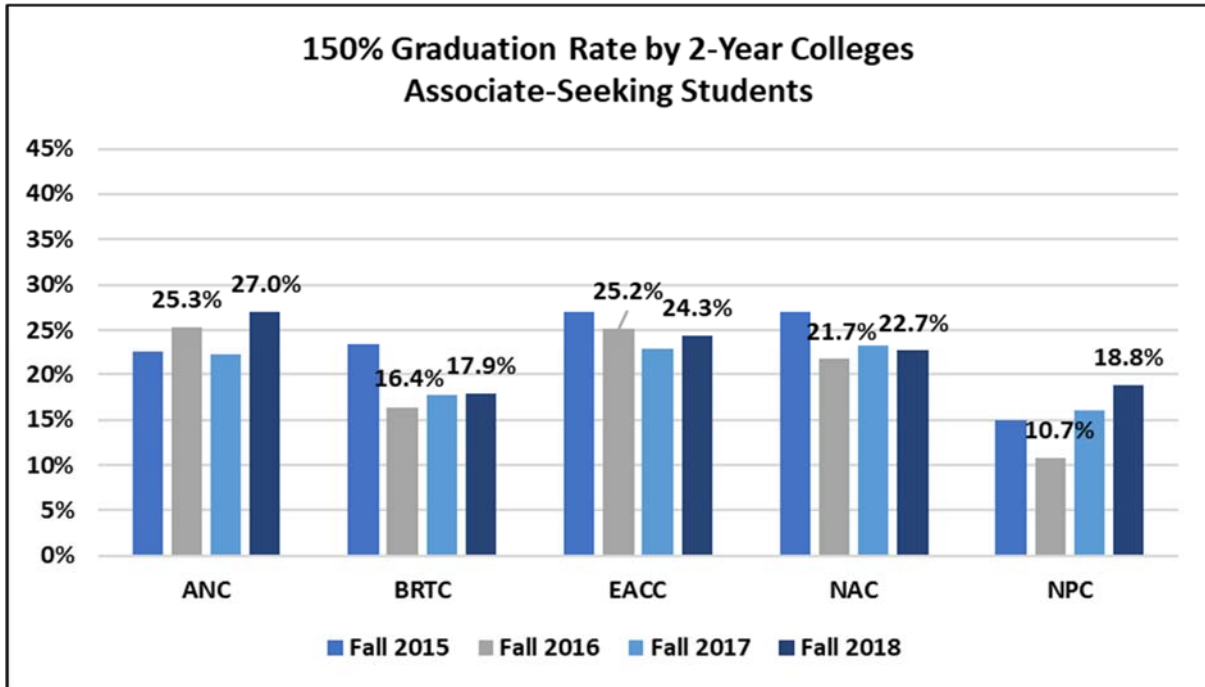


Chart 6.31 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts-3

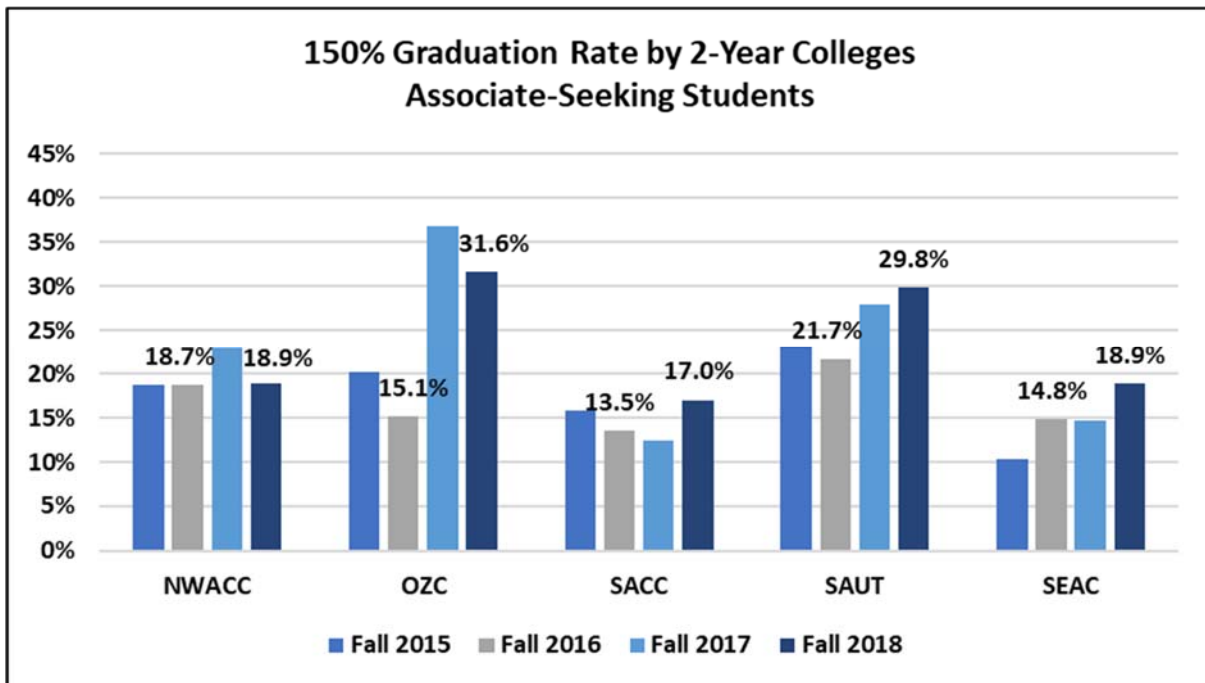


Chart 6.32 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts-4

The Fall 2018 female cohort reported a slightly higher three-year graduation rate at 26.9% when compared to the Fall 2017 cohort's graduation rate of 26.0%. Male students reported a graduation rate of 20.4%, a decline from Fall 2017 cohort's graduation rate of 23.1%.

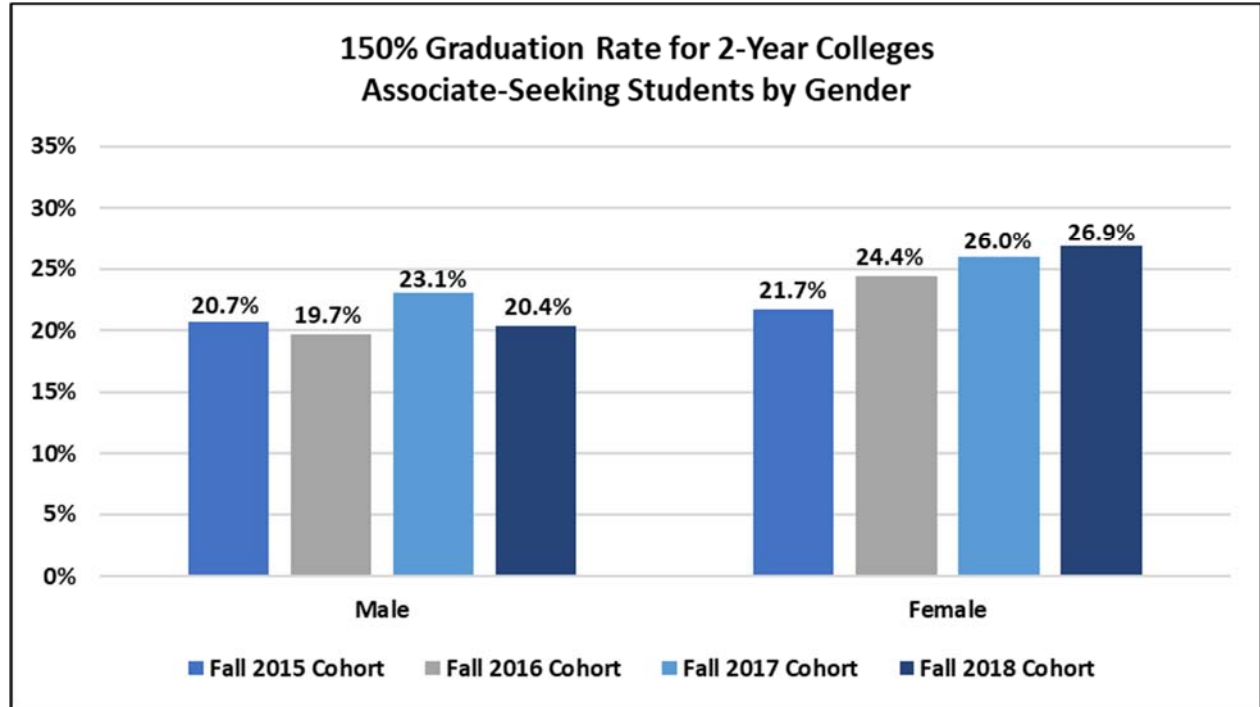


Chart 6.33: Graduation Rates 2-Year Colleges by Gender

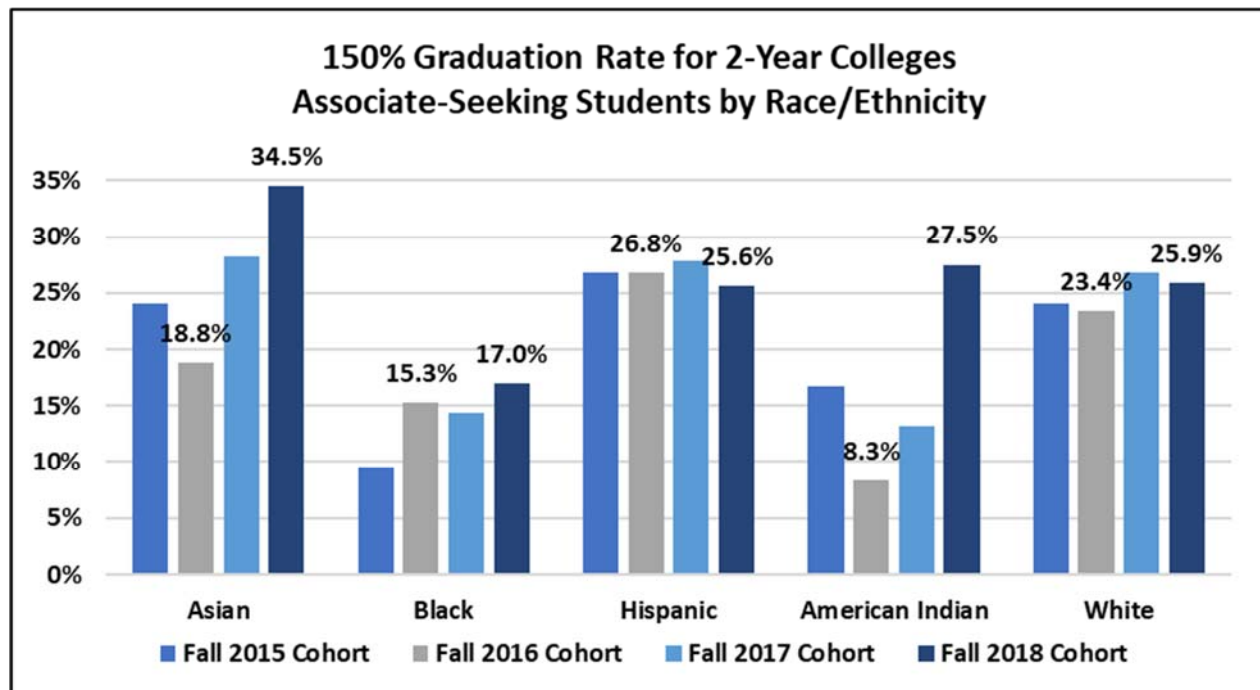


Chart 6.34: Graduation Rates 2-Year Colleges by Race/Ethnicity

Private/Independent Institutions

Graduation rates for our private/independent institutions are very consistent for the four most recent cohorts for both the 100% rate and the 150% rate.

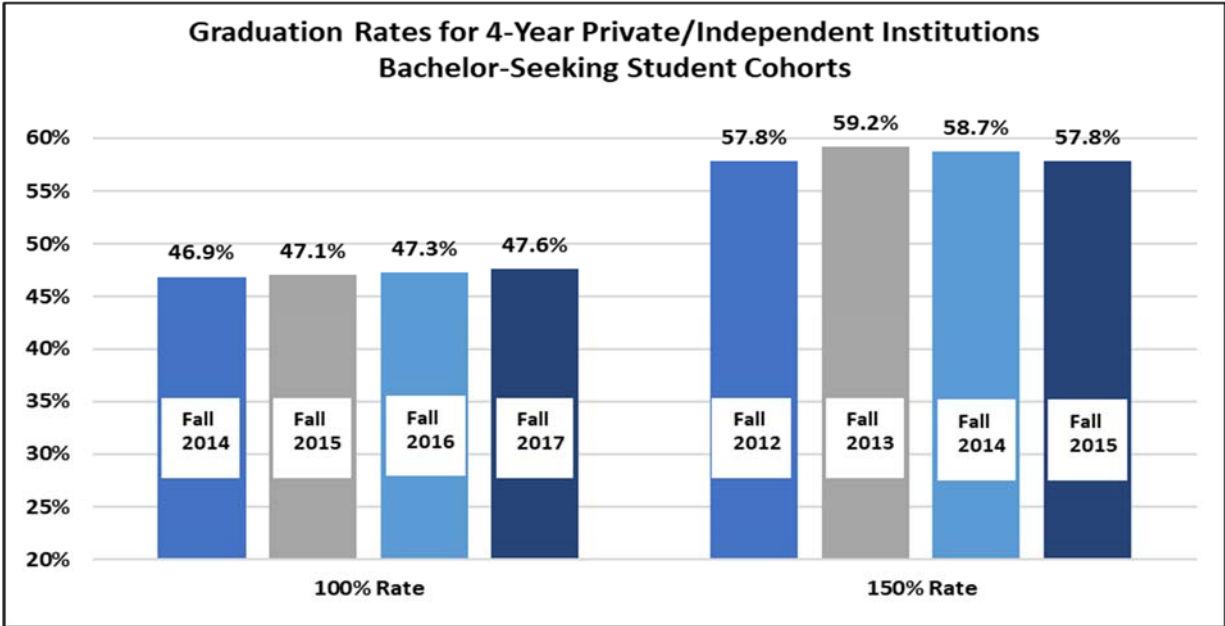


Chart 6.35: Graduation Rates Private Institutions