



**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

**RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES**

**ENTERING CLASSES OF  
1986 TO 2001**

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

- The retention rate rebounded from 77.7% for last year's cohort to 79.3% for the 2001 cohort (see Table 1).
- The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) now calculates retention rates for institutions that include both full-time and part-time students, as well as students who transfer from their original institution to another Kentucky college or university during their first year of study. The CPE retention rates for the 1997-2001 cohorts are 86.7%, 86.3%, 88.0%, 86.1%, and 88.2% respectively. By including transfer students in the group of retained students, the CPE rates are, on average, about eight percentage points higher than the UK rates. The CPE and UK sets of retention rates, however, parallel one another.
- The six-year graduation rate has increased for the fifth consecutive year, setting a new UK record of 57.7% for the 1996 cohort (see Table 1).
- Retention rates for women over the past decade have averaged two to five points higher than the rates for men. While retention rates for the sexes were nearly equal for the 2000 cohort, the latest retention analysis reveals nearly a six percentage-point difference between women and men (82.0% vs. 76.2%). The graduation rate for women is about four percentage-points higher than the rate for men (see Table 2).
- Retention rates for African Americans have increased greatly over the past ten years and are nearly equal to the retention rates for white students (77.5% vs. 79.3%). Graduation rates for African Americans have also risen significantly, though they still lag far below those of white students (43.2% vs. 59.1%; see Table 2).
- Resident students have retention and graduation rates that are generally two or three percentage points higher than out-of-state students (see Table 2).
- Students who arrive at UK with ACT Composite scores of 28 or above are more than twice as likely to graduate as students who have earned Composite scores below 18 (see Table 3).

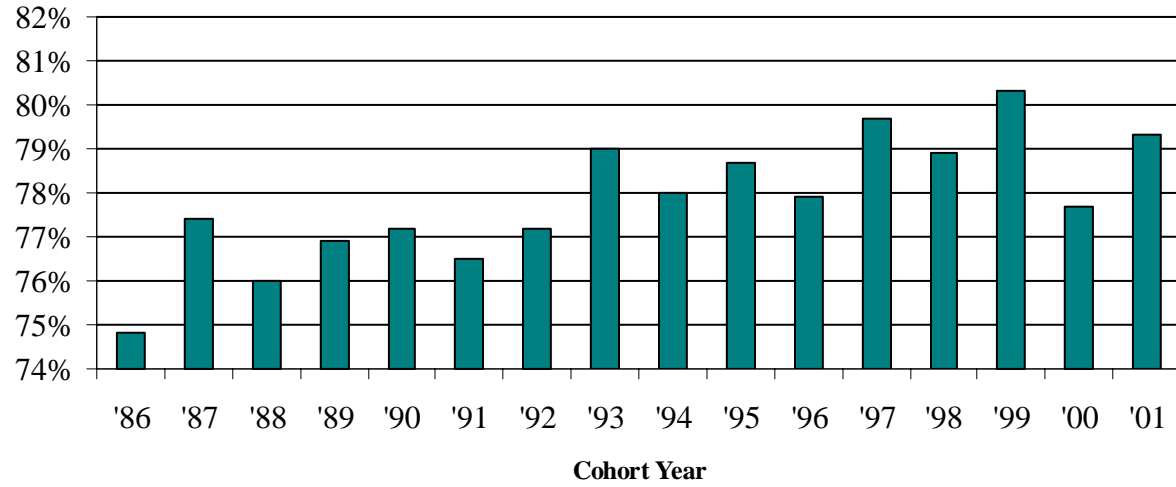
- One-year retention rates within students' initially declared colleges ranged from 18.2% in the College of Social Work to 83.7% in the College of Architecture. Retention rates based on the percentage of students retained somewhere within the University ranged from 45.5% in the College of Social Work to 91.8% in the College of Architecture (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 16.1% in the College of Allied Health to 59.0% in the College of Nursing. Graduation rates based on the percentage of students who ultimately graduated from somewhere within the University ranged from 50.0% in the College of Social Work to 74.3% in the College of Human Environmental Sciences (see Figure 5).

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

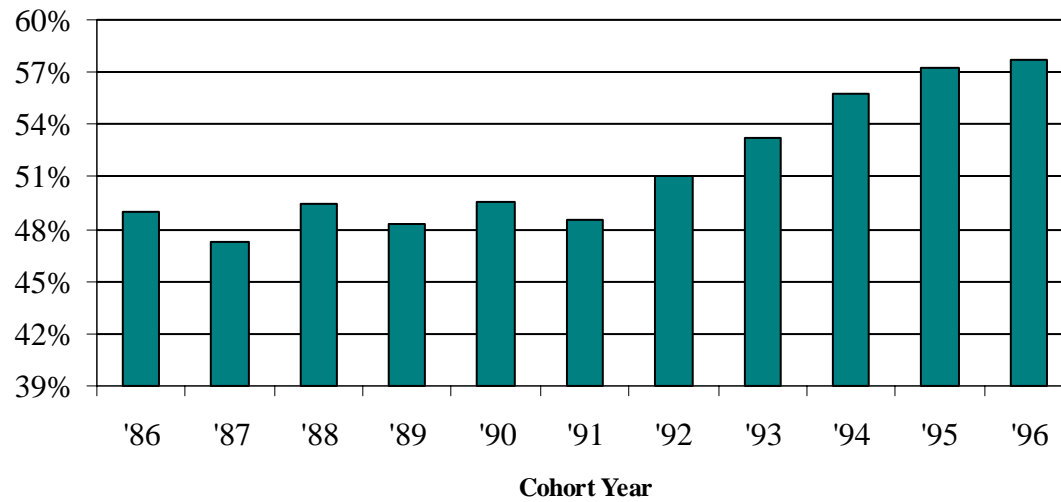
Entering Freshmen Cohort		Retention Rates				Cumulative Graduation Rates		
Year	N	Freshmen Year Spring 1	Sophomore Year Fall 2	Junior Year Fall 3	Senior Year Fall 4	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
1986	2365	90.2 %	74.8 %	65.2 %	60.8 %	21.1 %	41.4 %	48.8 %
1987	2689	92.6 %	77.4 %	69.0 %	62.6 %	18.1 %	40.6 %	47.6 %
1988	2895	90.7 %	75.9 %	65.7 %	59.7 %	20.8 %	42.1 %	49.4 %
1989	2655	91.8 %	76.7 %	66.1 %	59.8 %	20.5 %	41.2 %	48.2 %
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 %	48.2 %
1992	2554	90.5 %	76.8 %	65.6 %	60.1 %	20.5 %	43.4 %	50.8 %
1993	2662	92.0 %	78.9 %	69.0 %	61.7 %	22.5 %	45.9 %	53.1 %
1994	2605	90.5 %	77.8 %	68.2 %	63.7 %	24.4 %	48.6 %	55.4 %
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	2686	91.5 %	79.7 %	71.4 %	68.3 %	26.8 %	53.5%	
1998	2916	91.6 %	78.9 %	70.4 %	66.6 %	27.9%		
1999	2727	91.9 %	80.3 %	71.8 %	67.7%			
2000	2960	91.1 %	77.7 %	71.1%				
2001	3116	91.6%	79.3%					

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

**Figure 1: First-Year Retention Rates at UK**



**Figure 2: Six-Year Graduation Rates at UK**



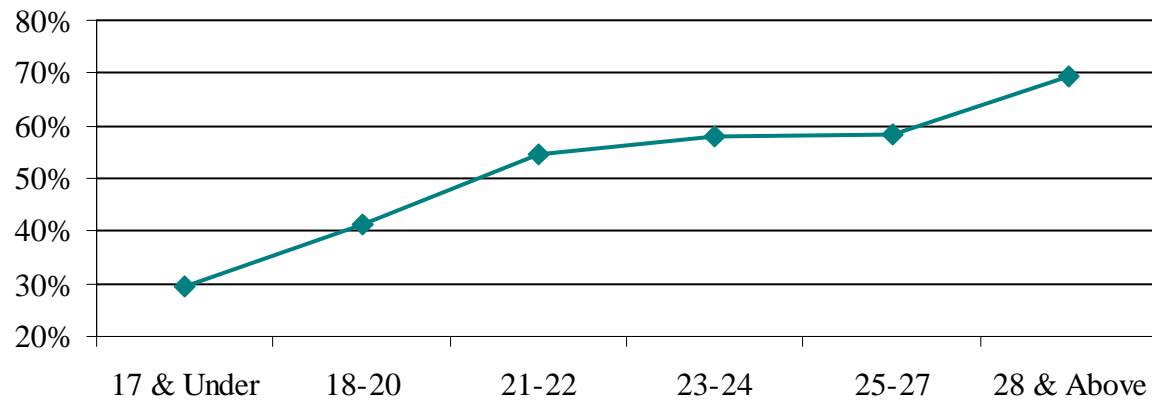
**Table 2: Retention and Graduation Rates of Selected Student Groups at the University of Kentucky**

Student Group	Retention Rate		Graduation Rate	
	Fall 1992 Cohort	Fall 2001 Cohort	Fall 1987 Cohort	Fall 1996 Cohort
Female	77.6 %	82.0 %	50.4 %	59.4 %
Male	76.6 %	76.2 %	44.2 %	55.6 %
White	77.3 %	79.3 %	47.8 %	59.1 %
African American	69.0 %	77.5 %	34.8 %	43.2 %
Other	78.8 %	81.1 %	48.0 %	53.9 %
KY Resident	77.6 %	79.9 %	47.0 %	58.3 %
Out-of-State	75.9 %	76.6 %	49.3 %	55.9 %
All Students	77.2 %	79.3 %	47.3 %	57.7 %

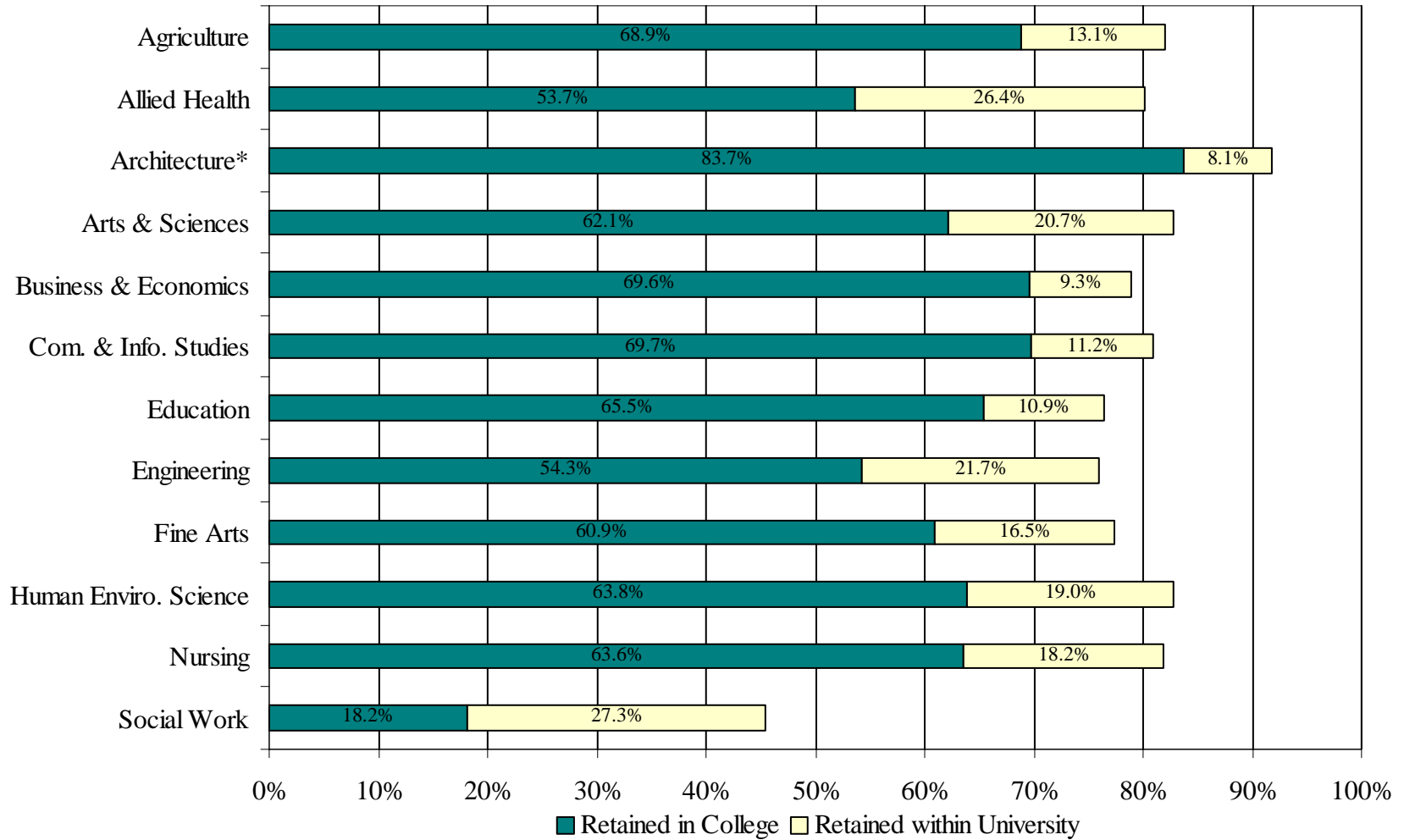
**Table 3: Graduation Rates by ACT Score Ranges  
Fall 1996 Cohort**

ACT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	GRADUATION RATE AFTER ...		
		4 YEARS	5 YEARS	6 YEARS
17 & Under	27	7.4 %	22.2 %	29.6 %
18-20	231	13.0 %	32.0 %	41.1 %
21-22	549	22.0 %	46.1 %	54.5 %
23-24	579	24.0 %	50.3 %	57.9 %
25-27	667	27.1 %	52.0 %	58.5 %
28 & Above	562	42.5 %	62.5 %	69.2 %

**Figure 3: Graduation Rates by ACT Score Ranges  
Fall 1996 Cohort**

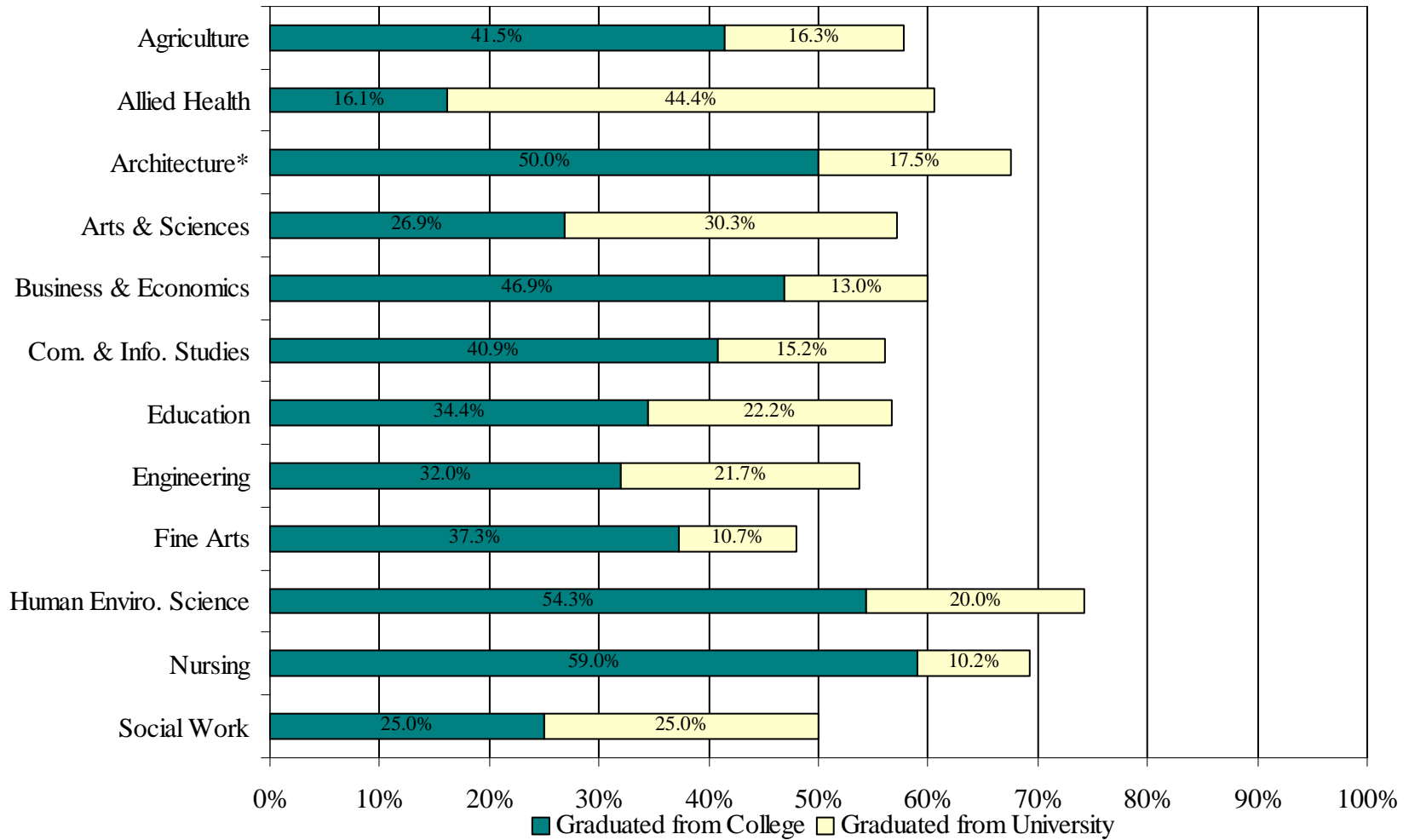


**Figure 4: Retention Rates by Initially Declared College  
Fall 2001 Cohort**



\*Five year program

**Figure 5: Graduation Rates by Initially Declared College  
Fall 1996 Cohort**



\*Five year program