

Cornell University

2010 Undergraduate Graduation Rate Report*

Students Entering Fall 1980 through Fall 2003

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* Throughout this report the following abbreviations apply:

AG: Agriculture & Life Sciences
AR: Architecture, Arts & Planning
AS: Arts & Sciences
EN: Engineering
HA: Hotel Administration
HE: Human Ecology
IL: Industrial & Labor Relations

A. Graduation Rates of First-Time Freshmen

- **Overall and by College**

- Of the 3,131 first-time freshmen entering Cornell in Fall 2003, 92% (2,877 students) earned a baccalaureate degree within six years (see Figure 1). This is an increase in the six-year graduation rate from 83% achieved by the cohort entering in 1980.
- The vast majority of Cornell undergraduates earn degrees within four-years; less than ten percent complete in five or six years (see Figure 1).
- The proportion of students who graduate early—completing degree requirements prior to the spring semester of their fourth year at Cornell—has increased over time from 3-6% in the early 1980s to closer to 10% beginning with the entering class of 2000.
- The college Architecture, Art & Planning, with a five-year bachelors program in architecture, has the lowest six-year graduation rate of the seven undergraduate colleges (see Table 1).

Figure 1. Graduation within six years, by years taken to complete baccalaureate requirements

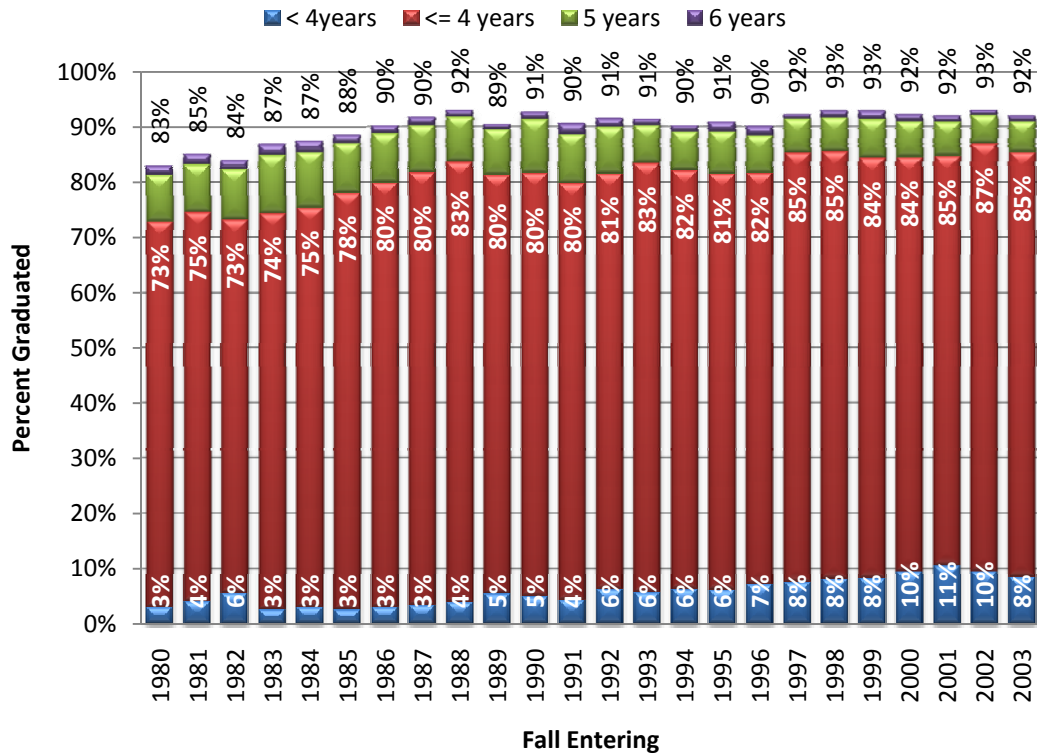


Table 1. Six-year graduation rates by matriculating college

Entering Fall:	First-Time Freshmen Entering in:						
	AR	AS	EN	HA	AG	HE	IL
2003	66.7%	91.9%	92.2%	94.2%	93.0%	95.9%	94.4%
2002	85.2%	93.7%	91.4%	92.7%	93.3%	95.8%	95.9%
2001	68.1%	92.4%	93.7%	90.1%	93.6%	93.4%	93.2%
2000	78.3%	92.0%	92.2%	90.5%	93.5%	95.7%	94.4%
1999	76.5%	92.4%	93.7%	92.2%	93.0%	97.8%	94.0%
1998	81.1%	90.7%	93.7%	94.9%	94.8%	96.4%	94.7%
1997	77.0%	91.5%	91.7%	92.8%	94.4%	95.8%	92.6%
1996	69.7%	88.7%	89.9%	91.8%	91.9%	95.0%	95.1%
1995	73.3%	92.4%	88.3%	89.0%	93.6%	94.3%	93.1%
1994	68.1%	89.8%	90.3%	85.5%	93.2%	92.0%	93.7%
1993	81.1%	90.1%	90.3%	88.4%	93.8%	96.0%	95.0%
1992	81.3%	90.9%	91.6%	95.0%	90.9%	94.1%	95.2%
1991	83.6%	90.2%	89.3%	90.4%	92.3%	92.5%	94.0%
1990	83.3%	91.0%	89.7%	91.1%	93.3%	92.0%	90.2%
1989	85.1%	90.8%	88.8%	90.6%	91.7%	92.5%	93.7%
1988	82.1%	93.6%	90.4%	94.9%	93.8%	95.9%	92.5%
1987	85.1%	90.7%	87.5%	89.4%	89.7%	96.0%	88.0%
1986	86.0%	90.3%	87.9%	91.1%	92.1%	95.3%	91.2%
1985	68.6%	88.7%	89.0%	87.9%	89.1%	89.6%	88.0%
1984	77.3%	89.3%	84.1%	83.2%	88.4%	87.9%	91.6%
1983	85.7%	88.7%	84.2%	81.6%	86.6%	88.7%	88.5%
1982	64.4%	84.9%	83.4%	79.5%	84.8%	86.7%	85.2%
1981	79.3%	83.4%	86.1%	85.6%	85.6%	86.3%	89.5%
1980	77.5%	81.3%	84.6%	84.8%	83.2%	84.0%	84.7%

• **Internal Transfers and Six-Year Graduation Rates**

- Some students entering Cornell as first-time freshmen graduate transfer internally and graduate from a different college at Cornell, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.
- For students entering in Fall 2003, 16% from AR and 13% from HE graduated from another Cornell college (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Fall 2003 Entering Students Six-Year Graduation Rate within/outside Matriculation College, by College of Matriculation

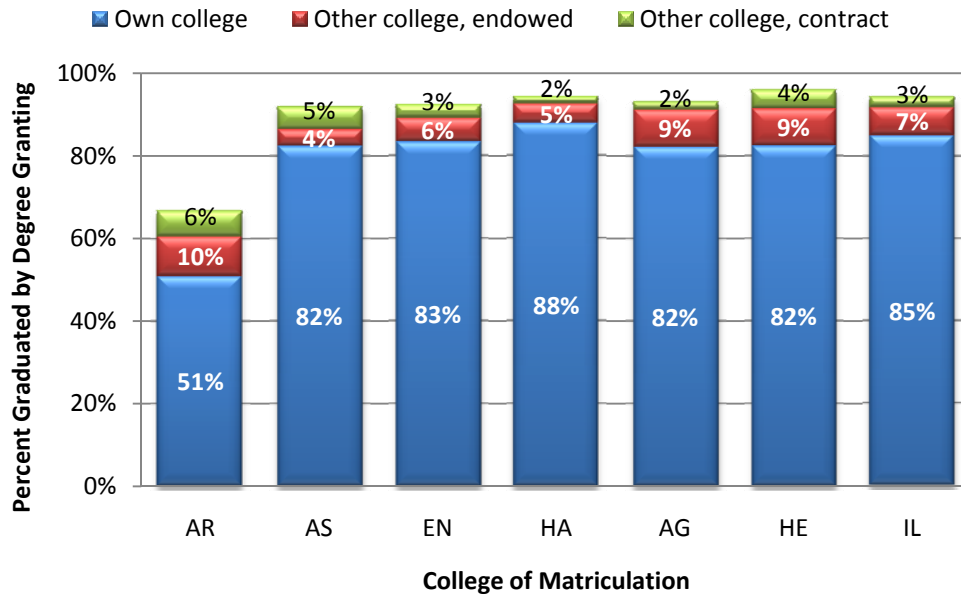
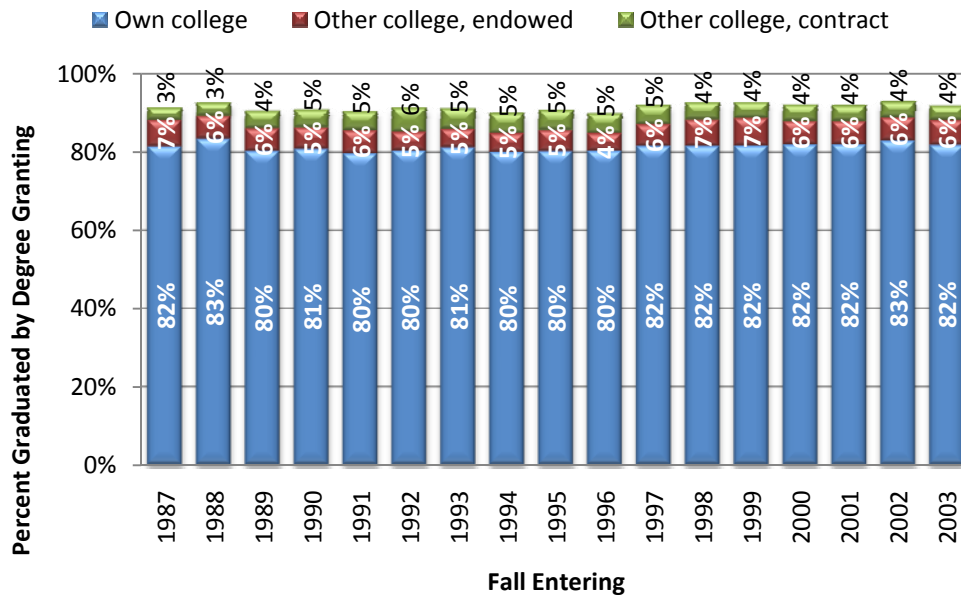


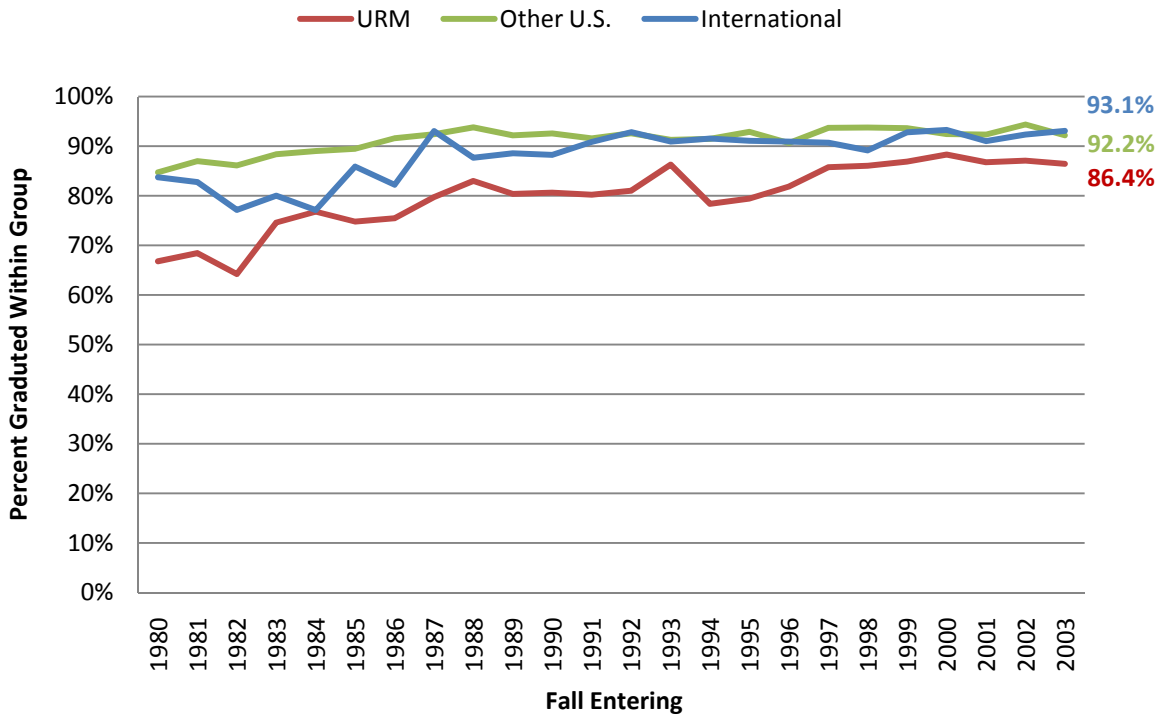
Figure 3. Six-Year Graduation Rate within/outside Matriculation College, Fall 1987 - Fall 2003 Entering Students



● **Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender**

- As illustrated in Figure 4, the gap in graduation rates by race has narrowed over time:
 - In the cohort entering in the fall of 1980, there was a gap of approximately 17 percentage points between six-year graduation rate of under-represented minorities (at 70%) and other American students (87%). By the entering class of Fall 1987, the gap reduced to 13 percentage points.
 - For the students entering in Fall 2003, the gap has further narrowed to 6 percentage points.
- The gap between white and Hispanic American students was 4 percentage points for students entering in Fall 2003 (see Figure 5).
- Overall, women graduate at rates higher than men. Among all first-time freshmen entering in Fall 2003, 93% of women 91% of men graduated within six-years (see Figure 6).
- The pattern of women graduating at higher rates than men holds true within racial/ethnic categories, excepting Native Americans and international students.

Figure 4. Six-year graduation rates by race/ethnic status



Notes: "URM," underrepresented minorities include: African-American, Hispanic-American, Native American, and students indicating 2 or more with at least one of the preceding categories.
 "Other US" includes white, Asian American, and students not declaring a race/ethnicity category.

Figure 5. Fall 2003 Entering Students Graduation in 4, 5, and 6 years by Race/Ethnicity

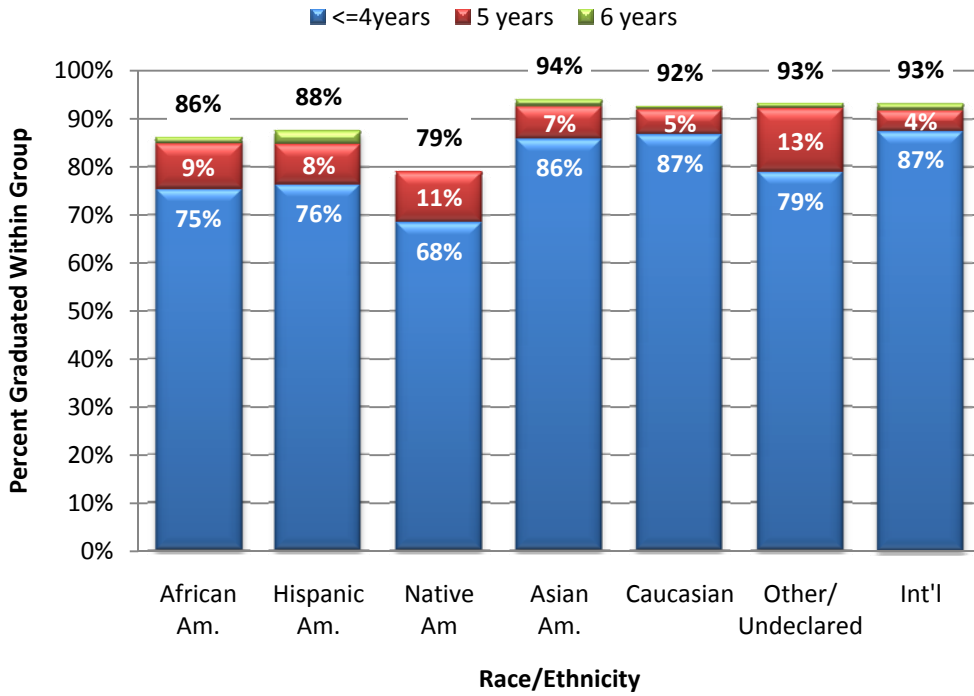
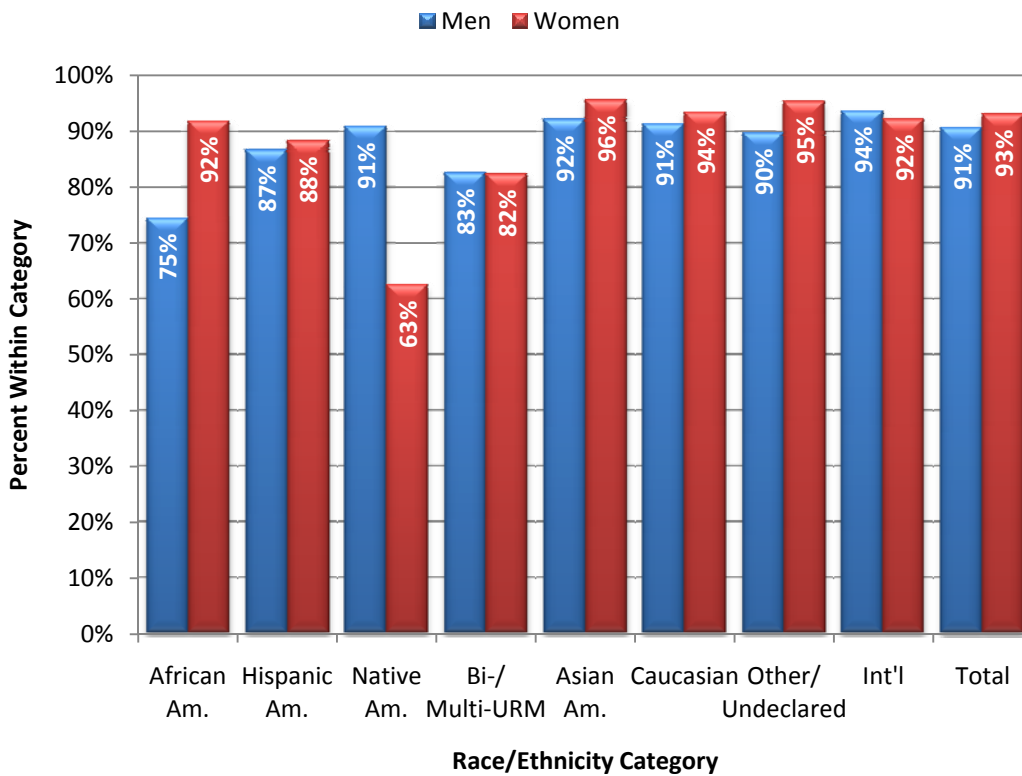


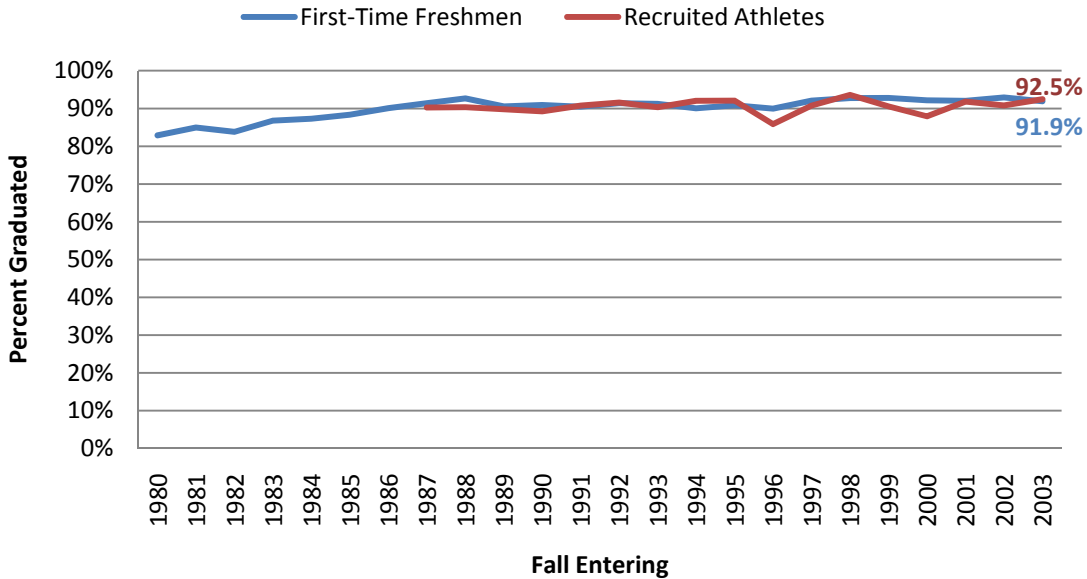
Figure 6. First-time freshmen by gender within race/ethnicity category entering in fall 2003 graduating within six-years



- **Recruited Athletes Six-Year Graduation Rates**

- First-time freshmen who are recruited athletes generally graduate at rates equivalent to the total first-time freshmen population (92 percent) as shown in Figure 7.

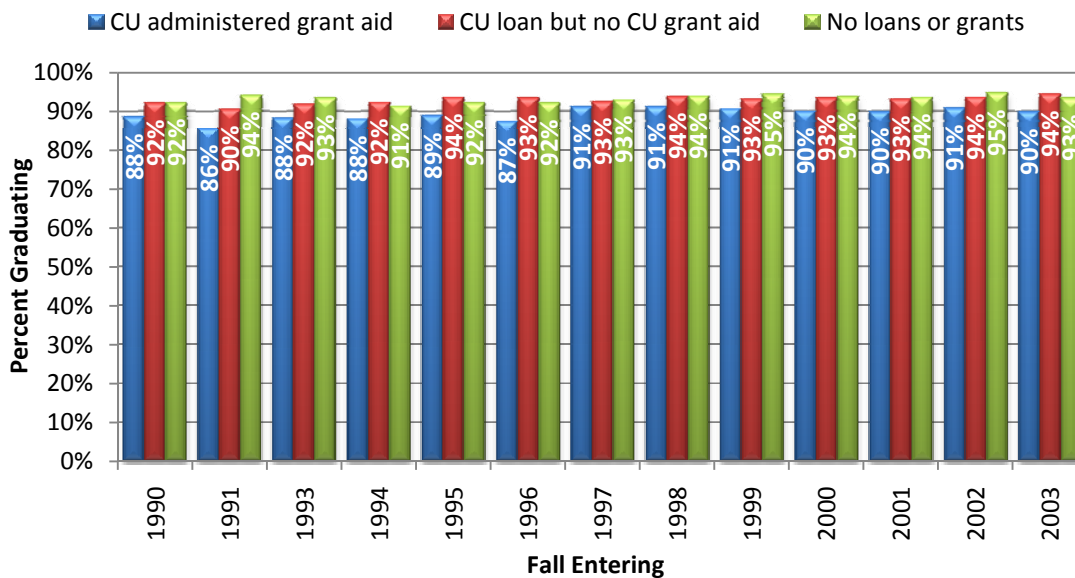
Figure 7. Six-year graduation rate, total and recruited athletes



- **Financial Aid Package Recipients Six-Year Graduation Rates**

- The students with the greatest documented financial need receive Cornell grant aid. Students who receive grant aid graduate at a slightly lower rate than students who receive loans or those who do not receive loans or grants as part of a financial aid award (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Financial aid package recipients' six-year graduation rate



NOTE: Financial aid data for Fall 1992 are not available.

B. Attrition among First-Time Freshmen

- Overall, attrition decreased from 17 percent for those who entering in Fall 1980 (477 students) to 8 percent for first-time freshmen entering in Fall 2003 (254 students).
- For students entering in Fall 2003, a little over a quarter of the attrition group (70 of 254 students) was required to leave or withdraw from Cornell (see Table 2). Over half of the students not graduating within six-years took a non-required leave or withdrawal (166 of 254 students).
- Of the students not obtaining a degree or still enrolled at Cornell after six years (236 students), data from the National Student Clearinghouse indicate that 74 have graduated from another 4-year institution within the six-year window.
- Entering SAT scores are weakly associated with attrition (see Figure 9).
- Geographic origin is weakly associated with attrition (see Figure 10).

Table 2. Attrition categories of first-time freshmen not graduating within six-years

Fall 2003 Entering Class								
Reason	AR	AS	EN	HA	AG	HE	IL	Total
Graduated After Six-Year Window	3	2	2	-	1	-	-	8
Registered as of Fall 2009	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	10
Leave								
Medical	-	20	12	2	4	-	3	41
Required	5	14	3	2	2	-	4	30
Voluntary	7	17	7	2	16	2	2	53
Withdrawal								
Required	-	4	24	4	6	2	-	40
Voluntary	4	15	2	-	15	6	-	42
Other/Unknown	17	8	2	-	2	1	-	30
Total	38	84	56	10	46	11	9	254

Figure 9. Percent by SAT combined score quartiles not graduating within six-year, first-time freshmen

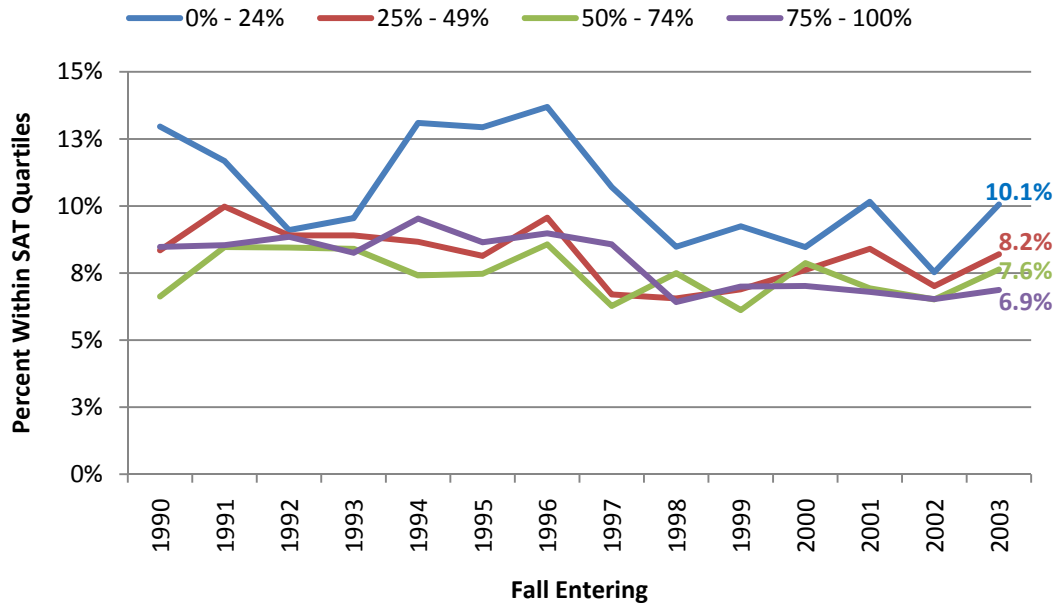
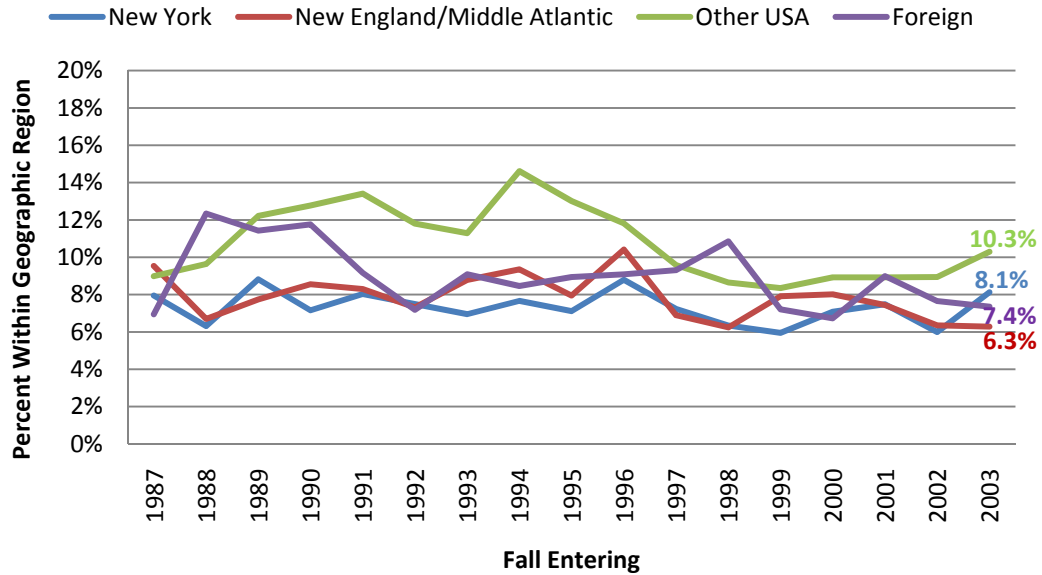


Figure 10. Percent by geographic admit region not graduating within six-years, first-time freshmen



C. Graduation Rates of External Transfers

- Most external transfers enter Cornell during their sophomore or junior year.
- Eighty-three percent of those entering in academic year 2003-04 graduated at within three years and 91% graduated within six years (see Figure 11).
- Among transfer students entering in academic year 2003-04, those in EN had a higher six-year graduation rate than those entering in other colleges (see Table 3, and Figure 12).
- Reflecting differences observed among first-time freshmen, under-represented minorities and men graduate at slightly lower rates than do white US citizens, international students and female students (see Figures 13 and 14).

Figure 11. Graduation rate by years taken

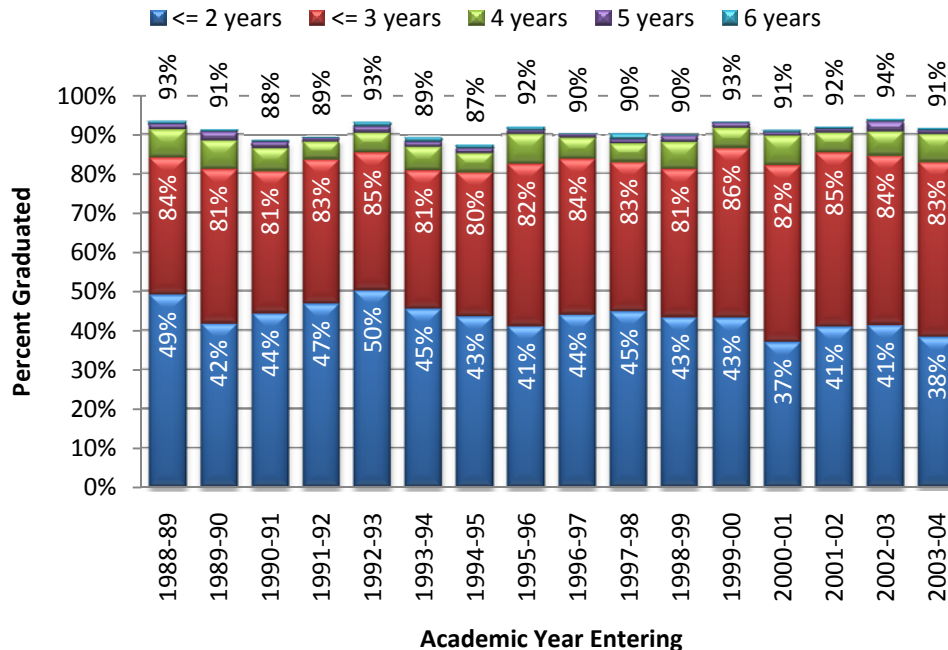


Table 3. Six-year graduation rates by matriculating college

Entering Acad Year:	External Transfers Entering in:						
	AR	AS	EN	HA	AG	HE	IL
2003-04	68.8%	83.8%	96.0%	87.5%	94.1%	94.0%	93.1%
2002-03	66.7%	94.8%	96.0%	86.5%	95.4%	95.8%	94.1%
2001-02	60.0%	91.3%	84.6%	88.5%	91.7%	94.5%	97.7%
2000-01	70.6%	91.2%	87.5%	91.3%	90.3%	94.6%	91.9%
1999-00	85.7%	92.2%	93.7%	94.7%	93.4%	92.5%	94.9%
1998-99	70.0%	90.4%	93.5%	92.6%	87.6%	91.0%	95.4%
1997-98	50.0%	92.8%	86.8%	91.1%	91.8%	88.9%	91.5%
1996-97	64.7%	91.3%	76.9%	96.7%	89.9%	91.9%	97.9%
1995-96	84.2%	87.4%	86.7%	94.1%	92.5%	94.8%	97.2%
1994-95	56.3%	87.1%	93.5%	84.5%	87.0%	91.2%	89.7%
1993-94	78.6%	83.8%	90.3%	82.4%	90.6%	91.9%	97.4%
1992-93	92.0%	95.1%	100.0%	88.4%	91.9%	91.9%	93.3%
1991-92	77.8%	84.8%	87.1%	92.6%	89.5%	89.9%	90.9%
1990-91	90.9%	87.6%	87.2%	90.2%	86.0%	91.5%	90.5%
1989-90	80.8%	91.6%	82.4%	97.1%	90.2%	92.9%	96.2%
1988-89	75.0%	91.9%	91.4%	98.0%	92.9%	94.9%	93.0%

Figure 12. Graduation time of academic year 2003-2004 external transfers, by college

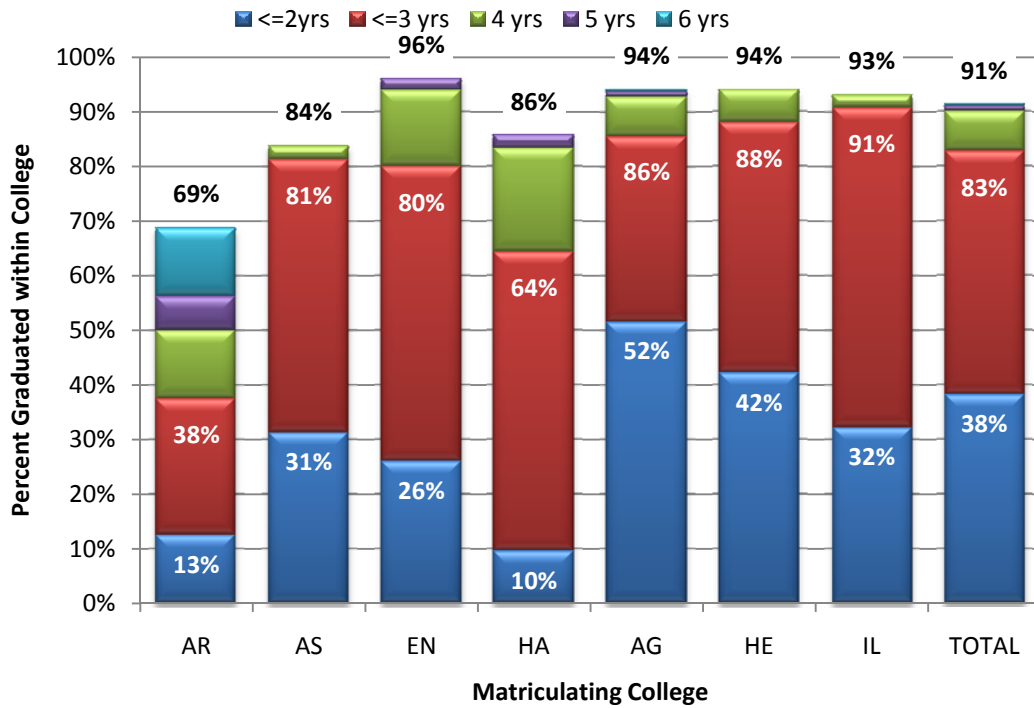


Figure 13. Graduation time of academic year 2003-2004 external transfers, by race/ethnicity

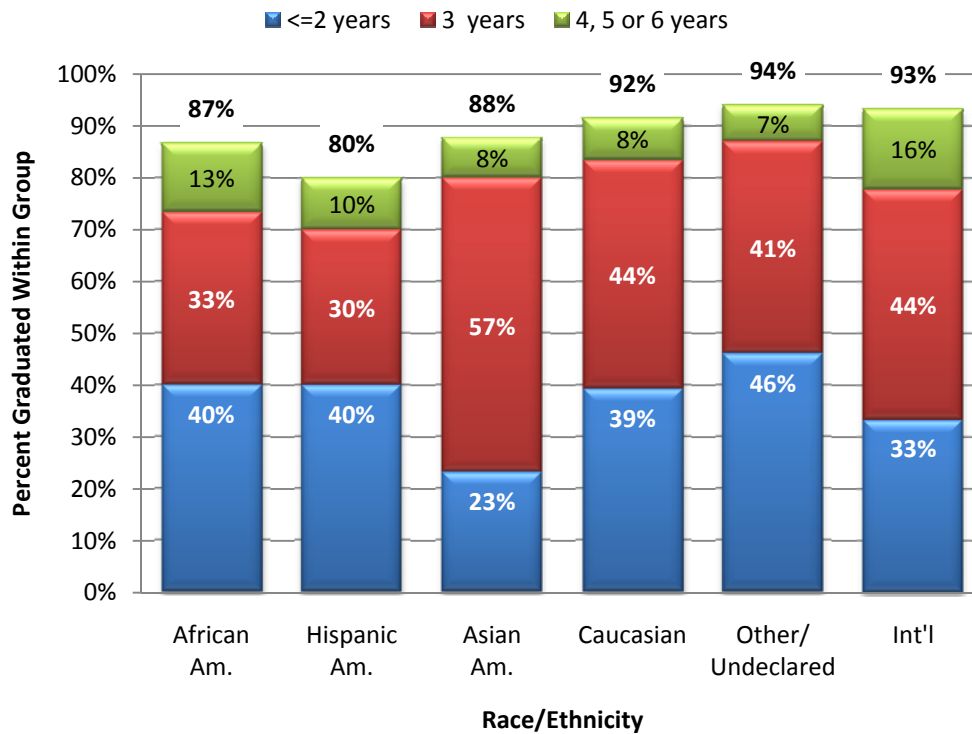


Figure 14. Graduation time of external transfers, by sex

