



2018

Keeping Score When It Counts:

Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of 2018
NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Teams

by Richard E. Lapchick
Edited by Brett Estrella

*Study Reveals Women Are Doing Better Than Men And
The Gap Between African-American and White Student-Athletes Has Decreased on
Both Men's and Women's Teams*

Presented by:
The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport
with the **DeVos Sport Business Management Program**
in the **College of Business Administration**
of the





Media Contact:
Brett Estrella 508-577-2767, bestrella@knights.ucf.edu

Keeping Score When It Counts: Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of 2018 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Teams

*Study Reveals Women Are Doing Better Than Men And
The Gap Between African-American and White Student-Athletes Has Decreased on
Both Men's and Women's Teams*

Orlando, FL... March 13, 2018– The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) released its annual study, **“Keeping Score When It Counts: Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of 2018 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Teams,”** which compares graduation rates and academic progress rates for Division I teams that have been selected for the men's and women's brackets of the 2018 NCAA Basketball Tournaments.

Dr. Richard Lapchick, the primary author of the study, is the director of TIDES and Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored by Brett Estrella. Graphs and tables were generated by Zachary Gerhart.

This study is a follow-up report to the men's tournament study that was released on March 12, 2018 <http://nebula.wsimg.com/eee1b03a6137393ff5c953ddf9627073?AccessKeyId=DAC3A56D8FB782449D2A&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>. The study compared the academic performance of male and female basketball student-athletes and of African-American and white basketball student-athletes by examining the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and the Academic Progress Rates (APR) for the tournament teams. The women graduated at a rate of 92 percent vs. 78 percent for the men. For the first time in the history of this report, there were no men's teams with an APR below a 930 (see [Appendix A](#)).

Lapchick stated, “Always good, the GSR and APRs for women were eye popping for the 2018 teams. There were 28 women's teams with a 100 percent graduation rate and 16 teams that scored a perfect APR score of 1000. For comparison, only 12 of the 2018 men's teams had a 100 percent graduation rate and 9 boasted a 1000 APR (see [Appendix B](#)). Student-athletes on women's basketball teams graduate at a significantly higher rate than student-athletes on men's basketball teams.

The gap between white and African-American student-athletes has always been significantly smaller on women's teams than on men's teams. The disparity between graduation rates of white and African-

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
Tel: 407-823-1516 or 407-823-4887 • Fax: 407-823-3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

~MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE~

American female student-athletes decreased by six percentage points which resulted in a three percentage point gap (see [Appendix C](#)). This is yet another milestone achieved by women in this report as this is the smallest the disparity ever recorded between the two groups of athletes. As for men's teams, the disparity between graduation rates of white and African-American male student-athletes was 18 percentage points which ties the lowest the gap has ever been. These findings are good news for college basketball in a year when there was so much bad news.

Every single women's team had a GSR of at least 60 percent in 2018. Last year, two institutions fell below this mark (see [Appendix D](#)).

This year Creighton, Gonzaga and Villanova had a team in the men's and women's tournament each of which had a 100 percent graduation rate.

Lapchick said, "There are many categories where the women outperform the men academically. White female basketball student-athletes on tournament teams graduated at a rate of 94 percent compared to 91 percent for African-American female basketball student-athletes. White male basketball student-athletes on tournament teams graduated at the rate of 92 percent versus only 74 percent of African-American male basketball student-athletes. The three percentage point women's gap is far less than the 18 percentage point men's gap. The gap for women decreased from nine percent in 2017 to three in 2018. The gap for men decreased from 19 percent in 2017 to 18 percent in 2018.

In 2018, 100 percent of the women's tournament teams graduated at least 50 percent of their basketball student-athletes. In comparison, 94 percent of the men's teams in this year's tournament graduated at least 50 percent of their basketball student-athletes. Thus, there is a six percentage point gap between women's and men's basketball graduation rates at the 50 percent mark in the 2018 tournament."

Lapchick added that, "while there is some good news in the reports regarding GSRs and APRs, it is still not acceptable that in 2018, 26 percent of the men's teams had a 30 percentage point or greater gap as did 5 percent of the women's tournament teams between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes."

In addition:

- 97 percent of the women's teams compared to 69 percent of the men's teams graduated at least 70 percent creating a 28 percent gap.
- 100 percent of the women's teams compared to 82 percent of the men's teams graduated at least 60 percent resulting in a 18 percent gap.
- There were no women's or men's teams that graduated less than 40 percent.

Based on Graduation Success Rate data, additional highlights from the study include the following:

70 percent graduation rates

- **93 percent** of the women's tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while **90 percent** graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes, which resulted in an **three percentage point gap, which was the same as in 2017.**

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tel: 407-823-1516 or 407-823-4887 • Fax: 407-823-3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

~MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE~

- Among the men's teams, **91 percent** of the men's tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while only **62 percent** graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes, resulting in a **29 percent percentage point gap** among the men, which was a **four percentage point** increase from **25 percent in 2017**.

60 percent graduation rates

- **97 percent** of the women's tournament teams graduated at least 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while **100 percent** graduate 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes which resulted in a **three percentage point gap** where African-American basketball student athletes are graduating at a higher rate than white basketball student athletes. This gap was a reversal of the five percentage point disparity in 2017 where African-American basketball student athletes trailed their white teammates in this category.
- Among the men's teams, **92 percent** graduated 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while only **82 percent** graduate 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes. This resulted in an **10 percent percentage point gap**. This was an **eight point** decrease from the **18 percent disparity in 2017**.

50 percent graduation rates

- **98 percent** of the women's teams graduated at least 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, and **100 percent** graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes. This progress eliminated the three percentage point gap between the two groups in 2017 and reversed the gap with whites being two percentage points behind their African-American peers.
- **96 percent** of the men's tournament teams graduated 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while only **88 percent** graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes. This resulted in an **8 percentage point gap** among the men, which was a four percentage point decrease from the 12 percentage point gap in 2017.

There are **28** women's teams that had a 100 percent graduation rate: American University, Belmont University, Central Michigan University, Creighton University, DePaul University, Drake University, Elon University, Florida State University, George Washington University, Gonzaga University, Marquette University, Mississippi State University, Princeton University, South Dakota State University, Stanford University, University of California – Los Angeles, University of Connecticut, University of Dayton, University of Maine, University of Maryland – College Park, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, University of Missouri – Columbia, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, University of Northern Colorado, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and Villanova University.

Lapchick noted, "There are 16 teams within the women's basketball tournament field and nine in the men's field that scored a perfect APR score of 1000."

The NCAA has raised its standards to a 930 or greater APR. For the first time in history, not a single men's team fell below this new benchmark. Only one women's team did not reach the standard.

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tel: 407-823-1516 or 407-823-4887 • Fax: 407-823-3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

~MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE~

As in the men's report, Lapchick emphasized that, "Athletes are used to competing by raising the bar. The academic reforms have led to positive change since their passage more than a decade ago. We need to raise the bar and move toward 60 percent graduation rate being the acceptable standard for the APR. This year 82 percent of the teams in the men's tournament and 100 percent in the women's tournament would already meet such a new standard. The NCAA started to do this by raising the APR minimum score to 930. We need to raise the bar higher."

The APR, developed in 2004, is a four-year average of academic performance that rewards student-athletes for remaining eligible as well as continuing their education at the same school. The NCAA voted to institute stricter policies with regards to APR performance and postseason athletic participation by raising the score from 925 to 930, equivalent to a 50 percent graduation rate, to qualify for postseason participation the following year. The current system provides that teams scoring below a 930 APR can lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Teams can also be subject to historical penalties for poor academic performance over time.

The APR data does not include data from the 2016-17 academic performances of the teams in the study, but instead uses the four years of data ending in the 2015-16 school year. This is the most updated data available on the NCAA website.

Lapchick noted, "Race remains a continuing academic issue, not only in college sports, but also in higher education in general. The 18 percentage point gap between graduation rates for white and African-American male basketball student-athletes and three percentage point gap among the women demonstrates that. However, it must be emphasized that African-American male basketball student-athletes graduate at a much higher rate than African-American males who are not student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American male college students as a whole is only 40 percent, a full 34 percentage points lower than that for African-American male basketball student-athletes. The general African-American female student body as a whole has a 49 percent graduation rate which is a huge 42 percentage points lower than their student-athlete peers."

Lapchick stated that, "Women's basketball student-athletes epitomize the balance that is needed to be a successful contemporary student-athlete."

Note: The percentages for the women's report were calculated as follows:

1. *Overall rates were based on 64 women's teams.*
2. *Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 61 teams due to Creighton University, Princeton University, and South Dakota State University having no reported African-American basketball student-athletes eligible to graduate in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes were based on 58 teams due to Grambling State University, Mercer University, North Carolina A&T State University, Princeton University, University of Miami (Florida), and University of South Florida having no reported white basketball student-athletes eligible to graduate in the period recorded.*
4. *The disparity figures were based on 56 teams due to a lack of reporting for white or African-American student-athletes or there was not a certain race represented on a team. Princeton University did not disclose race information for their African-American or white basketball student athletes.*

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tel: 407-823-1516 or 407-823-4887 • Fax: 407-823-3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

~MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE~

Note: The percentages for the men's report were calculated as follows:

1. *Overall rates were based on 68 men's teams.*
2. *Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 68 teams, as each team had at least one African-American basketball student-athlete eligible to graduate in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes were based on 53 teams because the following 15 teams: Georgia State University, Gonzaga University, Marshall University, North Carolina Central University, Radford University, St. Bonaventure University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas Southern University, University of Alabama, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, University of Cincinnati, University of Houston, University of Miami (Florida), University of Missouri – Columbia, and Virginia Tech had no white basketball student-athletes that were eligible to graduate in the period recorded.*
4. *The disparity figures were based on 53 teams due to the fact that the 15 teams listed above either had no white basketball student-athletes or African-American basketball student-athletes eligible to graduate in the period reported.*

The GSR was developed in 2005 in response to the demand for a more accurate measure of graduation performance of NCAA athletics programs. In order to calculate the GSR, the NCAA tracks student-athletes for six years following their entrance to an NCAA member institution to monitor the graduation rates of member institutions and their athletic programs. The GSR is used by the NCAA as a measuring device to signal performance of NCAA athletic programs while the APR is used to determine penalties for academically underperforming athletic programs.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport ("TIDES" or the "Institute") serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sport. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sport, as well as the internationally recognized Racial and Gender Report Card, an assessment of hiring practices in coaching and sport management in professional and college sport. Additionally, the Institute conducts diversity management training in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports. The Institute also monitors some of the critical ethical issues in college and professional sport, including the potential for exploitation of student-athletes, performance-enhancing drugs and violence in sport.

The Institute is part of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program in the University of Central Florida's College of Business Administration. This landmark program focuses on business skills necessary for graduates to conduct successful careers in the rapidly changing and dynamic sport business and entertainment management industry while also emphasizing diversity, community service, and social issues in sport.

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tel: 407-823-1516 or 407-823-4887 • Fax: 407-823-3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

~MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE~

Team	APR	Overall Men's Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student Athlete	White Men's Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athletes (%)
		GSR	GSR	GSR	GSR
Arizona State University	990	93	90	100	87
Auburn University	978	60	62	100	82
Bucknell University	1000	100	100	100	95
Butler University	968	82	67	100	86
California State University, Fullerton	937	75	71	100	76
Clemson University	1000	88	83	100	91
College of Charleston	980	70	57	100	81
Creighton University	981	100	100	100	96
Davidson College	1000	100	100	100	98
Duke University	990	100	100	100	97
Florida State University	973	85	78	100	84
Georgia State University	953	58	60	N/A	81
Gonzaga University	995	100	100	N/A	99
Iona College	959	87	83	100	91
Kansas State University	965	100	100	100	84
Lipscomb	971	64	50	75	85
Long Island University - Brooklyn	970	93	89	100	90
Loyola University Chicago	969	88	67	100	99
Marshall University	960	70	67	N/A	85
Michigan State University	1000	71	67	100	87
Murray State University	958	64	70	0	83
New Mexico State University	966	60	75	100	75
North Carolina Central University	952	80	79	N/A	77
North Carolina State University	956	56	43	100	85
Providence College	984	55	44	100	92
Purdue University	960	92	83	100	84
Radford University	980	57	60	N/A	88
St. Bonaventure University	958	90	100	N/A	91
San Diego State University	980	50	38	100	79
Seton Hall University	1000	90	88	100	92
South Dakota State University	976	91	100	100	83
Stephen F. Austin State University	967	67	69	N/A	66
Syracuse University	1000	60	50	100	91
Texas A&M University	989	80	71	100	81
Texas Christian University	957	67	60	100	85
Texas Southern University	954	75	75	N/A	62
Texas Tech University	946	80	78	100	82
The Ohio State University	950	75	75	67	86
University at Buffalo	947	73	70	100	81
University of Alabama	979	100	100	N/A	90
University of Arizona	974	100	100	100	84
University of Arkansas (Fayetteville)	960	75	78	N/A	80
University of California Los Angeles	950	44	20	75	86
University of Cincinnati	974	47	46	N/A	86
University of Florida	990	73	71	100	83
University of Houston	964	40	33	N/A	74
University of Kansas	979	100	100	100	83
University of Kentucky	1000	78	60	100	85
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	946	86	75	100	81
University of Miami (Florida)	974	92	100	N/A	91
University of Michigan	995	90	67	100	91
University of Missouri, Columbia	934	73	70	N/A	91
University of Montana	965	82	75	86	80
University of Nevada, Reno	961	73	63	50	81
University of North Carolina Greensboro	975	85	83	80	83
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	985	40	43	100	84
University of Oklahoma	980	63	67	100	83
University of Pennsylvania	979	100	100	100	97
University of Rhode Island	989	69	63	100	84
University of Tennessee	965	89	100	0	85
University of Texas	989	71	50	100	87
University of Virginia	975	78	100	50	90
Villanova University	1000	100	100	100	95
Virginia Tech	963	80	71	N/A	90
West Virginia University	1000	80	75	100	80
Wichita State University	981	63	45	100	80
Wright State University	965	100	100	100	87
Xavier University	969	91	88	100	93

Team	APR	Overall Women's Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student Athlete	White Women's Basketball Student- Athlete	Overall Student-Athletes (%)
		GSR	GSR	GSR	GSR
American University	984	100	100	100	96
Arizona State University	1000	92	89	100	89
Baylor University	972	87	80	100	89
Belmont University	996	100	100	100	98
Boise State University	969	79	80	100	87
California State University, Northridge	966	83	75	100	79
Central Michigan University	992	100	100	100	82
Creighton University	1000	100	N/A	100	96
DePaul University	1000	100	100	100	93
Drake University	995	100	100	100	87
Duke University	971	92	86	100	97
Elon University	1000	100	100	100	94
Florida Gulf Coast University	1000	92	100	88	78
Florida State University	985	100	100	100	84
George Washington University	991	100	100	100	94
Gonzaga University	1000	100	100	100	99
Grambling State University	885	69	69	N/A	66
Liberty University	996	93	100	80	87
Louisiana State University	975	93	91	100	90
Marquette University	973	100	100	100	93
Mercer University	975	90	100	N/A	92
Mississippi State University	982	100	100	100	90
Nicholls State University	950	67	63	67	80
North Carolina A&T State University	982	91	91	N/A	68
North Carolina State University	995	85	80	100	85
Oklahoma State University	975	77	63	100	70
Oregon State University	1000	80	67	100	78
Princeton University	996	100	N/A	N/A	98
Quinnipiac University	996	92	100	83	88
Saint Francis University	987	86	100	78	90
Seattle University	1000	94	100	83	95
South Dakota State University	991	100	N/A	100	83
Stanford University	1000	100	100	100	97
Syracuse University	996	93	91	100	91
Texas A&M University	986	86	83	100	81
The Ohio State University	987	86	89	75	86
University at Buffalo	995	93	83	100	81
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	980	73	77	50	81
University of California, Berkeley	966	83	89	0	81
University of California Los Angeles	979	100	100	100	86
University of Connecticut	989	100	100	100	89
University of Dayton	990	100	100	100	94
University of Georgia	978	86	88	100	83
University of Iowa	988	92	67	100	90
University of Louisville	1000	87	82	100	86
University of Maine, Orono	992	100	100	100	87
University of Maryland, College Park	990	100	100	100	84
University of Miami (Florida)	985	92	89	N/A	91
University of Michigan	995	100	100	100	91
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	979	100	100	100	92
University of Missouri, Columbia	991	100	100	100	91
University of Nebraska, Lincoln	990	100	100	100	89
University of Northern Colorado	996	100	100	100	86
University of Notre Dame	1000	83	83	75	98
University of Oklahoma	1000	91	75	100	83
University of Oregon	990	73	67	67	81
University of South Carolina	1000	86	82	100	93
University of South Florida	983	89	83	N/A	82
University of Tennessee	989	92	86	100	85
University of Texas	1000	93	89	100	87
University of Virginia	1000	100	100	100	90
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay	986	100	100	100	94
Villanova University	1000	100	100	100	95
Western Kentucky University	960	90	89	100	82

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

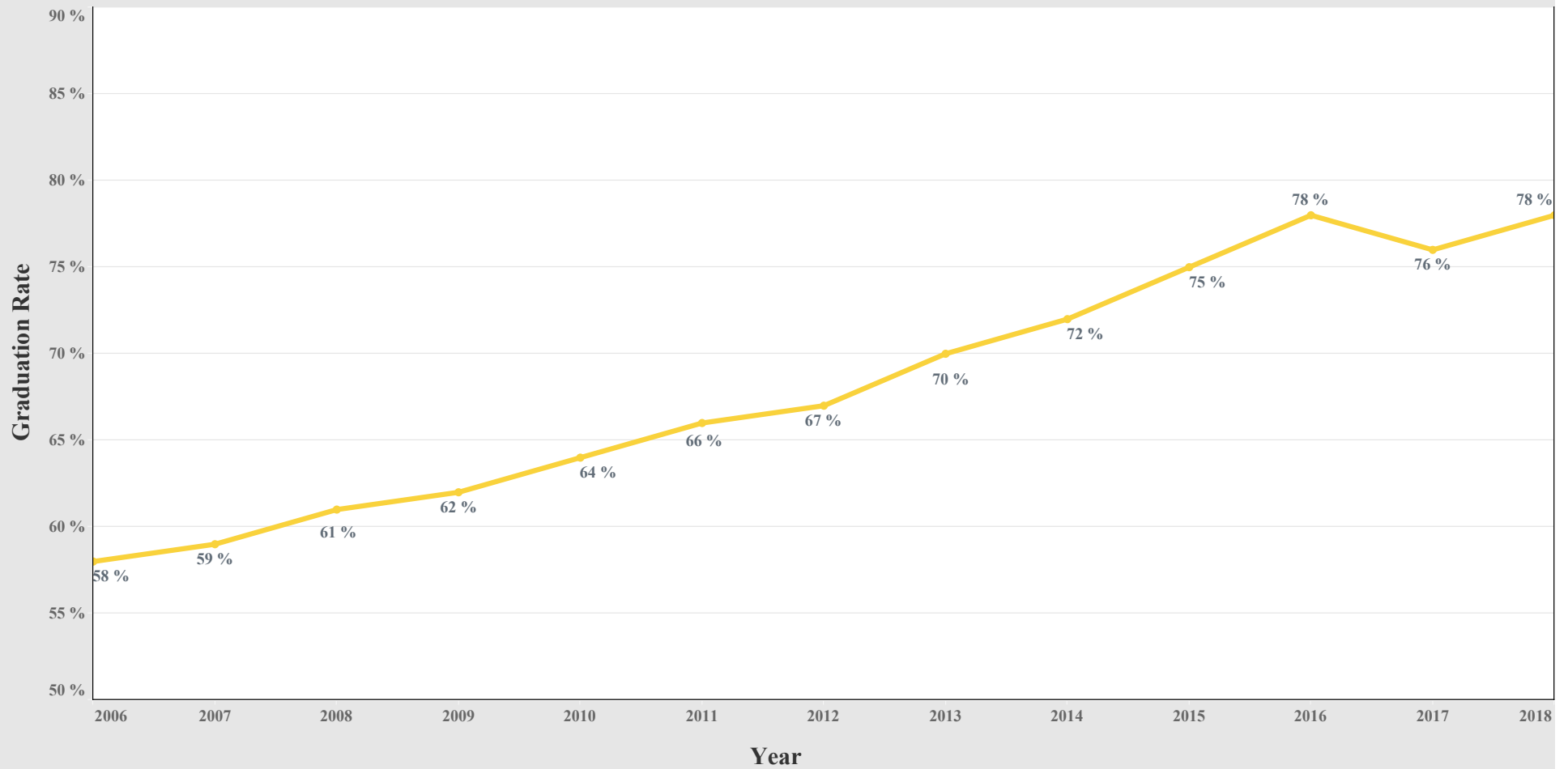
C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tel: 407-823-1516 or 407-823-4887 • Fax: 407-823-3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

~MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE~

APPENDIX A

Year-by-Year Graduation Rates *For Male Basketball Athletes from 2006-2018*

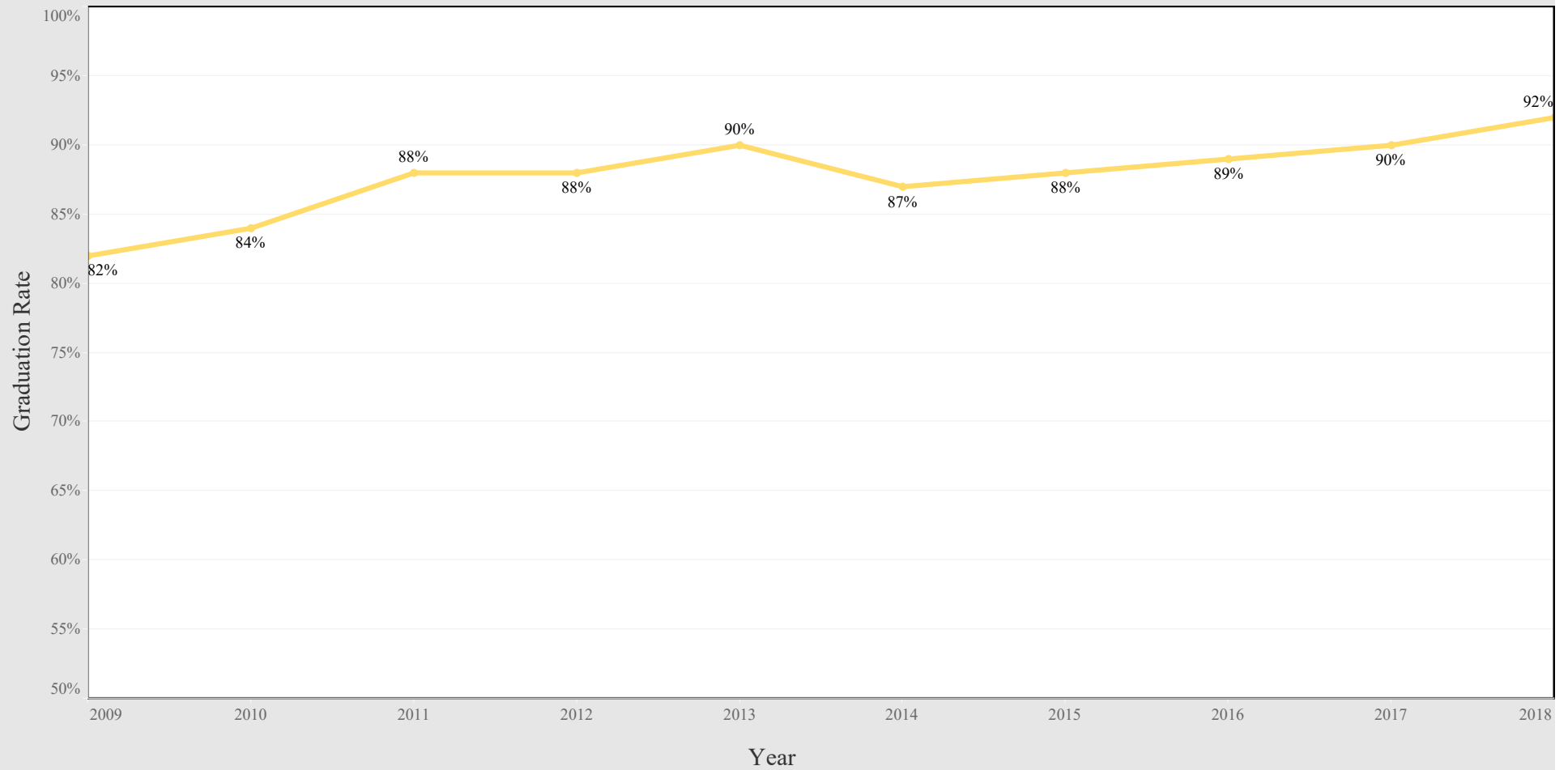


[Return to Text](#)

APPENDIX A Cont.

Year-by-Year Graduation Rates

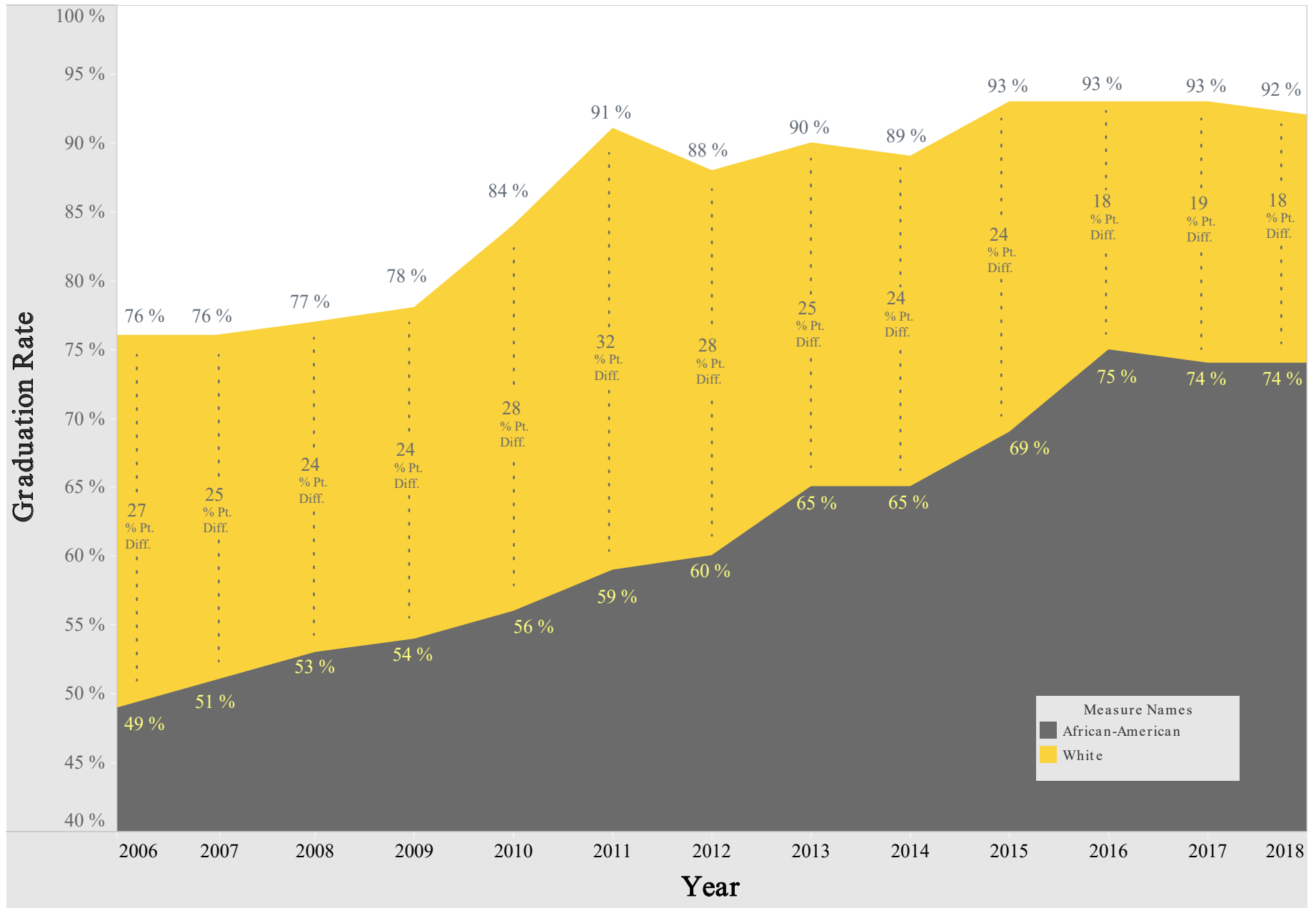
For Female Basketball Athletes over the last 10 Years



[Return to Text](#)

Year-by-Year Graduation Rate Comparison

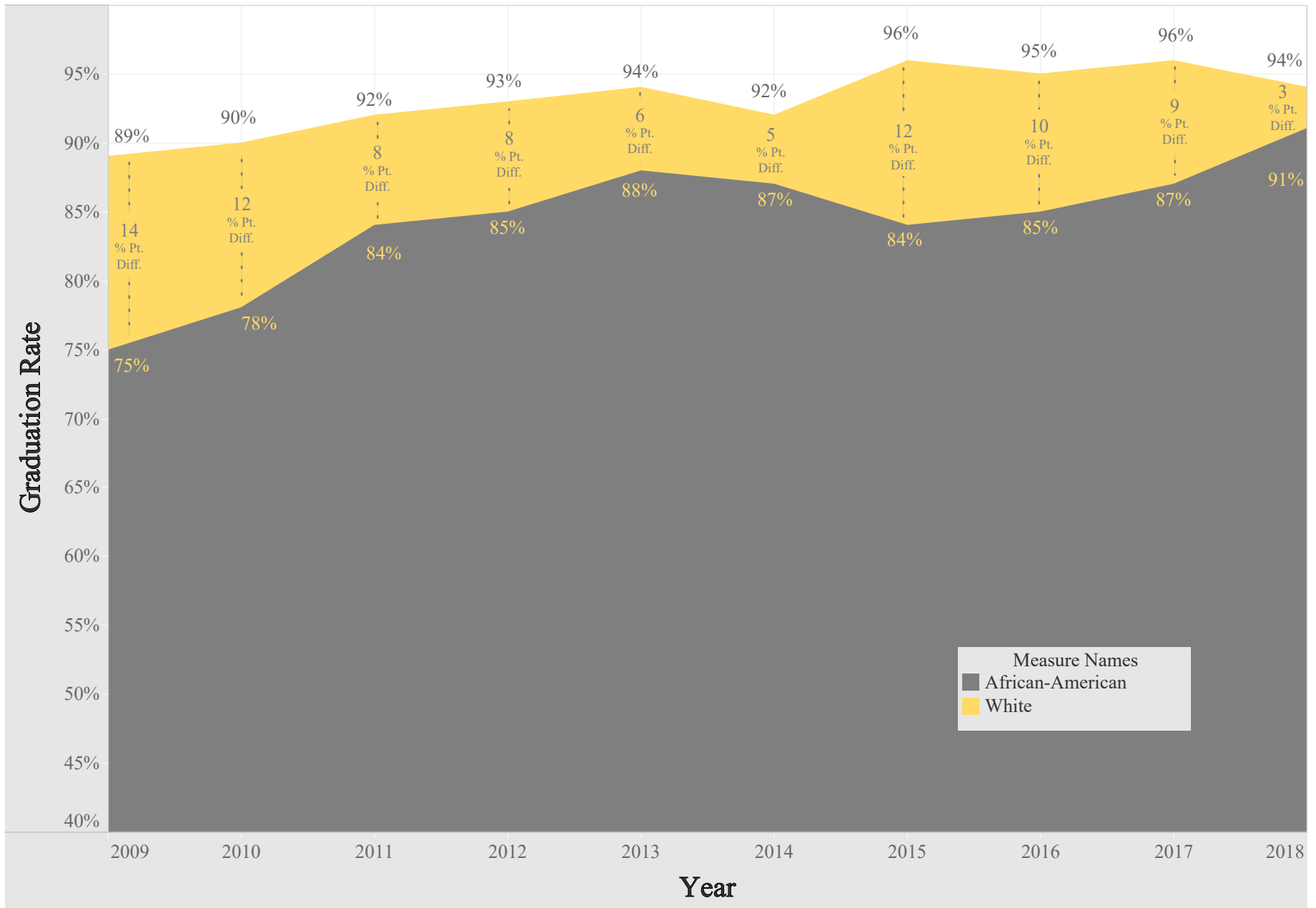
Between White and African-American Men's Basketball Student Athletes

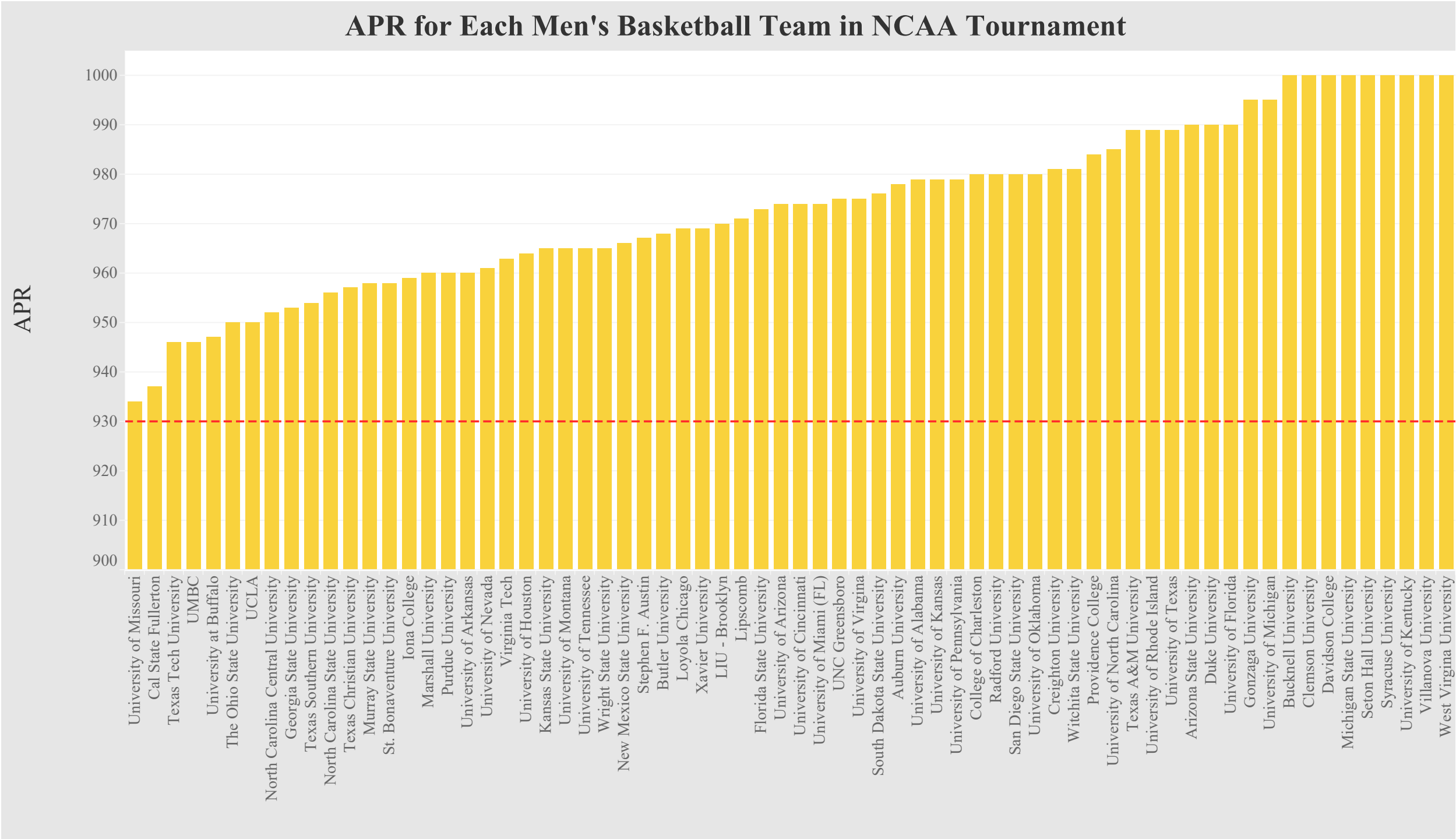


[Return to Text](#)

Year-by-Year Graduation Rate Comparison

Between White and African-American Women's Basketball Student Athletes

[Return to Text](#)



APR For Each Women's Basketball Team in the NCAA Tournament

