



**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

# **Retention and Graduation Rates**

**Entering Classes of  
1988 to 2006**

**Published by the UK Office of Institutional Research**

## Summary

Retention and graduation rates in this report were calculated by tracking cohorts—classes of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen. The retention rate indicates the percentage of students in a cohort who returned to college for a second fall semester. The graduation rate reflects the percentage of students in a cohort who earned a bachelor's degree (or higher-level degree) within six years.

- The retention rate for the 2006 cohort decreased to 76.4%, down 1.4 percentage-points from the previous year (see Table 1).
- The six-year graduation rate for the 2001 cohort increased 2.3 percentage points to 61.4% (see Table 1).
- Retention rates for women have generally averaged one to five points higher than rates for men over the past decade. Women's graduation rates have ranged from four to eight points higher than men's rates (see Table 2 for 5-year snapshots).
- The retention rate for African American students in the 2006 cohort increased .5 percentage points and was slightly higher than the rate for white students (76.6% vs. 76.2%). The current graduation rate for black students still lags behind the comparable rate for white students (50.3% vs. 62.5%; see Table 2).
- The retention rate for Kentucky resident students in the 2006 cohort was 1.8 percentage-points higher than the rate for out-of-state students. The graduation rate for resident students in the 2001 cohort was 5.1 percentage-points higher than the rate for non-resident students (see Table 2).
- A little more than one-third of students who arrive at UK with ACT Composite scores 17 and below graduate within six years; almost three-quarters of students who earn ACT Composite Scores of 28 or above graduate during this time frame (see Table 3).
- One-year retention rates within students' initially declared colleges ranged from 50.1% in College of Engineering to 70.6% in the College of Communication and Information Studies, among colleges with more than 20 students. Retention rates based on the percentage of students retained somewhere within the University ranged from 71.5% in the College of Nursing to 81.4% in the College of Design, among colleges with more than 20 students (see Figure 4).

- Most graduates earn their degrees from the college in which they were originally enrolled. Six-year graduation rates from within students' initially declared colleges ranged from 9.6% in the College of Nursing to 61.8% in the College of Design, among colleges with more than 20 students. Graduation rates based on the percentage of students who ultimately graduated from somewhere within the University ranged from 50.9% in the College of Nursing to 73.5% in the College of Design, among colleges with more than 20 students (see Figure 5).

**Table 1: Retention and Graduation Rates of Full-Time Students at the University of Kentucky**

First-Year Student Cohort		Retention Rates				Cumulative Graduation Rates			
Year	N	First Fall to Spring	First Fall to Second Fall	First Fall to Third Fall	First Fall to Fourth Fall	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	*N6yr
1988	2895	90.7%	75.9%	65.7%	59.7%	20.8%	42.1%	49.4%	
1989	2689	92.0 %	76.9 %	66.3 %	59.8 %	20.6 %	41.4 %	48.3 %	
1990	2520	91.7 %	77.0 %	66.2 %	60.4 %	18.9 %	41.2 %	49.4 %	
1991	2816	89.9 %	76.2 %	65.3 %	60.0 %	16.2 %	40.0 %	48.1 %	
1992	2554	90.5 %	76.8 %	65.6 %	60.1 %	20.5 %	43.4 %	50.7 %	
1993	2662	92.0 %	78.9 %	69.0 %	61.7 %	22.5 %	45.9 %	53.0 %	
1994	2626	90.7 %	78.0 %	68.4 %	63.9 %	24.6 %	48.8 %	55.3 %	
1995	2611	90.8 %	78.7 %	69.2 %	66.1 %	23.7 %	49.2 %	57.2 %	
1996	2640	91.2 %	77.9 %	68.6 %	65.1 %	27.2 %	50.4 %	57.7 %	
1997	2740	91.5 %	79.7 %	71.4 %	68.1 %	27.1 %	53.8 %	61.1 %	
1998	2931	91.6 %	78.8 %	70.4 %	66.6 %	27.9 %	52.5 %	59.6 %	
1999	2742	91.9 %	80.4 %	71.8 %	67.7 %	28.7 %	53.6 %	59.8 %	
2000	2960	91.1 %	77.7 %	71.1 %	65.9 %	29.2 %	52.2 %	59.1 %	2944
2001	3129	91.6 %	79.3 %	72.2 %	67.8 %	30.0 %	53.1 %	61.4%	3094
2002	3692	90.8 %	77.1 %	68.1 %	64.7 %	28.2 %	50.8%		
2003	3669	91.8 %	78.4 %	70.2 %	66.2 %	31.3%			
2004	3932	91.2 %	78.9 %	70.4 %	65.4%				
2005	3826	90.9 %	77.8 %	68.9%					
2006	4118	89.5%	76.4%						

Note1: Retention and graduation rates reported here may vary slightly from those compiled by other sources due to minor differences in reporting criteria.

Note2: Beginning in 2001, N6yr reflects final adjustments to the size of the original cohort due to exclusions consistent with IPEDS reporting guidelines.

Figure 1: First-Year Retention Rates at UK

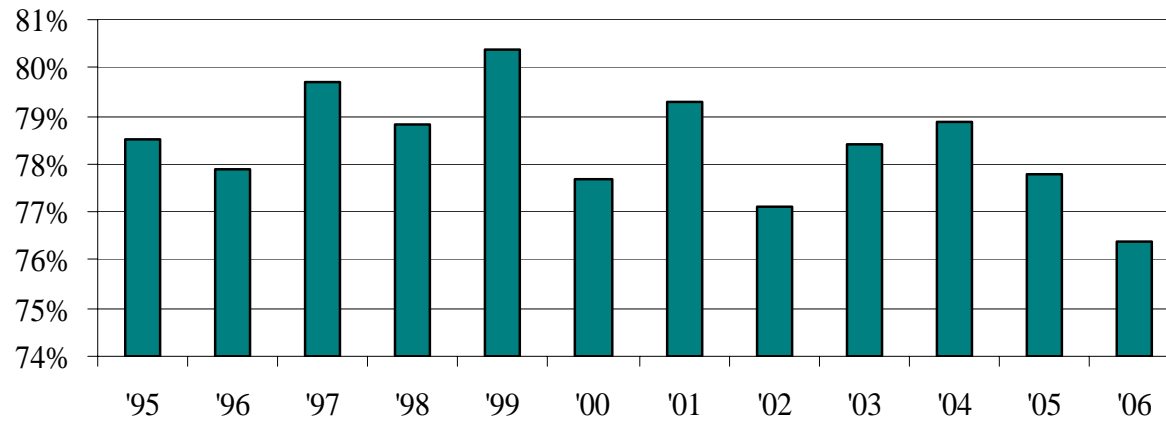
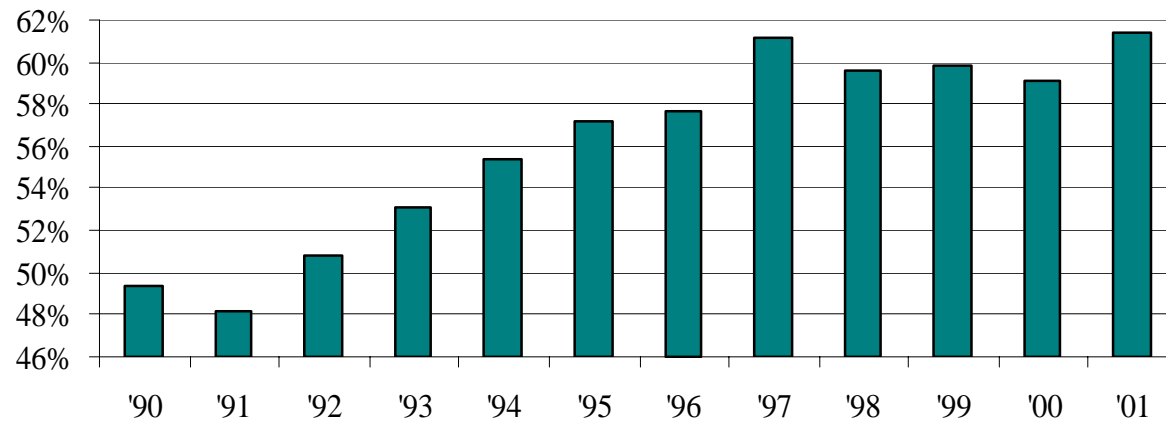


Figure 2: Six-Year Graduation Rates at UK

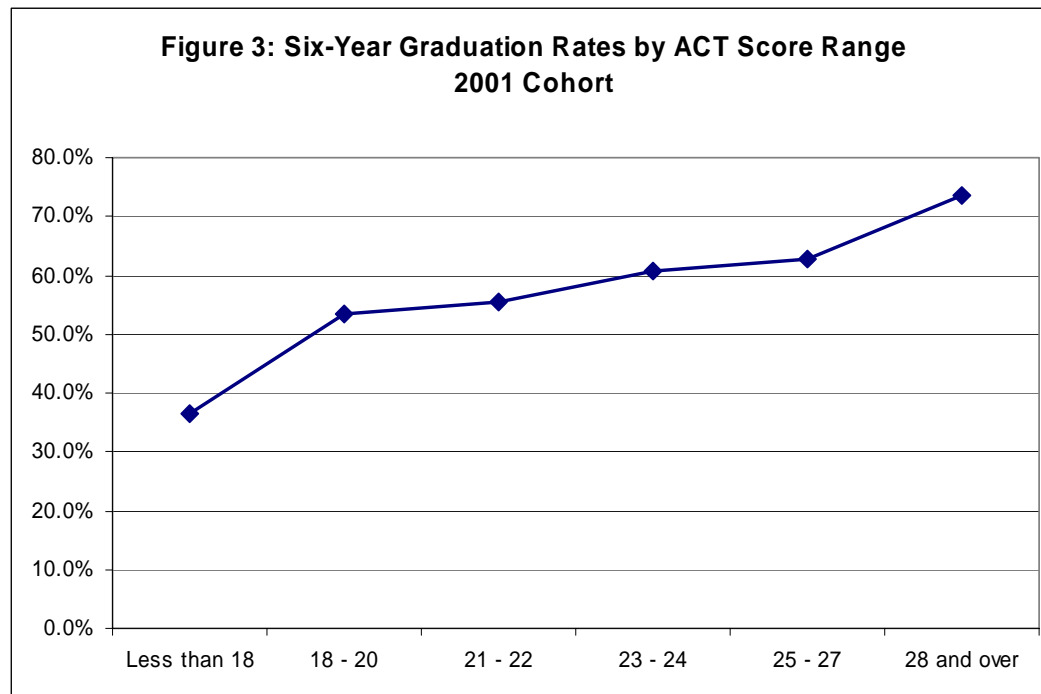


**Table 2: Retention and Graduation Rates of Selected Student Groups at the University of Kentucky**

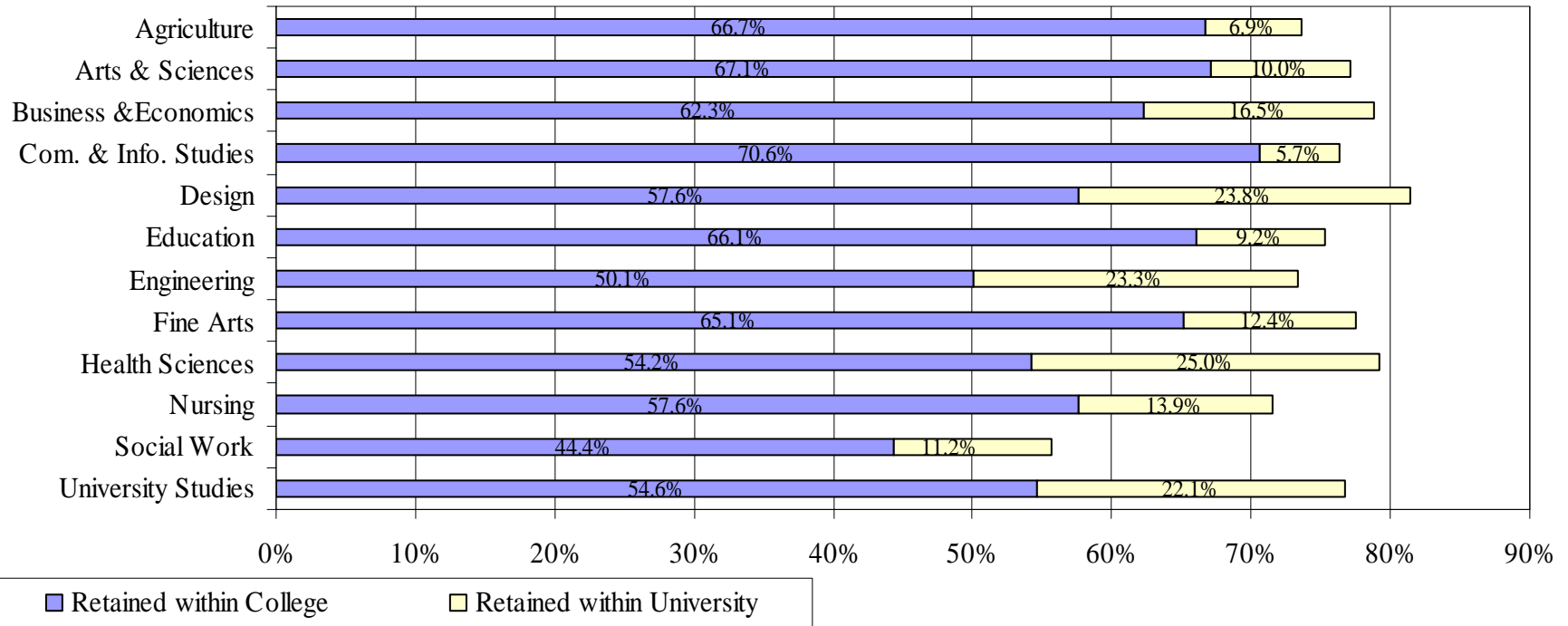
Student Group	Retention Rate		Graduation Rate	
	Fall 2001 Cohort	Fall 2006 Cohort	Fall 1996 Cohort	Fall 2001 Cohort
Female	82.0%	77.3%	59.1%	64.0%
Male	76.2%	75.3%	55.4%	58.3%
White	79.3%	76.3%	59.1%	62.5%
African American	77.5%	76.6%	43.2%	50.3%
Other	81.1%	77.7%	53.9%	49.6%
KY Resident	79.9%	76.8%	58.5%	62.2%
Out-of-State	76.6%	75.0%	53.6%	57.1%
All Students	79.3%	76.4%	57.7%	61.4%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by ACT Score Ranges  
Fall 2001 Cohort**

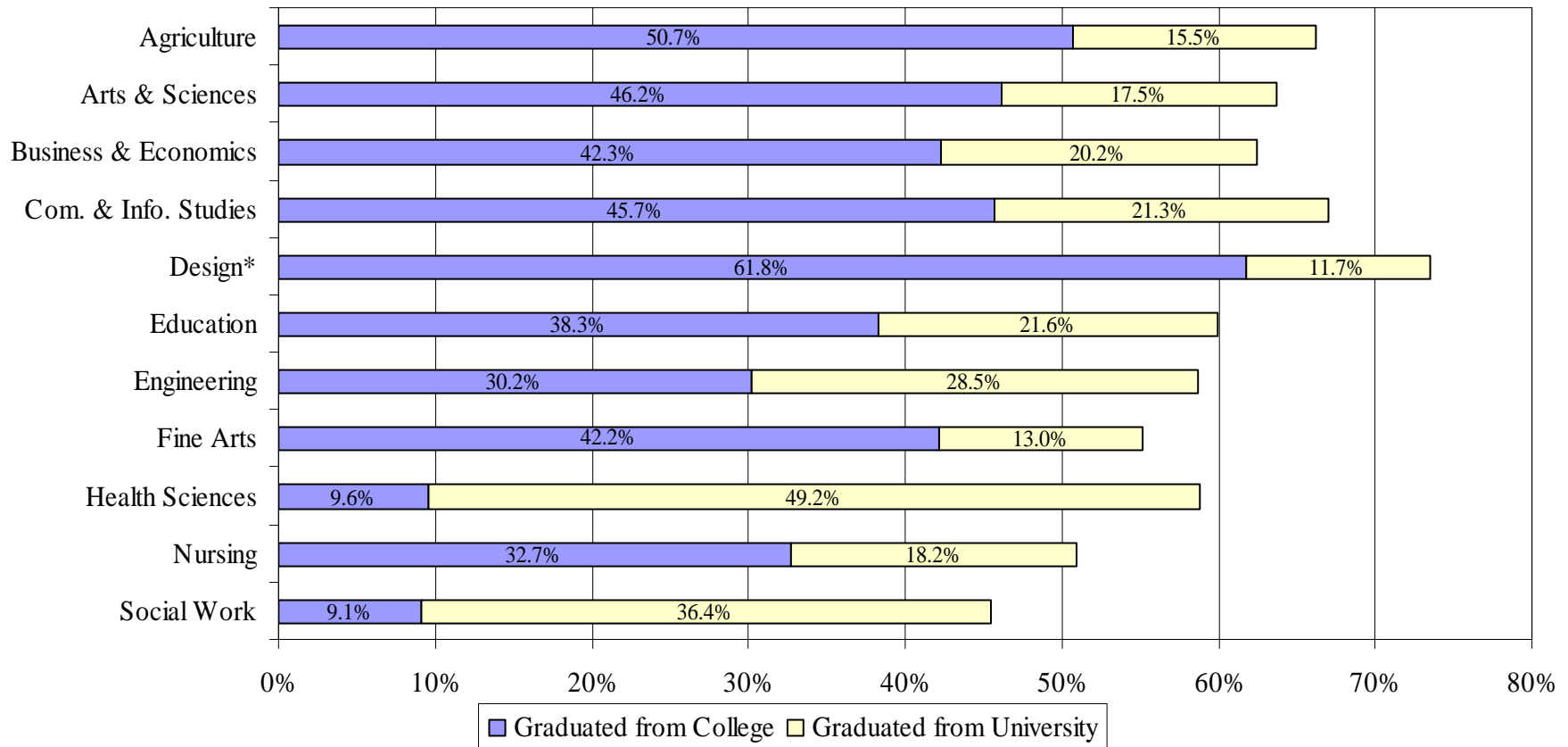
ACT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	GRADUATION RATE AFTER ...		
		4 YEARS	5 YEARS	6 YEARS
17 & Under	41	9.8 %	31.7 %	36.6 %
18-20	437	19.0 %	45.3 %	53.5 %
21-22	616	26.1 %	48.9 %	55.5 %
23-24	647	30.1 %	51.8 %	60.6 %
25-27	740	30.7 %	53.9 %	62.9 %
28 & Above	616	43.5 %	64.1 %	73.7 %



**Figure 4: Retention Rates by Initially Declared College  
Fall 2006 Cohort**



**Figure 5: Graduation Rates by Initially Declared College  
Fall 2001 Cohort**



\* Denotes some five-year programs offered.