



**A Comparison of Graduation and Retention Rates for
The University of Georgia and Peer Institutions**

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The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) is a cooperative group of colleges and universities that collect and analyze retention and graduation data for institutional benchmarking purposes. These data are analyzed for first-time full-time degree seeking freshmen by the Center for Institutional Data Exchange and Analysis (C-IDEA) at the University of Oklahoma. Data is then made available to the 421 consortium members to use for benchmarking with their peers for their internal academic planning purposes. The purpose of this summary is to provide a general overview of the results of 1997-2003 entering freshmen cohorts at the University of Georgia (UGA) and peer institutions.

Within the CSRDE consortium, The University of Georgia is categorized among the eighty-three participants who are public, highly selective institutions (see Appendix). This category means that in addition to being a public entity, the institutions in this cohort have an average composite SAT greater than 1100 or an average composite ACT greater than 24. In addition to the designation of a highly selective public institution, UGA is compared with 110 public and private highly selective institutions and with 42 highly selective public institutions whose student enrollment is greater than 18,000 enrollment. In addition to these comparison categories, this report will also compare UGA retention and graduation rates with University System of Georgia Board of Regents identified peers who participated in the CSRDE study.

Highlights of retention rate comparisons include:

- ❖ Students at the University of Georgia consistently show higher first to second year retention rates compared to students at other highly selective institutions.
- ❖ UGA first to second year retention rate for the composite 1997-2003 cohort is 91% compared to 87% for highly selective public institutions with enrollment of 18,000 or more, and for all highly selective institutions (See Figure 1).

Highlights of graduation rate comparisons include:

- ❖ UGA graduation rates slightly outperform other highly selective institutions in the CSRDE study for the average 1997-2003 freshmen cohorts. UGA four, five, and six year graduation rates are 43%, 69%, and 74% respectively, while the highly selective public institutions with enrollment over 18,000 rates are 41%, 65%, and 70%. Overall, the highly selective institutions have graduation rates of 42%, 64%, and 69% (See Figure 2).

Figure 1

**First to Second Year Retention Rates for UGA and Highly Selective Institutions
Average 1997-2003 Cohort Rates**

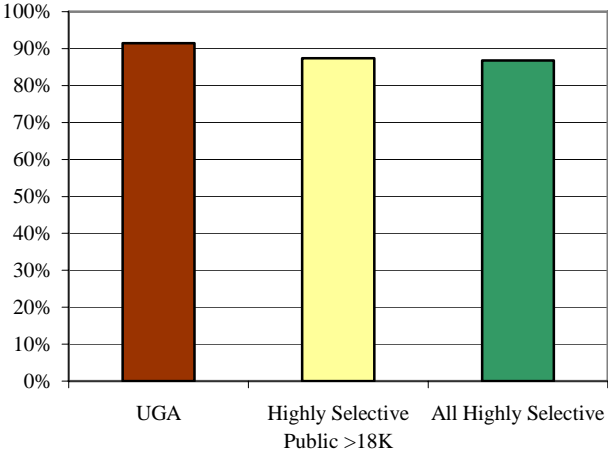
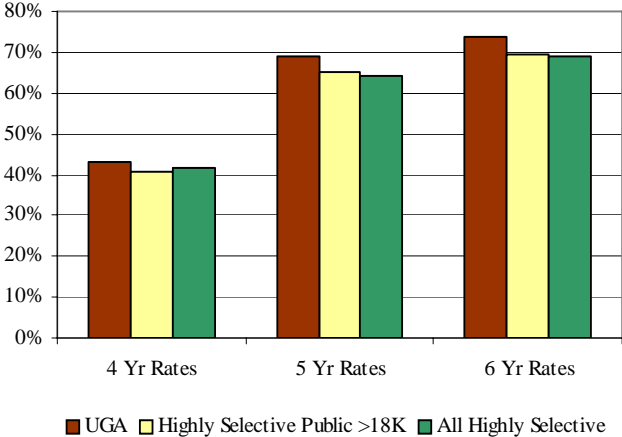


Figure 2

**Four & Six Yr Graduation Rates for UGA and Highly Selective Institutions
Average 1997-2003 Cohort Rates**



The summaries that follow provide comparisons of retention and graduation rates for cohorts at UGA and the highly selective public groupings by race and gender.

- ❖ The University of Georgia student cohorts consistently show higher average composite first year retention rates for African Americans, Hispanics and Whites and higher rates for both male and female categories compared to all highly selective public institution rates (Figures 3 and 4).
- ❖ UGA first to second year average retention rate for the composite 1997-2003 cohort is highest for African American students at 95%, followed by White students at 91%, and Hispanic and Asian cohorts at 90%. The highly selective, public cohort for 1997-2003 composite group ranks Asians highest with a first to second year retention rate of 92% followed by a rate of 86% for Whites, Hispanics, and African Americans (Figure 3).
- ❖ The University of Georgia cohorts show an average first to second year retention rate for the composite 1997-2003 cohorts for both males and females of 91% in comparison to 86% for males and 88% for females in the highly selective, public grouping (Figure 4).

Figure 3

First to Second Year Retention Rates for UGA and Highly Selective Public Institutions By Race Average 1997-2003 Cohort Rates

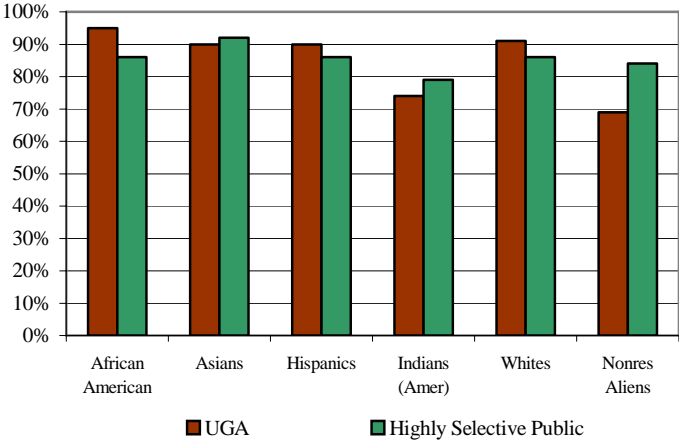
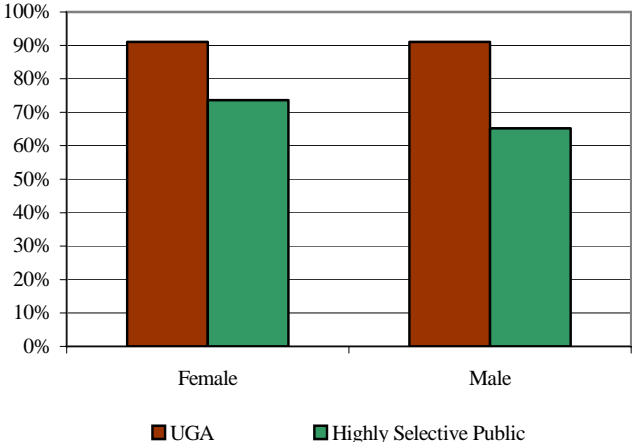


Figure 4

First to Second Year Retention Rates for UGA and Highly Selective Public Institutions By Gender Average 1997-2003 Cohort Rates



- ❖ Figures 5-8 show that the University of Georgia four and six year graduation rates are also above those for the highly selective, public grouping for both race (except for Asians and Nonresident Aliens) and slightly above for women.
- ❖ UGA four year graduation rates for the composite 1997-2003 cohorts are highest for Native American Indians at 52% followed by 44% for Whites. The four year graduation rate for the highly selective, public cohort ranks Asian and Nonresident Alien the highest with a rate of 44% followed by 42% for Whites (Figure 5).
- ❖ The four year rate for UGA females is 49% versus 48% for all highly selective public institutions while the male graduation rates are 33% for both the UGA cohort and the highly selective cohort (Figure 6).

Note: The N for UGA Native American Indians is very small and therefore graduation and retention rates for this group should be viewed cautiously.

Figure 5

Four Yr Graduation Rates for UGA and Highly Selective Public Institutions By Race
Average 1997-2003 Cohort

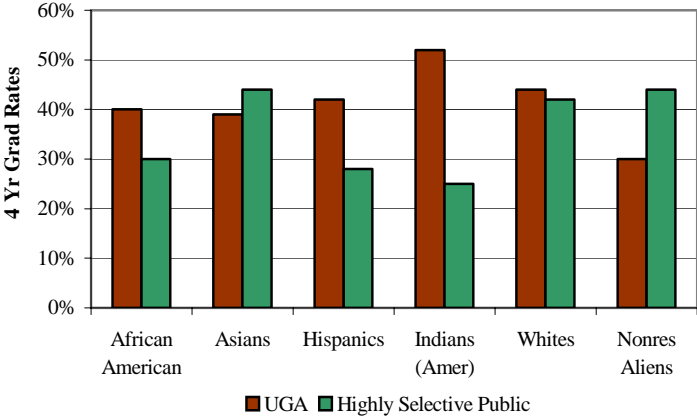
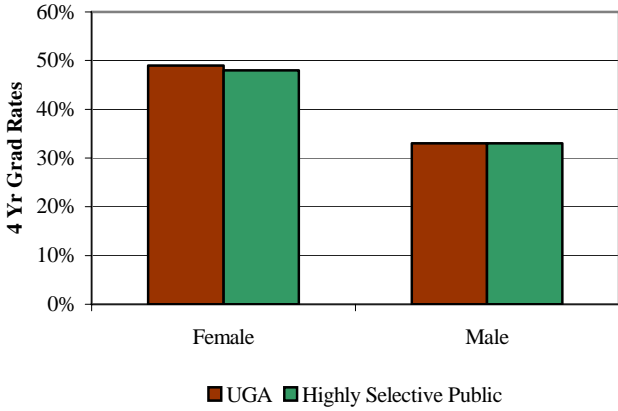


Figure 6

Four Yr Graduation Rates for UGA and Highly Selective Public Institutions By Gender
Average 1997-2003 Cohort



❖ The six year graduation rate for UGA female cohort is 75% while the male rate is 69%. The highly selective, public institution rate for females is 72% versus 65% for males (Figure 8).

Figure 7

Six Yr Graduation Rates of UGA and Highly Selective Public Institutions By Race
Average 1997-2003 Cohort

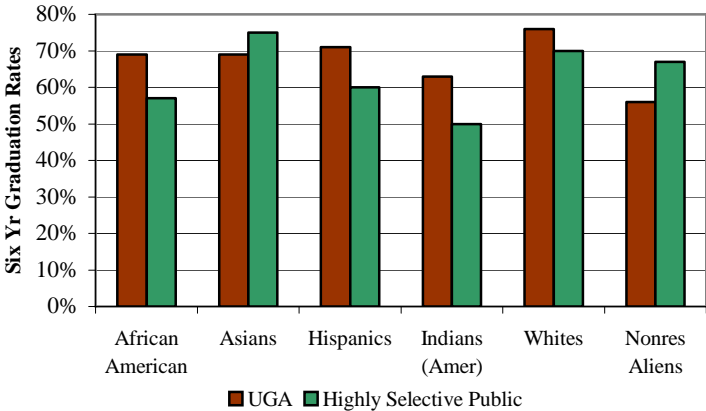
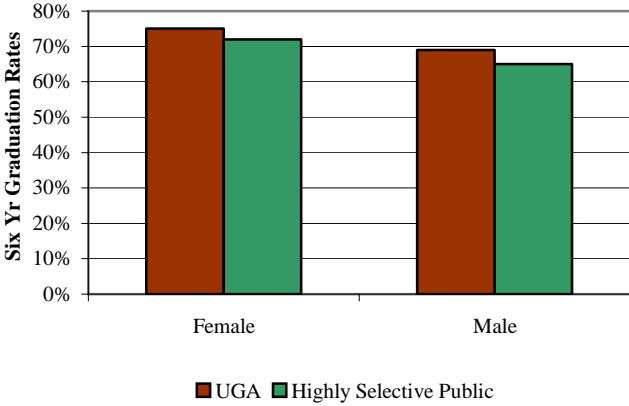


Figure 8

Six Yr Graduation Rates of UGA and Highly Selective Public Institutions By Gender
Average 1997-2003 Cohort



Board of Regents Defined Peers for the University of Georgia

To further examine the University of Georgia's graduation and retention rates compared to its peers, the tables below lists the Board of Regents defined peers for benchmark purposes (Tables 1 and 2). The tables compare UGA student retention and graduation rates with all the BOR peer institutions that participated in the CSRDE study. All were participants except Indiana University, Bloomington.

- ❖ Regarding first year retention, the University of Georgia 2003 cohort tied for first place, up from the number three spot with the 1998 freshman cohort (Table I).
- ❖ The UGA first to second year retention rate for the 2003 cohort was four percent higher than the 1998 cohort (Table I).
- ❖ Table II shows five and six-year graduation rates. For six-year rates, UGA is ranked fifth among its BOR peers and fourth for four-year rates.

This report summarizes graduation and retention rates for UGA undergraduate students and offers comparative benchmarks with highly selective public institutions (N=110) and highly selective public institutions with enrollments greater than 18,000 (N=42). On all measures shown, the graduation and retention rates for the 1997-2003 cohorts are comparable to, or above, the rates for peer institutions. At both UGA and peer institutions, graduation rates for women are higher than men. Graduation and retention rates by race vary; this may be due to small size of some racial groups. Compared to the Board of Regents defined peers, UGA's 2003 cohort of students bettered its first year retention rate to 93% tying for first place among peers shown. UGA's 1998 cohort earned a tie for fourth place for five year graduation rates and fifth place among peers for six year graduation rates.

Table I
UGA and BOR Peer First to Second Year Retention Rates for
1998 and 2003 Cohorts

2003 Rank	Peer Institutions	2003 Cohort 1st to 2nd Yr Retention Rates	1998 Rank	1998 Cohort 1st to 2nd Yr Retention Rates
1	University of Georgia	93%	3	89%
1	University of Maryland, College Park	93%	2	90%
2	Michigan State University	91%	3	89%
2	University of California at Davis	91%	1	92%
3	North Carolina State University	90%	4	88%
3	Texas A&M	90%	4	88%
4	Virginia Polytechnic University	88%	3	89%
5	University of Oregon	86%	7	82%
6	Iowa State University	85%	5	84%
7	University of Colorado, Boulder	84%	5	84%
7	University of Missouri	84%	6	83%
8	University of Iowa	83%	5	84%
8	University of Kansas	83%	9	78%
9	University of Nebraska	79%	8	79%
10	Arizona State University	77%	10	75%
N/A	Indiana University, Bloomington	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: CSRDE Report 2004-2005

Table II
UGA and BOR Peer Five and Six Year Graduation Rates for
1998 Cohort

5 Yr. Rank	Peer Institutions	1998 Cohort 5 Yr Grad Rates	6 Yr Rank	1998 Cohort 6 Yr Grad Rates
1	University of California at Davis	76%	1	81%
2	Virginia Polytechnic University	70%	3	74%
3	Texas A&M	69%	2	76%
3	University of Maryland, College Park	69%	4	73%
4	Michigan State University	68%	4	73%
4	University of Georgia	68%	5	72%
5	University of Missouri	64%	6	68%
6	North Carolina State University	61%	7	67%
6	University of Colorado, Boulder	61%	8	66%
6	University of Iowa	61%	8	66%
7	Iowa State University	60%	8	66%
8	University of Oregon	58%	9	64%
9	University of Nebraska	54%	10	61%
10	University of Kansas	51%	11	57%
11	Arizona State University	48%	12	55%
N/A	Indiana University, Bloomington	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: CSRDE Report 2004-2005

APPENDIX I
HIGHLY SELECTIVE PUBLIC INSTITUTION COMPARATORS
IN 2004-2005 CSRDE REPORT

Appalachian State U	U of California-San Diego
Auburn U	U of California-Santa Barbara
California Polytech State U-San Luis Obispo	U of Central Florida
Clemson U	U of Colorado-Boulder
College of Charleston	U of Connecticut
College of New Jersey	U of Delaware
College of William and Mary	U of Florida
Colorado State U	U of Georgia
Evergreen State College	U of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign
Florida State U	U of Iowa
George Mason U	U of Kansas
Georgia Institute of Technology	U of Kentucky
Iowa State U	U of Manitoba
James Madison U	U of Maryland-Baltimore County
Louisiana State U	U of Maryland-College Park
McMaster U	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Miami U - Oxford	U of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Michigan State U	U of Minnesota-Morris
Michigan Technological U	U of Minnesota-Twin Cities
New Jersey Institute of Technology	U of Missouri-Columbia
North Carolina State U	U of Missouri-Rolla
Ohio State U	U of Nebraska-Lincoln
Purdue U	U of North Carolina-Asheville
Ramapo College of New Jersey	U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey	U of North Carolina-Wilmington
Rutgers, State U of NJ-Camden	U of Oklahoma
Rutgers, State U of NJ-New Brunswick	U of Oregon
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology	U of Ottawa
Southern Polytechnic State U	U of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras
Stony Brook U	U of South Carolina-Columbia
Texas A&M U	U of Tennessee-Knoxville
Texas Tech U	U of Texas-Austin
Truman State U	U of Texas-Dallas
U at Buffalo, SUNY	U of Toronto
U of Alabama-Huntsville	U of Vermont
U of Arizona	U of Virginia
U of Arkansas-Main Campus	U of Washington
U of British Columbia	U of Western Ontario
U of California-Berkeley	U of Wisconsin-Madison
U of California-Davis	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
U of California-Irvine	Western Washington U
U of California-Los Angeles	