

# **Arkansas Division of Higher Education**

## **Student Retention & Graduation Academic Year 2022-2023**



### **Research & Analytics**

**December 2023**

**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 72.6% for the Fall 2021 cohort had an increase of 2.7% over the Fall 2017 cohort of 69.9%. The 2-Year college retention rate was the highest in 5 years at 61.3%.

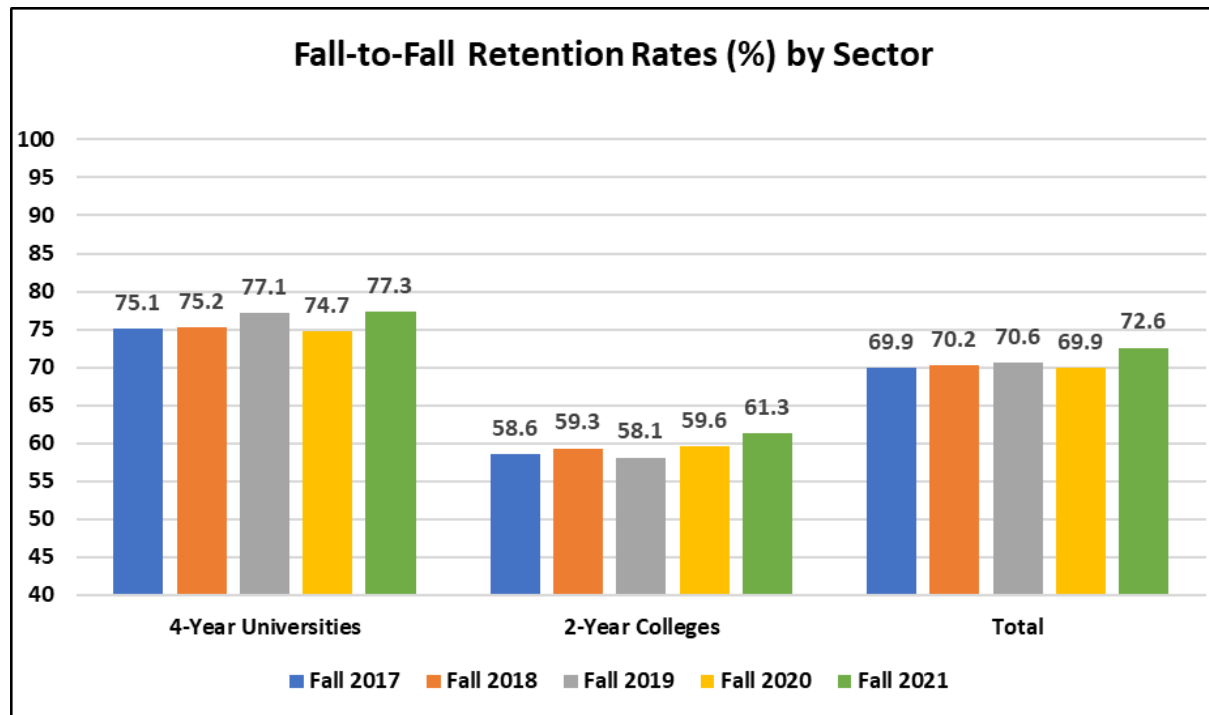


Chart 1.1: Student Retention Rates by Sector

Both male and female cohorts for our 2- and 4-year institutions reported increases in their retention rates for the most recent Fall 2021 cohort.

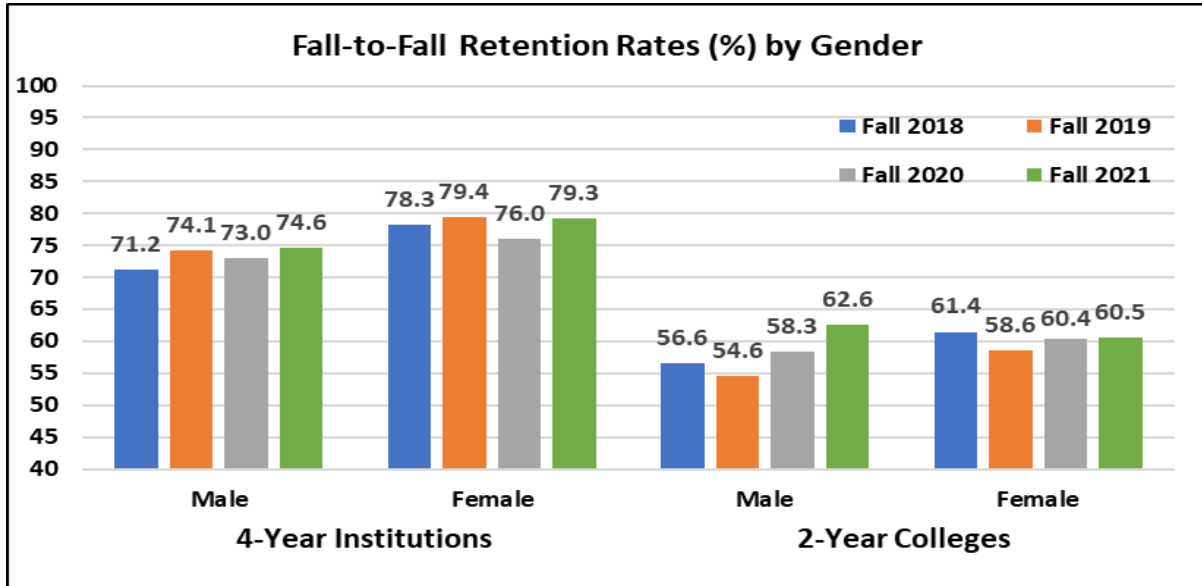


Chart 1.2: Student Retention Rates by Gender

Chart 1.3 provides fall-to-fall retention rates for students enrolled in remediation.

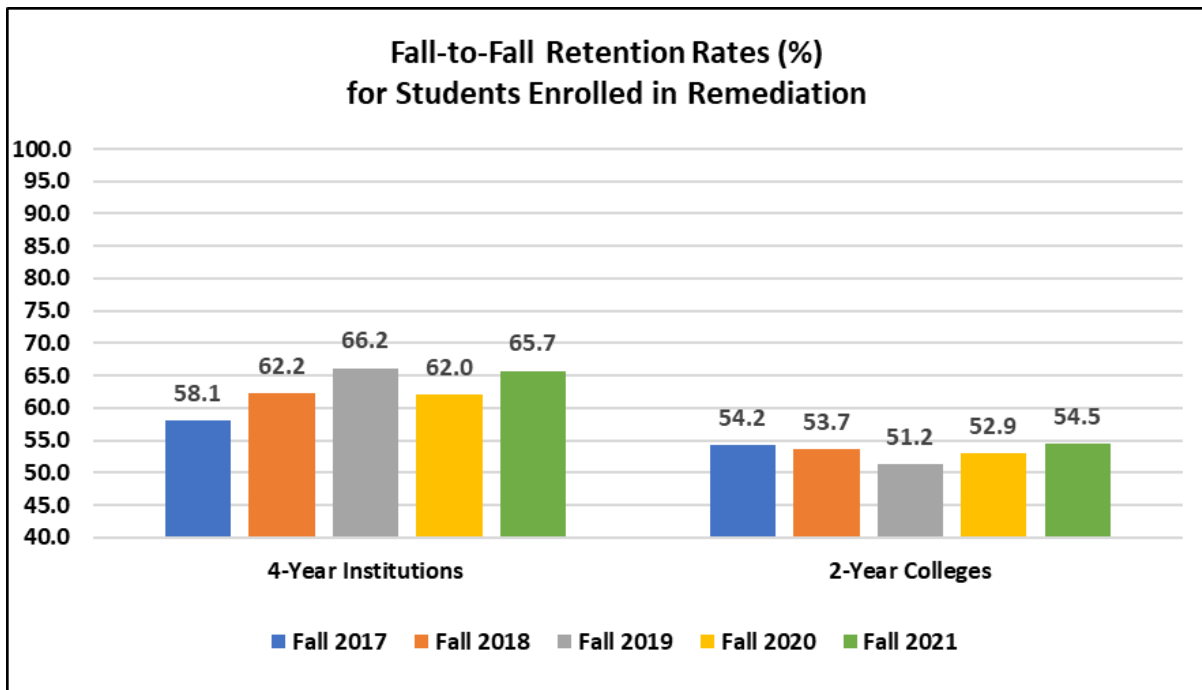


Chart 1.3: Student Retention Rates by Remediated Students

### 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. Seven 4-year universities reported an increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate when comparing the Fall 2020 cohort to the Fall 2021 cohort. ASUJ, UCA, ATU, UAFS, UALR, SAUM, and HSU experienced improved retention rates from 0.1% to 9.0%.

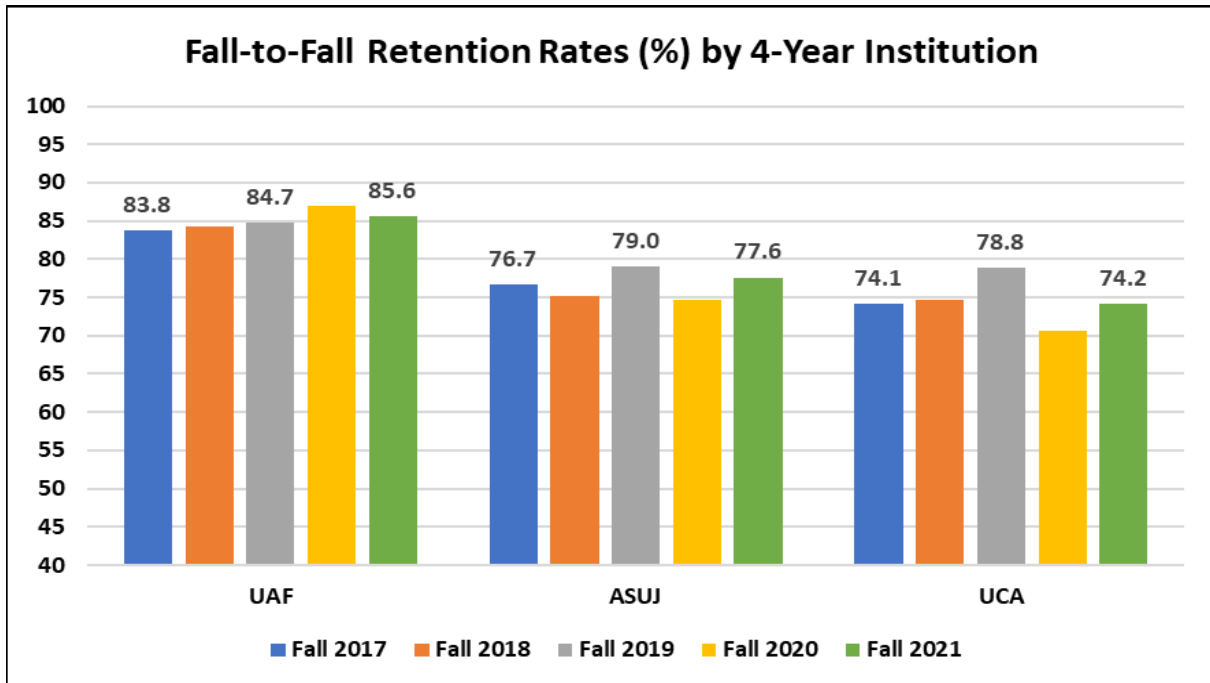


Chart 1.4: Student Retention Rates by 4-Year Institution

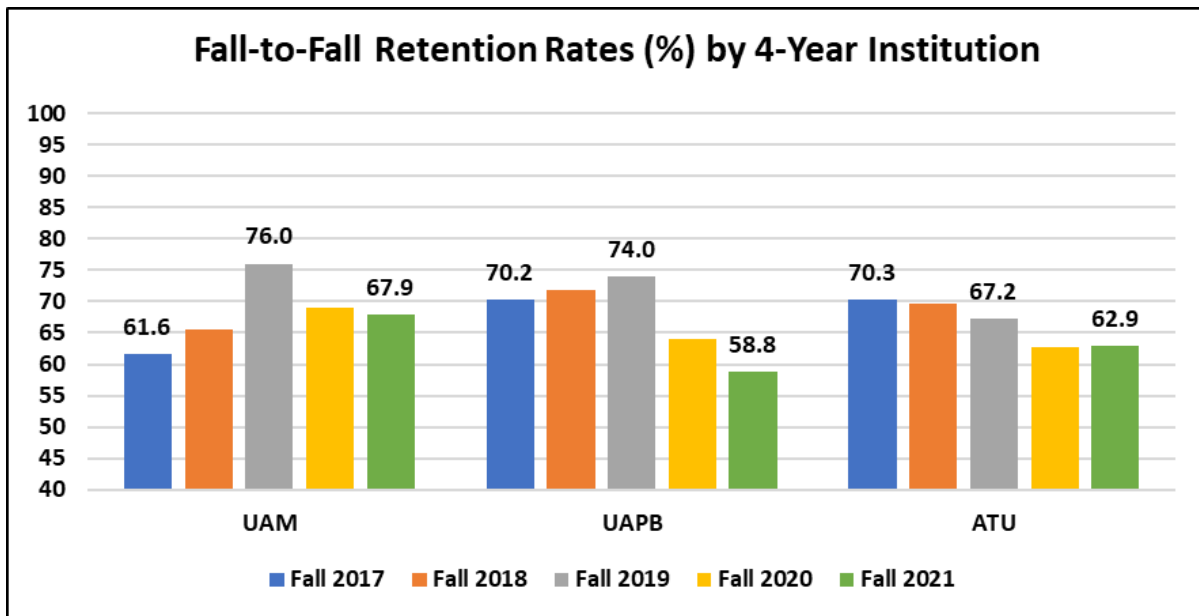


Chart 1.5: Student Retention Rates by 4-Year Institution

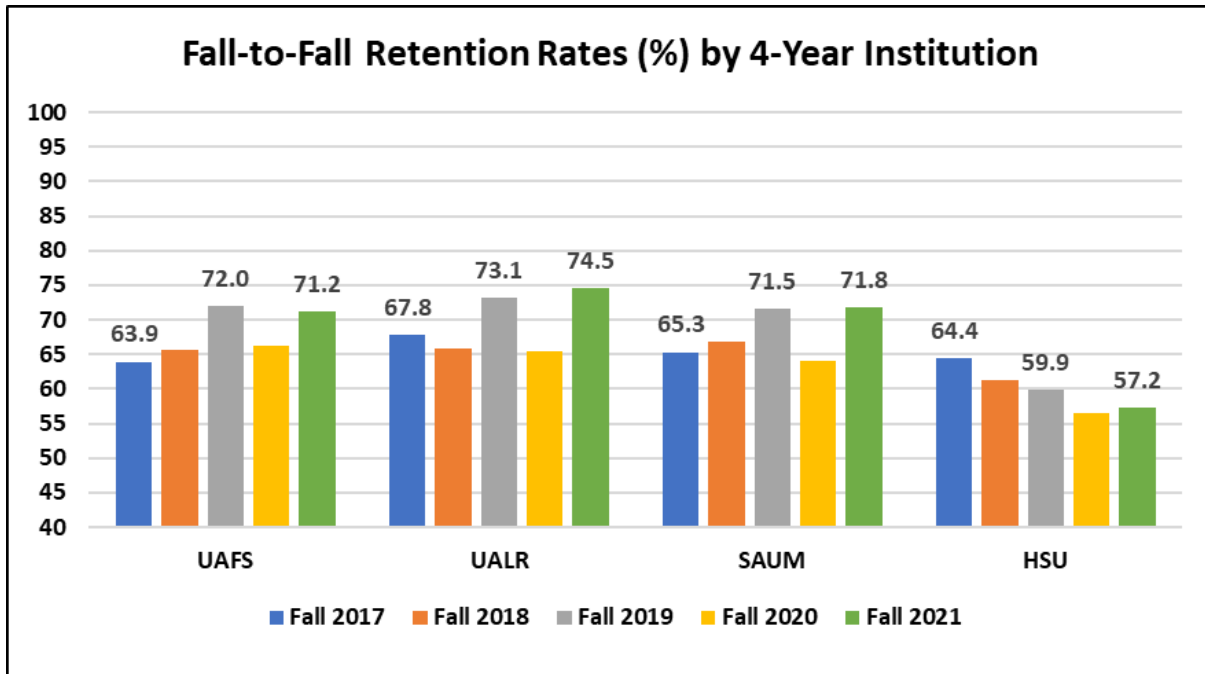


Chart 1.6: Student Retention Rates by 4-Year Institution

The following charts report retention rates for the 2-Year Colleges for Fall 2017 to Fall 2021. Thirteen 2-year colleges reported increases in fall-to-fall retention rates when comparing the Fall 2021 cohort to the Fall 2020 cohort.

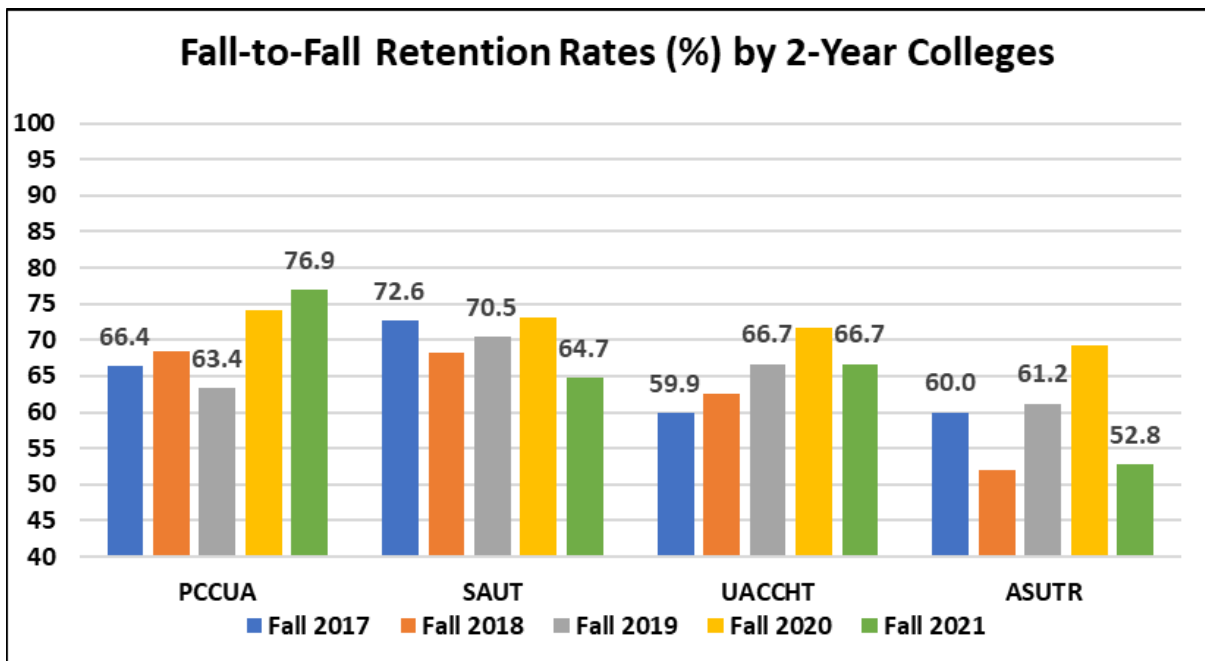


Chart 1.7: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

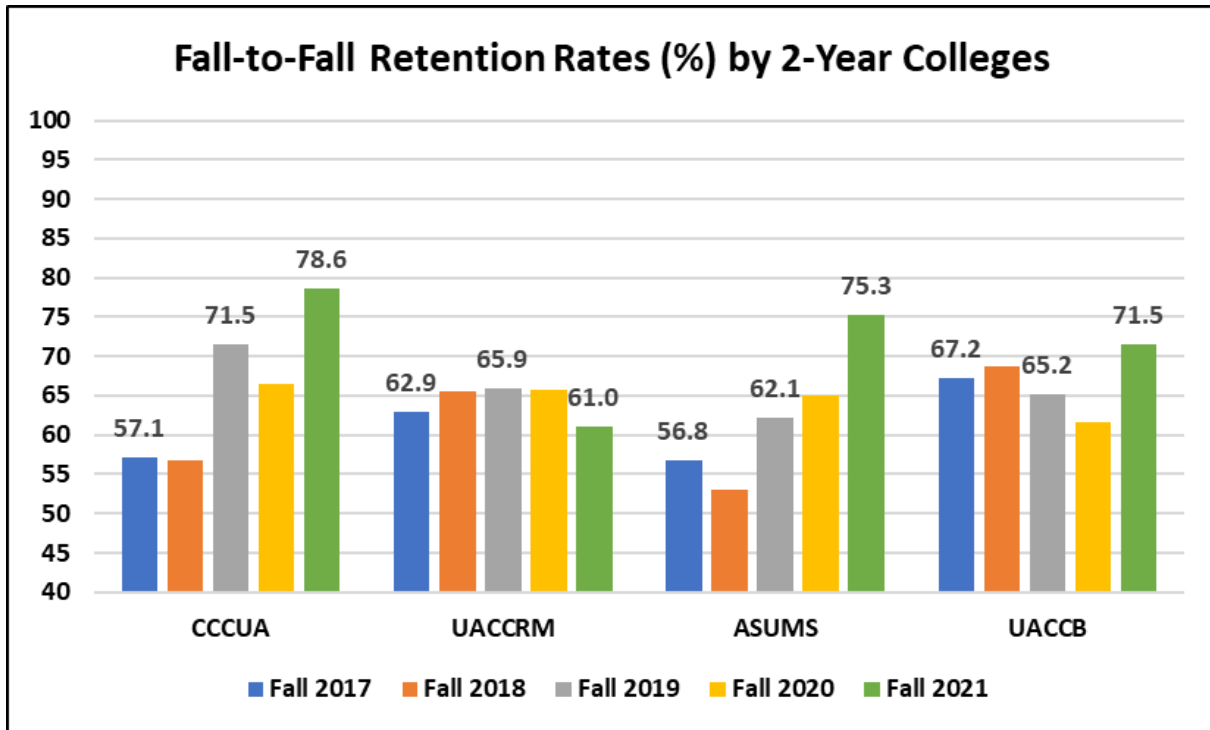


Chart 1.8: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

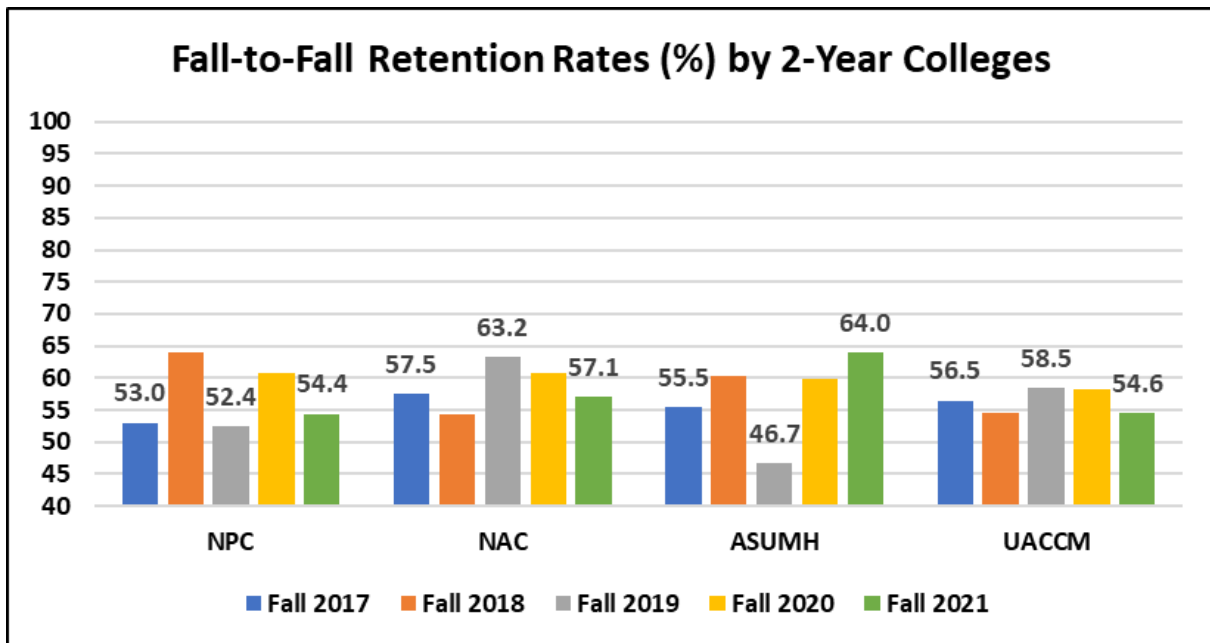


Chart 1.9: Student Retention Rates by Institution – 2-Year Colleges

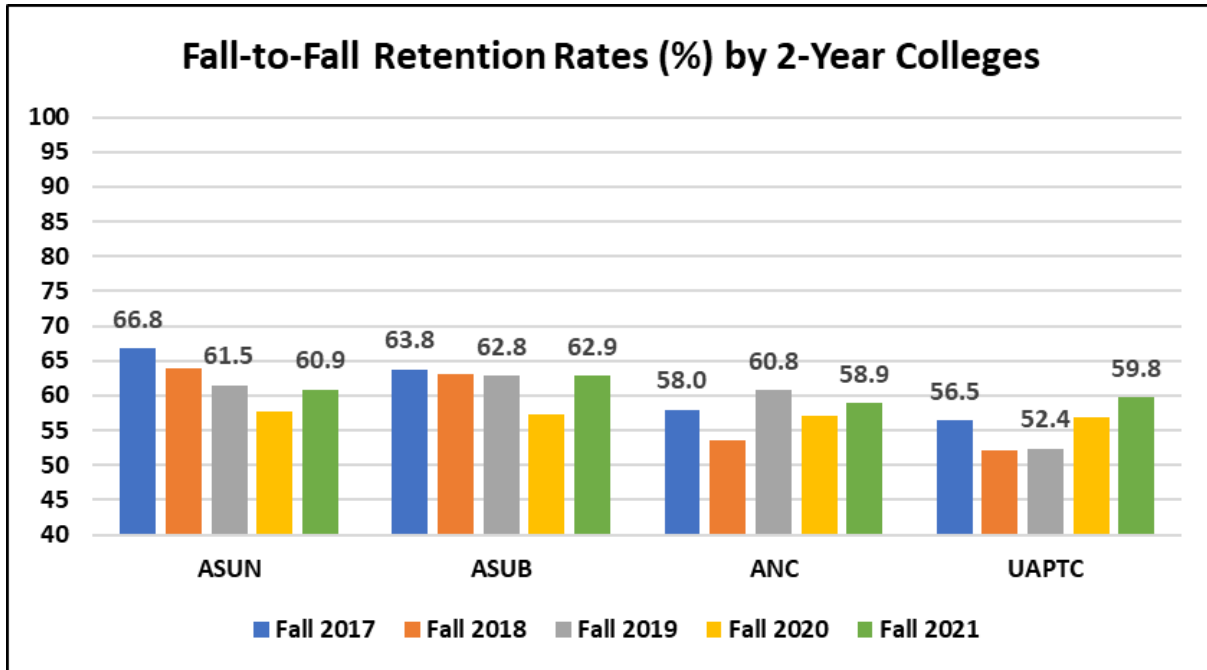


Chart 1.10: Student Retention Rates by Institution –2-Year Colleges

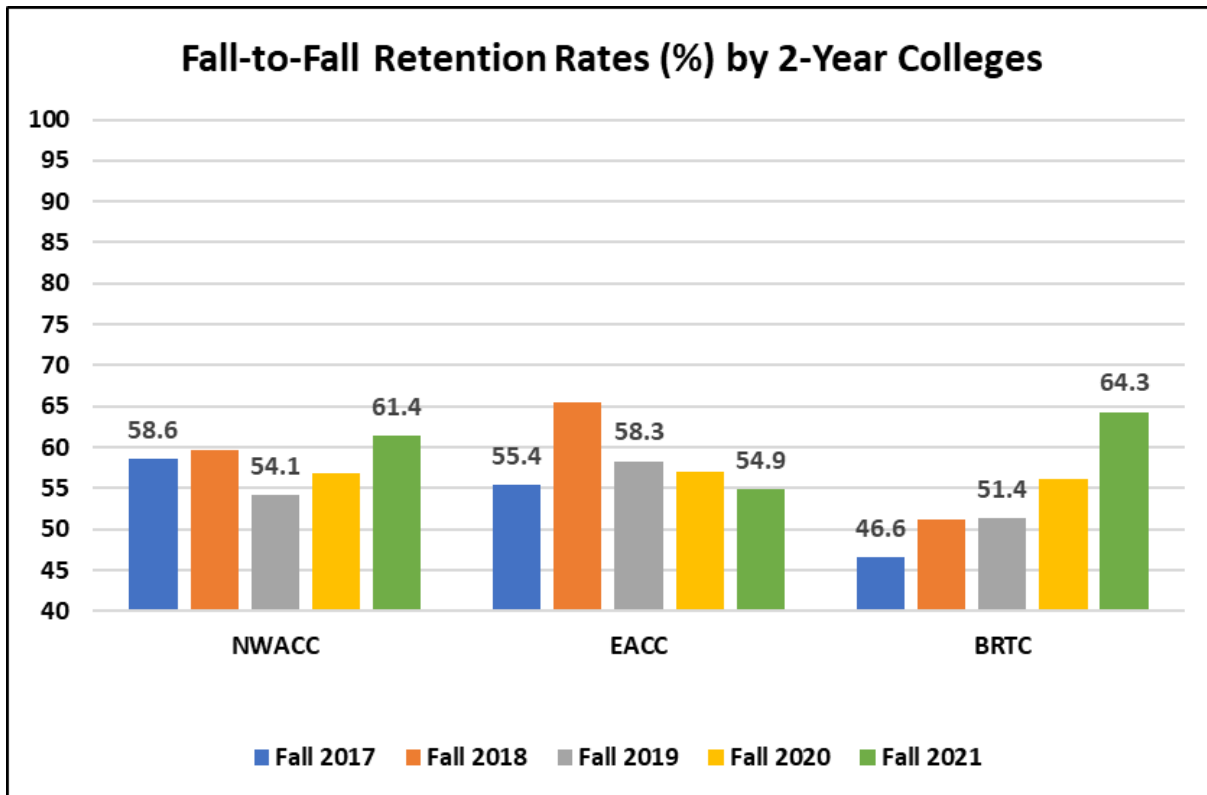


Chart 1.11: Student Retention Rates by Institution –2-Year Colleges

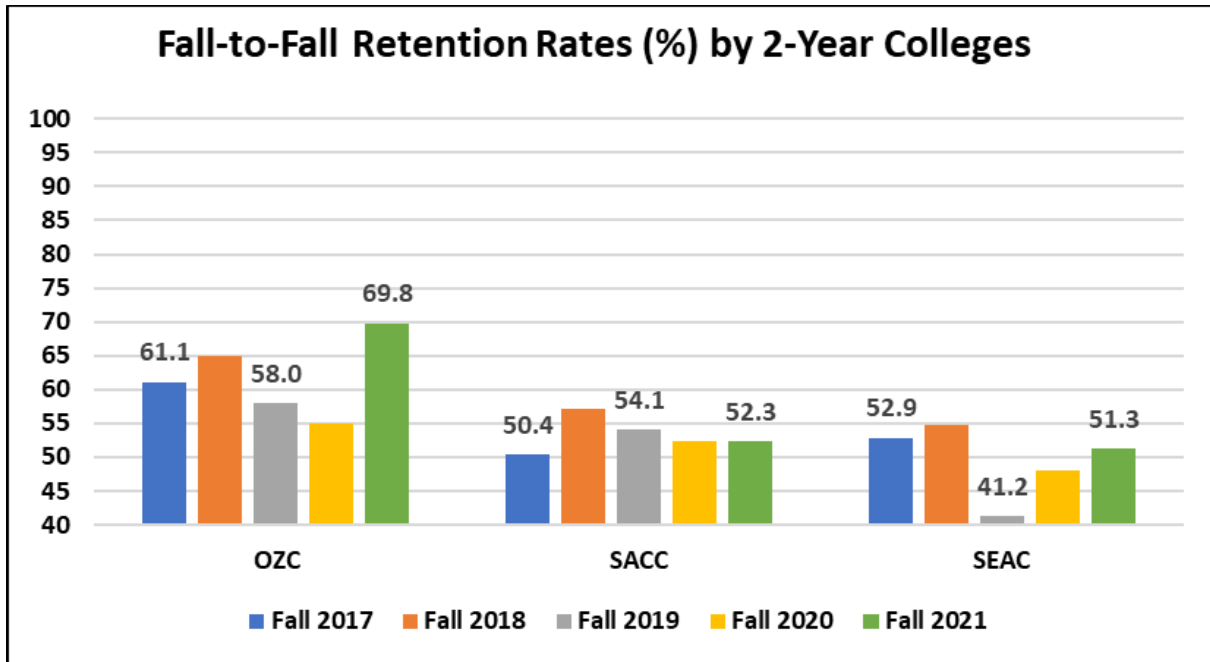


Chart 1.12: Student Retention Rates by Institution –2-Year Colleges

For our private/independent institutions, John Brown University reported the highest Fall 2021 fall-to-fall retention rate of 83.3%, followed by both Ouachita Baptist University and Hendrix College at 79%.

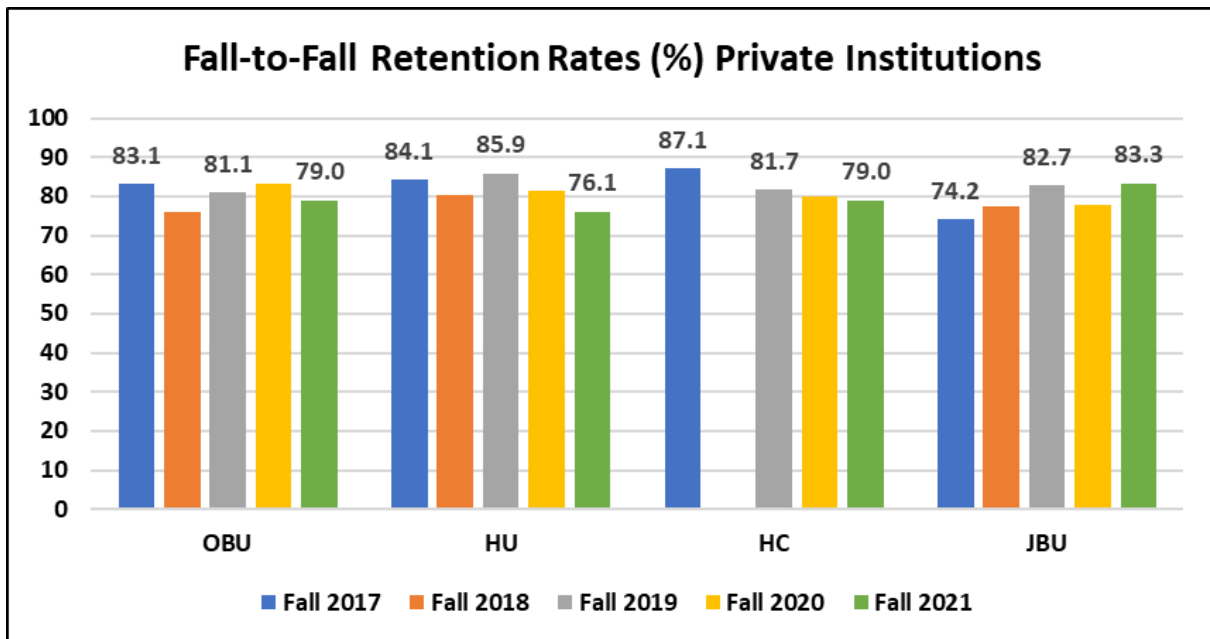


Chart 1.13: Student Retention Rates by Institution – Private Institutions



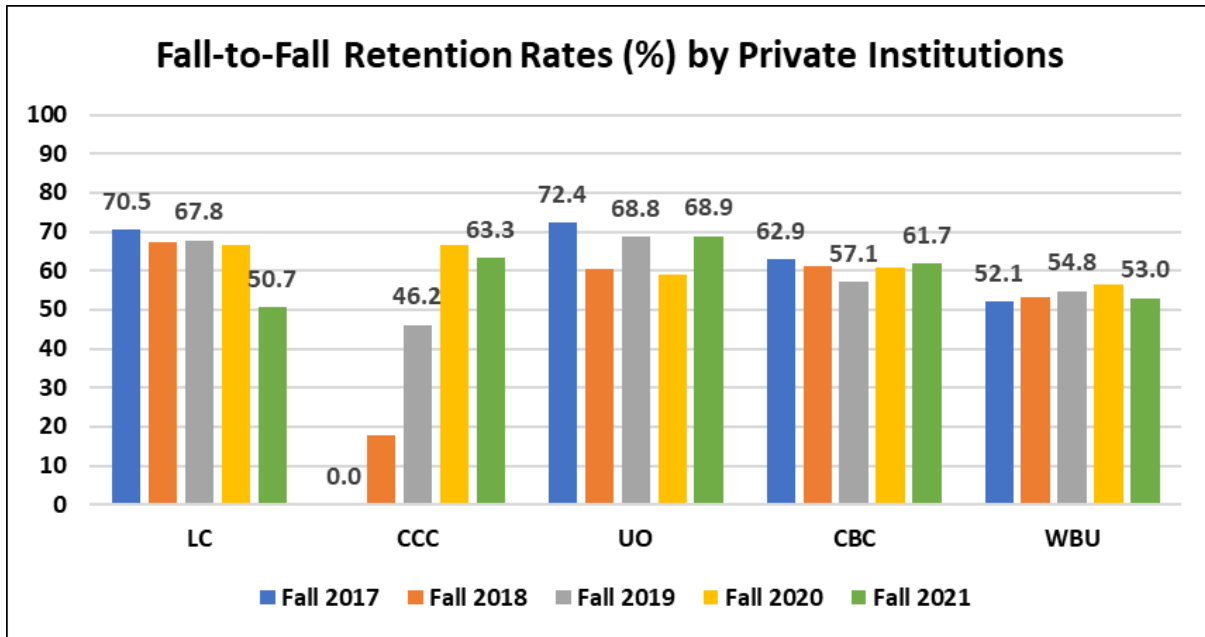


Chart 1.14: Student Retention Rates by Institution – Private Institutions

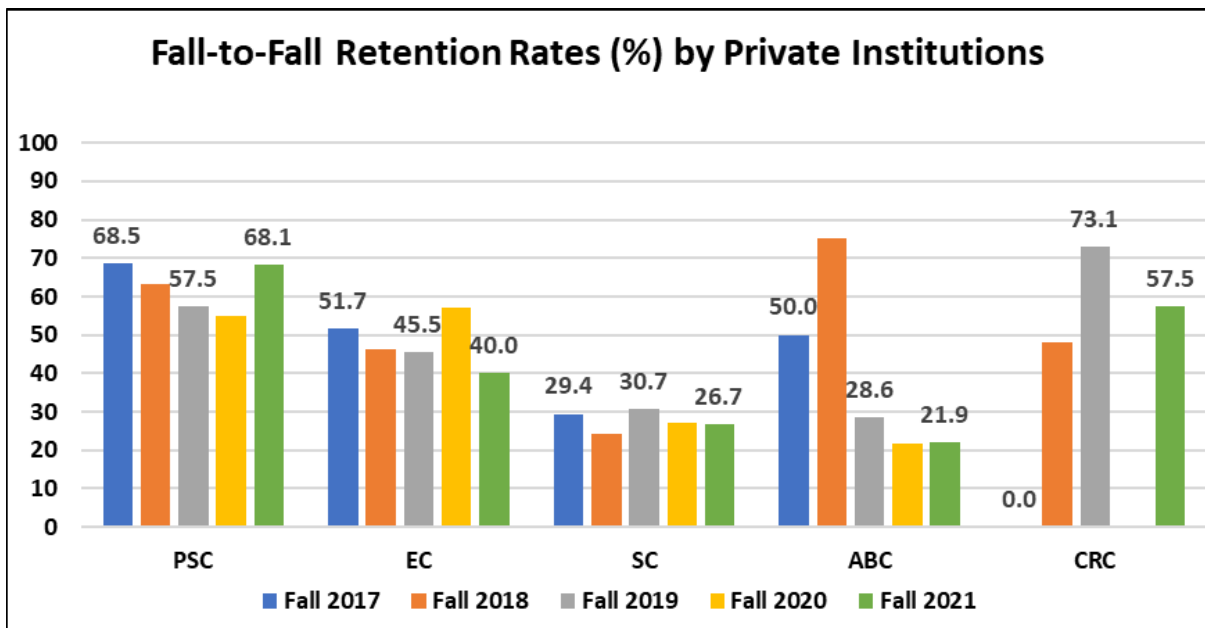


Chart 1.15: Student Retention Rates by Institution – Private Institutions

### 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 1.16 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 four years (100%) graduation rate for our bachelor-seeking students the past several years. The most recent 100% cohort, students who entered in the Fall 2018, reported an on-time graduation rate of 41.7%. Students graduating in six years (150%) have also shown small but steady increases. The most recent 150% cohort, Fall 2016, reported a 52.7% graduation rate.

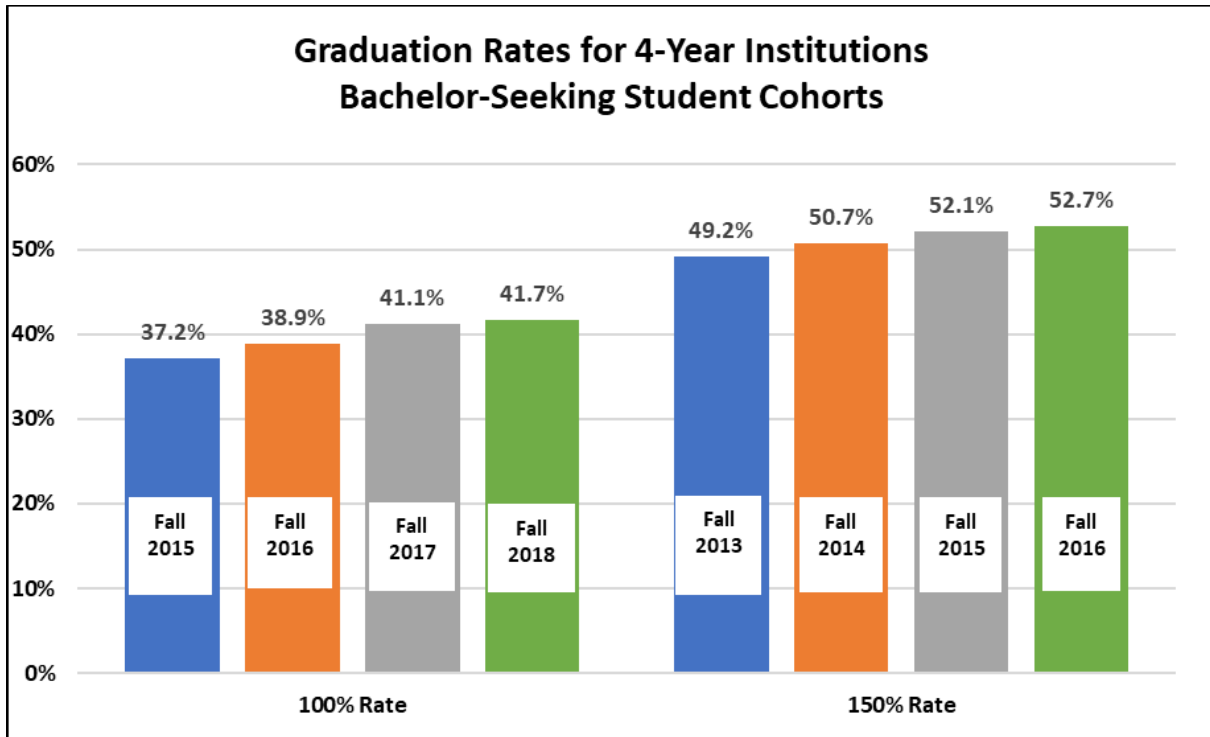


Chart 1.16: Graduation Rates - 4-Year Institution Trend

Charts 1.17 and 1.18 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 2018 reporting a 55.7% on-time graduation rate. Arkansas State University and the University of Central Arkansas report graduation rates of 41.3% and 41.9% respectively for the Fall 2018 cohort

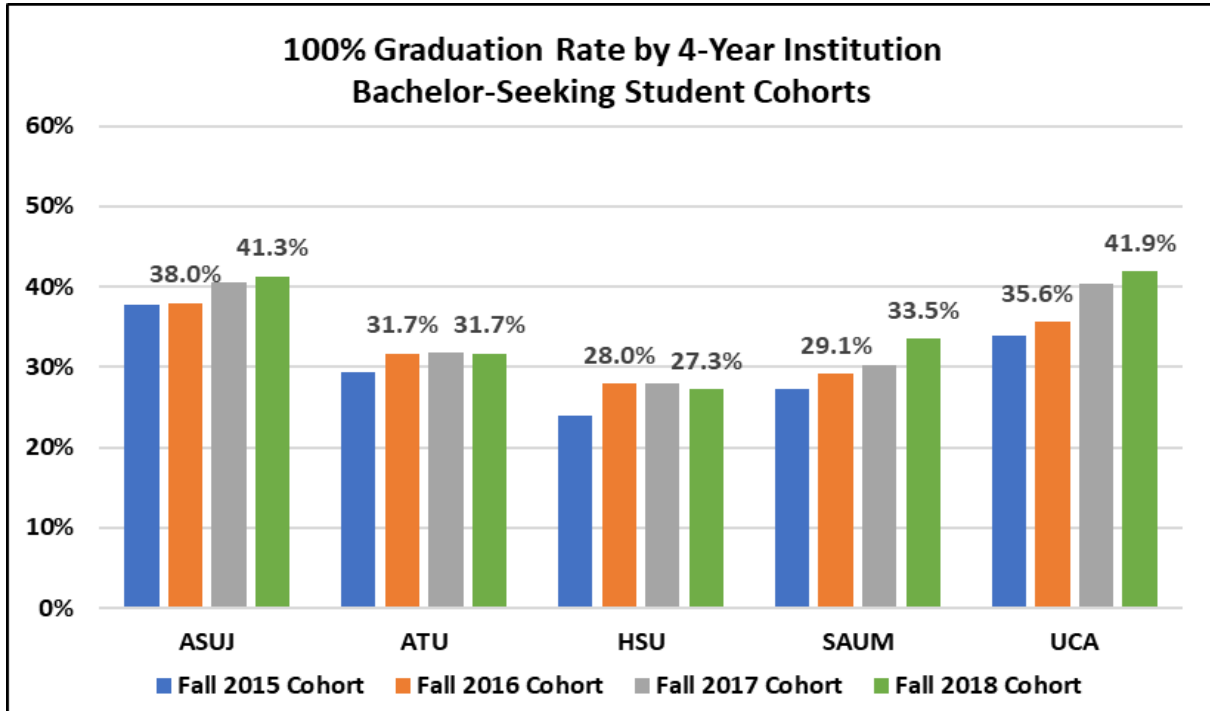


Chart 1.17: 100% Graduation Rates 4-Year institutions

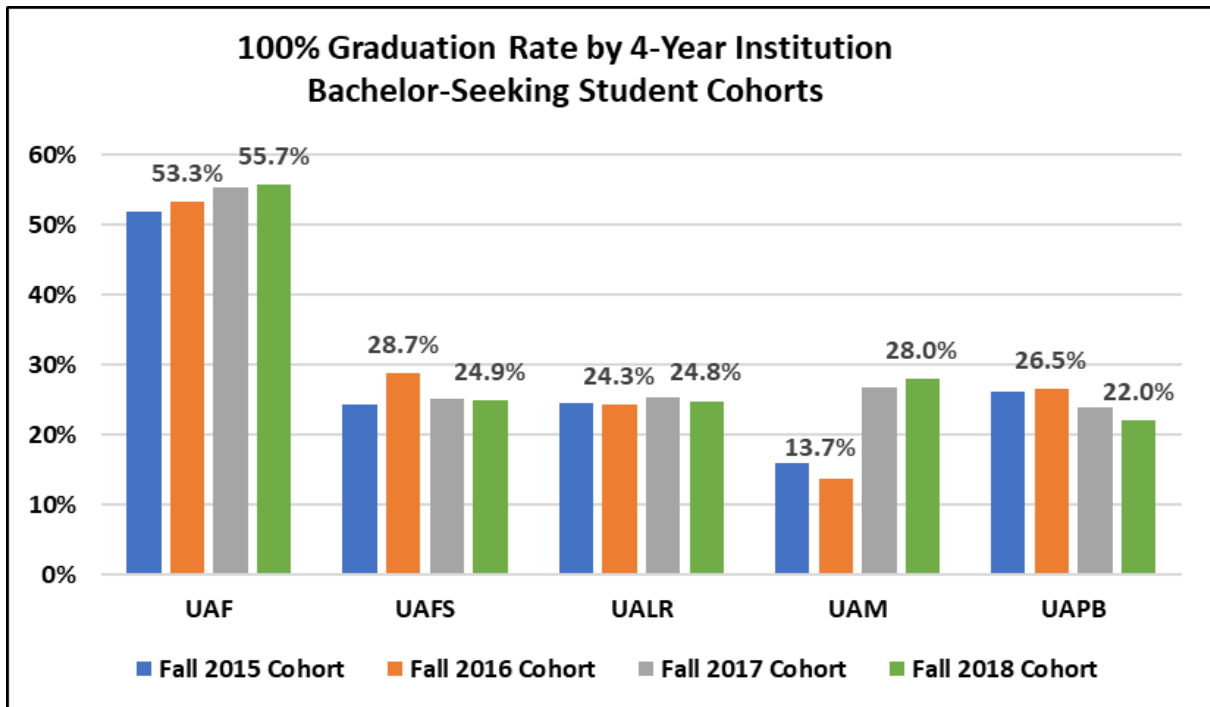


Chart 1.18: 100% Graduation Rates 4-Year institution

Charts 1.19 and 1.20 provide trend data for the 150% graduation rate for the public 4-year universities. Seven 4-year universities reported an increase for the Fall 2016 cohort when compared to the Fall 2015 cohort.

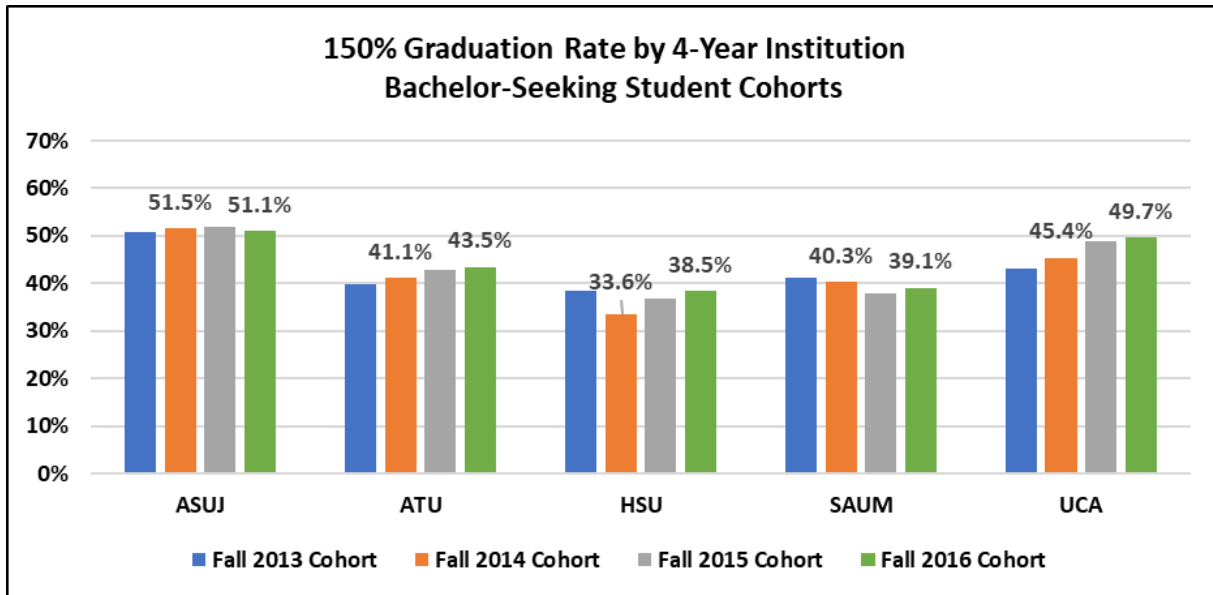


Chart 1.19: 150% Graduation Rates 4-Year institutions

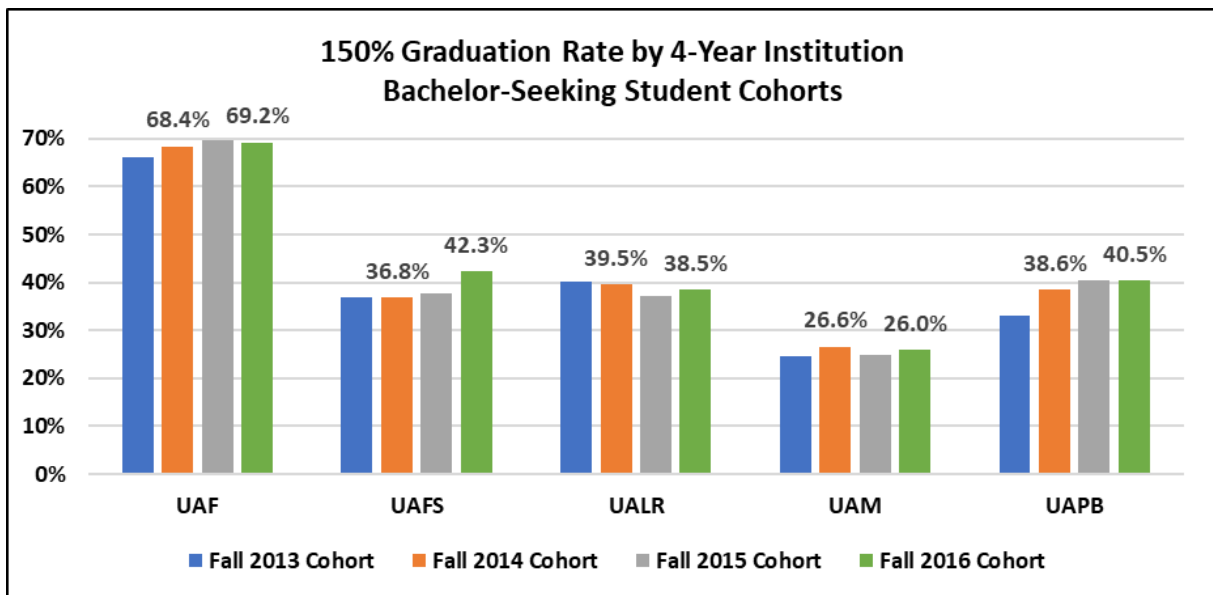


Chart 1.20: 150% Graduation Rates 4-Year institutions

Both male and female cohorts showed an improved six-year graduation rate. The Fall 2016 male cohort reported a 48.3% graduation rate, while the Fall 2016 female cohort reported 56.2% graduation rate.

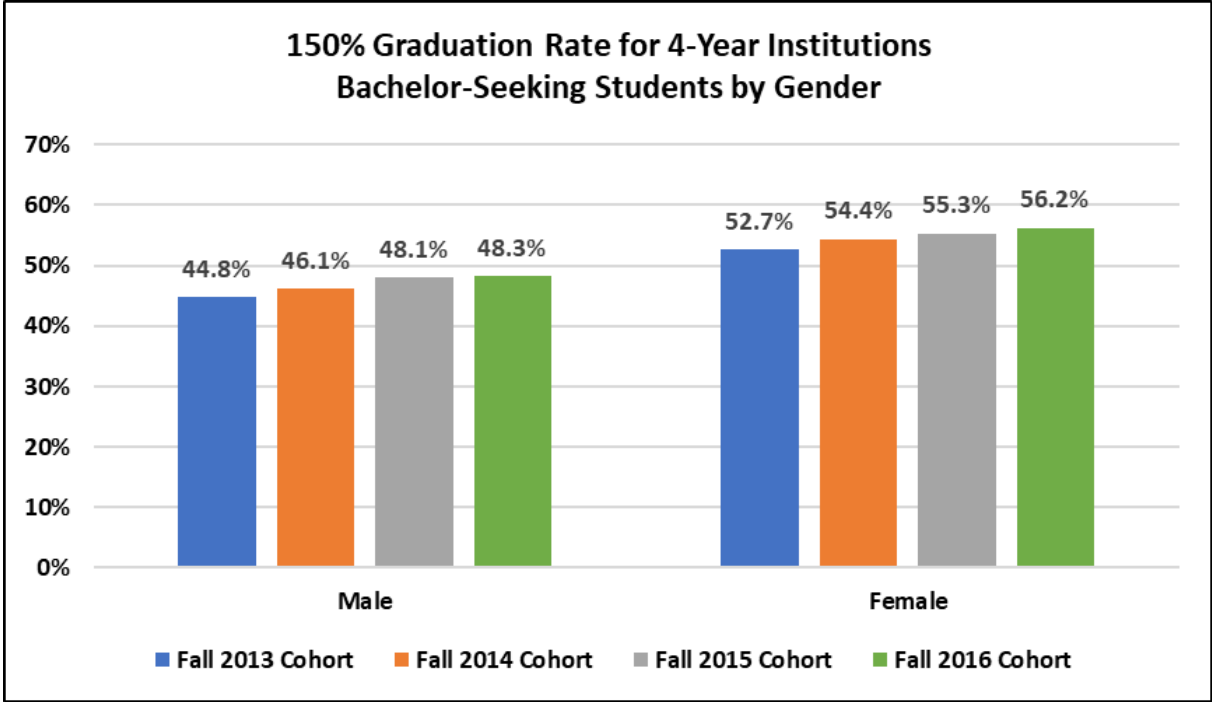


Chart 1.21: 150% Graduation Rates by Gender

### 2-Year College Graduation Rates

Charts 1.22 through 1.25 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 2020 reporting a 47.9% on-time graduation rate. ASUMS reported the second highest 100% graduation rates of 30.8% for the Fall 2020 cohort.

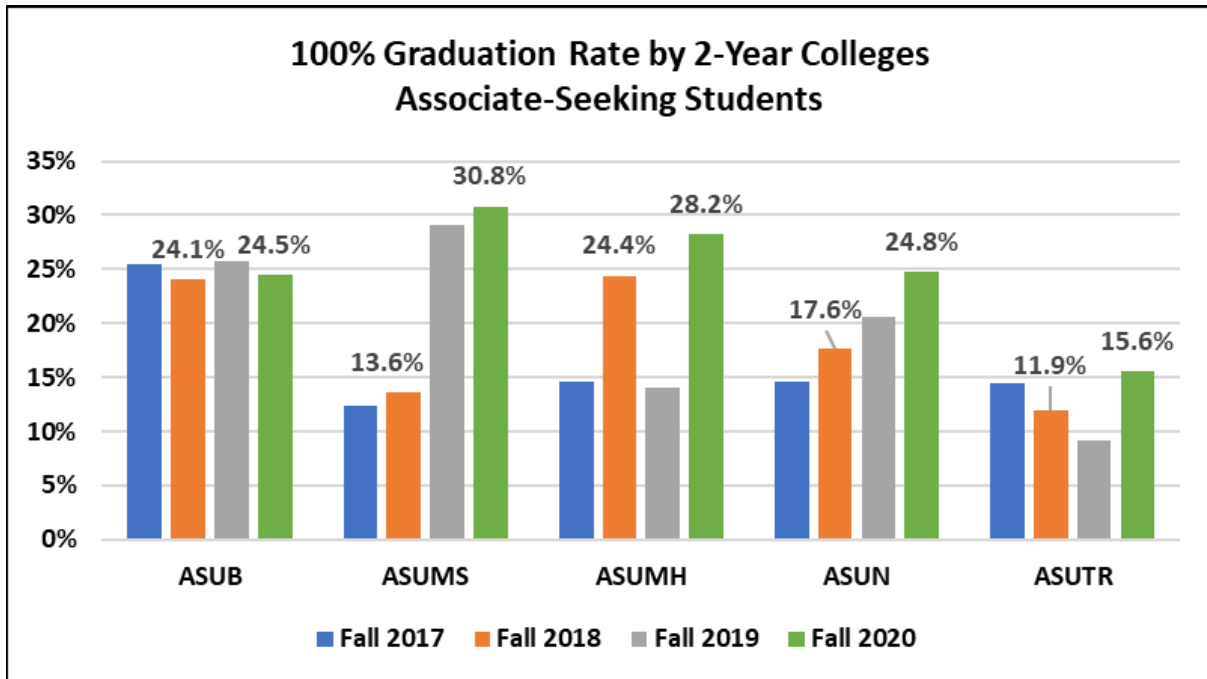


Chart 1.22 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts

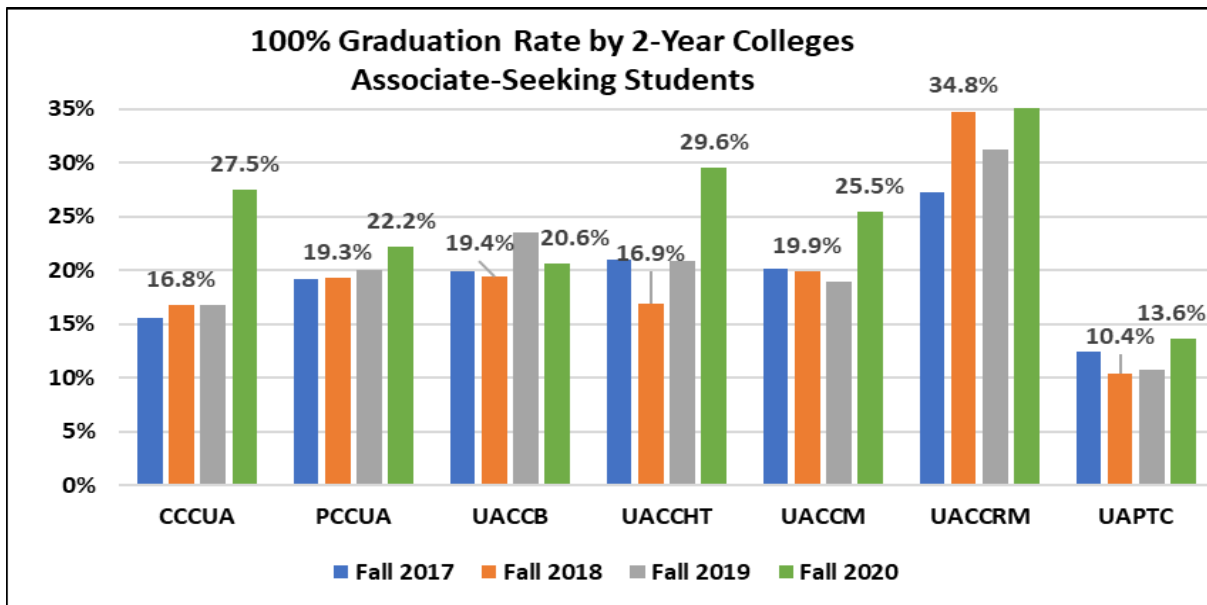


Chart 1.23 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts

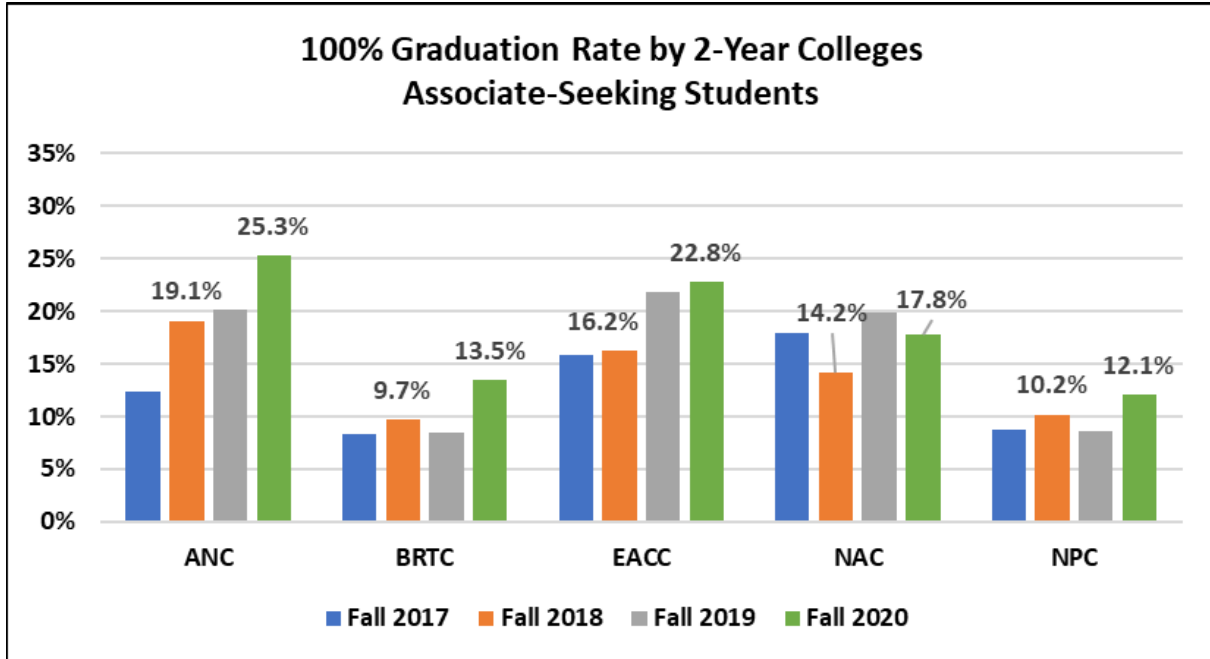


Chart 1.24 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts

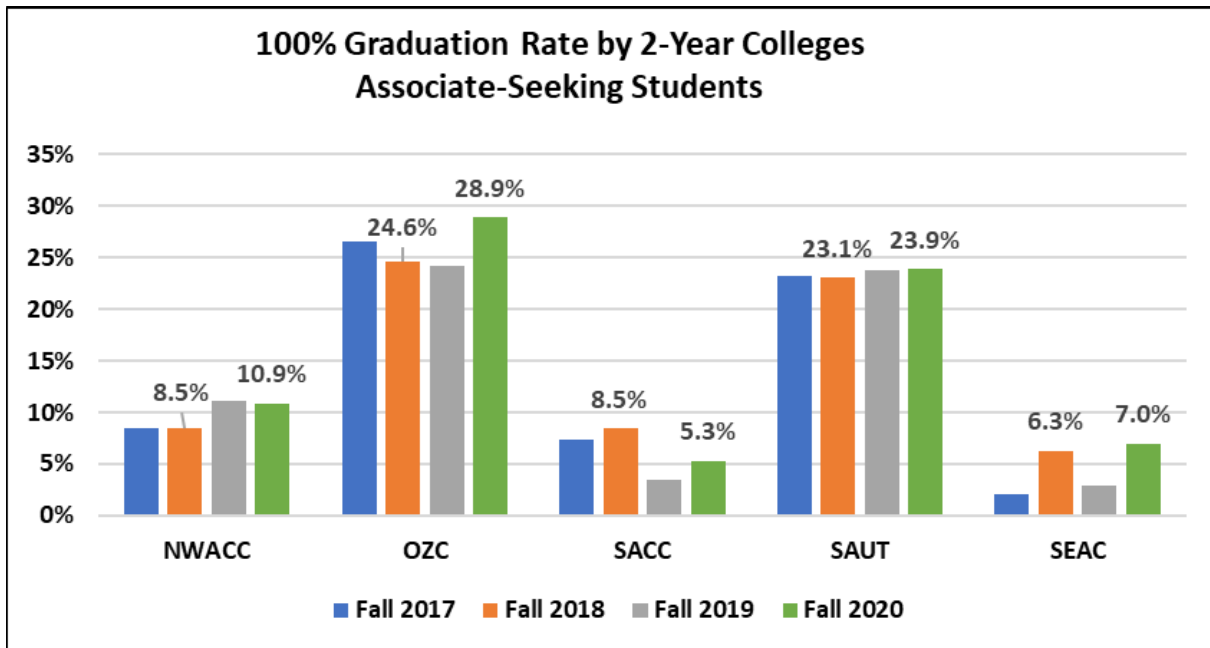


Chart 1.25 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts

Charts 1.26 through 1.29 provide a 150% graduation rate for associate-seeking students for 2-year colleges. Fourteen 2-year colleges reported a higher 150% graduation rate.

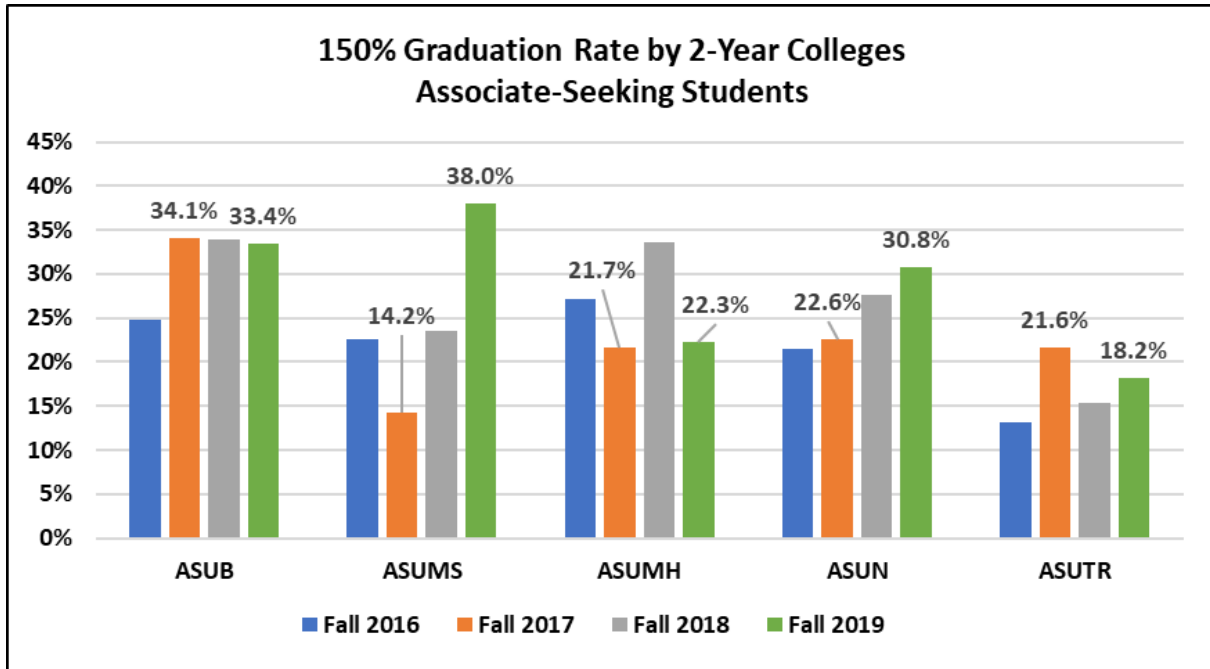


Chart 1.26 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts

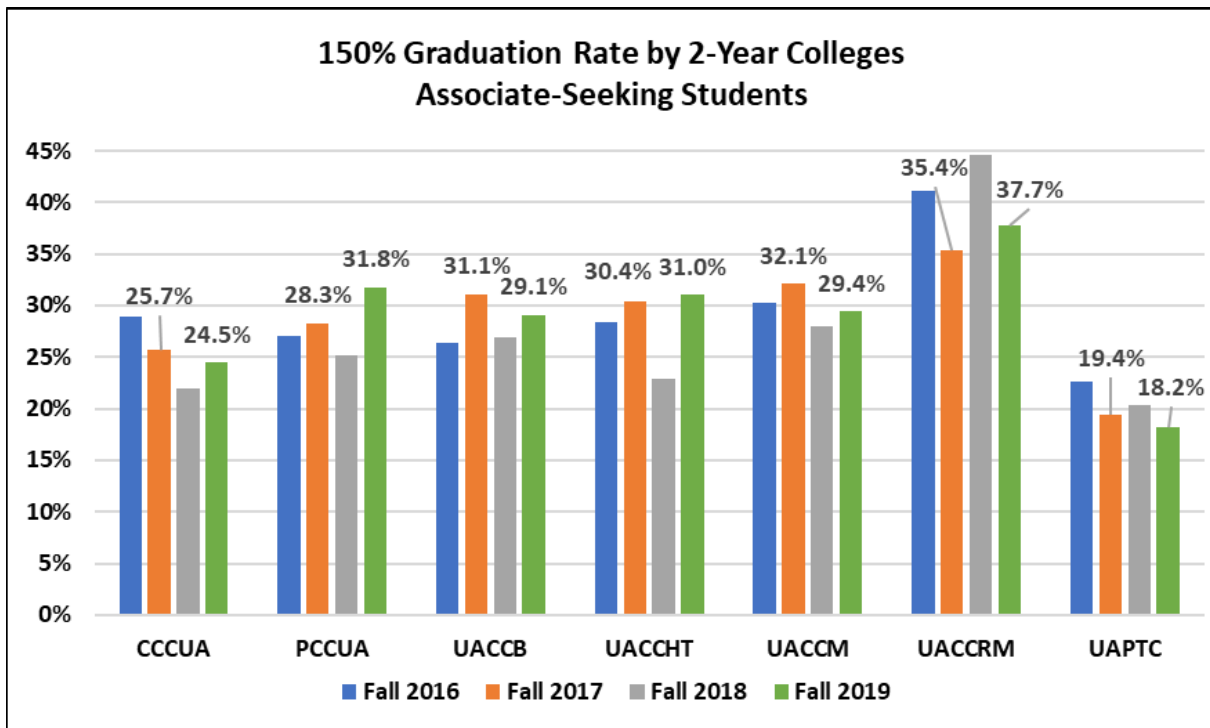


Chart 1.27 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts



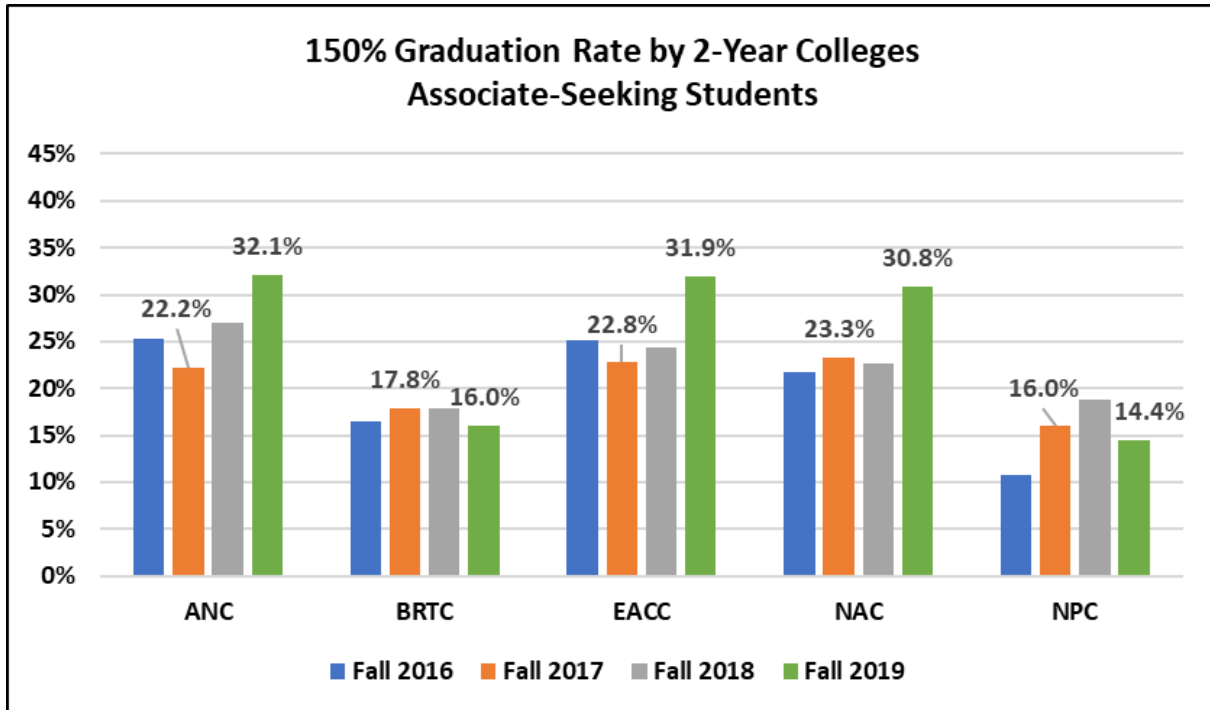


Chart 1.28 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts

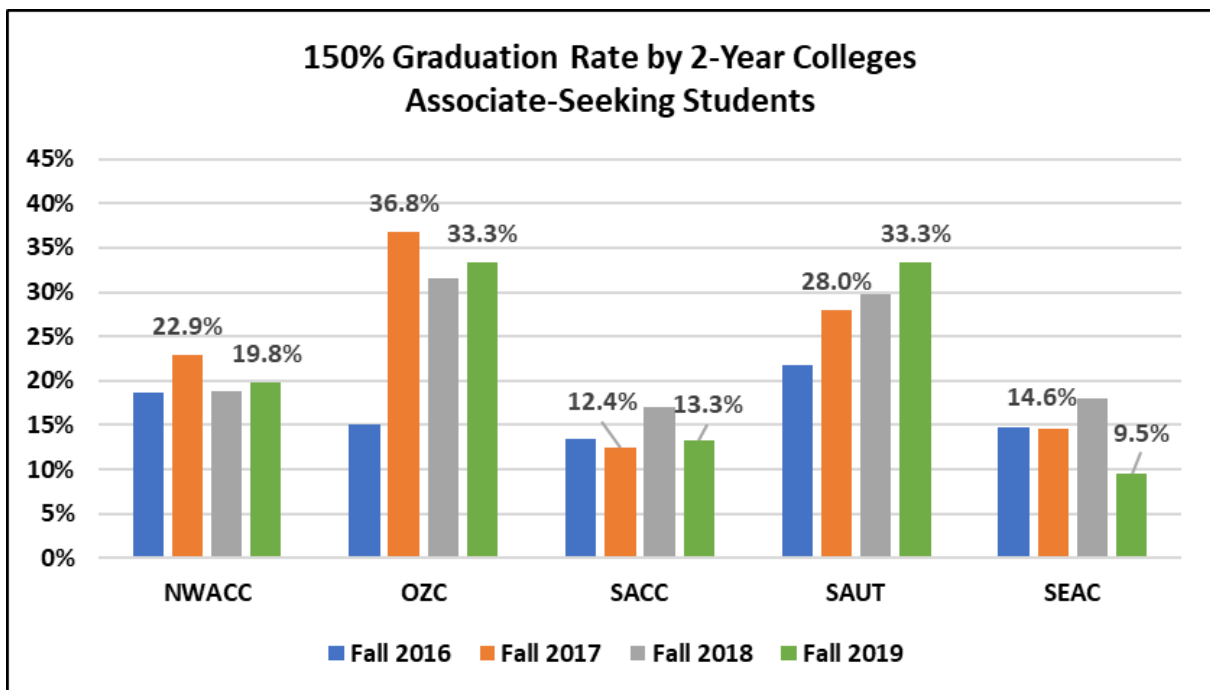


Chart 1.29 Graduation Rates 2-Year Associate Cohorts

The Fall 2019 female cohort reported a slightly lower 150% graduation rate of 26.2% when compared to the Fall 2018 cohort's graduation rate of 26.9%. Male students reported a graduation rate of 23.2%, an increase from Fall 2018 cohort's graduation rate of 20.4%.

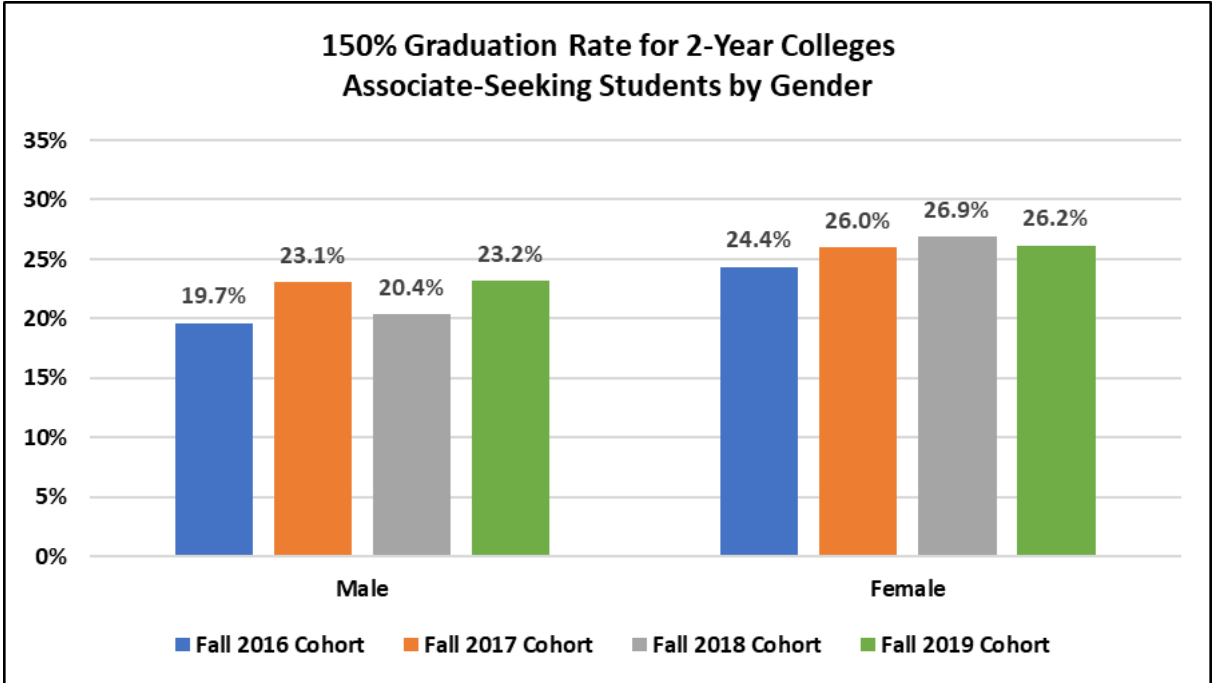


Chart 1.30: Graduation Rates 2-Year Colleges by Gender

### Private/Independent Institutions

Graduation rates for our private/independent institutions decreased for both the 100% and 150% rates.

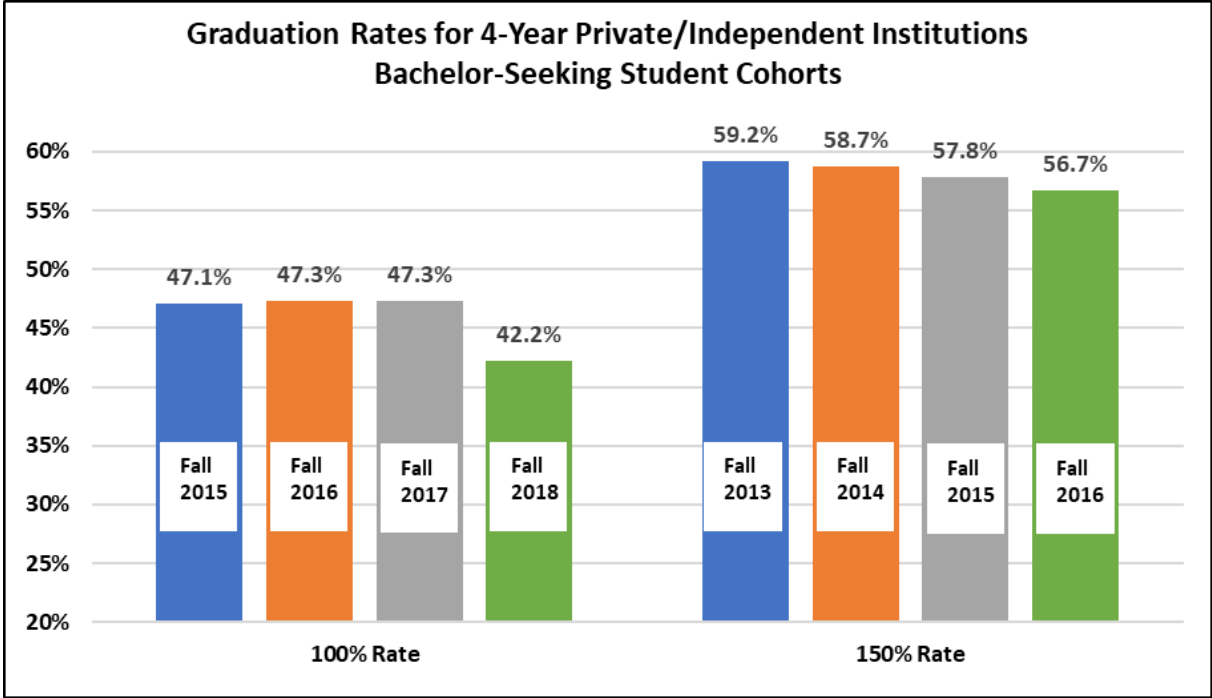


Chart 1.31: Graduation Rates Private Institutions