

Athlete Retention and Graduation Rate Review

Part 1: Retention

In August 2001, an analysis was conducted of athlete retention based on the standard cohort method of tracking fall-to-fall retention of entering first-time freshmen who participated in athletics during their first year. The retention rates varied considerably between cohort years, which was accentuated by the small number of freshmen athletes in each entering cohort. As an example of the variability, freshmen-to-sophomore retention ranged from 55% to 95%. The average freshman-to-sophomore retention rate across all 7 athlete cohorts was 72%, which compares to an average 67% freshman-to-sophomore retention rate for the same time period for all entering freshmen at Evergreen.

The following table depicts an overview of summary statistics for the 5 first-time freshmen athlete cohorts that were analyzed:

First-time Freshmen Athlete Cohort Year	Number of athletes in each cohort	% who Returned to TESC 2 nd Fall*	% who Returned to TESC 3 rd Fall*	% who Returned to TESC 4 th Fall*	% who Returned to TESC 5 th Fall*
94/95	25	76%	72%	60%	68%
95/96	19	63%	58%	37%	47%
96/97	18	83%	61%	61%	56%
97/98	20	95%	70%	70%	55%
98/99	20	55%	50%	35%	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>
99/00	26	62%	69%	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>
00/01	14	71%	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>

* All retention rates are adjusted for students who graduated.

Another issue complicated the determination of retention rates for Evergreen athletes – the variation in who Evergreen’s athletes were from year to year. It is important to remember that while all freshmen cohort members played during their first year, not all of them continued to participate in athletics throughout their Evergreen experience. A considerable number of freshmen athletes do not continue to play during later academic years. The next table demonstrates the drop off in athletic participation over time by freshmen athletes. At the highest point in the seven years that were examined 55% of the freshmen athletes returned to become sophomore athletes, at the lowest point 21% continued with athletics to their sophomore year. It was fortunate for college retention that the rate of freshmen athletes returning to Evergreen is consistently higher than their rate of returning to the athletic program.

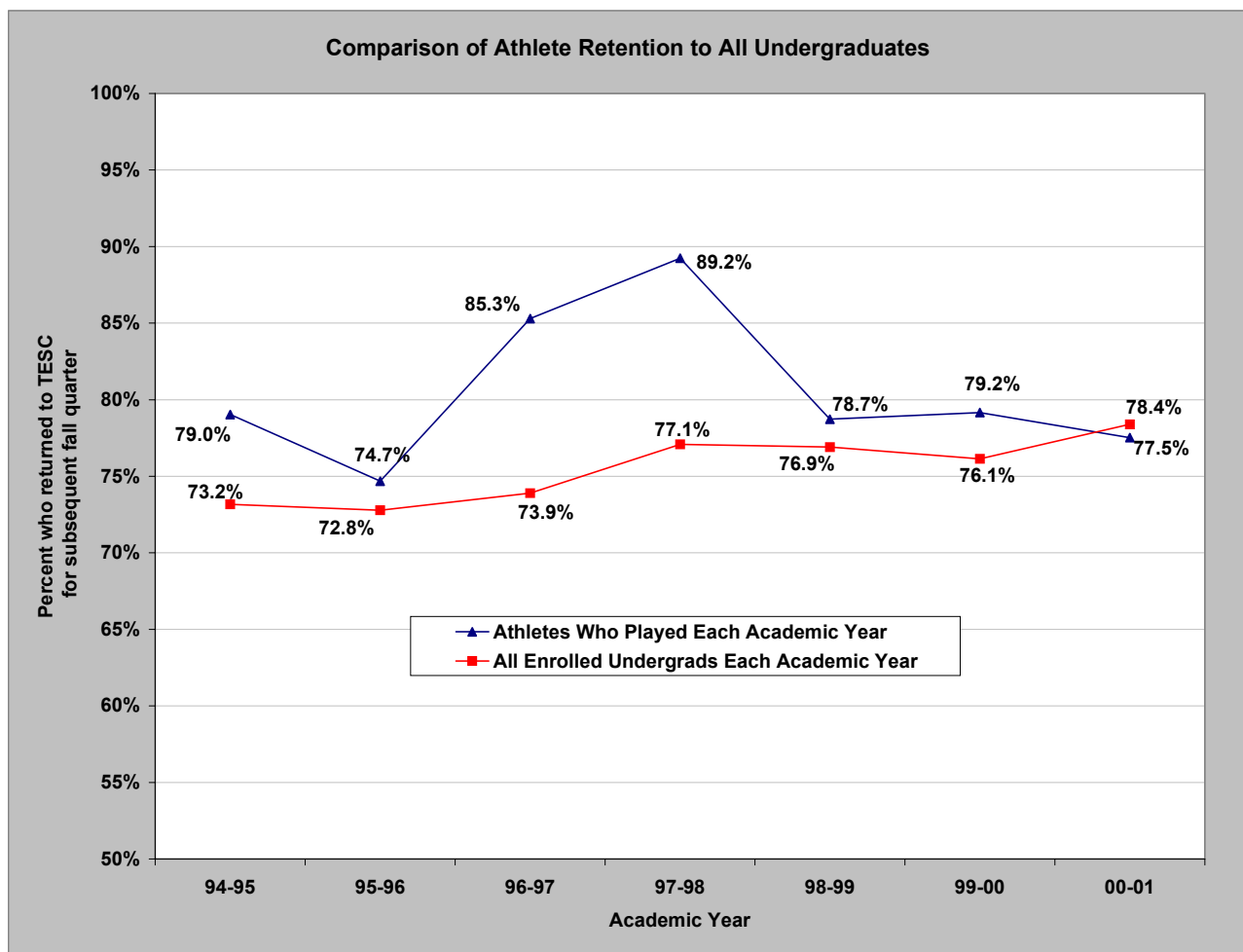
Did freshmen athletes continue to be athletes?				
Entering fall quarter	Original N 1 st yr.	Number who played 2 nd yr.	Number who played 3 rd yr.	Number who played 4 th yr.
94	25	11	14	11
95	19	4	3	2
96	18	9	7	4
97	20	11	6	6
98	20	5	4	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>
99	26	8	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>
00	14	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>	<i>Data not yet avail.</i>

Based on the variables and complications noted previously, a second review of athletic retention was undertaken in December 2001. All athletes who played in a given year, regardless of their class standing, were reviewed for Evergreen enrollment in the subsequent fall quarter. This method allows a comparison to overall undergraduate student retention rates at Evergreen. The next table shows the number of student athletes who played during each year included in the retention analysis.

Academic Year	Number of Athletes
94/95	62
95/96	79
96/97	68
97/98	93
98/99	94
99/00	96
00/01	89

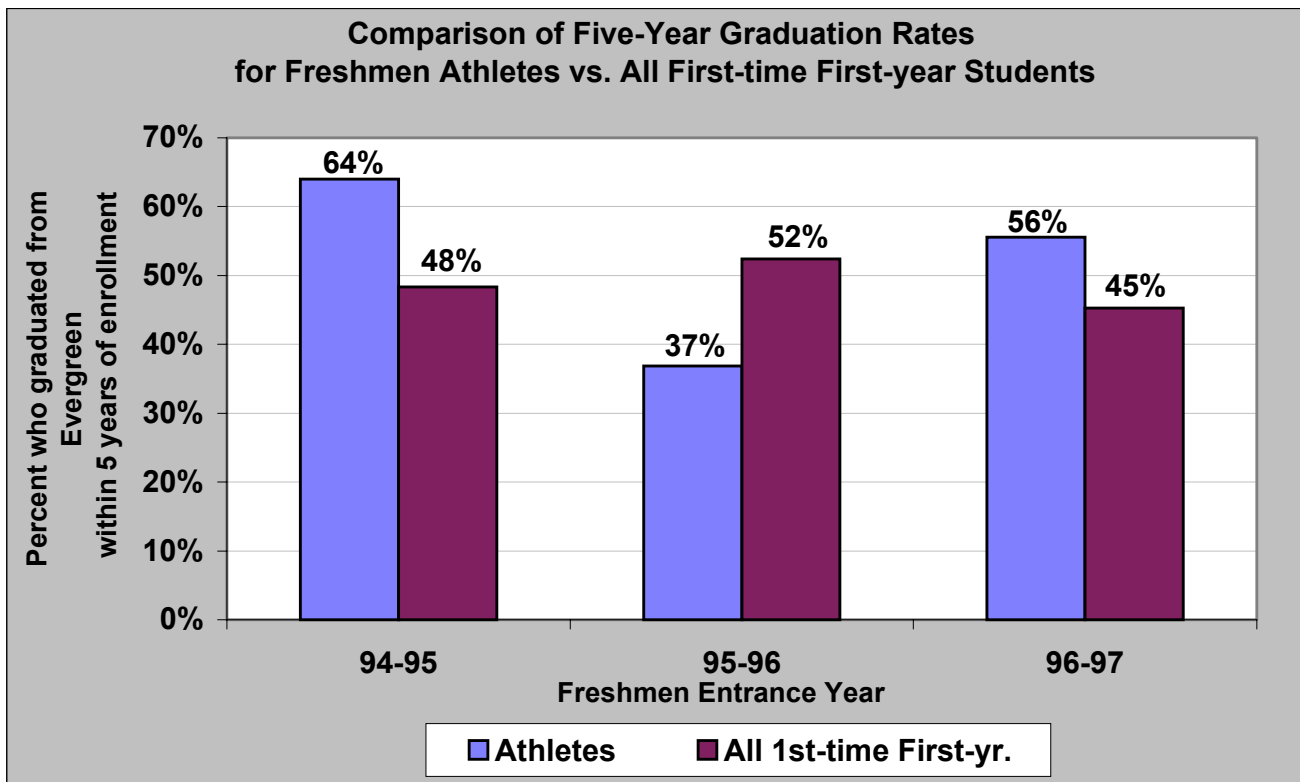
The next chart illustrates a comparison of athlete retention to overall undergraduate retention rates at Evergreen for seven academic years (94/95 – 00/01). All retention rates are adjusted to include students who graduated. The chart provides the rate at which each group at Evergreen was retained to the subsequent fall quarter.

With only one exception, athletes who played in a given academic year returned to Evergreen the following fall at higher rates than all undergraduates combined. The one exception was last year, AY 2000-01, in which overall undergraduate retention climbed slightly above the rate for athletes.



Part 2: Graduation Rates

For analysis of five-year graduation rates, the freshmen athlete cohort method was employed again in order to have a comparison to a standard measurement of a larger student population. The most common graduation rate reporting method for the college is a five-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen cohorts, thus it is possible to compare those measurements to the freshmen athlete cohorts. In the next chart, 5-year graduation rates for the freshmen athlete cohorts are presented in comparison to cohorts of all first-time freshmen at Evergreen. **The average 5-year graduation rate across the freshmen athlete cohorts (94/95 – 96/97) is 53%; this compares to an average 5-yr. graduation rate for all first-time freshmen at Evergreen (cohorts 94/95 – 96/97) of 49%.**



The presence of transfer students in the athletic program raised curiosity about their success in completing degrees at Evergreen. Of the 377 students who participated in Evergreen athletic programs between AY 94/95 and AY 00/01, 56% started at Evergreen as first-time freshmen, and 44% transferred into Evergreen.

An exploration of transfer student athlete graduation rates was undertaken. First, an entrance class-standing was assigned to each transfer student based on the number of credits the student transferred to Evergreen upon entrance to the college. Then, in order to create a graduation rate that would be generally comparable to the standard five-year graduation rate, students who transferred in with freshmen-standing were allowed 5 years to graduate, sophomores allowed 4 years, juniors were checked after 3 years, and seniors given 2 years for successful completion. Transfer student athletes had higher graduation rate success than first-time freshmen athletes, and their rates increased with their

class-standing at entrance. The following table shows the results of this transfer student graduation rate analysis. Please note that the graduation rates were only calculated for transfer students for whom sufficient time had passed to determine the equivalent of a 5-year graduation rate.

Athletes who Transferred in as...	<i>Total # who played between AY 94/95 and AY 00/01</i>	Total # for whom sufficient time had passed to estimate 5 yr. graduation rate	# who graduated in specified time	% who graduated within equivalent of 5 years
Freshmen	33	13	8	62%
Sophomores	63	32	24	75%
Juniors	69	51	46	90%
Seniors	2	2	2	100%
Total Transfer Student Athletes	167	98	80	82%

Part 3: IPEDS Mandated Reporting Measure

One final measure of athletic graduation rates is available per our reports to IPEDS each year for first-time freshmen athletes who received athletic financial aid. IPEDS requests graduation rates within six years (150%), so they allow an extra year for students to graduate compared to the 5-year rates presented previously in this review. The following table shows the available historical data that Evergreen has reported to IPEDS on this measure.

Cohort Year	Number of first-time Freshmen who received athletically-related aid	Number who achieved degree within six years	% of Cohort that achieved degree within six years
1994/95	17	14	82%
1993/94	15	6	40%
1992/93	8	4	50%
1991/92	19	11	58%
	<i>4-Year Total = 59</i>	<i>4-Year Total = 35</i>	<i>4-Year Average = 59%</i>