Student Achievement

2025-2026

June 8, 2026

STUDENT RETENTION

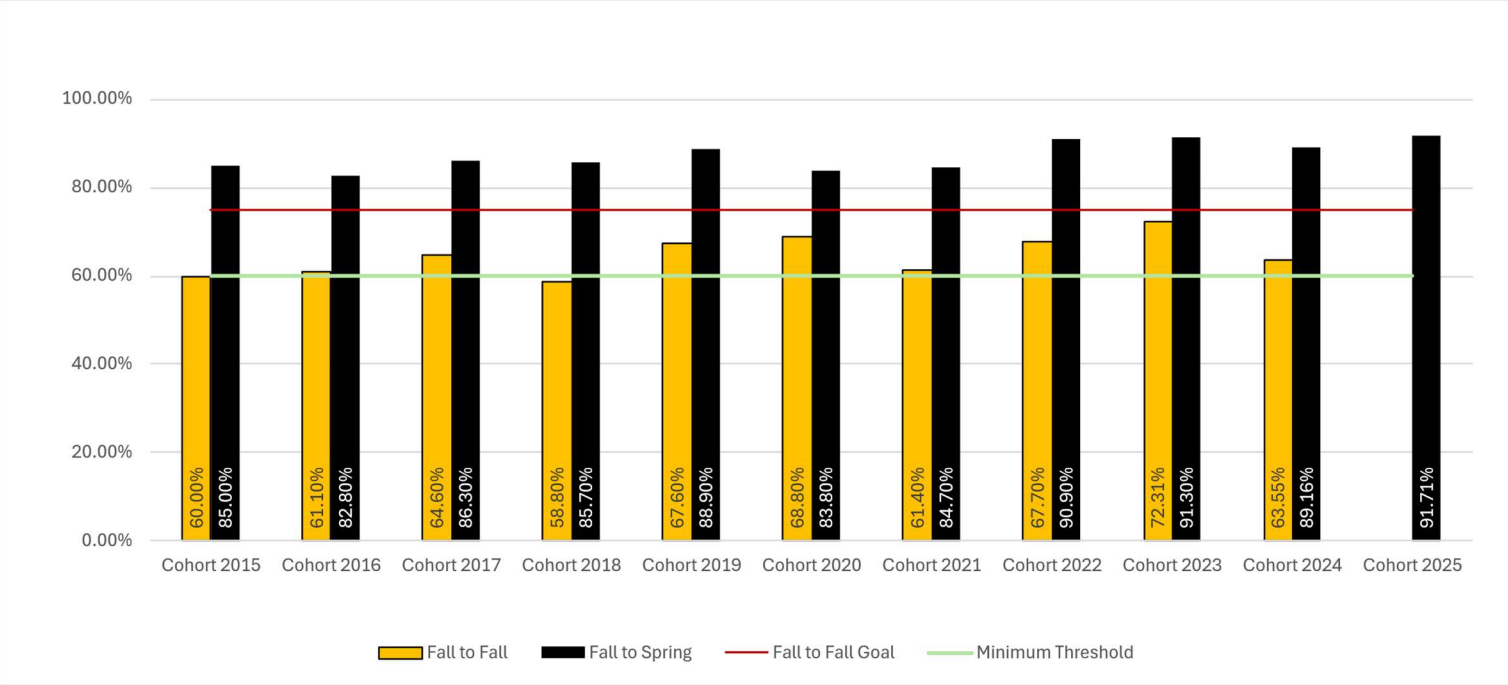
Pfeiffer takes retention rates very seriously because student retention is the backbone of student achievement. If students do not persist, then they cannot achieve. Student retention reflects how well the University is accomplishing its mission. The University tracks retention by various subgroups. In each category below, the goal will be given by subgroup. The following graphs depict the historical First Year Retention (Fall to Fall) and the First Term Retention (Fall to Spring) performance on these metrics for the First Time In College Cohorts.

Pfeiffer University Achievement Goals and Minimum Thresholds for Retention		
Criteria	Measured Goal	Minimum Threshold
Overall First Time In College Freshmen Student Retention	75% Fall-to-Fall	60% Fall-to Fall
First Time In College Freshmen Retention by Gender	75% Fall-to-Fall	60% Fall-to Fall
First Time In College Freshmen Retention by Ethnicity	75% Fall-to-Fall	60% Fall-to Fall
Athletic Retention Rate	75% Fall-to-Fall	60% Fall-to Fall
PELL Recipient Retention Rate	65% Fall-to-Fall	55% Fall-to Fall

First Time in College

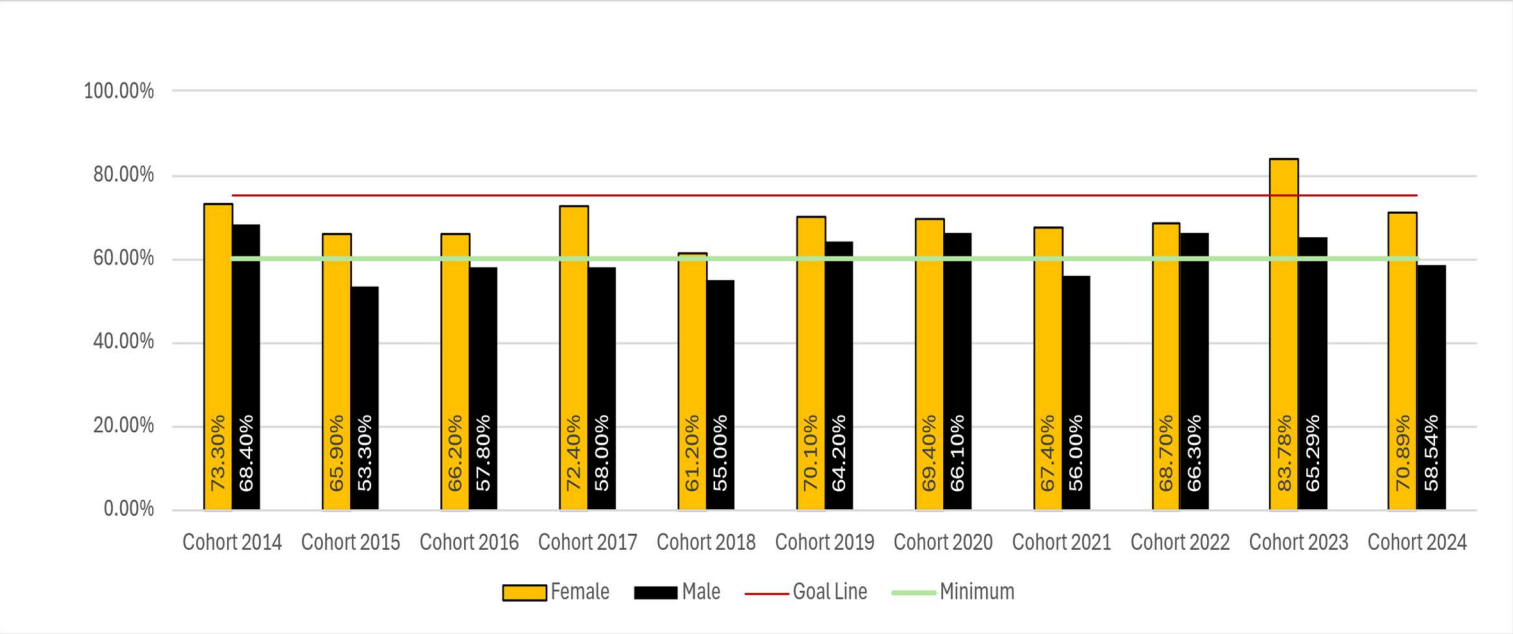
First Year Retention Rate (Fall to Fall)

First Term Retention Rate (Fall to Spring)

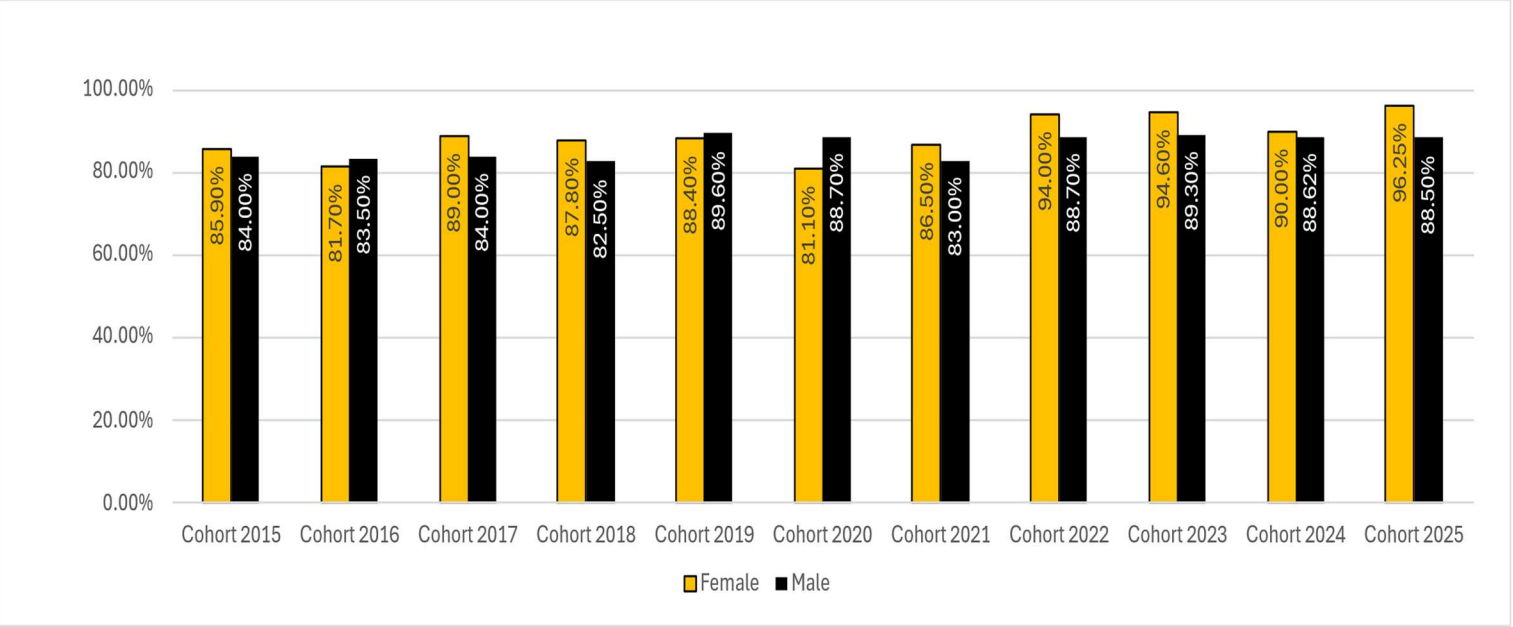


First Time in College by Gender

First Year Retention Rate (Fall to Fall)

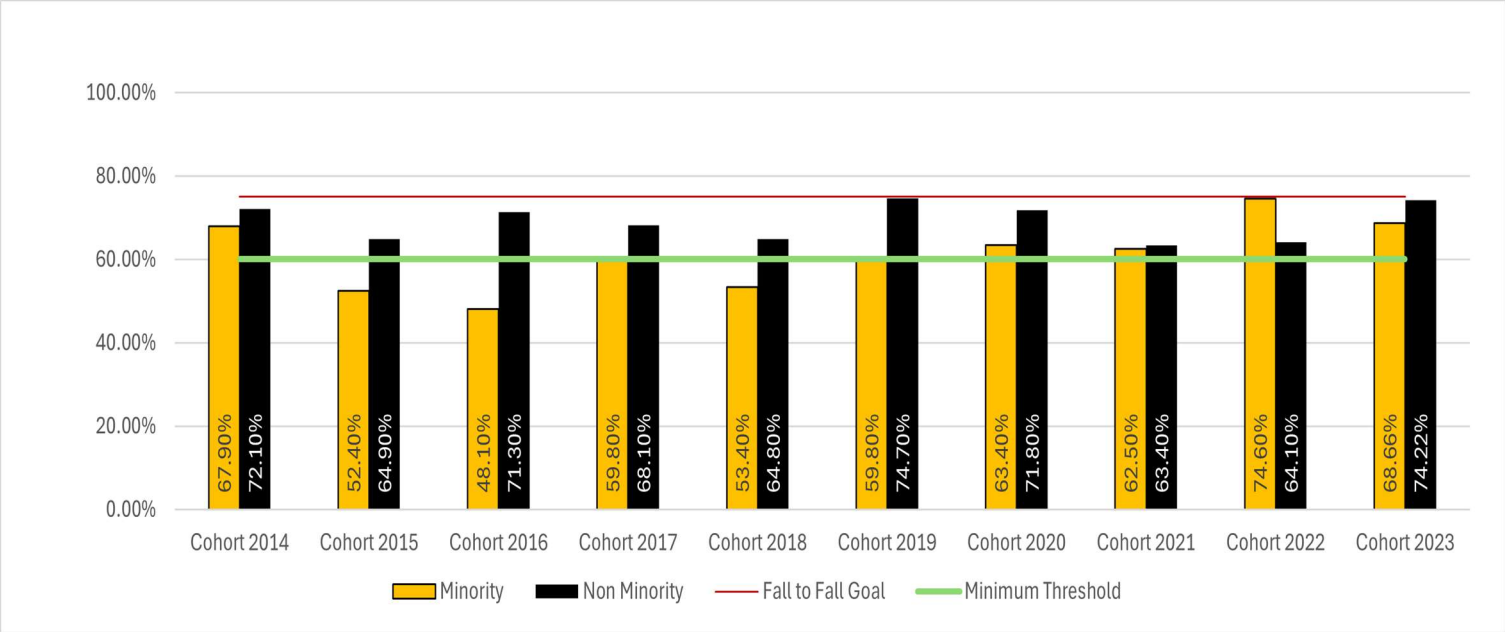


First Term Retention Rate (Fall to Spring)

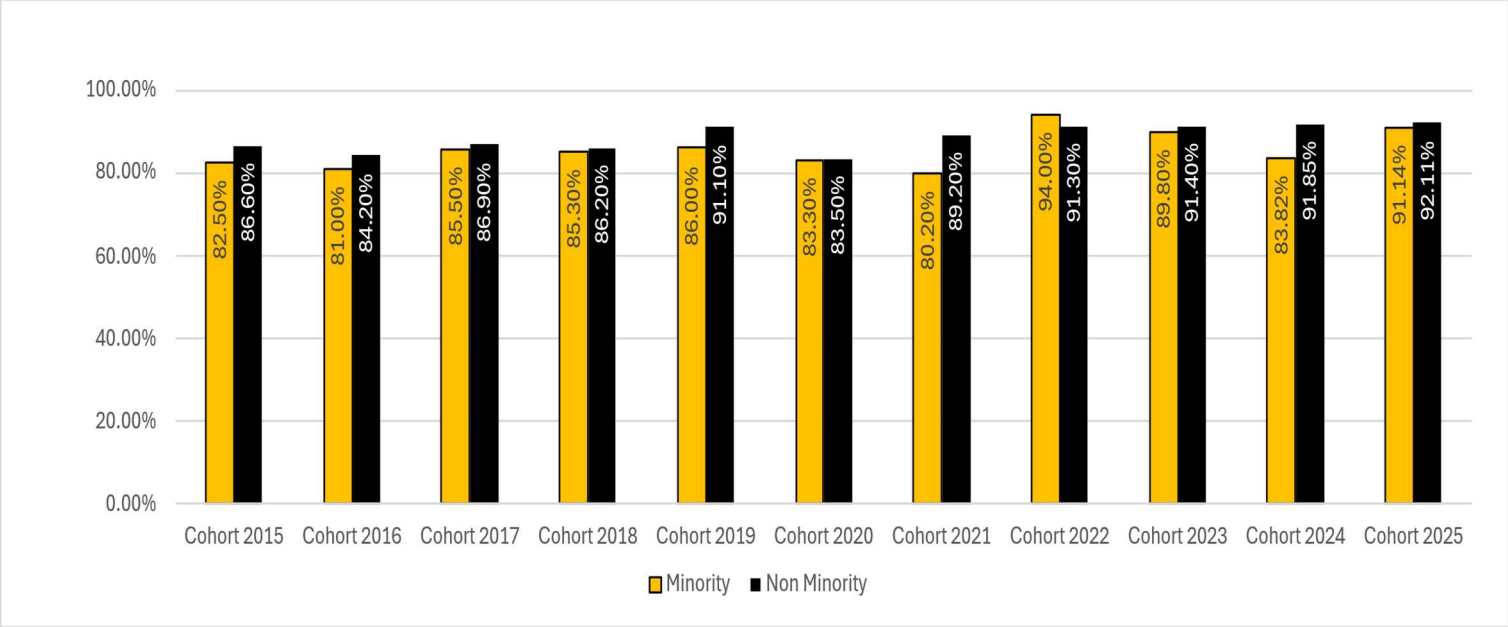


First Time in College by Ethnicity

First Year Retention Rate (Fall to Fall)

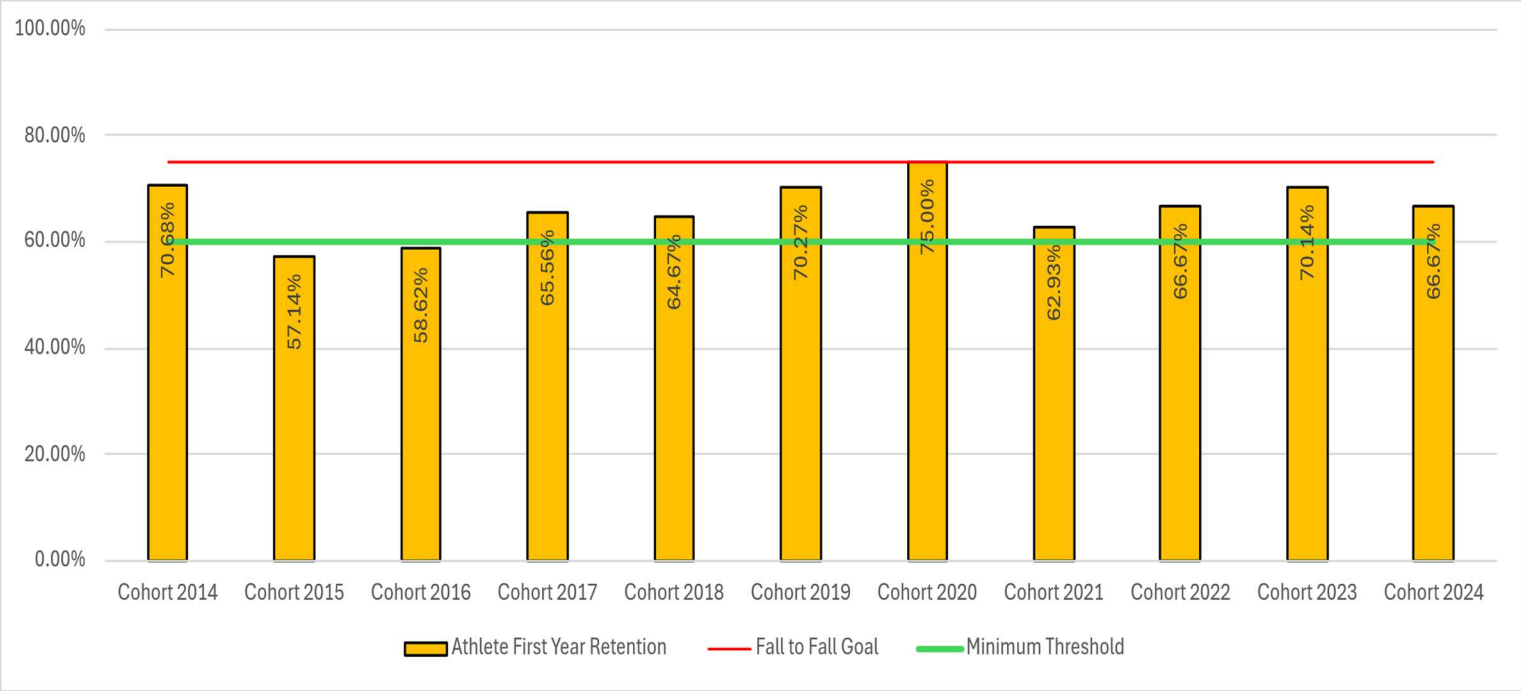


First Term Retention Rate (Fall to Spring)

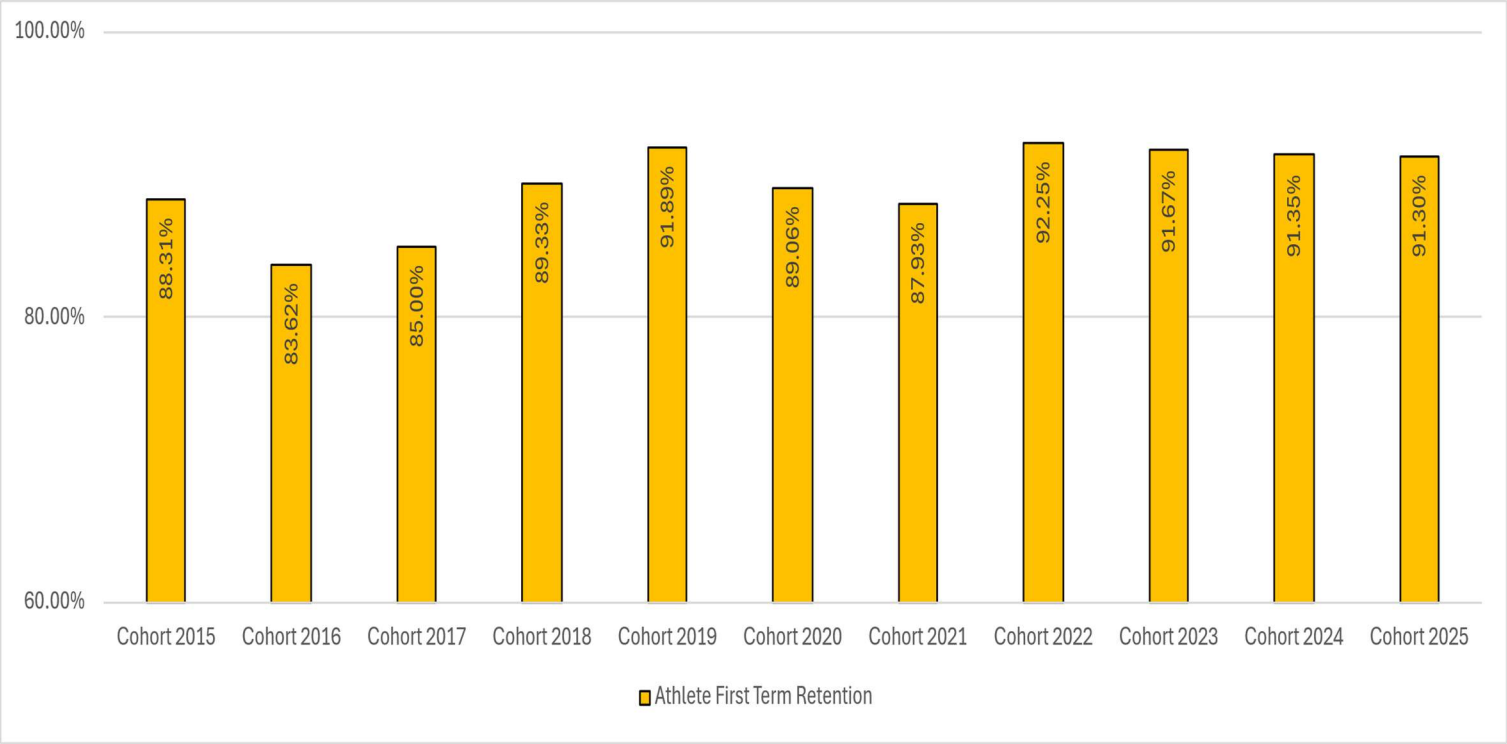


First Time in College - Athletes

First Year Retention Rate (Fall to Fall)

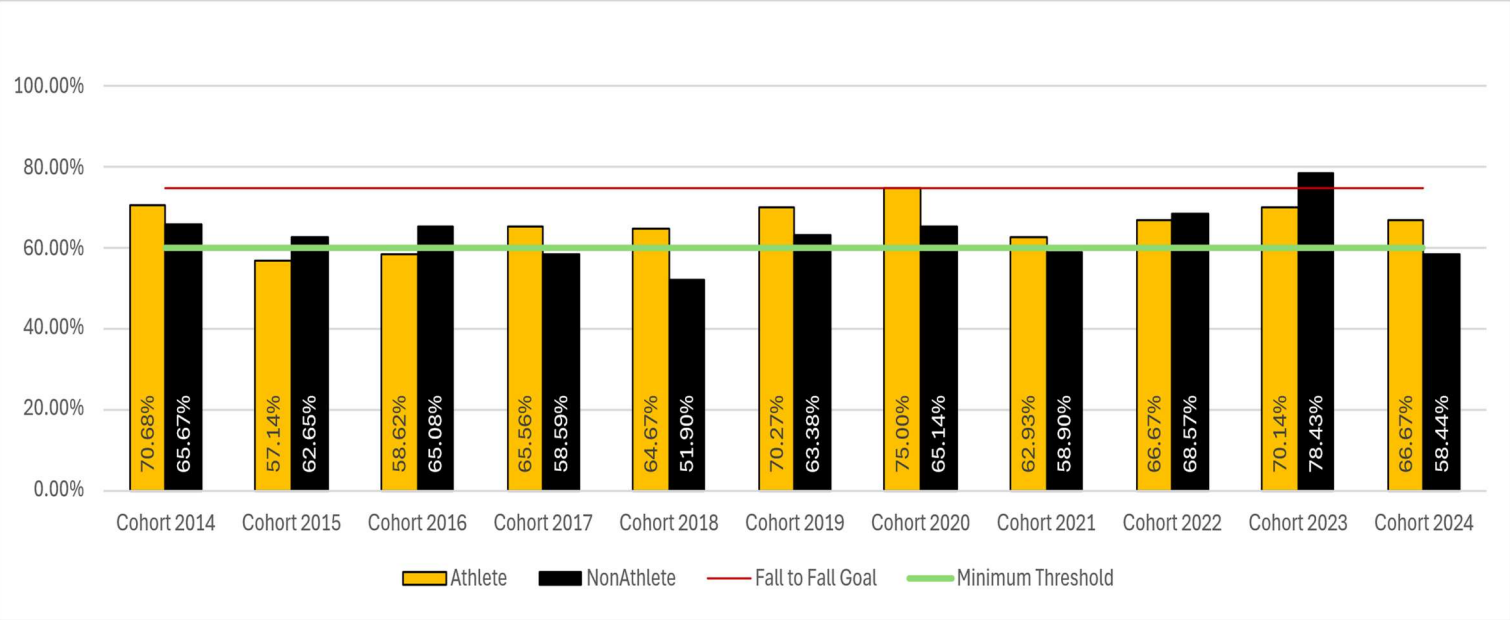


First Term Retention Rate (Fall to Spring)

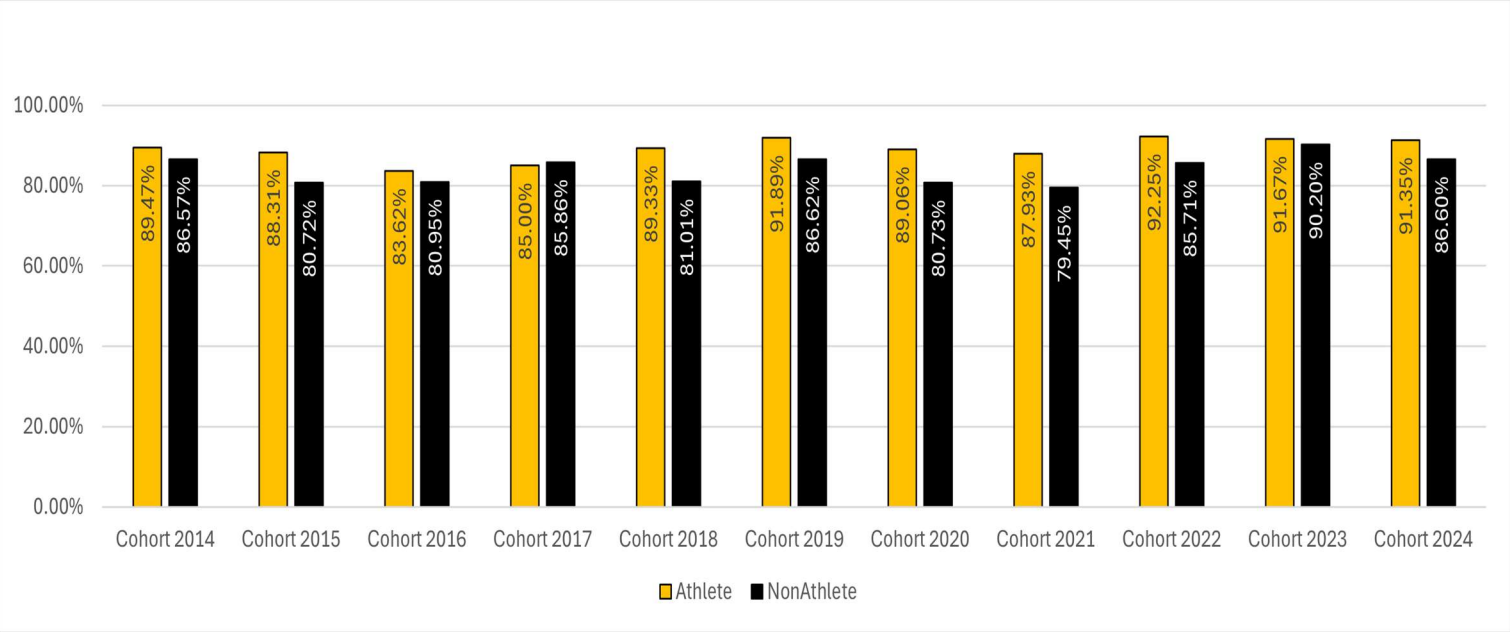


First Time in College by Athletic Status

First Year Retention Rate (Fall to Fall)

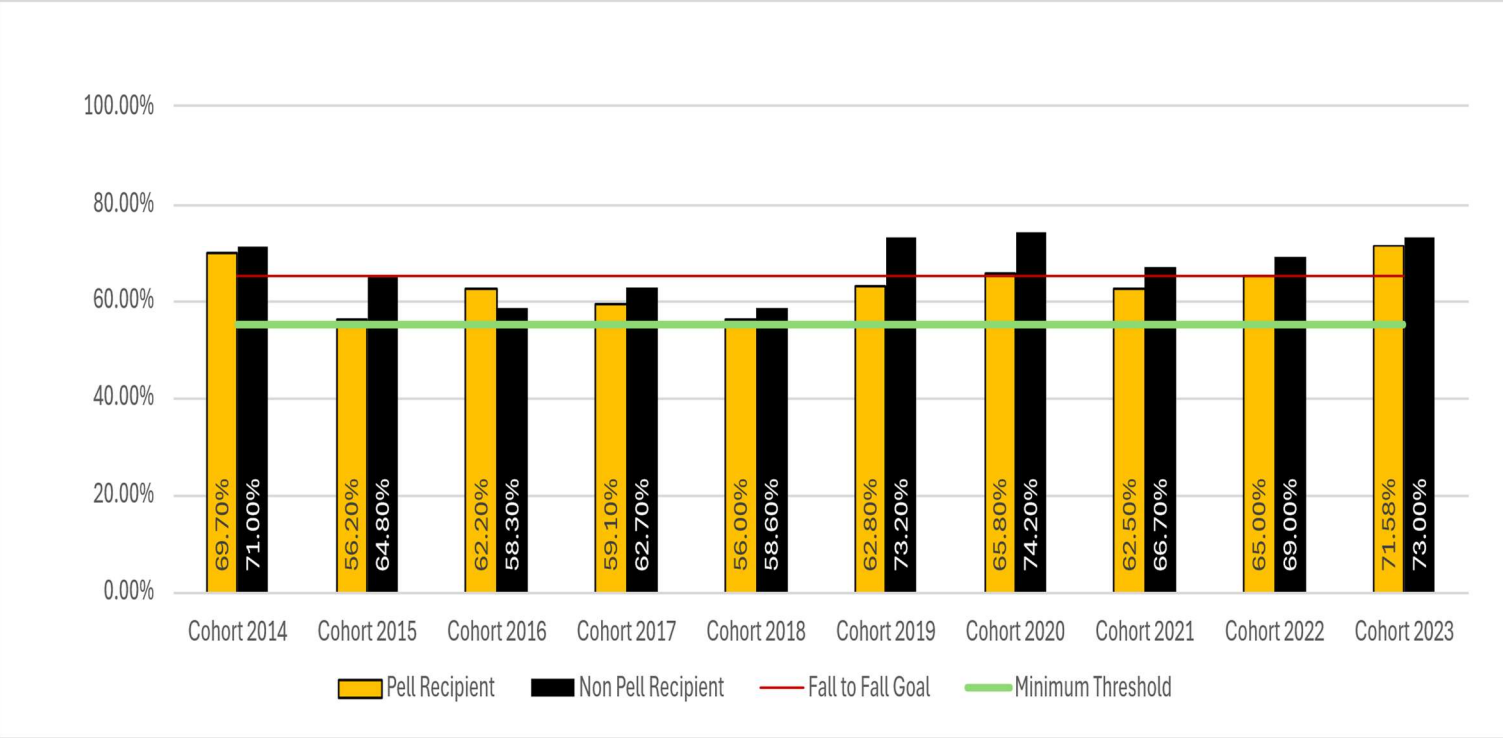


First Term Retention Rate (Fall to Spring)

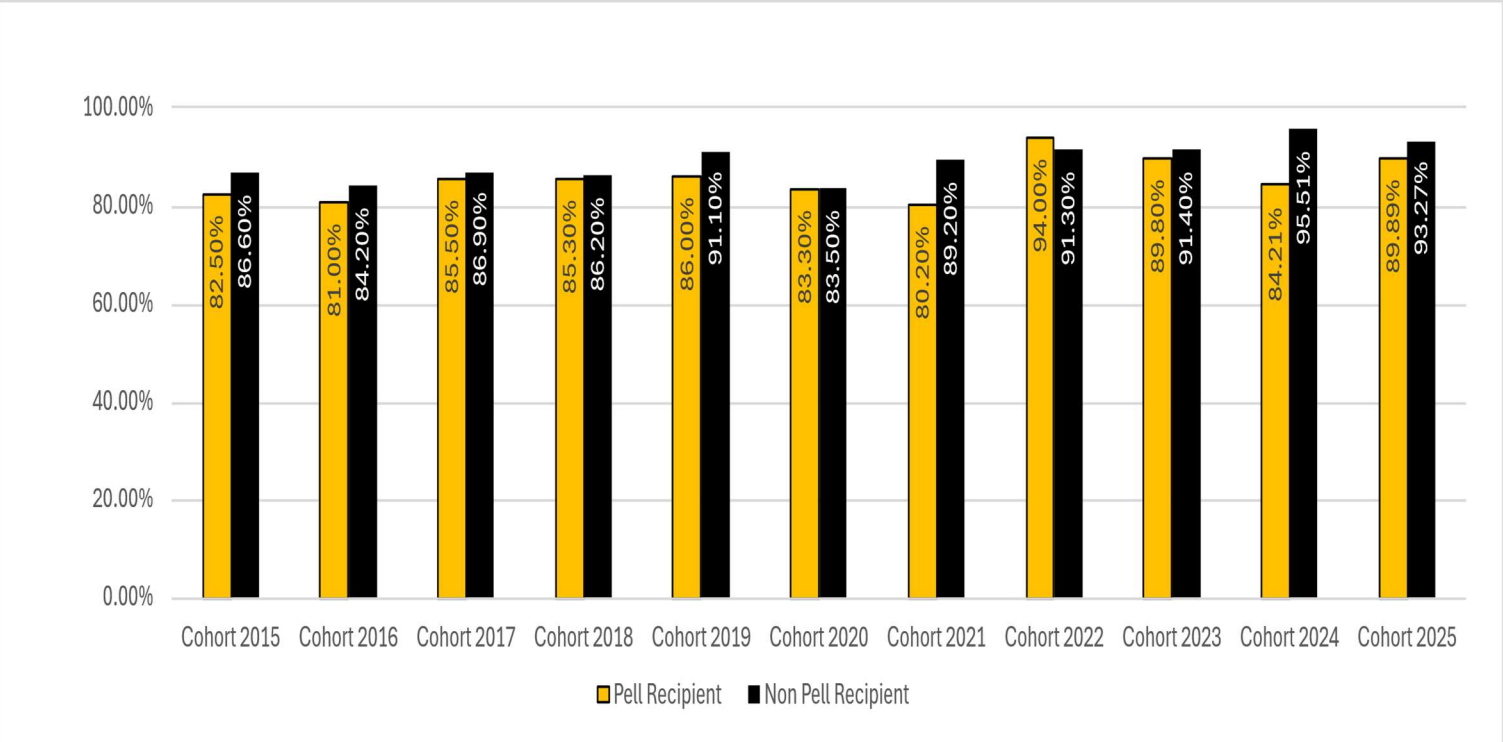


First Time in College by Pell Recipient

First Year Retention Rate (Fall to Fall)



First Term Retention Rate (Fall to Spring)

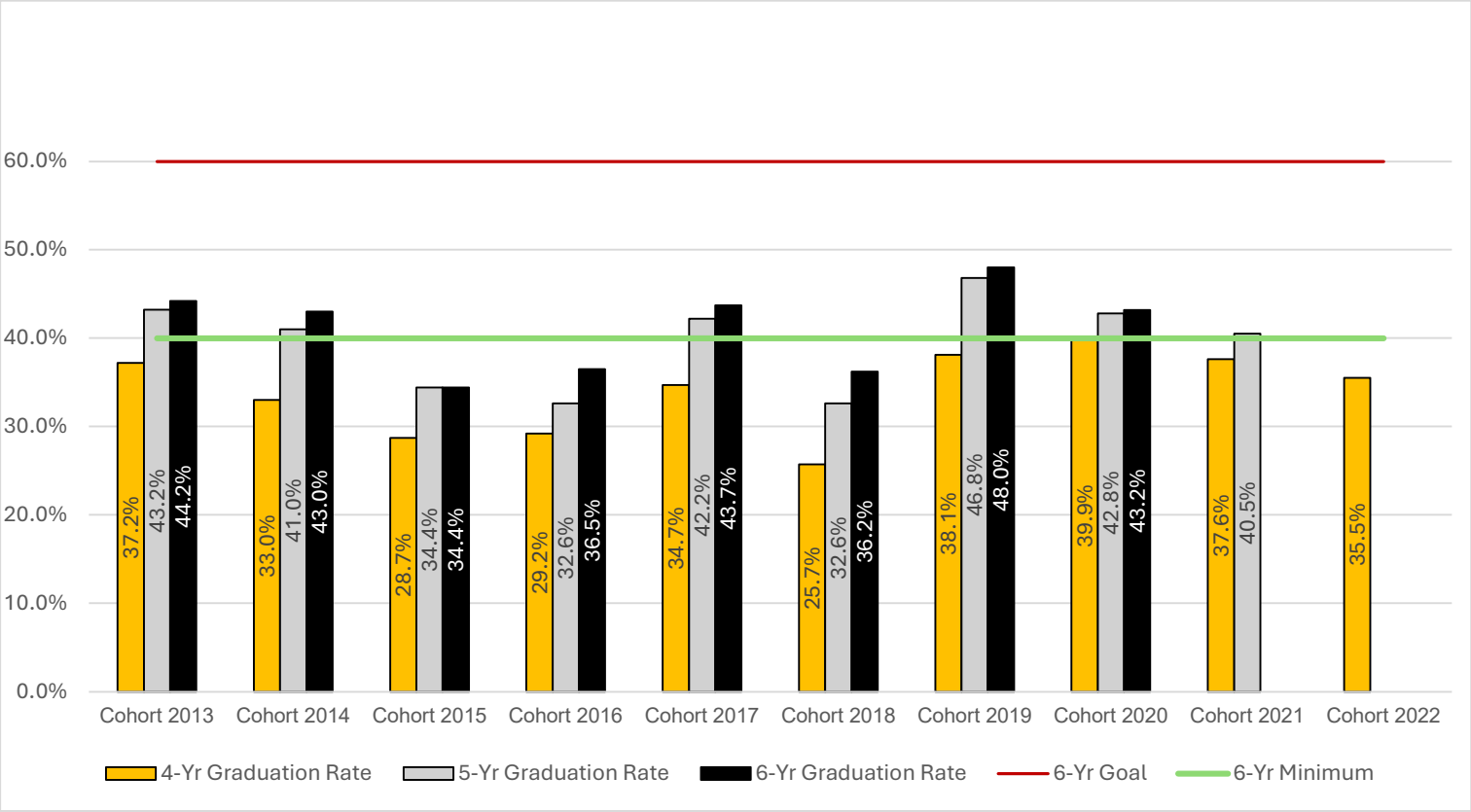


Graduation Rates

Graduation is the goal for assessing student achievement. Although retention reflects the University's progress toward its goal, graduation reflects the success of the institution mission. Therefore, Pfeiffer values graduation rate as a metric of student achievement. The University tracks graduation rates by various subgroups. In each category below, the goal will be given by subgroup. The graphs which follow show historical performance on these metrics.

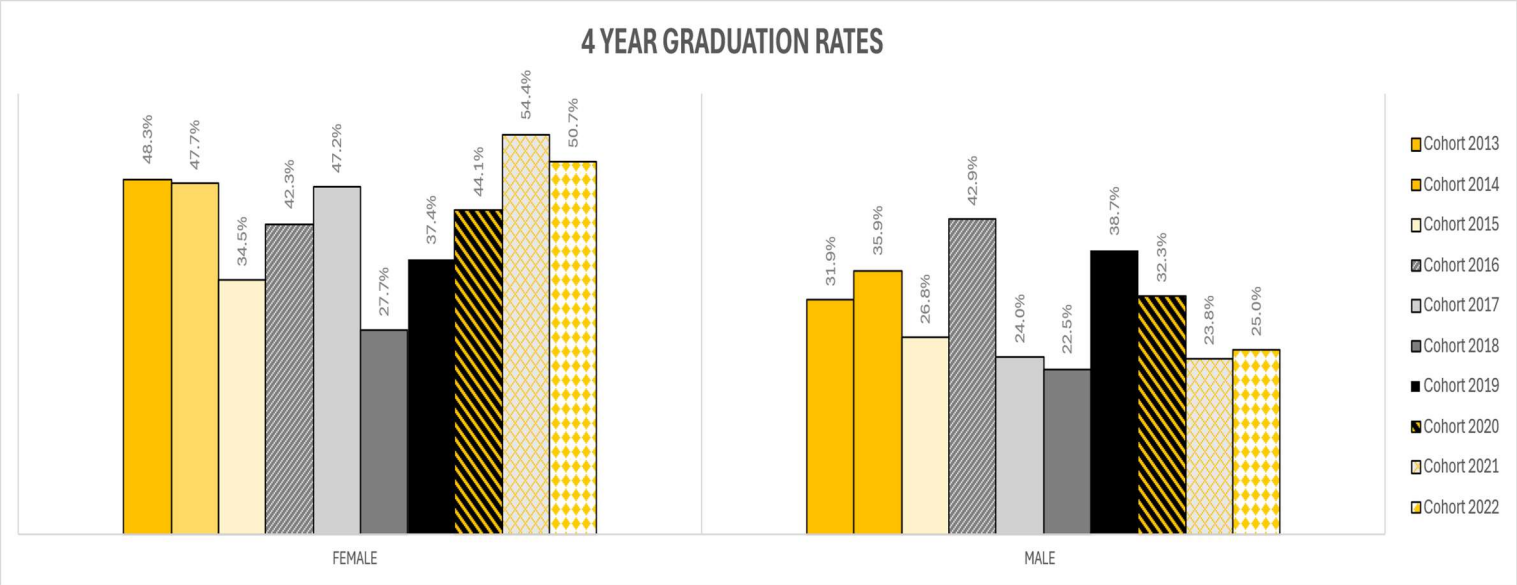
Pfeiffer University Achievement Goals and Minimum Thresholds for Graduation		
Groups	Measured Goal	Minimum Threshold
First Time In College	60% within 6 years	40% within 6 years
First Time In College by Gender	60% within 6 years for both male and female students	40% within 6 years for both male and female students
First Time In College by Athletic Status	60% within 6 years for student athletes	40% within 6 years for student athletes
First Time In College by Pell Status	60% overall graduation rate	40% overall graduation rate

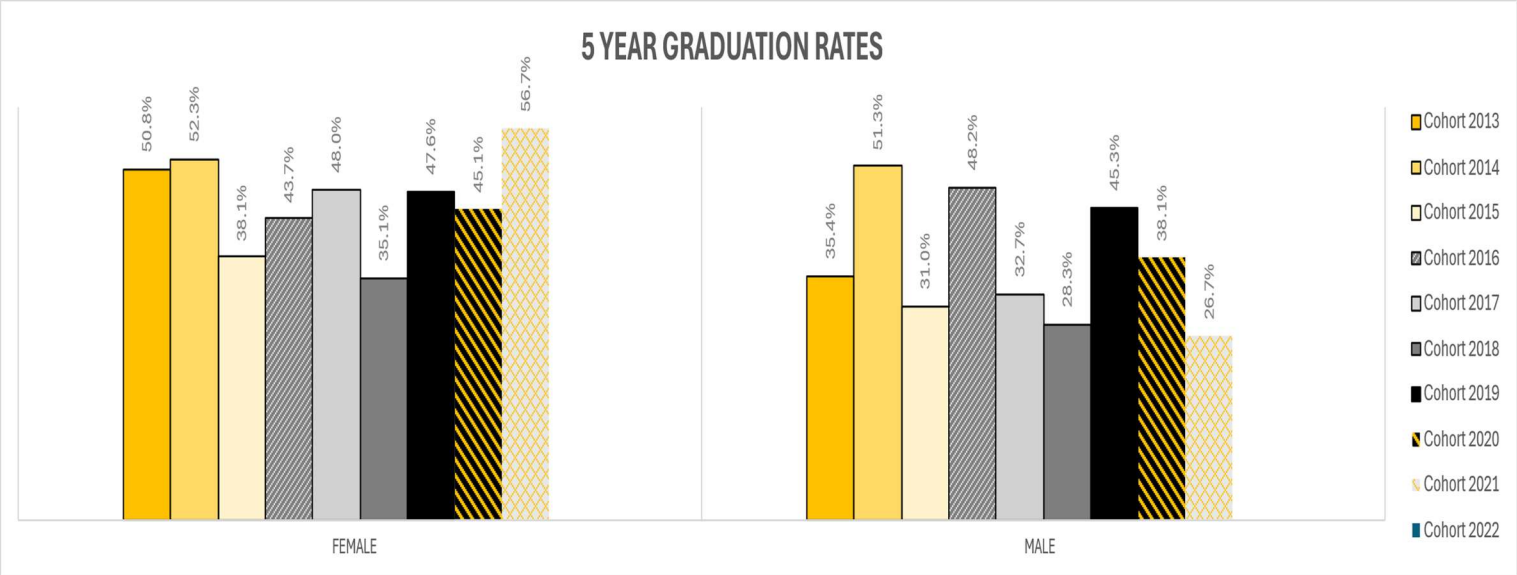
First Time in College Graduation Rates

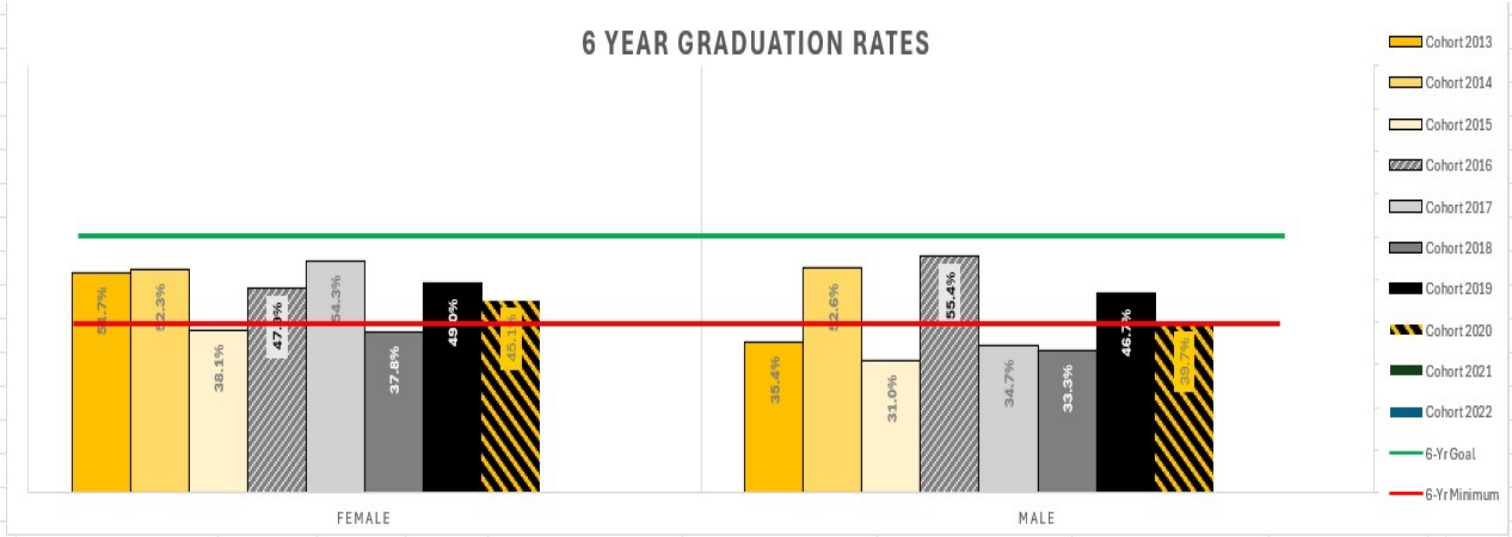


Graduation Rates

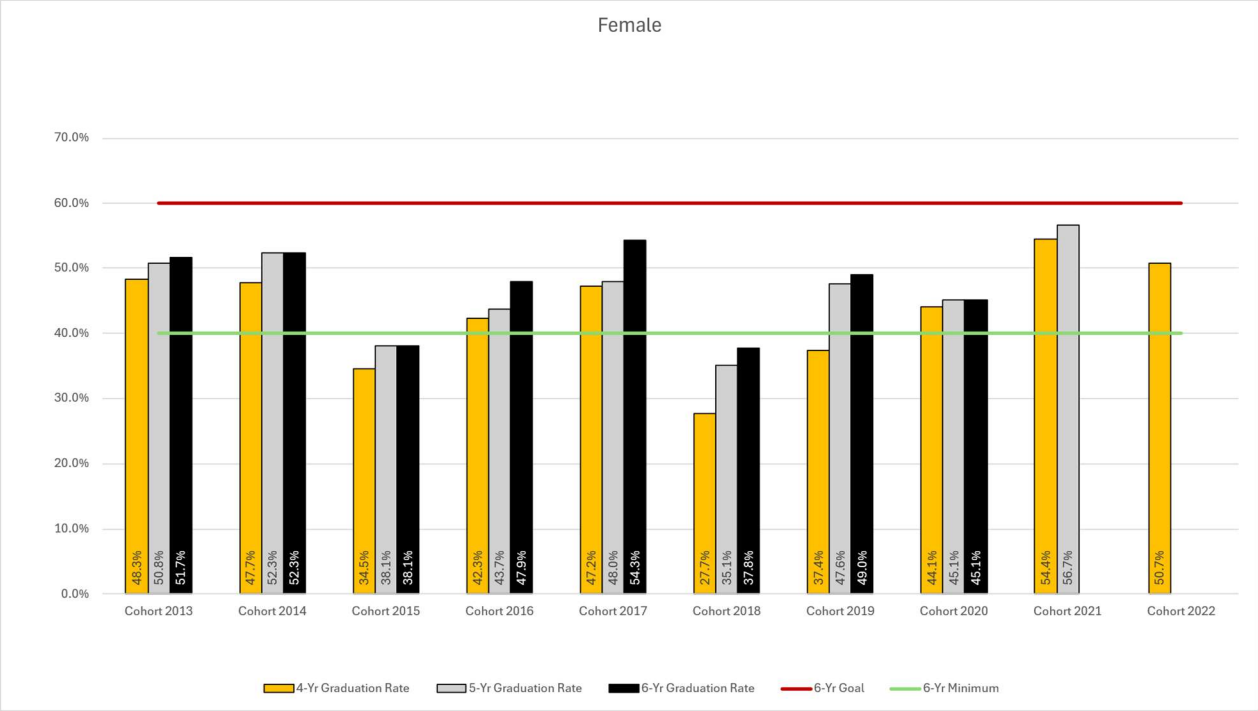
First Time in College Graduation Rates by Gender

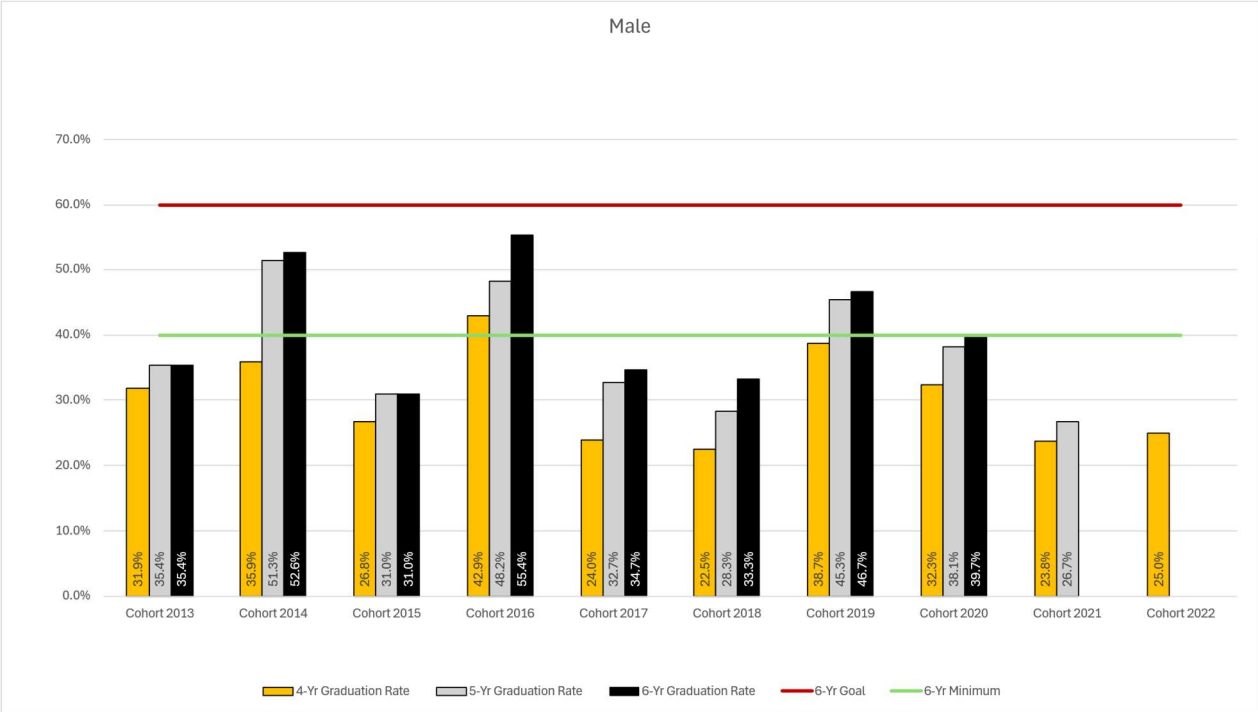




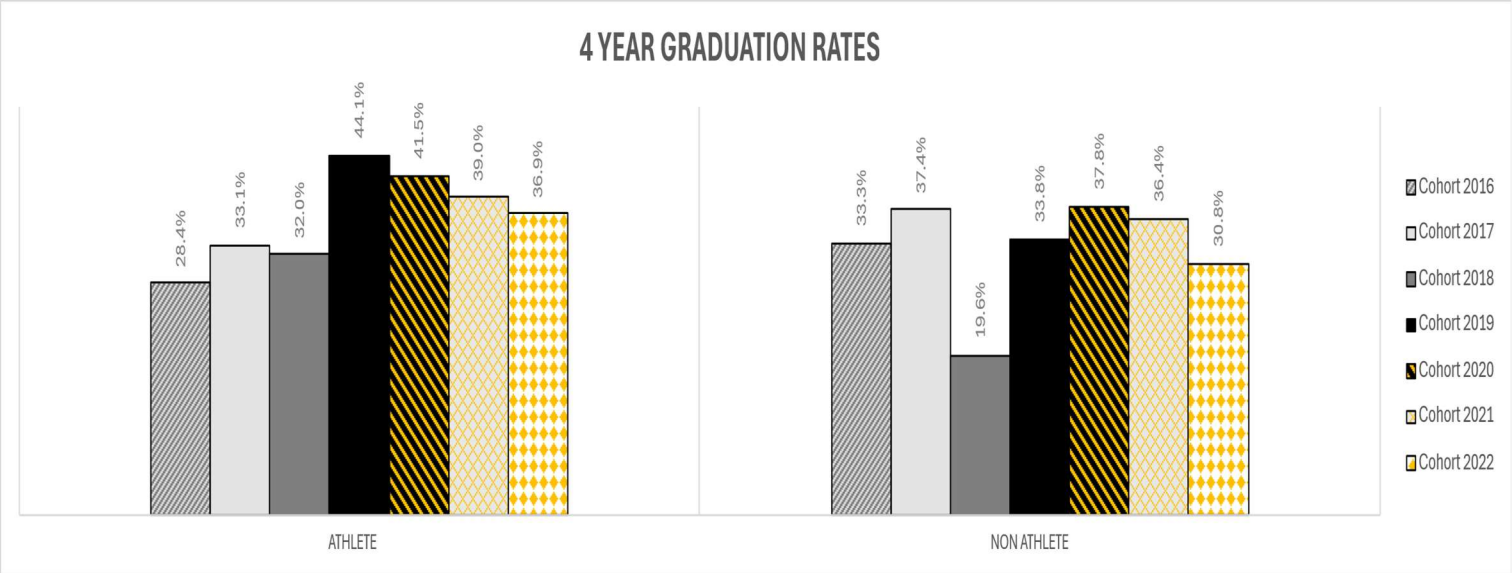


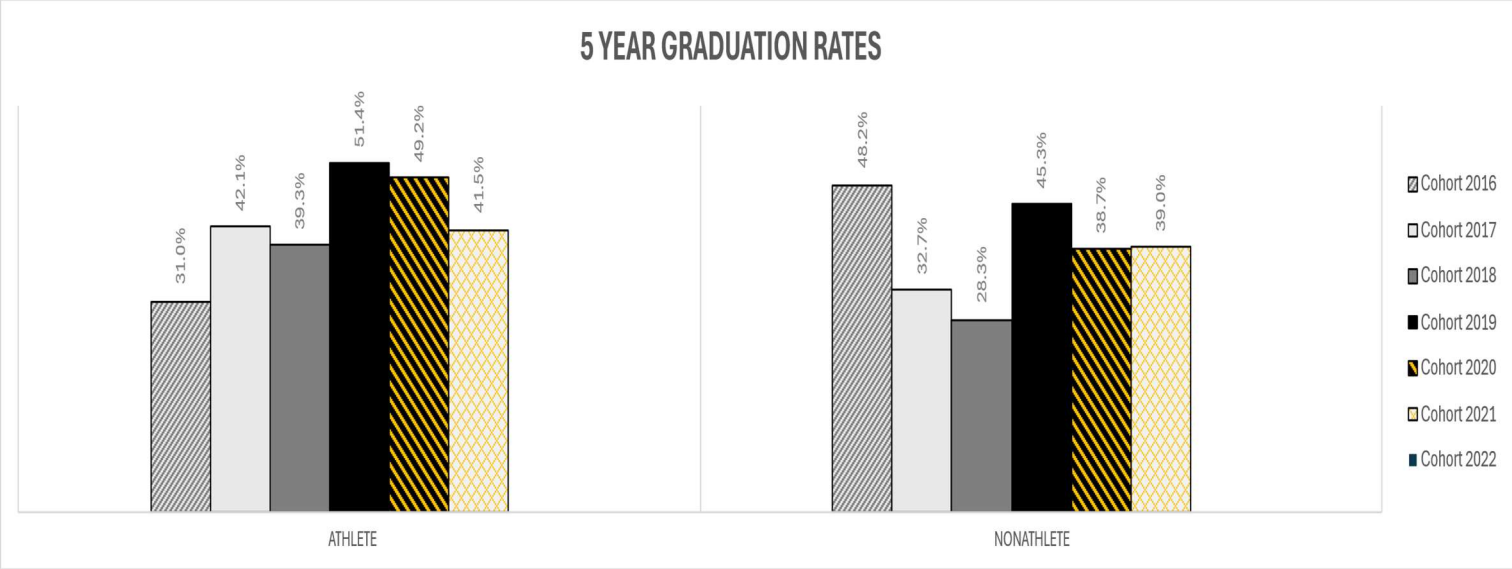
First Time in College Graduation Rates by Gender

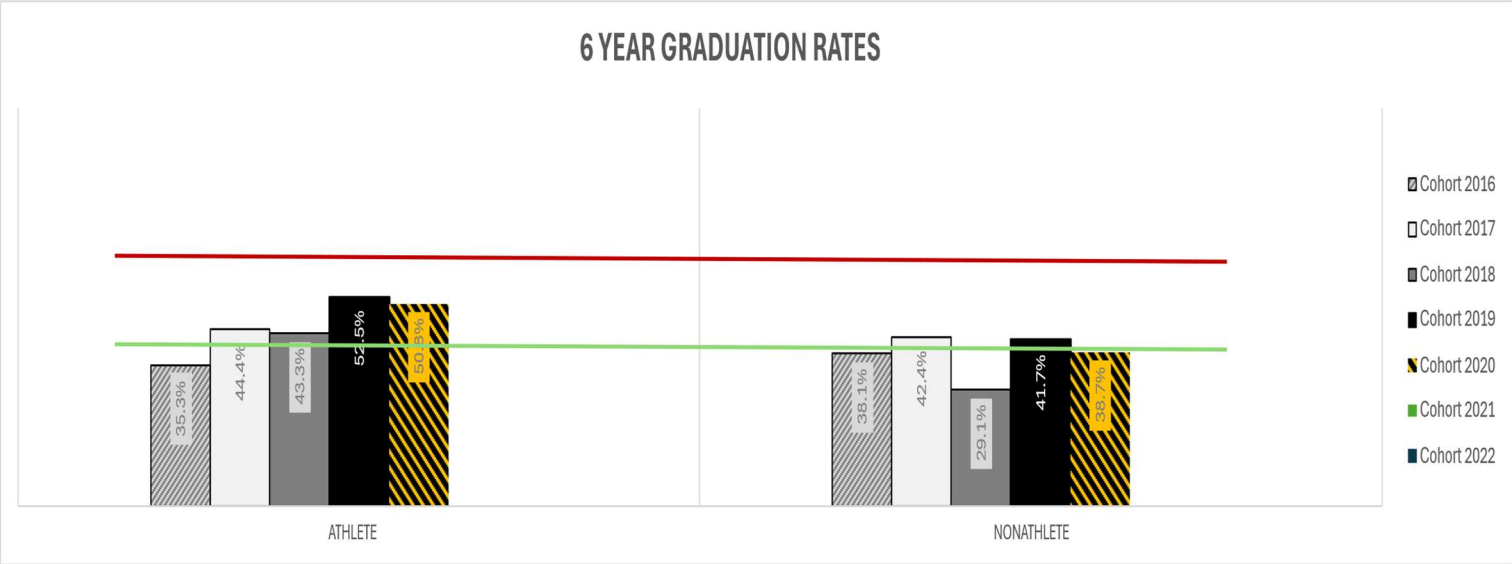




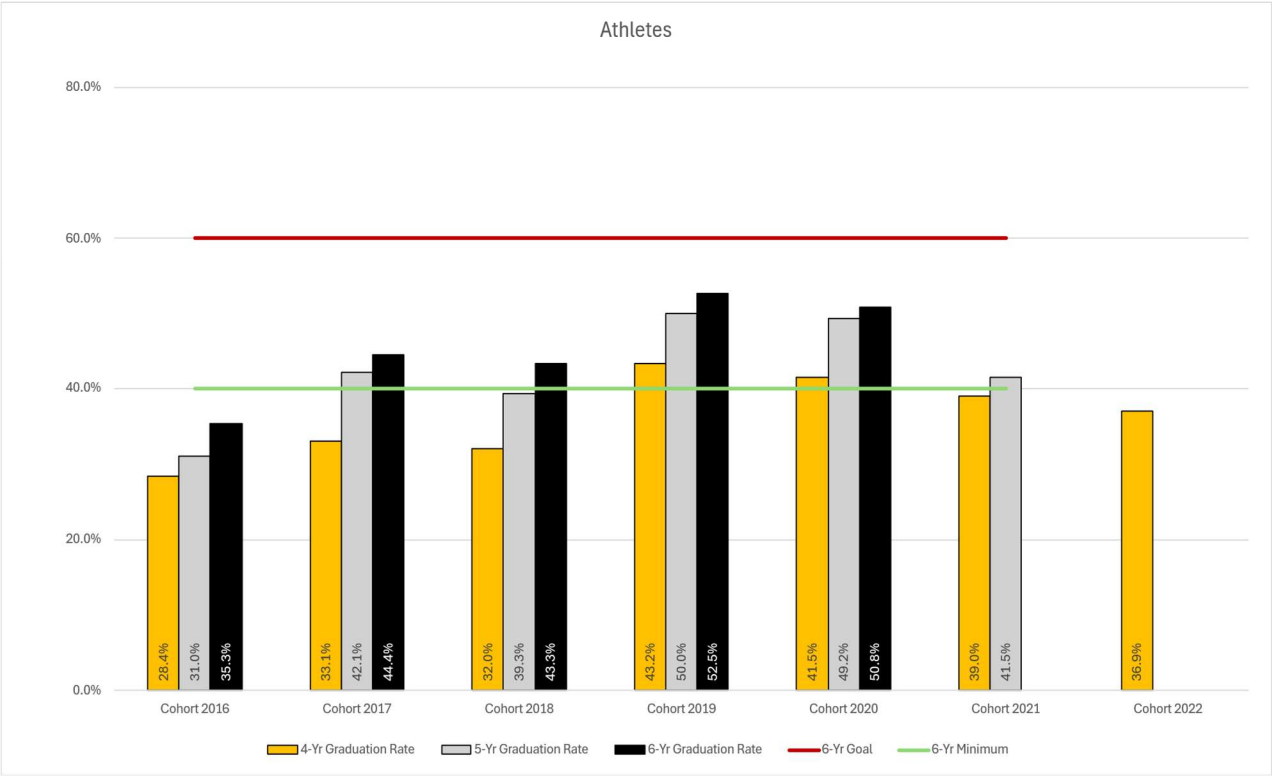
First Time in College Graduation Rates by Athletic Status

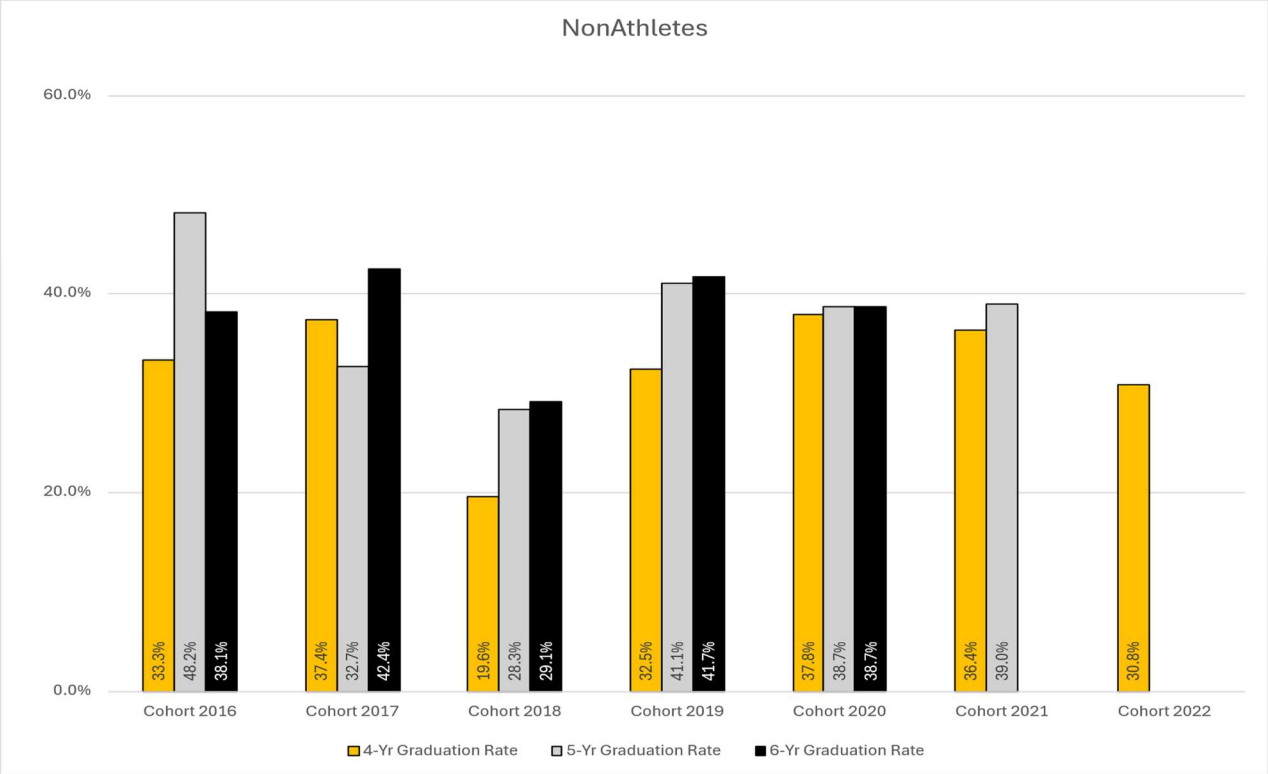




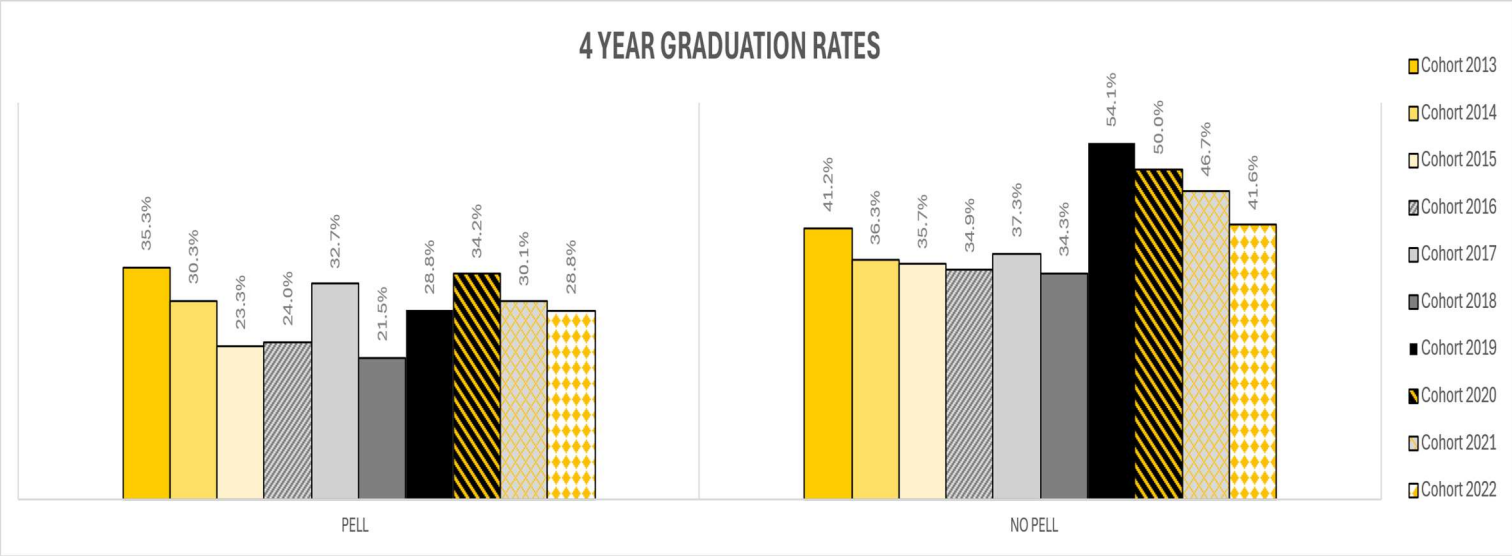


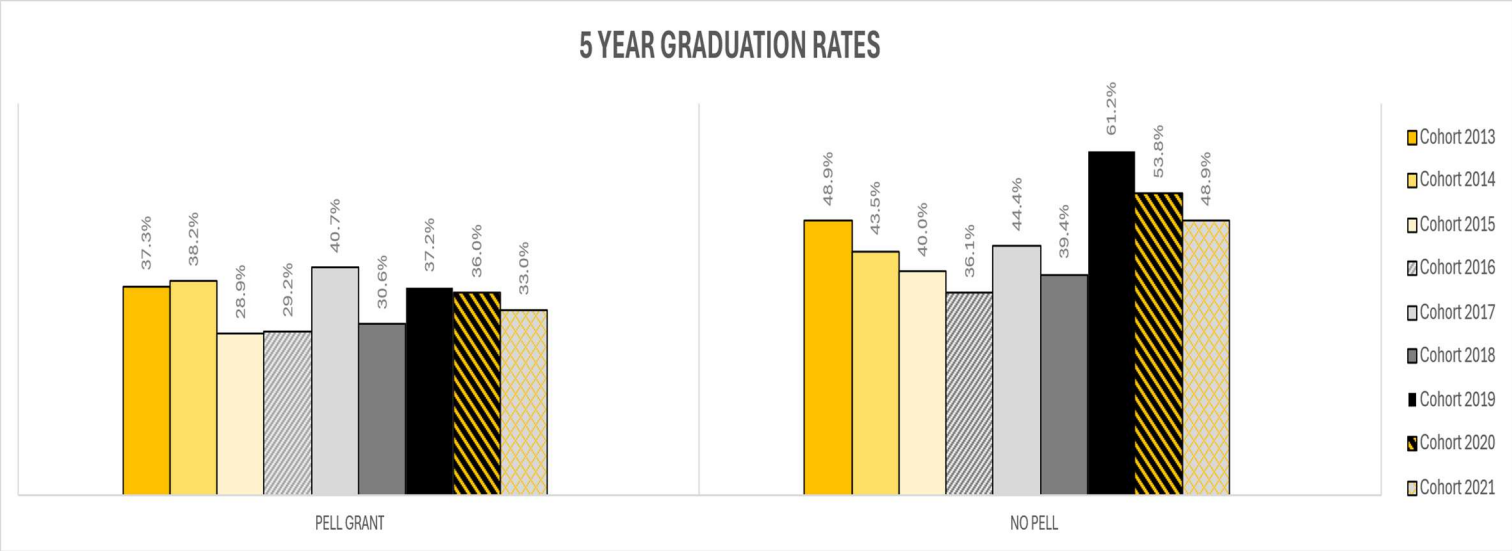
First Time in College Graduation Rates by Athletic Status

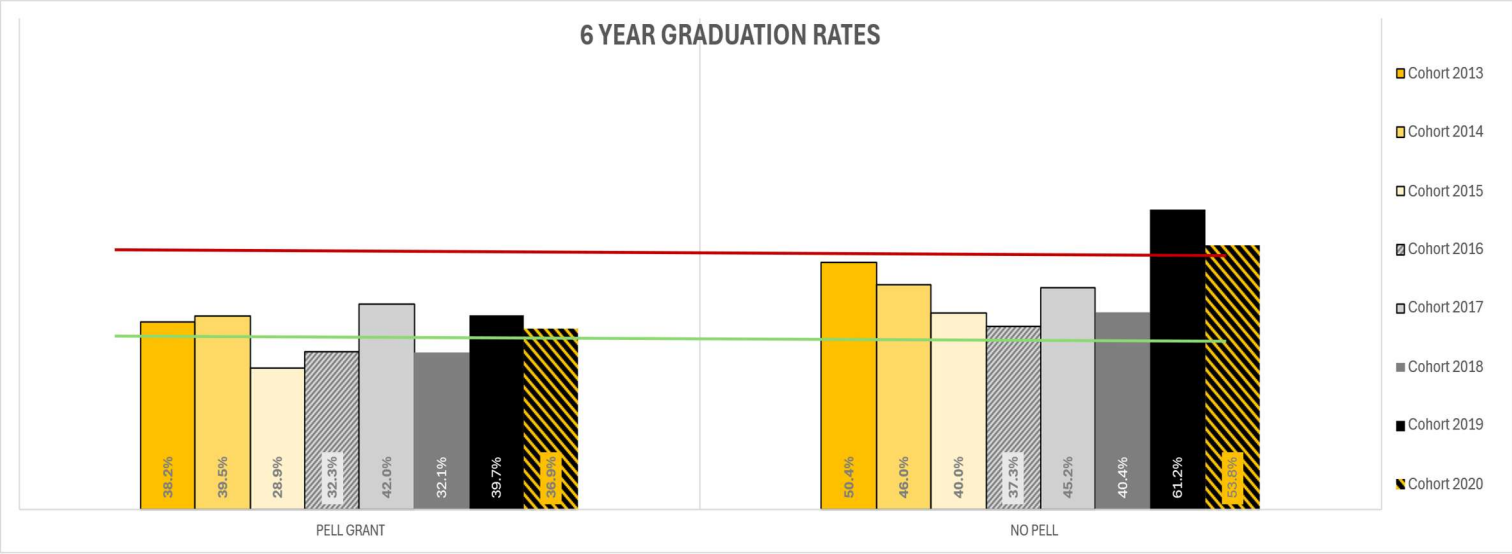




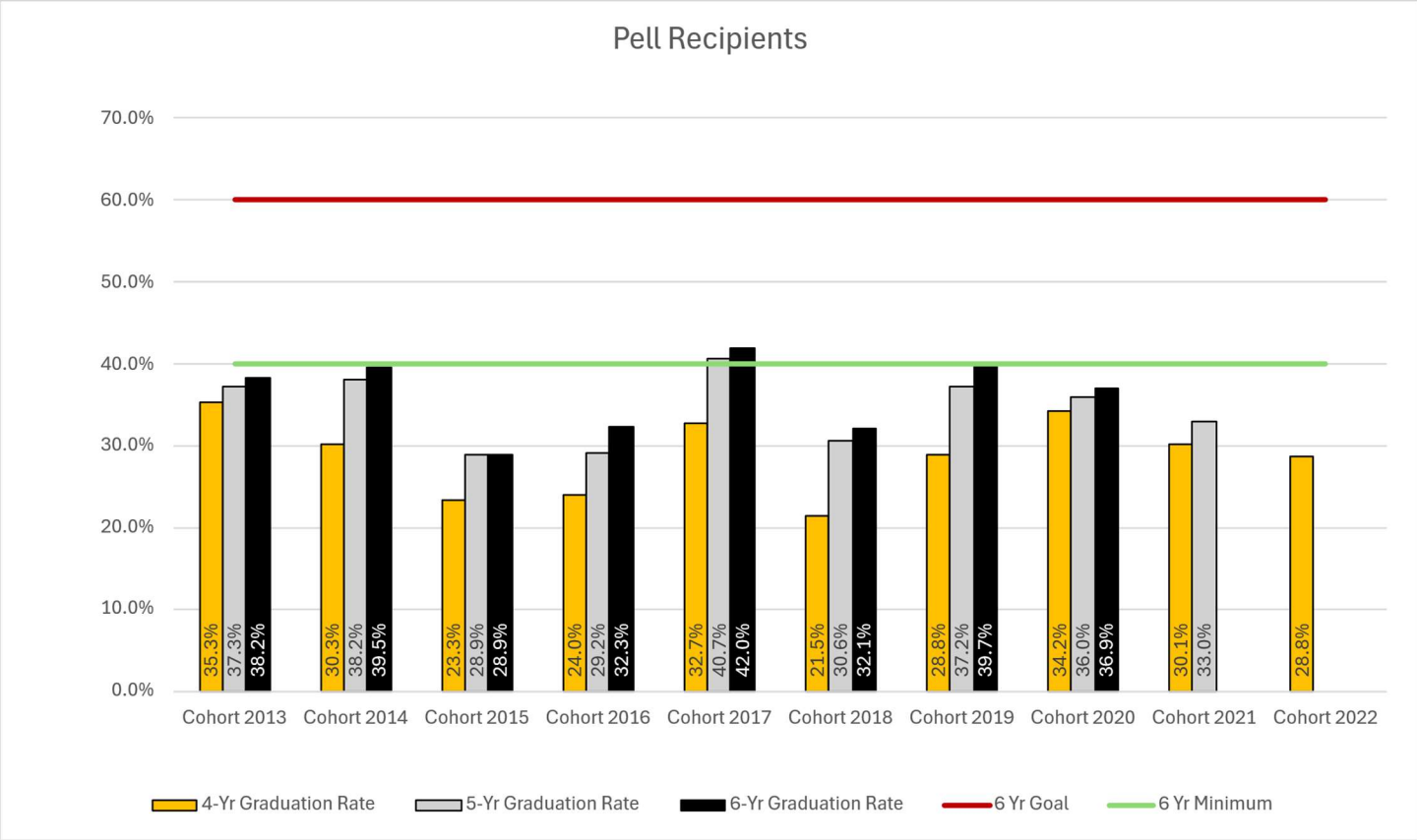
First Time in College Graduation Rates by Pell Recipient Status

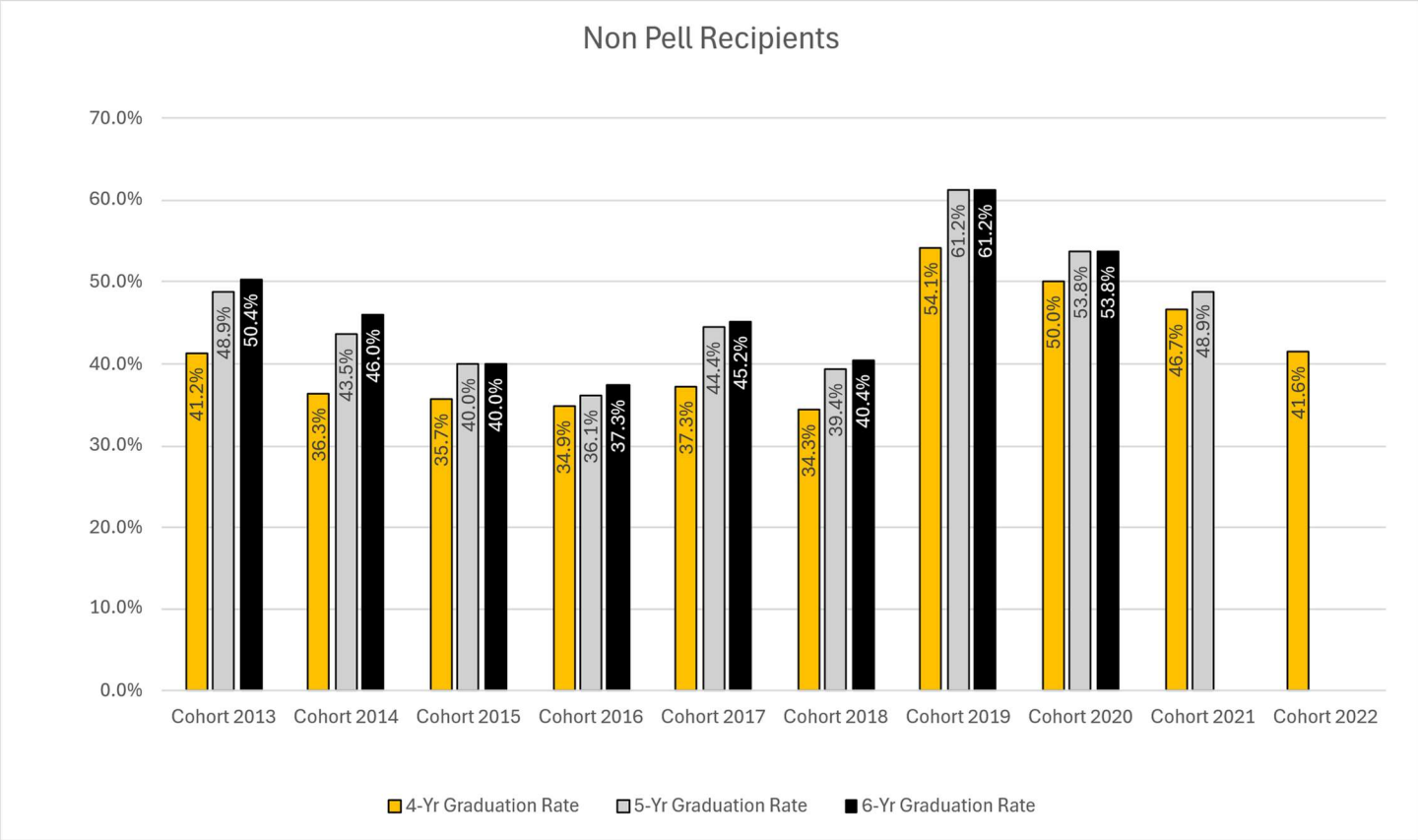






First Time in College Graduation Rates by Pell Recipient Status



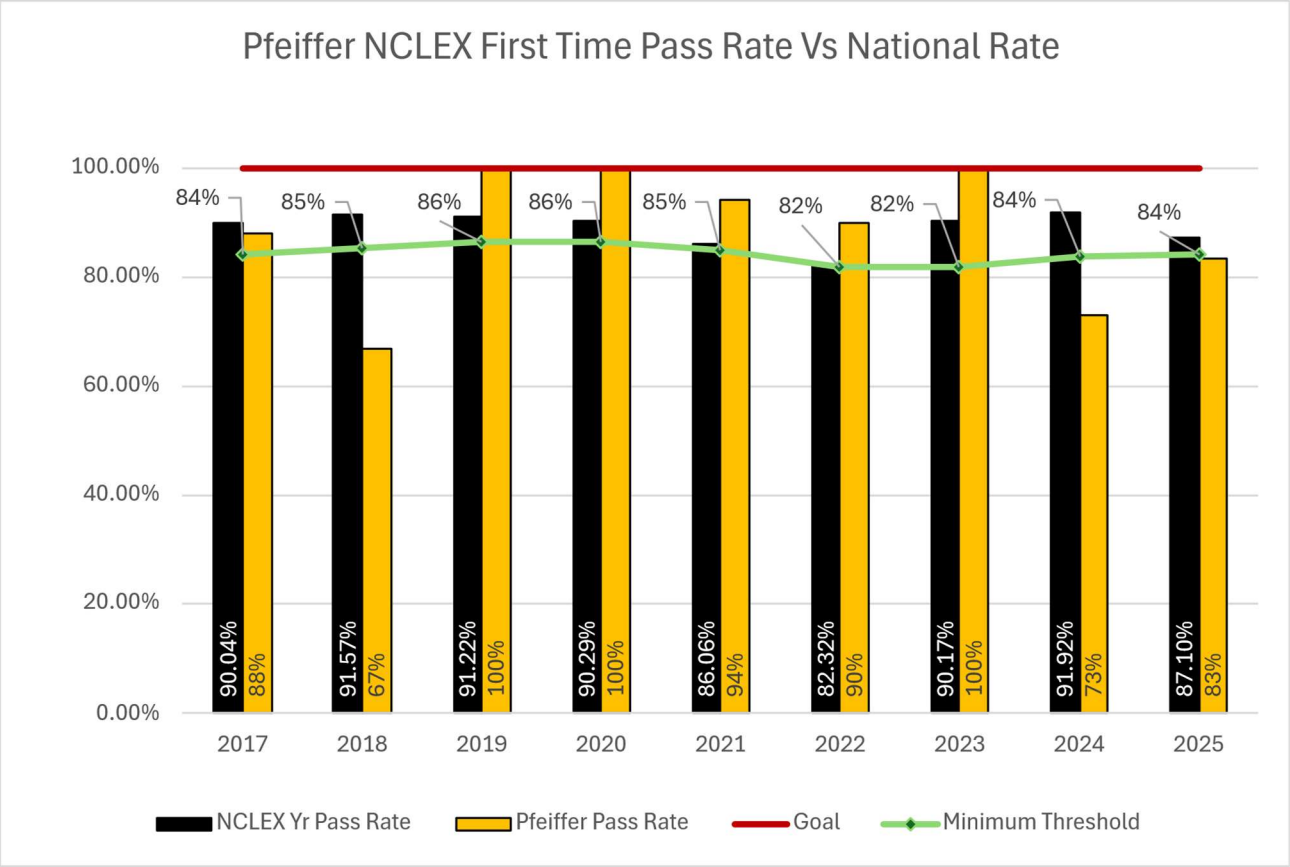


Program Accreditations

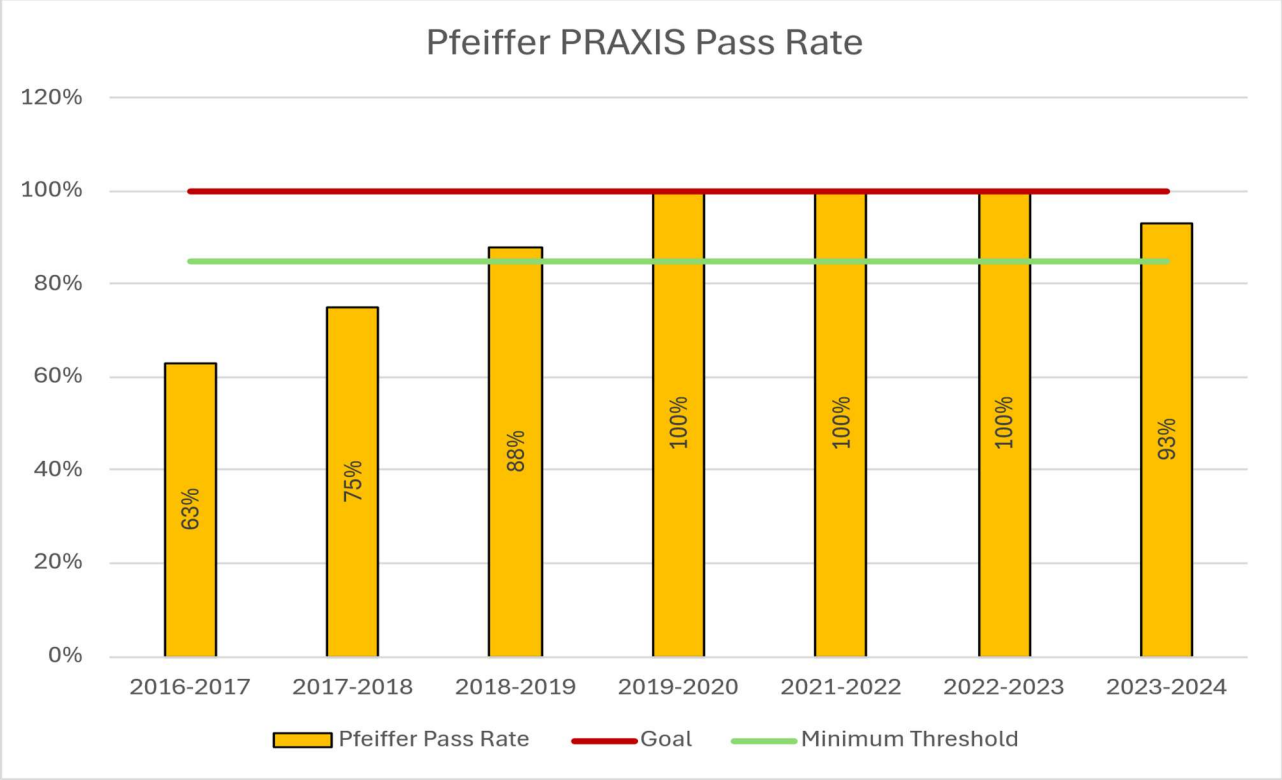
The University considers certain programs with external accreditations to be key indicators of student success. Below are metrics for two programs that students sometimes request. In the table below, the goal for each program is given. These thresholds for passing licensure exams are developed by the accreditor and thus adopted by the University. The graphs which follow show historical performance on these metrics.

Pfeiffer University Achievement Goals and Minimum Thresholds for Graduation		
Groups	Measured Goal	Minimum Threshold
National Council Licensure Examination RN Exam (NCLEX)	100% of first time exam takers	84% of first time exam takers, which is 95% of the national average for the past three years
Teacher Education Licensure Exam (PRAXIS II)	100% annual pass rate	85% annual pass rate
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)	90% pass rate for December graduates	80% minimum pass rate for December graduates
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)	100% pass rate for 1st time takers	85% pass rate for 1st time takers

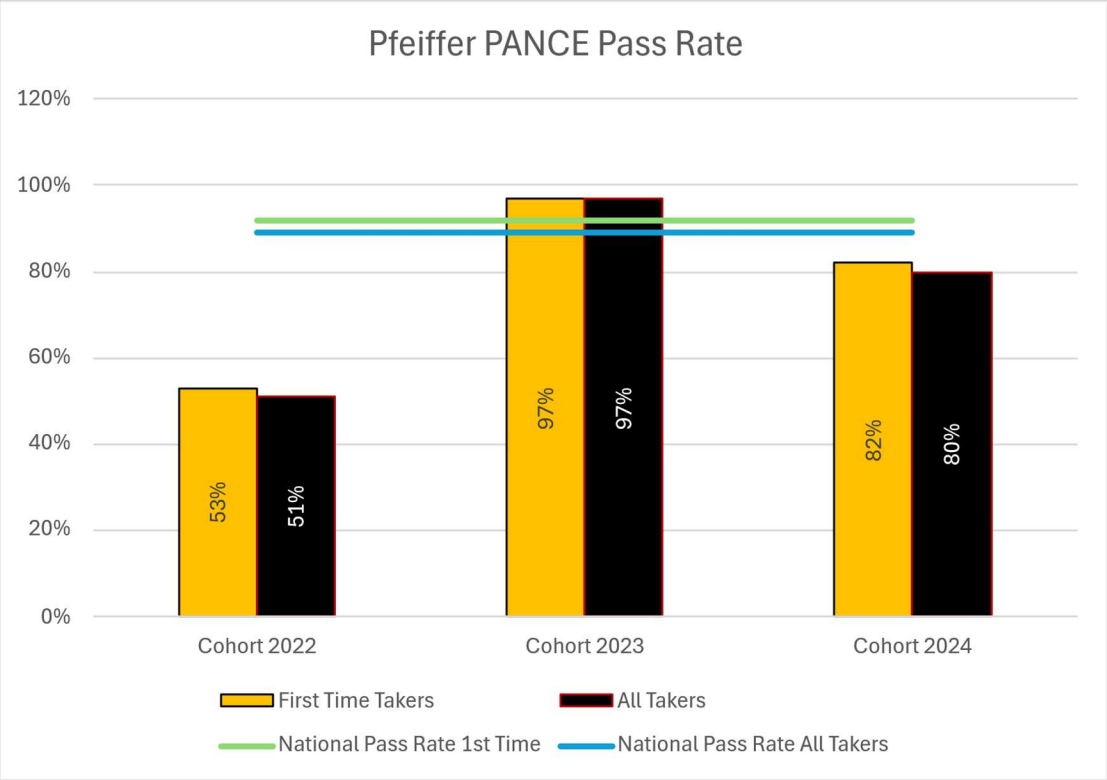
National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse BSN



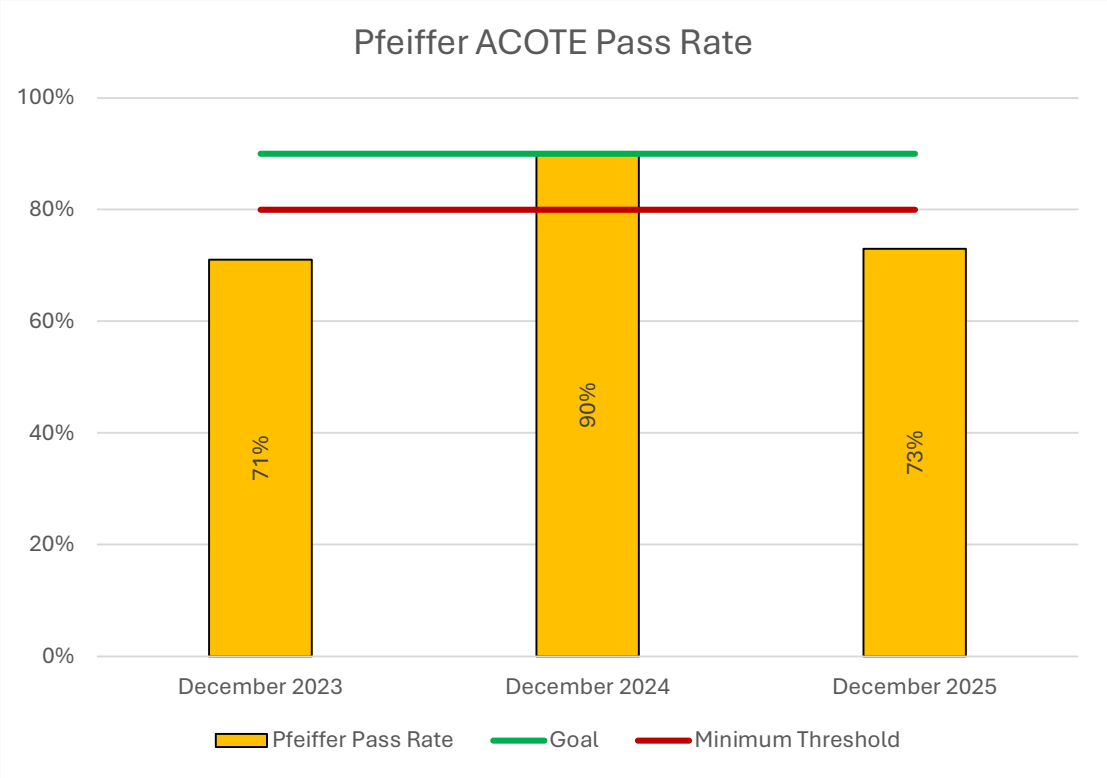
NC Teaching Licensure Examination Pass Rates



National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)



NC Board of Occupational Therapy



A Look Back

Pfeiffer University originated from the Oberlin Home and School, a homeschool developed by Miss Emily C. Prudden in 1885. In 1903, the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church assumed responsibility for the Oberlin property, and the Oberlin school was renamed the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School. The Mitchell Home and School then moved to the current property in Misenheimer, issuing the first high school diplomas in 1913.

A junior college curriculum was added in 1928, and the school was renamed Mitchell Junior College. The introduction of elementary studies by county schools permitted the school to eliminate lower grades and to direct its efforts toward collegiate level work.

In honor of Henry and Annie Merner Pfeiffer of New York City, the name Pfeiffer Junior College was first used for the 1935–1936 academic year. Pfeiffer broadened its program to include senior college work in 1960. Thirty-six years later in May of 1996, the Board of Trustees voted to reorganize Pfeiffer's academic structure toward university status.

The Charlotte campus opened in 1977 with undergraduate classes in Criminal Justice, and the first graduate program followed in 1985. Additionally, the Raleigh-Durham campus opened in 2004, offering a variety of graduate programs.

Since its founding, Pfeiffer has consistently grown in academic excellence, developing new programs to meet student needs and emphasizing the ideals of Christian service.

Mission

Pfeiffer University delivers a transformational, personalized education wherein students are shaped by a gifted, diverse, and committed community of mentors. Graduates are prepared to lead, have the disposition to serve, and possess the wisdom and skills to facilitate health and prosperity throughout the region and the world.

Accreditation

Pfeiffer University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate and master's degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Pfeiffer University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on

Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 300334097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

Pfeiffer UNIVERSITY