

A key metric tracked by the US Department of Education on the College Scorecard is the retention of first-time, full-time students, returning in fall semester of the following year. UA tracks this and reports outcomes for each university and at the system level. University level retention considers students who re-enroll for credit at the same university the following fall, and system level retention considers students who re-enroll for credit at any university in the system the following fall. System-wide and university specific data are reported in UA in Review (Table 2.01).

Another metric reported in the College Scorecard is the 150 percent graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshmen. This represents the proportion of incoming students who earn a bachelor's degree in 6 years or an associate degree in 3 years, i.e. 150 percent of the minimum length of time required to complete the degree. University graduation rates consider students in the entering cohort who graduate from the same university they start at, and UA system level graduation rates consider students who graduate from any university in the system. This information is reported for each university and at the system-level in UA in Review (Table 2.02).

Each measure excludes individuals transferring to UAA, UAF or UAS from outside the UA system, as well as first-time freshman that start out attending part-time.

Retention Rates

In the last five years, system retention of first-time, full-time freshmen seeking any degree increased from 63.0 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2018 to 66.8 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2022, reaching a five-year high. Within each university, UAA retained 66.0 percent of the undergraduate cohort entering in Fall 2022, UAF retained 64.9 percent and UAS retained 63.1 percent.

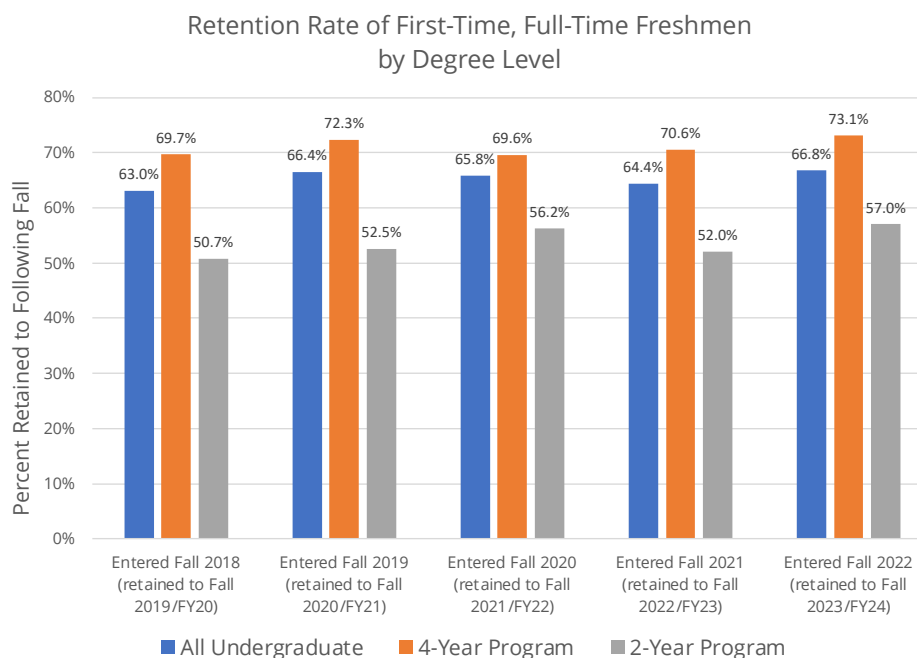
For entering students who self-identify as having at least some Indigenous heritage, system retention increased from 51.1 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2018 to 55.4 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2022, also reaching a five-year high. Within each university, UAA retained 57.9 percent of the entering cohort of students having at least some indigenous heritage, UAF retained 48.9 percent, and UAS retained 65.4 percent.

More than 73 percent of the bachelor's degree seeking cohort entering in Fall 2022 was retained in the system, up 2.5 points over the prior year, reaching a five-year high (Table 2.01b). Within each university, UAA retained 71.7 percent of the bachelor's cohort entering in Fall 2022, UAF retained 72.1 percent, and UAS retained 71.4 percent.

As a comparison to other bachelor-focused universities, the University of Idaho had an average bachelor's retention rate of 76 percent and Idaho State University, 64 percent¹. The national retention rate for public, four-year, open admission institutions was 58.7 percent for the cohort entering in Fall 2020 and returning in Fall 2021/FY22. In comparison, for the same period, UAA, UAF and UAS had an average bachelor's degree seeking university level retention rate of 67.1 percent and retention within the UA system for this group was 69.6 percent.

¹ U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard Data

For entering first-time, full-time freshmen seeking an associate degree, 57.0 percent were retained in the system from fall 2022 to fall 2023. This is 5 percentage points higher than the prior year and represents an all-time high level for students seeking an associate degree (Table 2.01c).



Note, retention in degree programs shorter than two years, such as occupational endorsement certificates (OEC) that may be completed in as little as one semester, are not considered separately above.

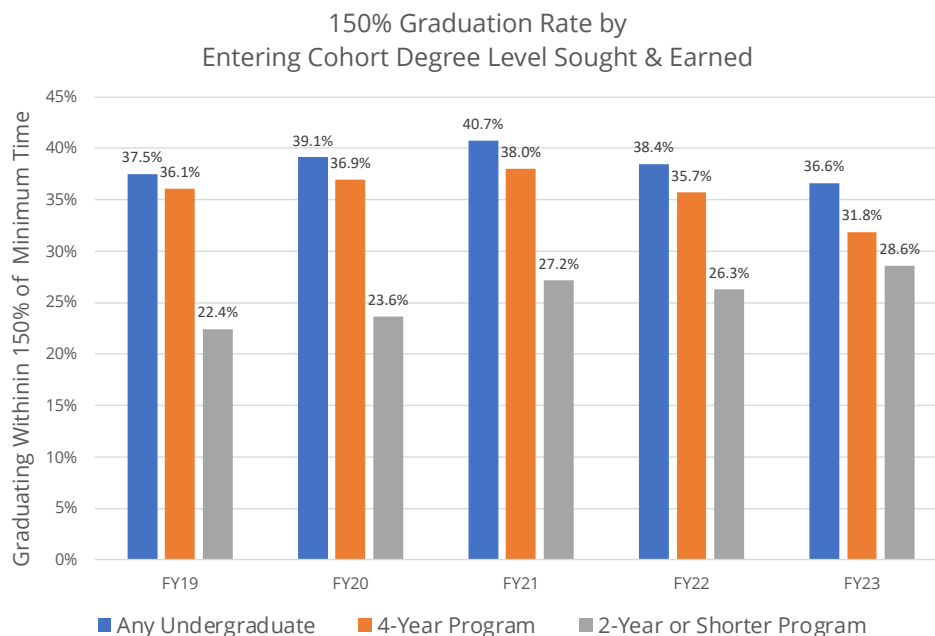
Graduation Rates

The system graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshman entering in fall 2017 who earned any undergraduate degree by FY23 was 36.6 percent, within 1 percent of the FY19 rate of 37.5 percent for the cohort entering in fall 2013 (Table 202a). System graduation rates for this group reached an all-time high of almost 41 percent in FY20, then fell about 4 points by FY23. Graduation rates are expected to rebound over the next several years, as higher freshmen retention rates lead to larger numbers of graduates in subsequent years.

Compared to similar institutions nationally, UA bachelor's degree seekers are more likely to graduate. The most recent available national six-year baccalaureate graduation rate for students enrolling at public, four-year, open admission institutions was 26.6 percent in FY22, representing first-time, full-time bachelor's degree seeking freshmen starting in Fall 2016 and earning a bachelor's degree by summer 2022. The system level graduation rate for UA students in FY22 was 35.7 percent, which was more than 34 percent higher than the national average (Table 2.02a). Within each university, UAA graduated 28.4 percent of the bachelor's degree seeking cohort entering in fall 2016 within six years, UAF graduated 32.3 percent, and UAS graduated 32.9 percent.

Graduation rates for UA's two-year and shorter programs have grown considerably in recent years. The proportion of first-time, full-time freshman who pursued and earned a degree 2-years or shorter in length within 3 years grew significantly over the last five years – from about 22 percent in FY19 to an all-time high

of almost 29 percent in FY23 – representing an increase of more than 6 points (Table 2.02b). The most recent available national average graduation rate for public, two-year institutions was just over 29.3 percent for the cohort entering in fall 2017 and graduating by FY20.



Summary

- Although UA's universities perform at or above peers, retention and graduation rate remain high priority areas for continuous improvement and management attention. The more successful our students the better our quality reputation.
- UA students show a higher likelihood of graduating at the baccalaureate level compared to peers and exceed the national average for comparable year.
- Significant increase in graduation rates for two-year or less programs within the UA System, approaching the most recent available national average.
- Retention rates exhibit variability across the years.
- Retention rates exceed national averages for comparable year.
- For detailed data and reports, visit the *UA in Review* section of the Data Analysis & Institutional Research Office website: <https://www.alaska.edu/ir/uainreview/>
- National level data from National Center of Education Statistics (NCES) website
 Graduation Rate, 4-year: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d21/tables/dt21_326.10.asp
 Graduation Rate, 2-year & shorter: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d21/tables/dt21_326.20.asp
 Retention Rate, 4-year: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d22/tables/dt22_326.30.asp