COVID Crisis Impact on Academic Momentum for Underrepresented Full-Loaders

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California State University, Los Angeles

CAIR Conference

November 2023

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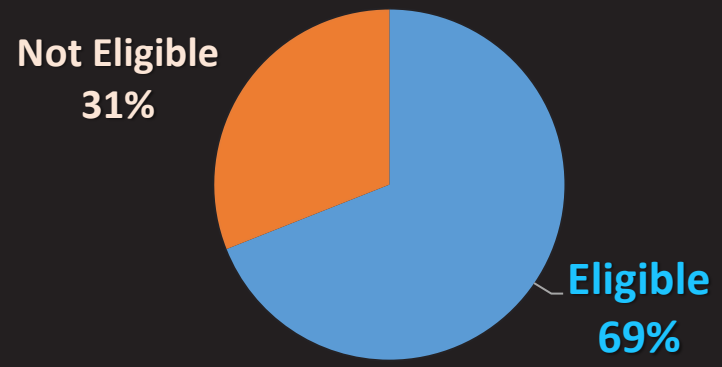
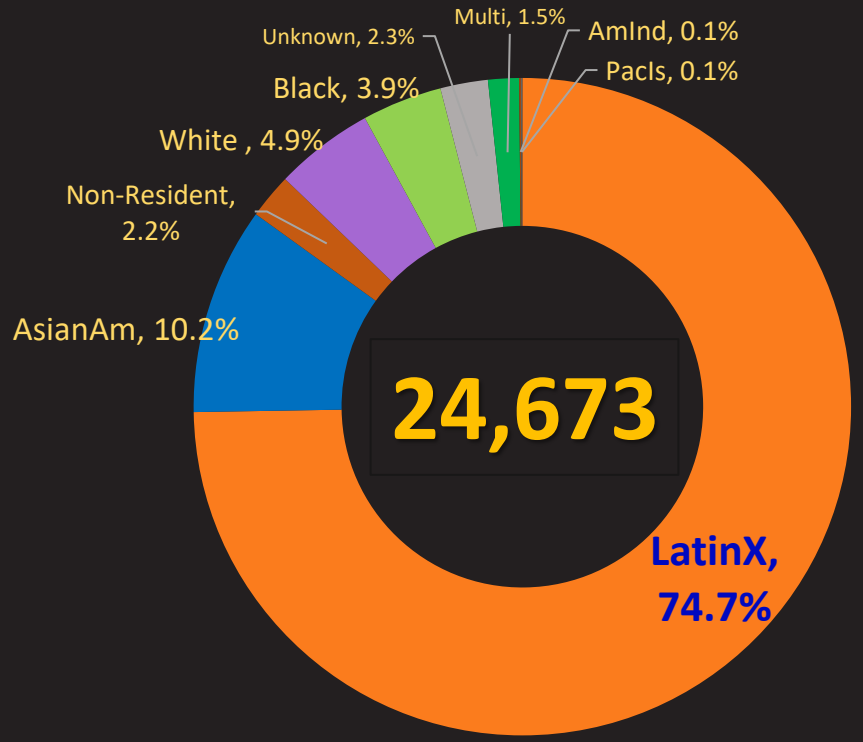
PELL ELIGIBILITY

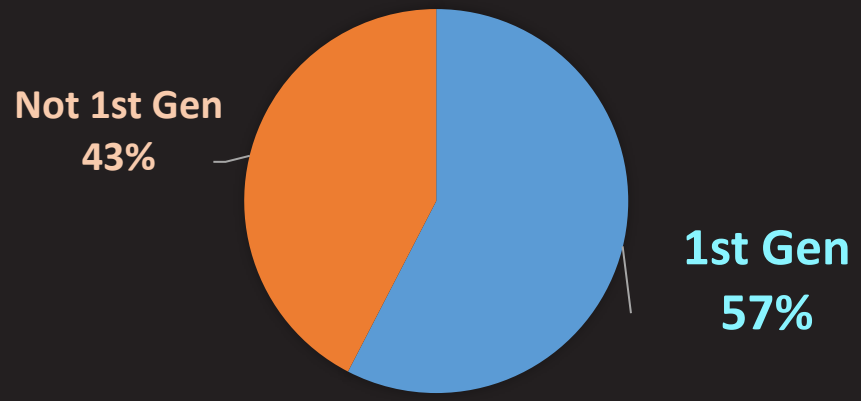
Fall 2023



ETHNICITY



1ST GENERATION



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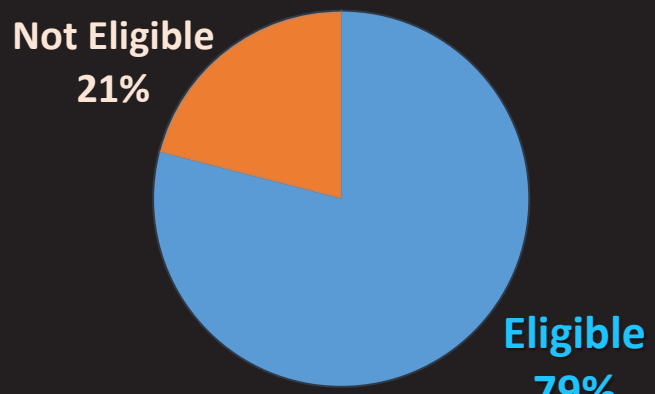
First-Time Freshmen: Fall 2023

PELL ELIGIBILITY



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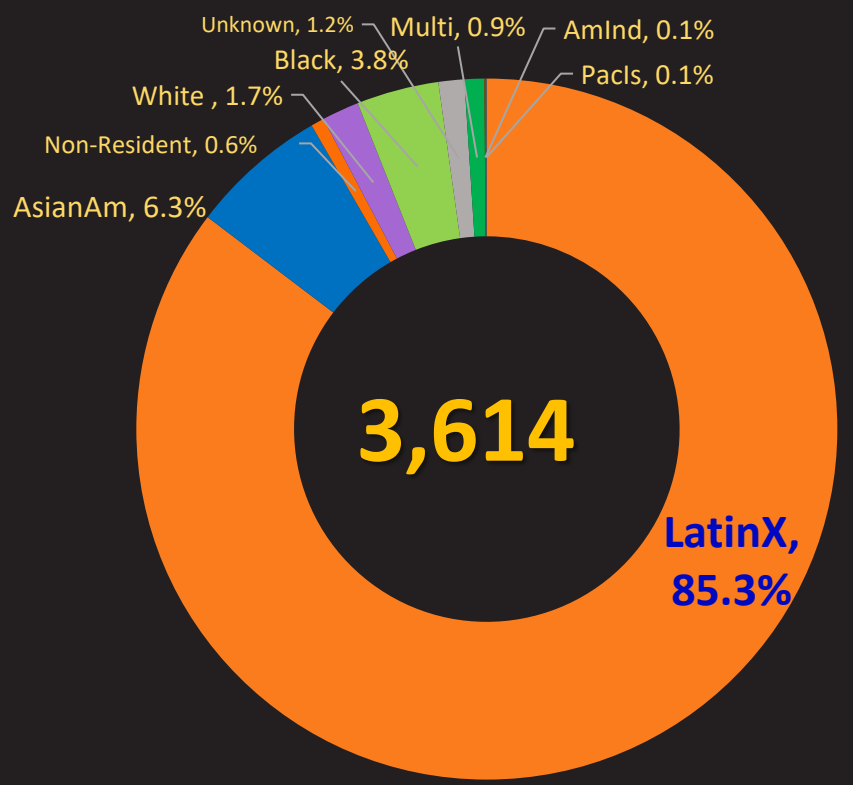


1ST GENERATION

15 Units / Term

30 Units / Year

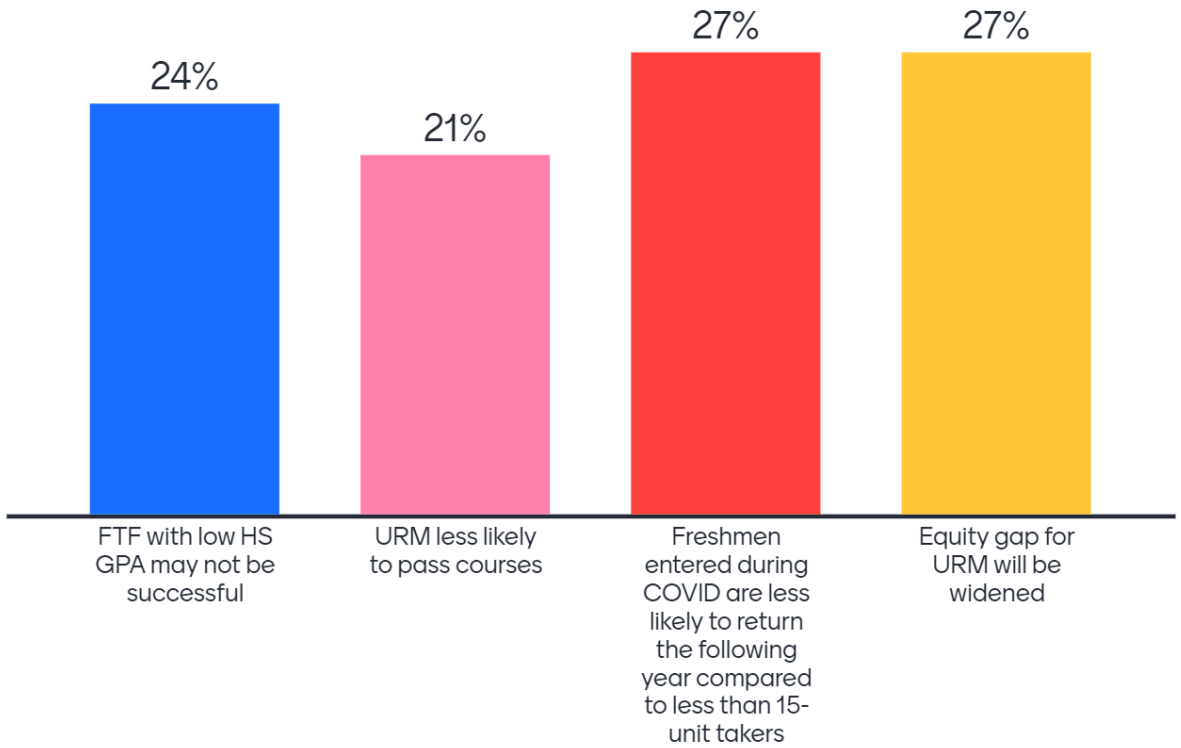
What is your concern
if first-time freshmen take 15 units ?

Mentimeter Time!

Join at menti.com use code 9665 6773

Mentimeter

What is your concern if first-time freshmen take 15 units? (Mark all that apply)

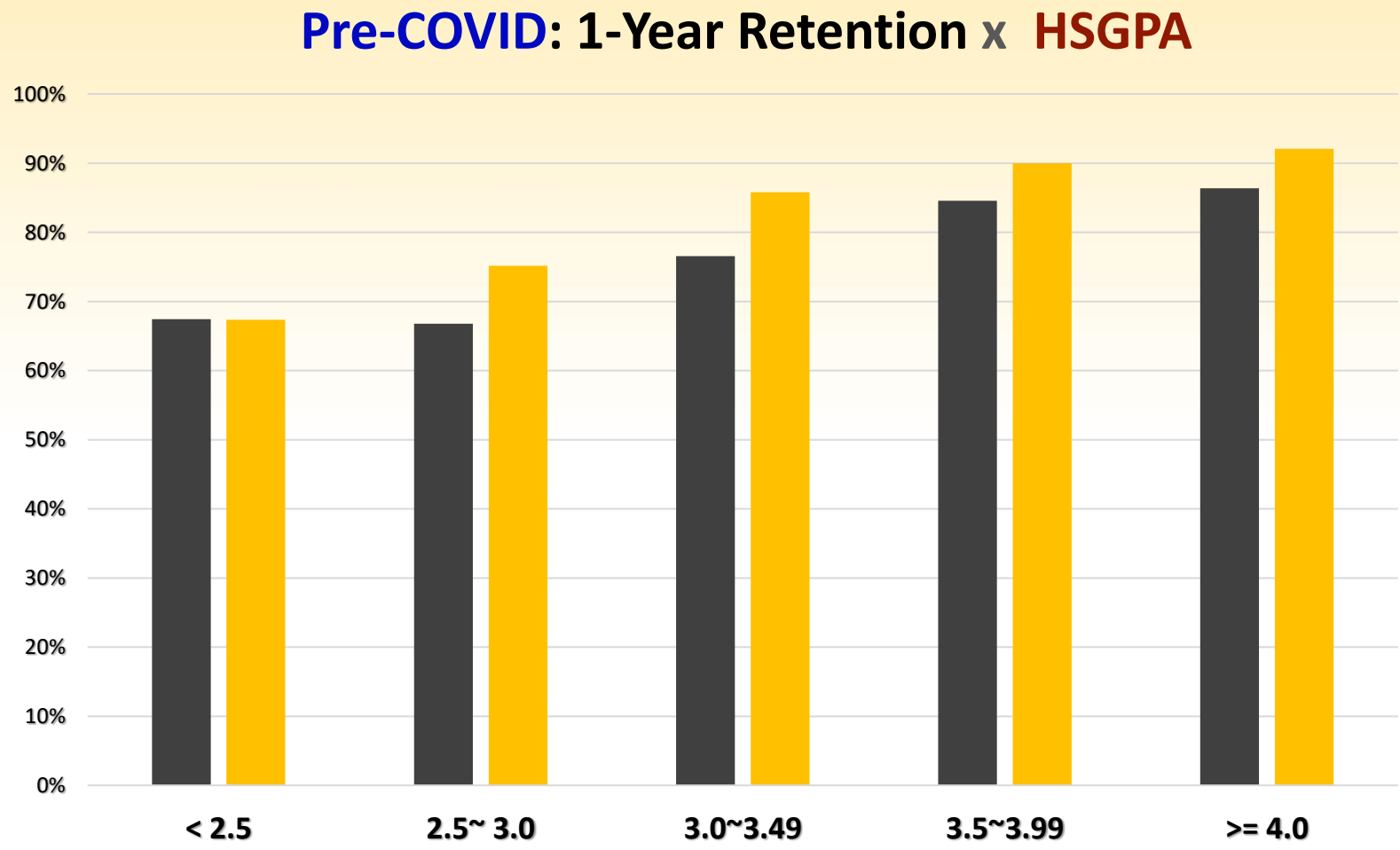


COVID Crisis and Freshmen Full-Load in 1st Term (>= 15 Units) and 1st Year (>= 30 Units)

Timeline \ *Metrics*	1-Year Retention	Completion Rates : 1st Term and AY (UnitsEarned/UnitsAttempted)	4-Year Grad Rates
Pre-Covid Cohort	Fall 2016 – Fall 2018	Fall 2016 – Fall 2018	Fall 2016 – Fall 2019
In-Covid Cohort	Fall 2019 – Fall 2021	Fall 2019 – Fall 2021	
Post-Covid Cohort	Fall 2022	Fall 2022	
Total	Fall 2016 – Fall 2022	Fall 2016 – Fall 2022	

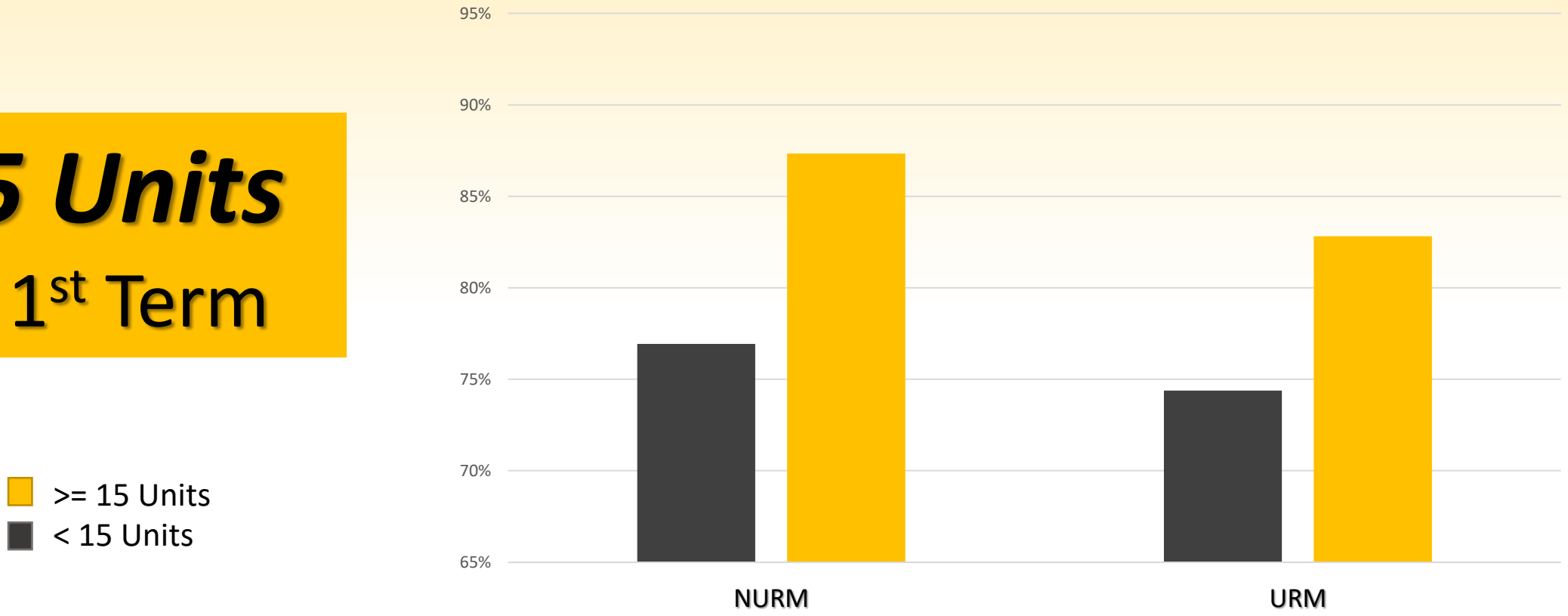
Concern #1. Freshmen with Low High School GPA ?

15 Units
in 1st Term



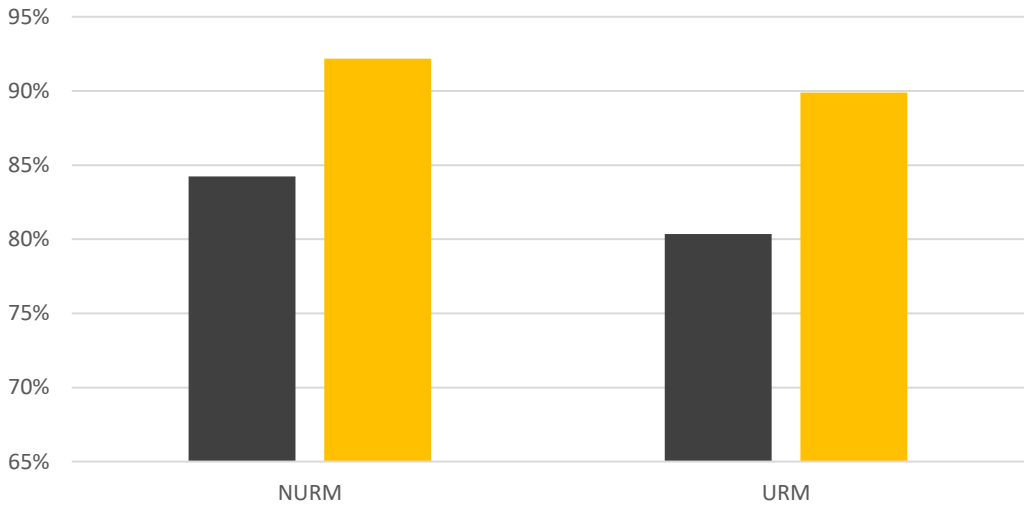
Concern #2. Underrepresented Students ?

15 Units
in 1st Term

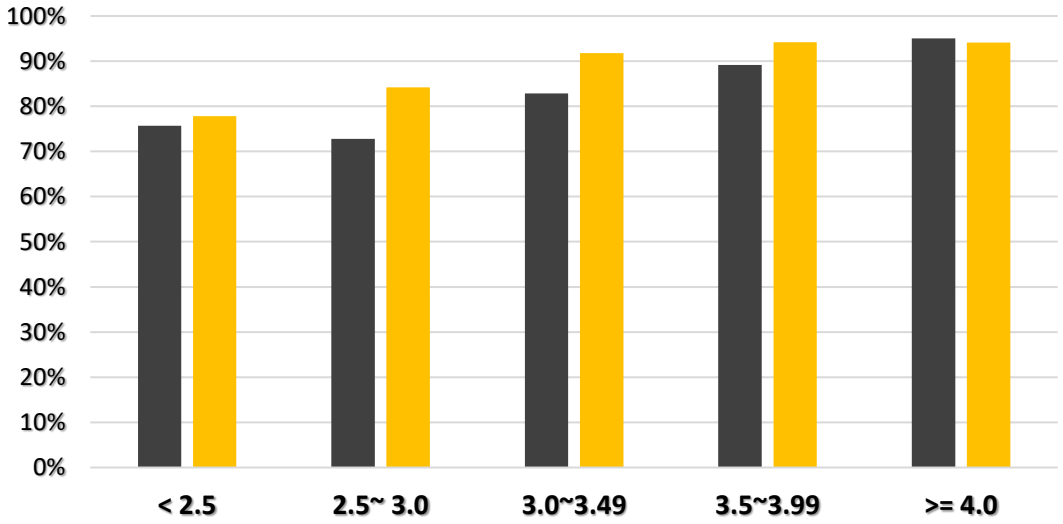


30 Units
in 1st Year

Pre-COVID: 1-Year Retention x URM



Pre-COVID: 1-Year Retention x HSGPA



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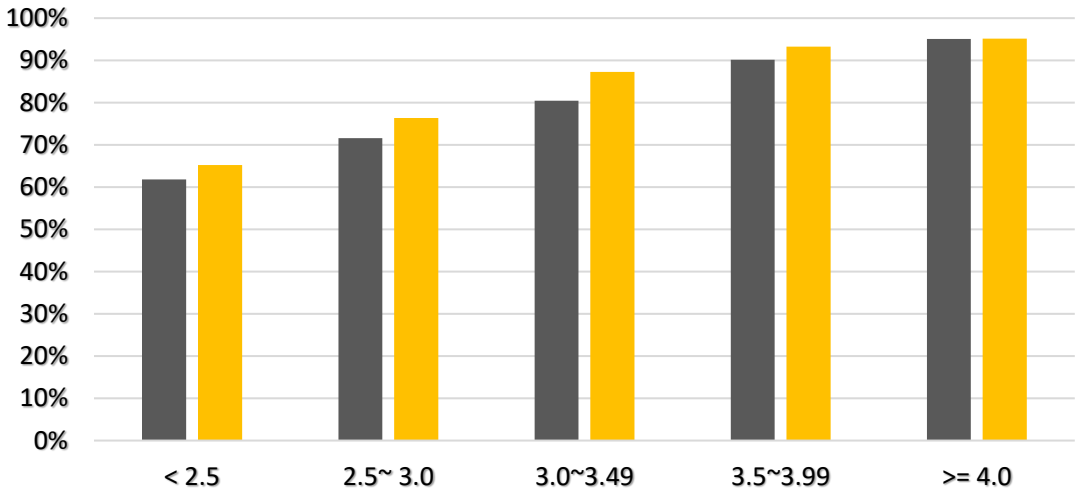

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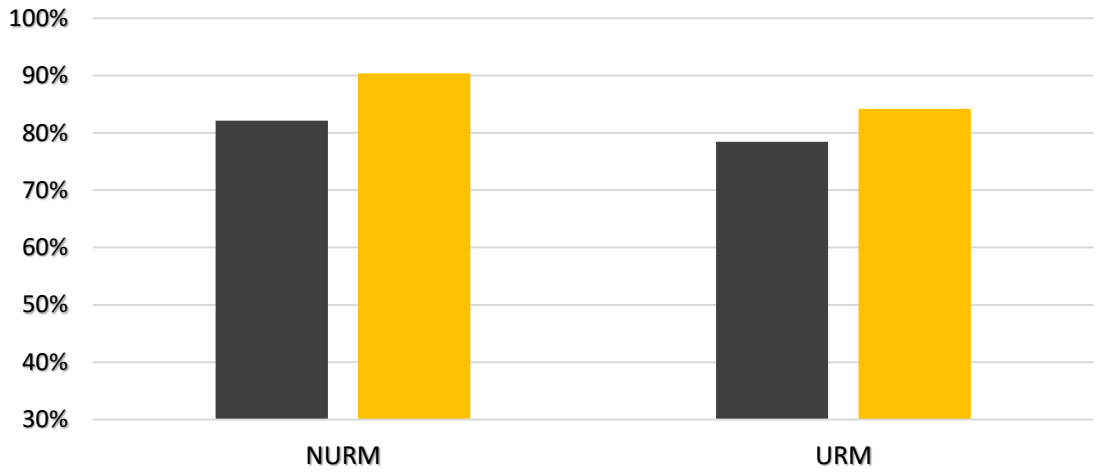

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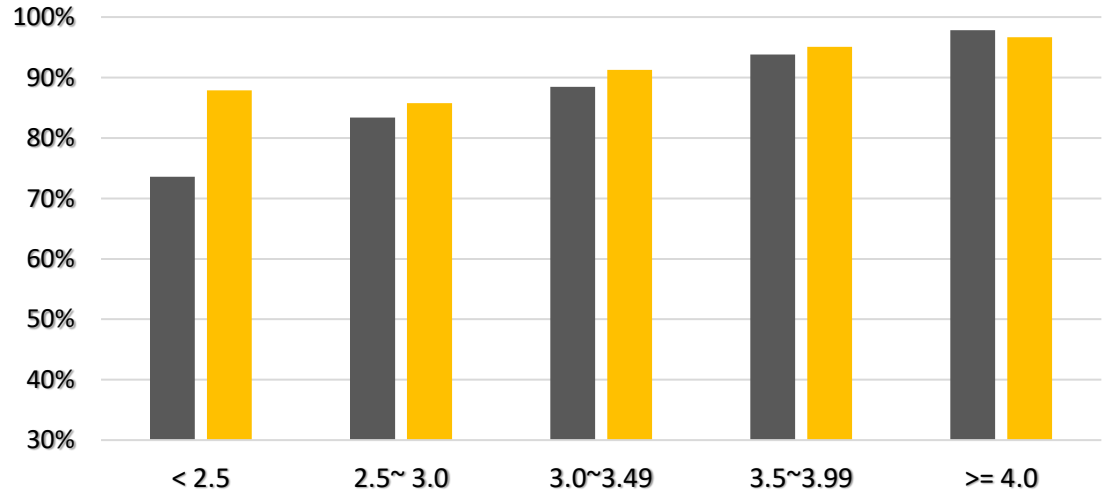

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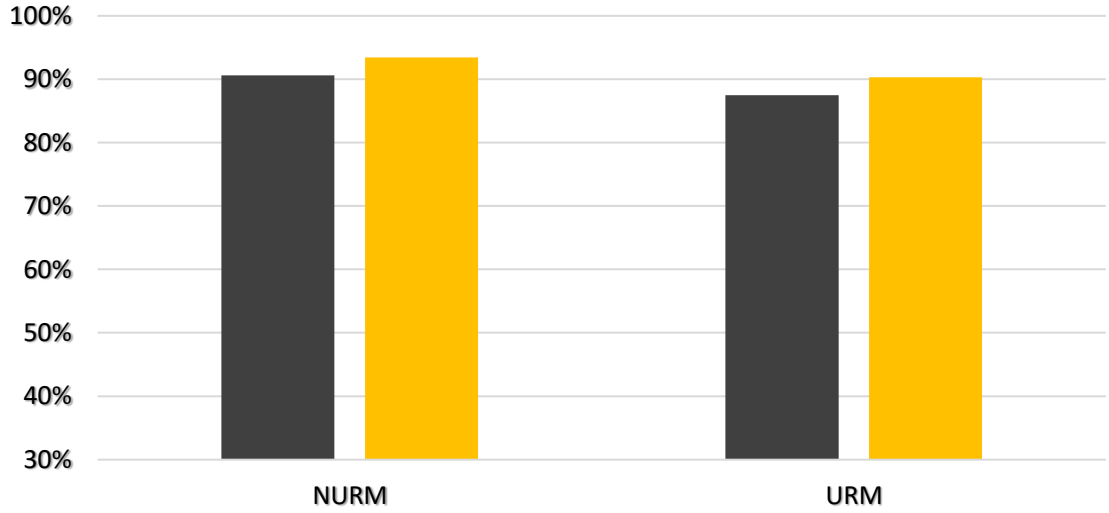
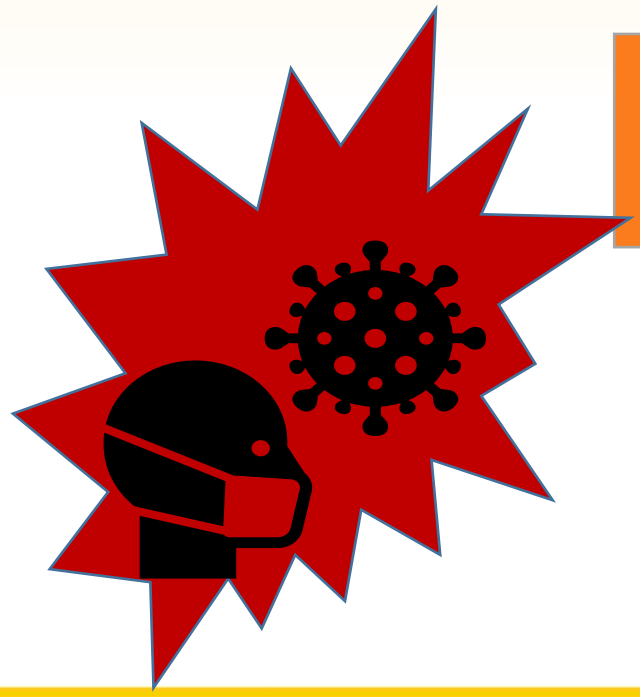


COVID Crisis and Freshmen Full-Load in 1st Term (>= 15 Units) and 1st Year (>= 30 Units)

Pre-COVID

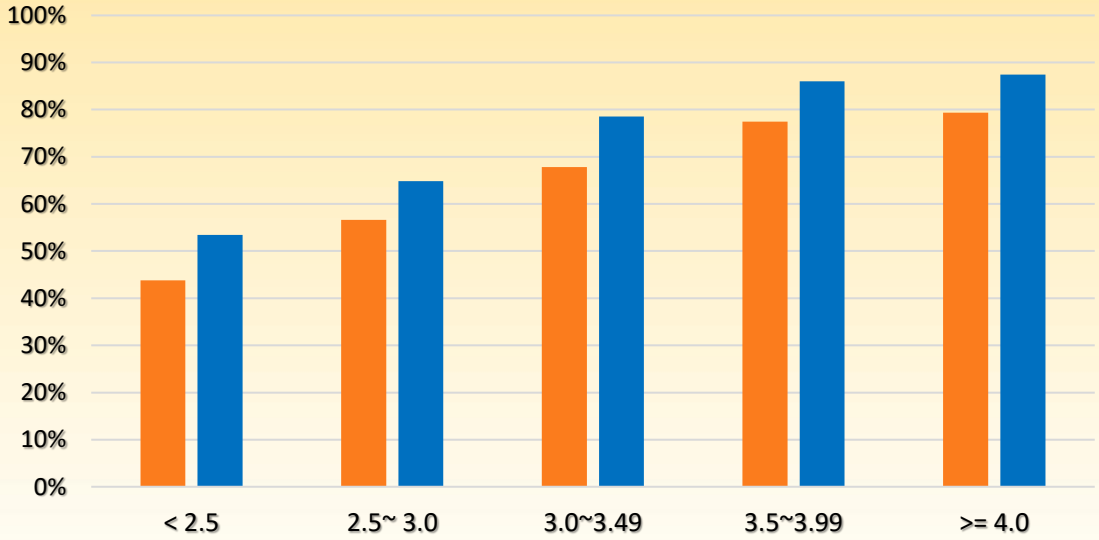


In-COVID

Post-COVID

In-COVID: 1-Year Retention x HSGPA

15 Units in 1st Term



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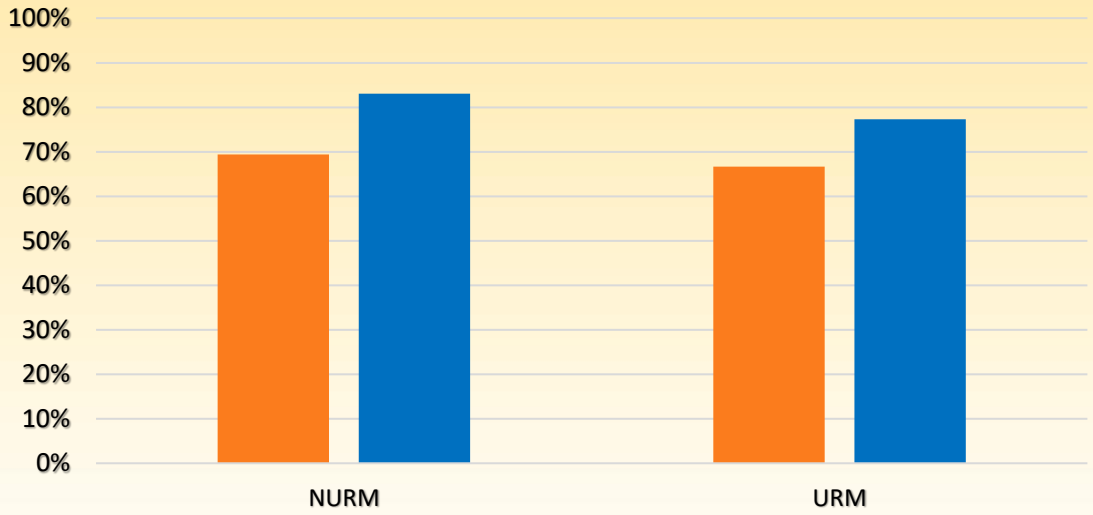

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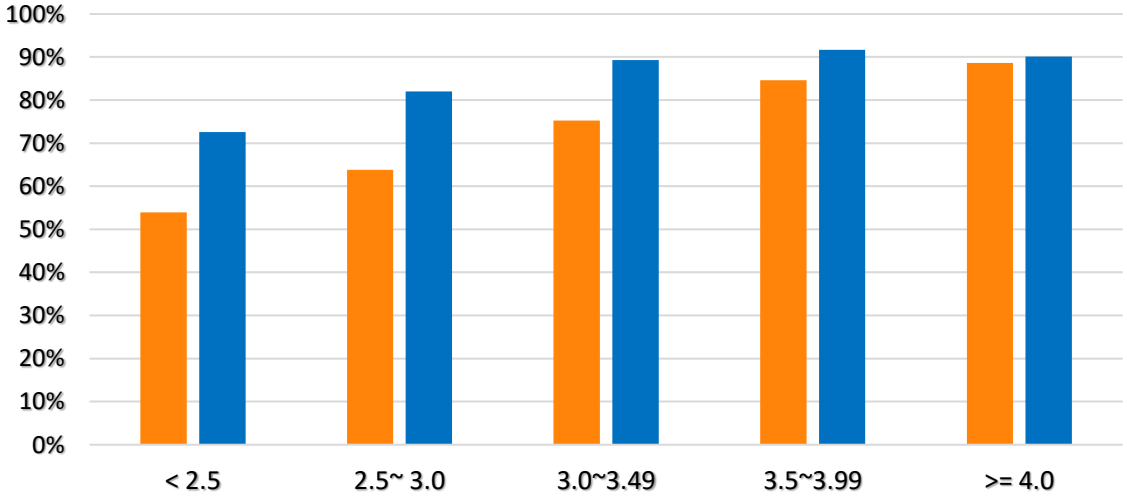

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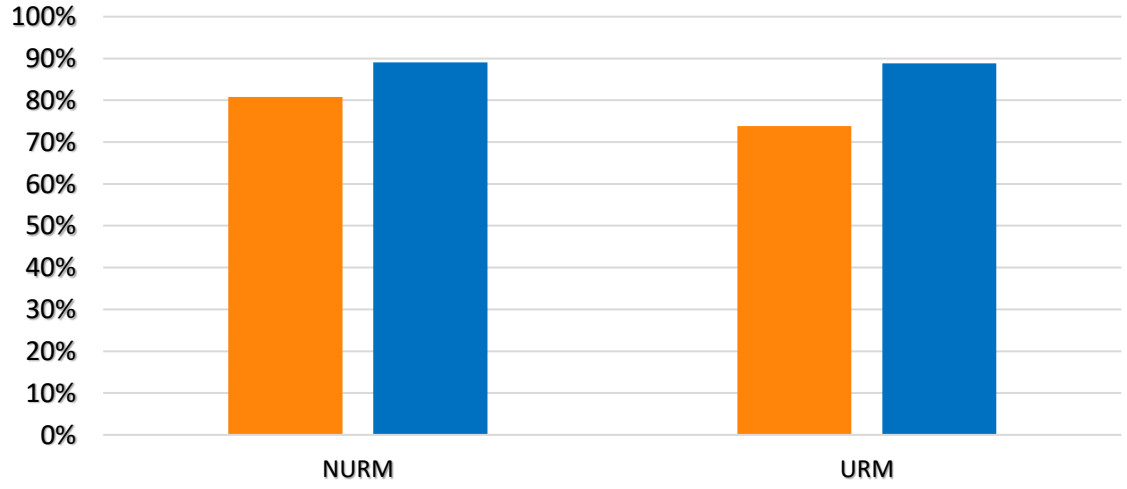

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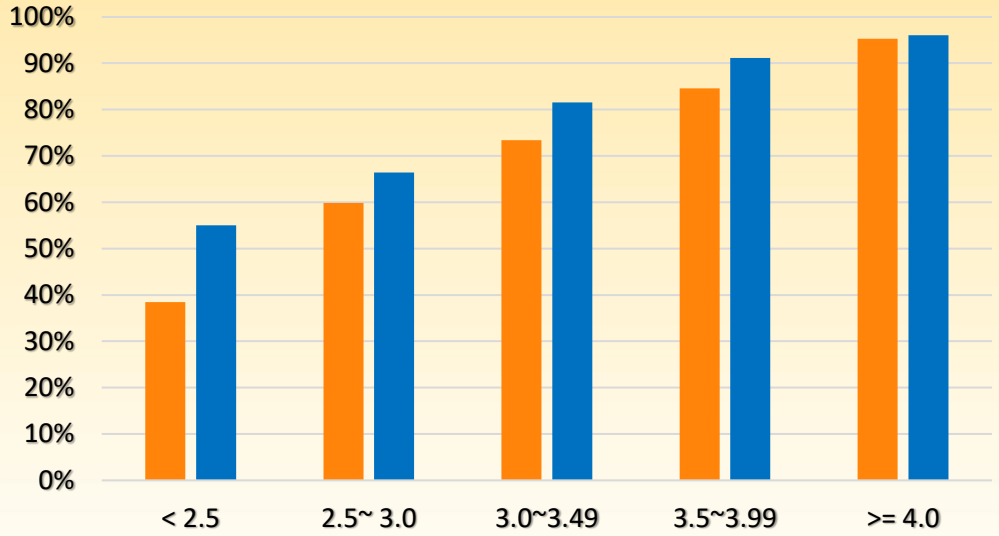

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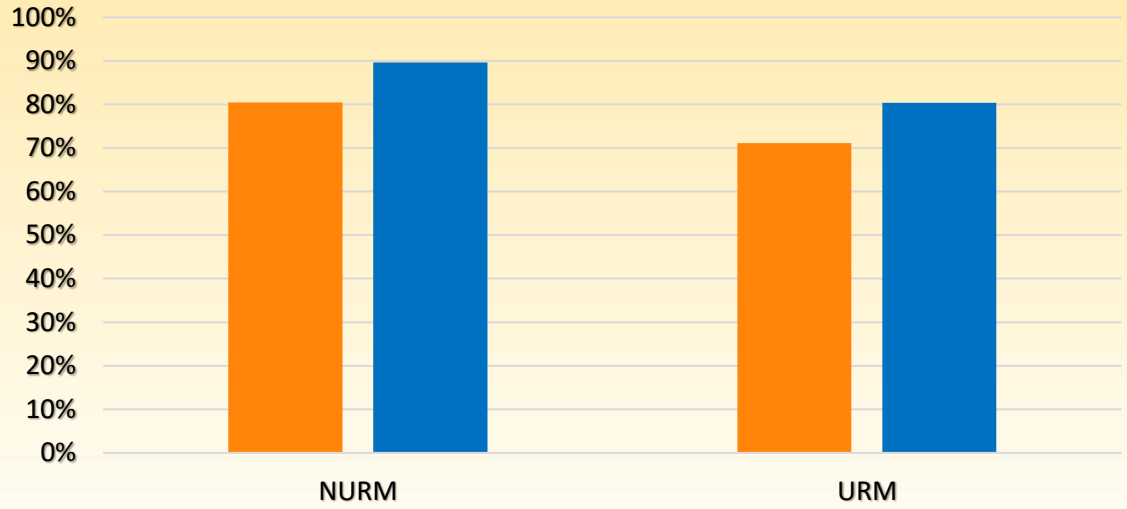
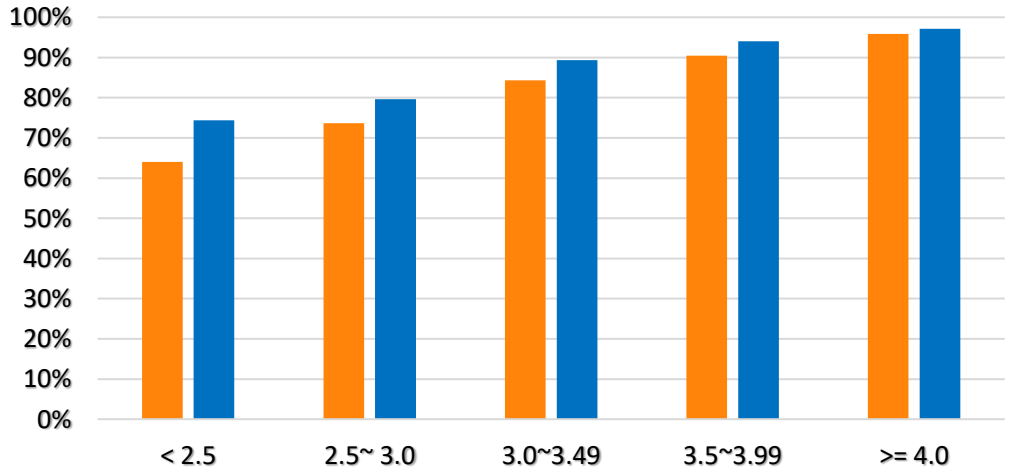


In-COVID: AY Completion x HSGPA



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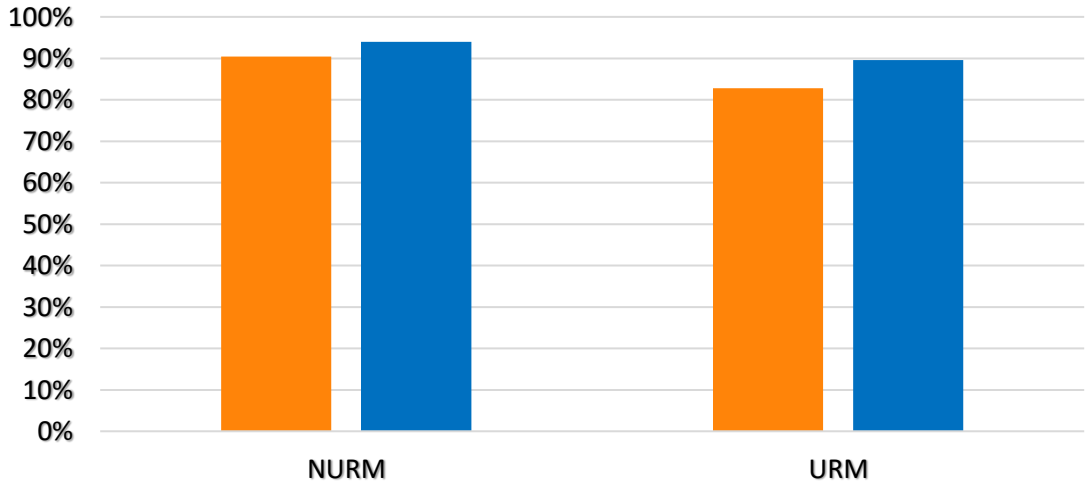
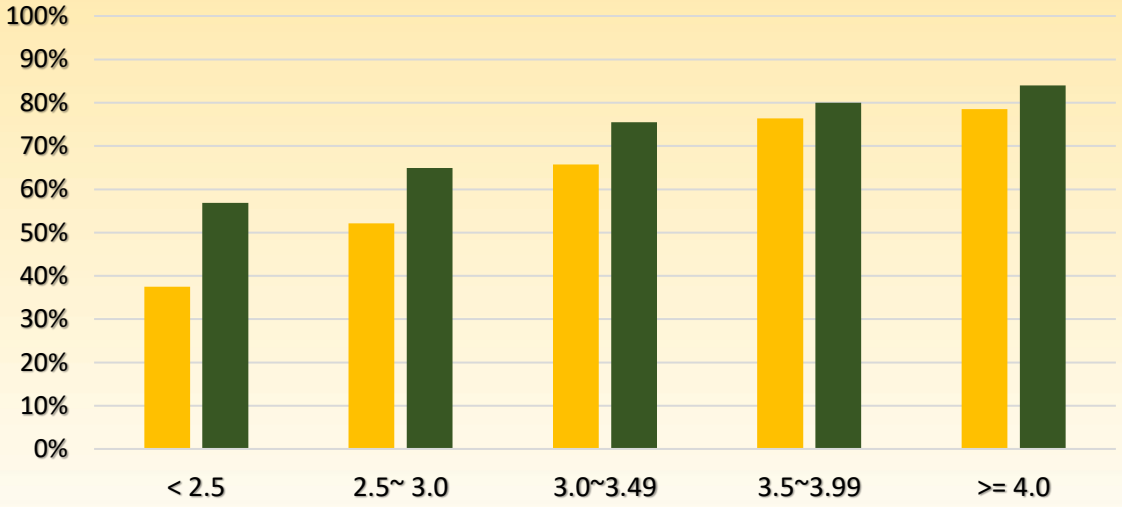


Post-COVID: 1-Year Retention x HSGPA

15 Units in 1st Term



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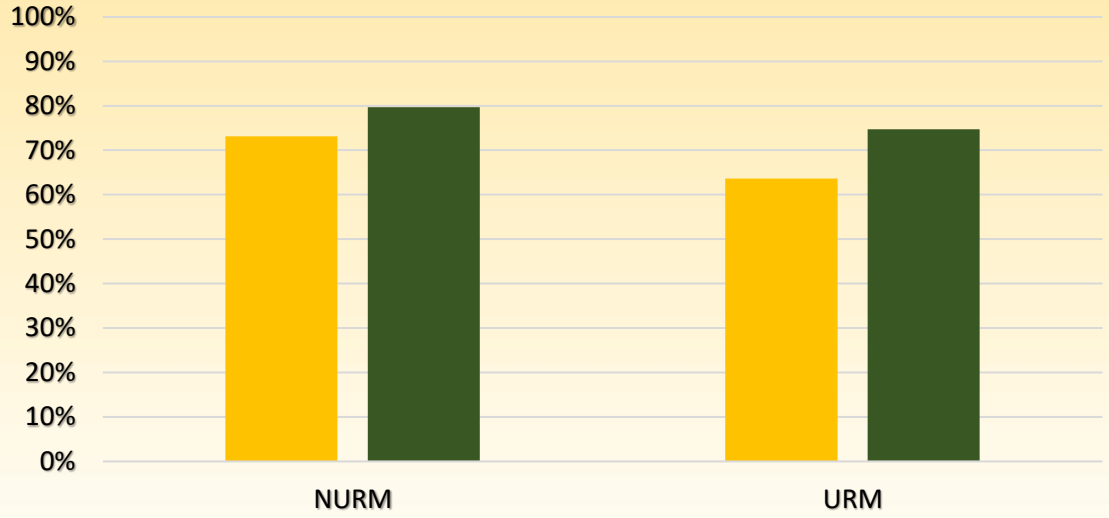

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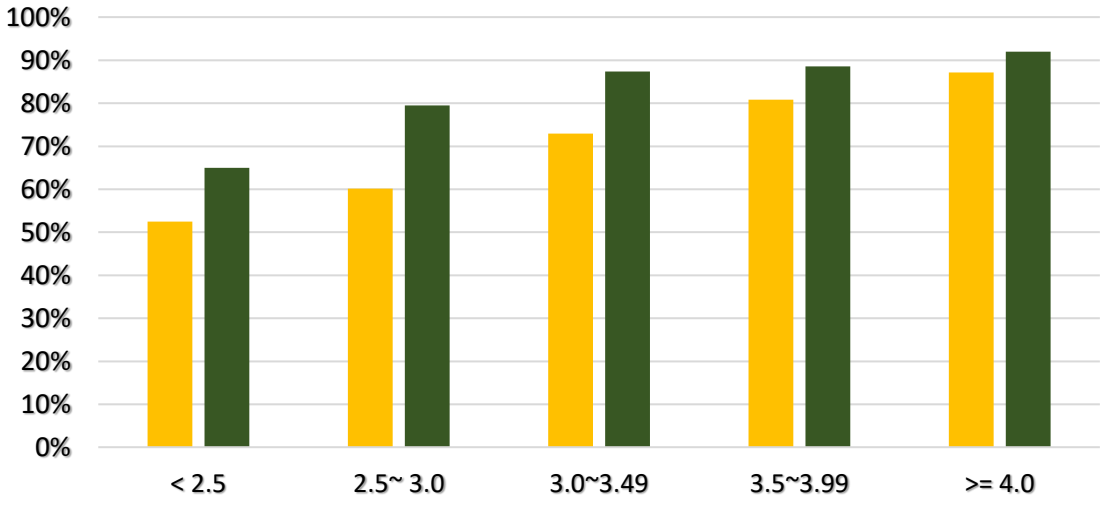

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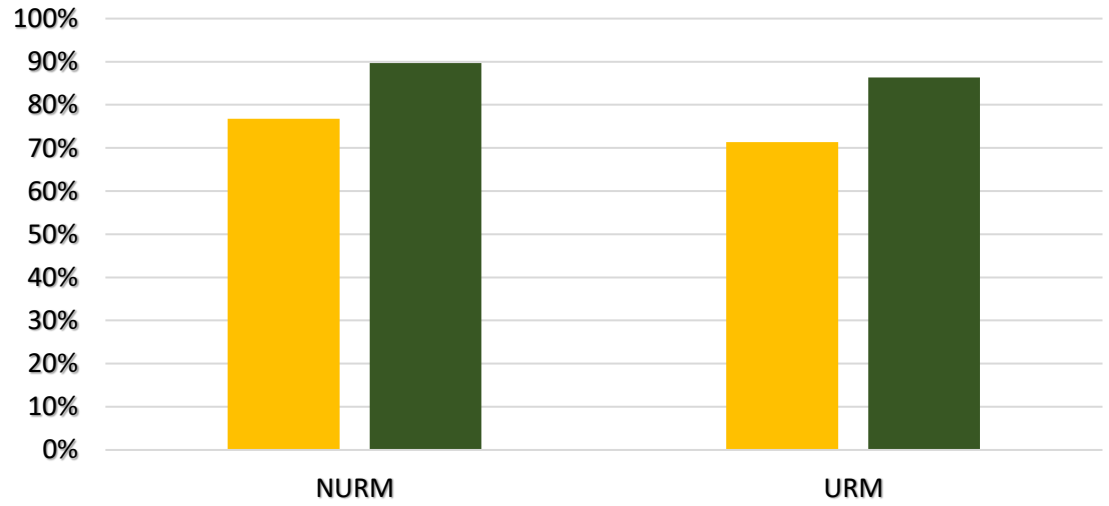

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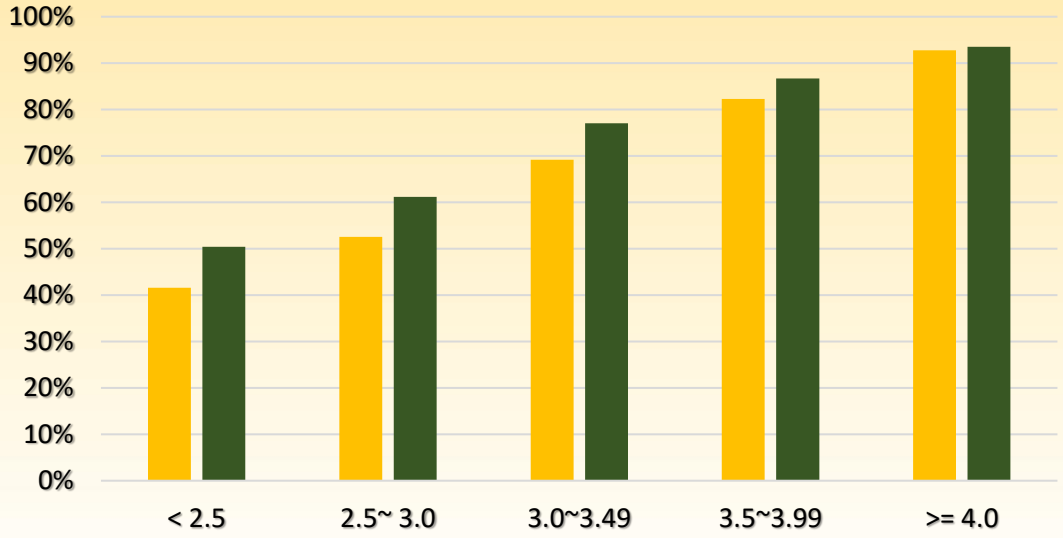

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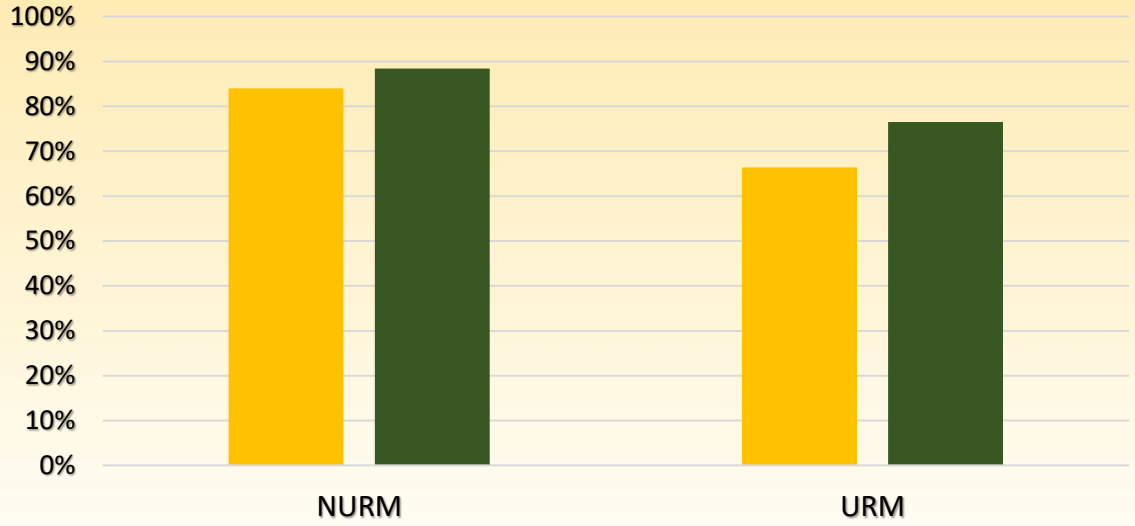

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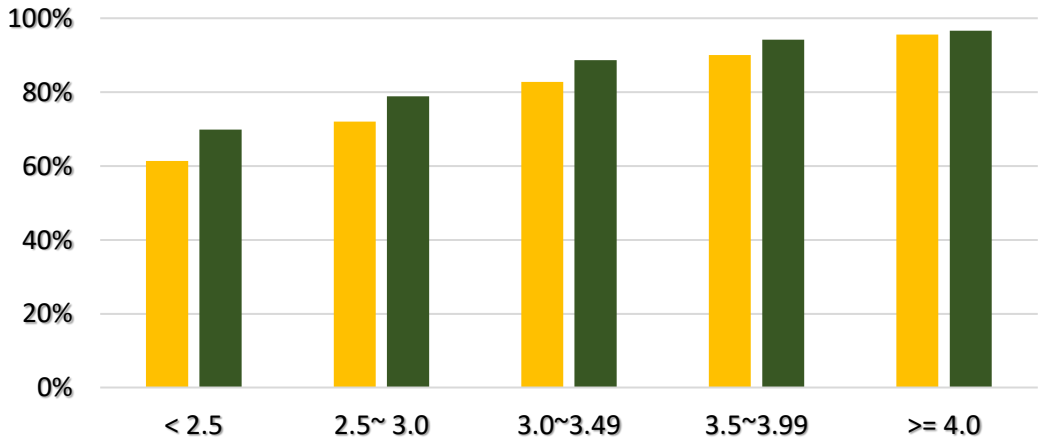

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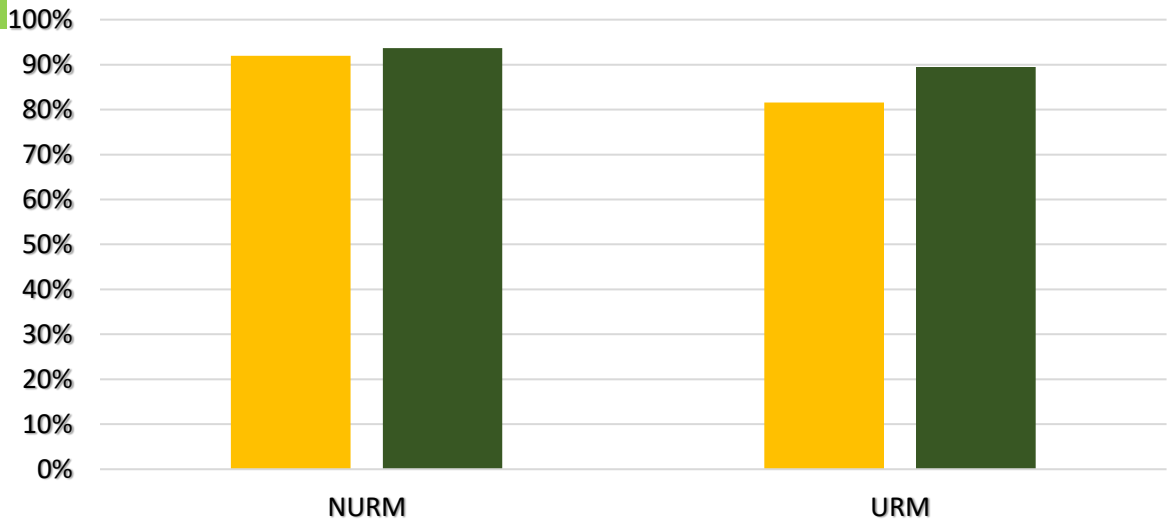


Testing for Statistical Significance!

1st Gen ?
Gender ?
HS GPA ?
URM ?
Full-Load ?
Unmet Needs ?
Equity Gap : URM X Full-Load ?

COVID Crisis and Freshmen Full-Load

Timeline / ***Metrics***	***1-Year Retention***	***Completion Rates*** : ***1st Term*** and AY (UnitsEarned/UnitsAttempted)	***4-Year Grad Rates***
Pre-Covid Cohort	Fall 2016 – Fall 2018	Fall 2016 – Fall 2018	***Fall 2016 – Fall 2019***
In-Covid Cohort	***Fall 2019 – Fall 2021***	Fall 2019 – Fall 2021	
Post-Covid Cohort	***Fall 2022***	Fall 2022	
Total	Fall 2016 – Fall 2022	Fall 2016 – Fall 2022	

Logistic Regression on *1-Year Retention Rates* *: In-Covid*

HS GPA > Unmet Needs > 15 Units in 1st Term > URM > MEN >

IVs	B	Wald	Sig.	Exp(B)
HS GPA	1.055	325.086	**0.000**	2.873
URM	-0.298	7.484	**0.006**	0.742
Full-Load in 1st Term	0.506	16.696	**0.000**	1.659
MEN	-0.112	5.860	**0.015**	0.894
1st GEN	-0.009	0.032	0.858	0.991
UNMET_NEEDS	-0.057	216.462	**0.000**	0.945
URM X Full-Load	-0.074	0.302	0.582	0.929

Nagelkerke R Square = 10%

Logistic Regression on *1-Year Retention Rates* *: Post-Covid*

HS GPA > Unmet Needs > 15 Units in 1st Term

IVs	B	Wald	Sig.	Exp(B)
HS GPA	0.919	77.319	**0.000**	2.506
URM	-0.102	0.330	0.566	0.903
Full-Load in 1st Term	0.734	8.063	**0.005**	2.084
MEN	-0.087	0.966	0.326	0.917
1st GEN	-0.124	1.752	0.186	0.883
UNMET_NEEDS	-0.025	10.640	**0.001**	0.975
URM X Full-Load	0.038	0.019	0.891	1.039

Nagelkerke R Square = 10%

Logistic Regression on *4-Year Graduation Rates*

HS GPA > Men > 15 Units in 1st Term > Unmet Needs

IVs	B	Wald	Sig.	Exp(B)
HS GPA	1.247	458.536	**0.000**	3.480
URM	-0.186	3.794	0.051	0.830
Full-Load in 1st Term	0.881	77.842	**0.000**	2.414
MEN	-0.567	153.042	**0.000**	0.567
1st GEN	-0.061	1.676	0.195	0.941
UNMET_NEEDS	-0.018	15.349	**0.000**	0.983
URM X Full-Load	-0.073	0.422	0.516	0.930

Nagelkerke R Square = 10%

Higher Education Research Literature

- Academic ***Momentum*** Theory

  The speed with which undergraduates initially progress in college significantly affects their likelihood of completing a degree

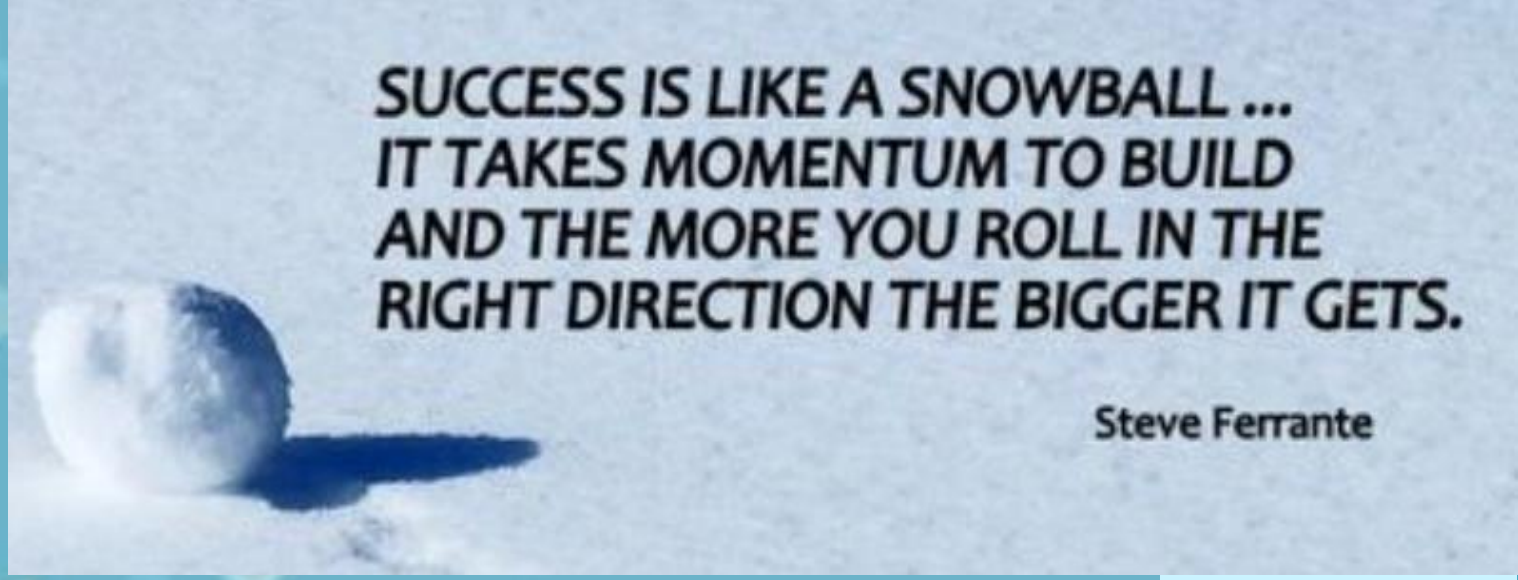
- Early Credit ***Momentum***

  15 credits in their first term graduates at significantly higher rates

- Academic ***Intensity*** Theory

  Levels of academic intensity (high units) in the first year of higher education contributes eventual success

Momentum !!



Momentum !!

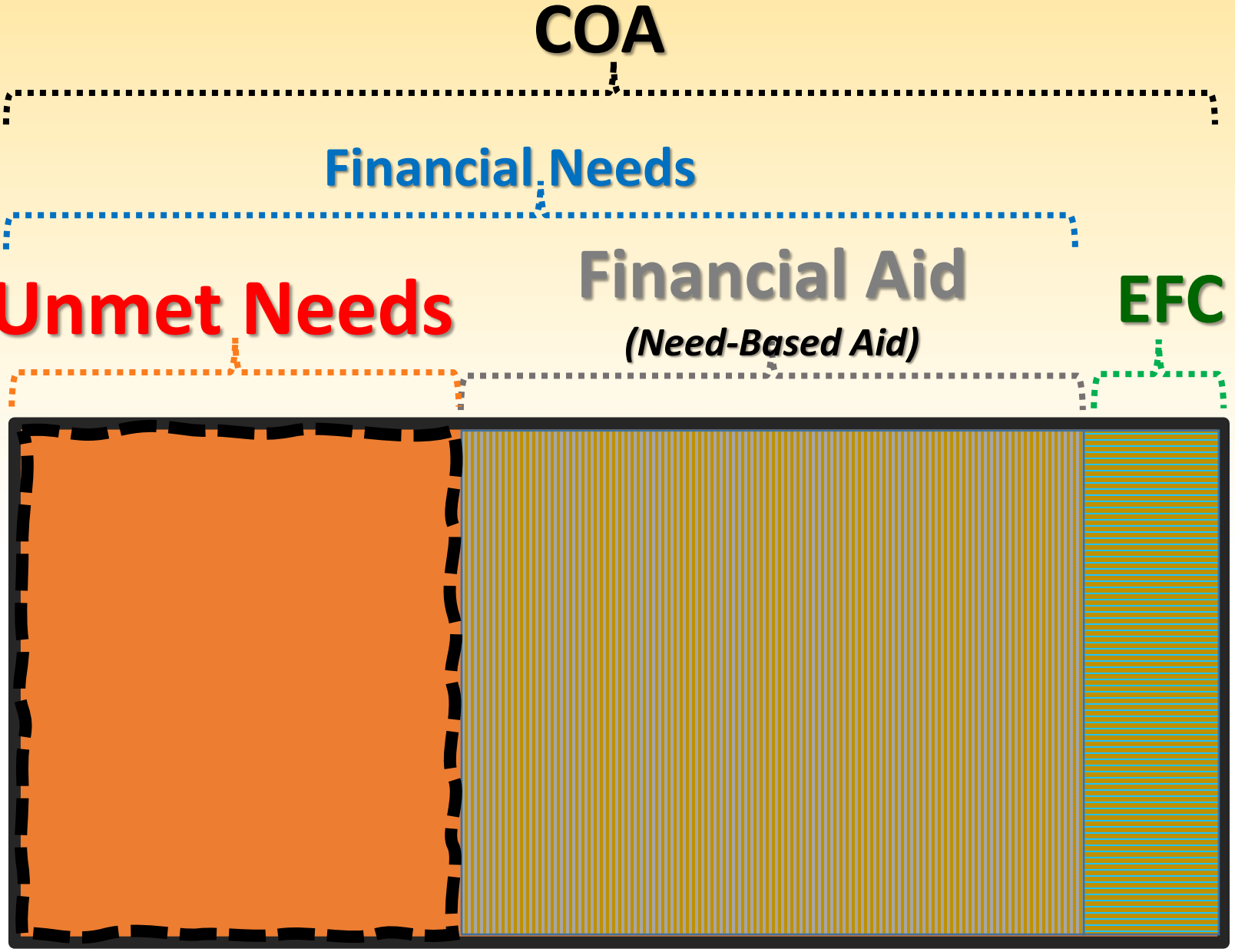
SNOWBALL EFFECT

Conclusion/Implication

- **HS GPA, Unmet Needs, Full-Load, URM X Full-Load** (Equity Gap)
- ***Pell-Eligible*** (dichotomous) vs. ***Unmet Needs*** (continuous)?

- Unmet Needs: Difference between the Financial Need and Financial Aid Offered
- Financial Needs: Difference between the COA and the EFC
- COA (Cost of Attendance): Estimated cost, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, room & board, personal costs, and transportation
- EFC (Expected Family Contribution): Amount that the family is expected to contribute to the student's education (determined by the Federal Methodology need analysis formula)

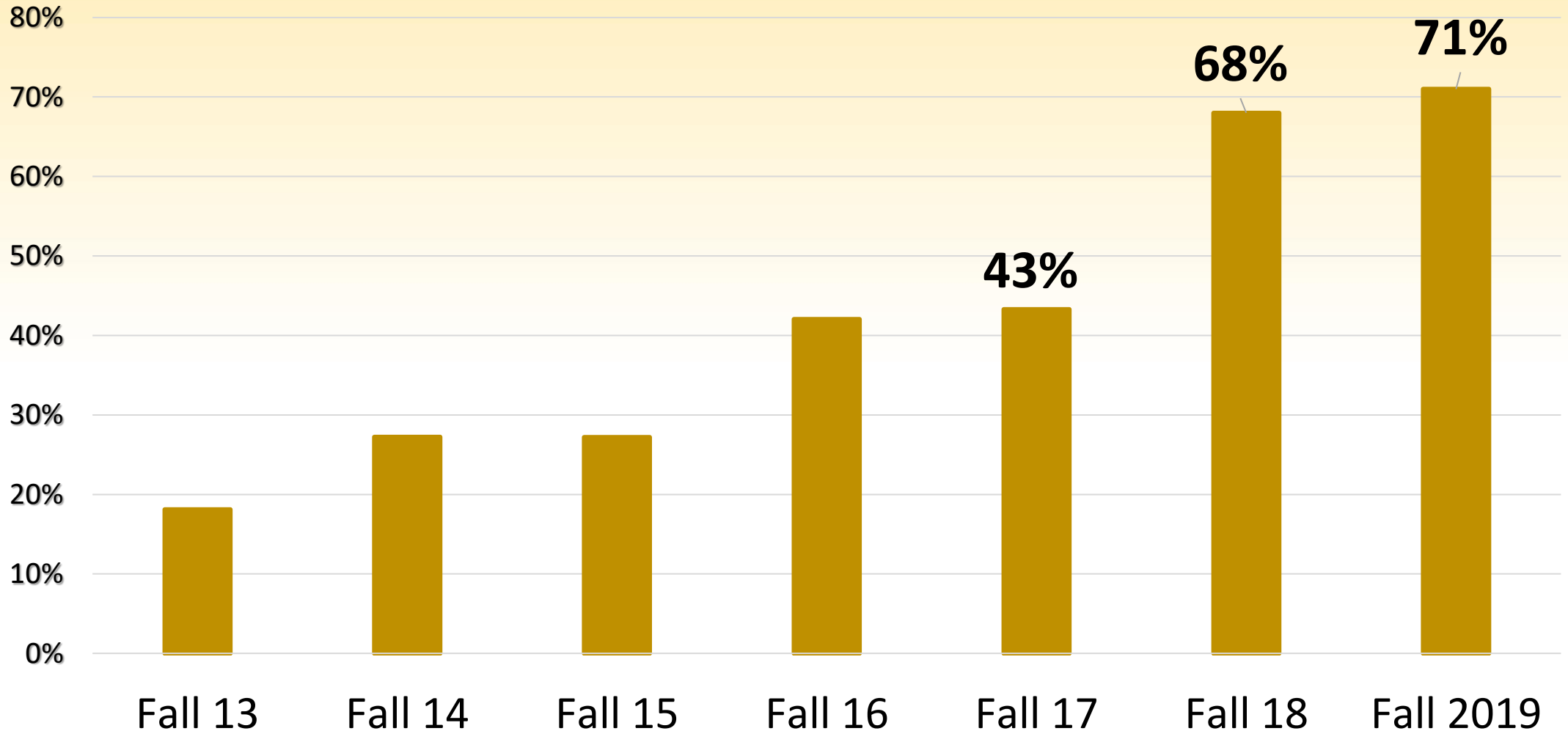
Conclusion/ Implication



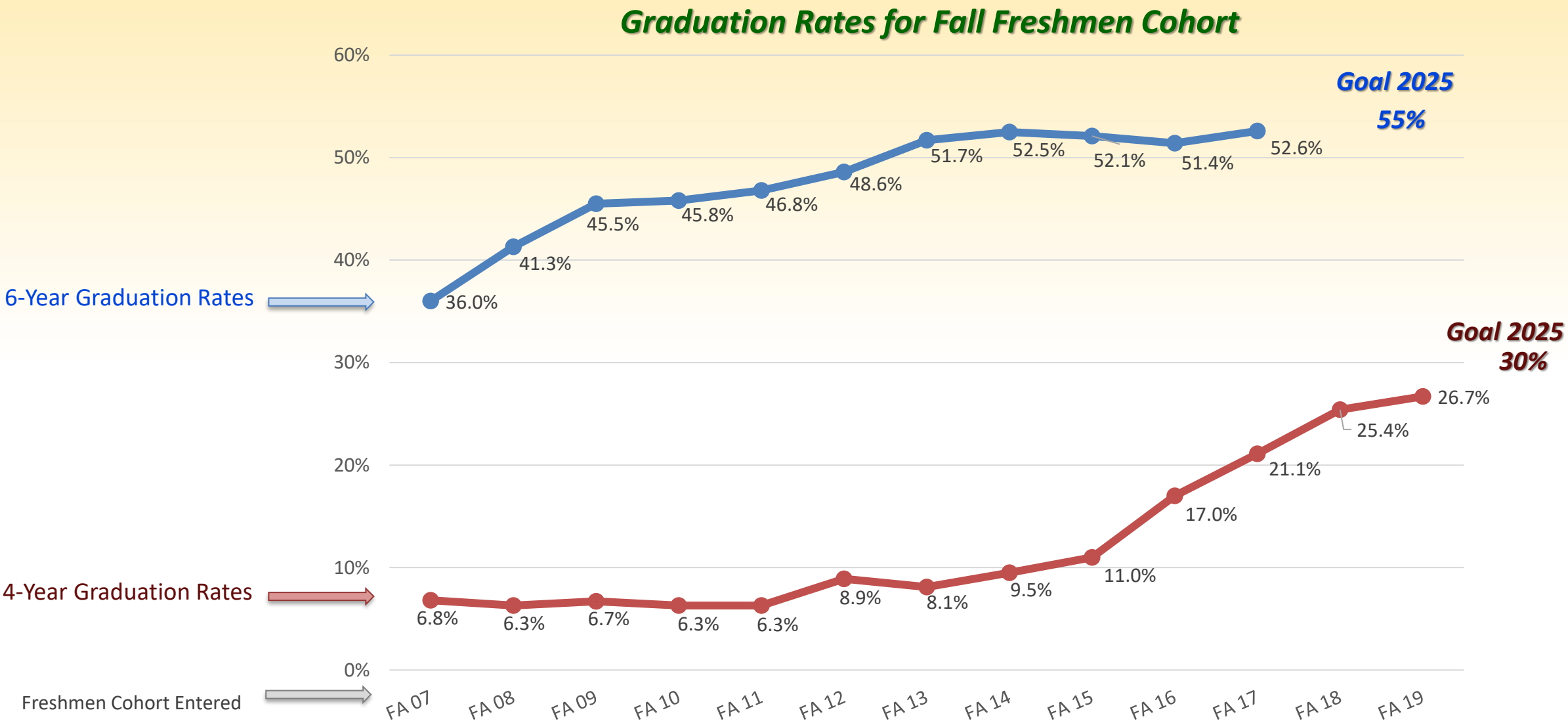
Need-Based Aid:
Pell Grant, Scholarship, Fed WorkStudy, Fed Direct Sub Loan

Pre-Covid % of Full Loaders (>= 15 Units) :

First-Time Freshmen

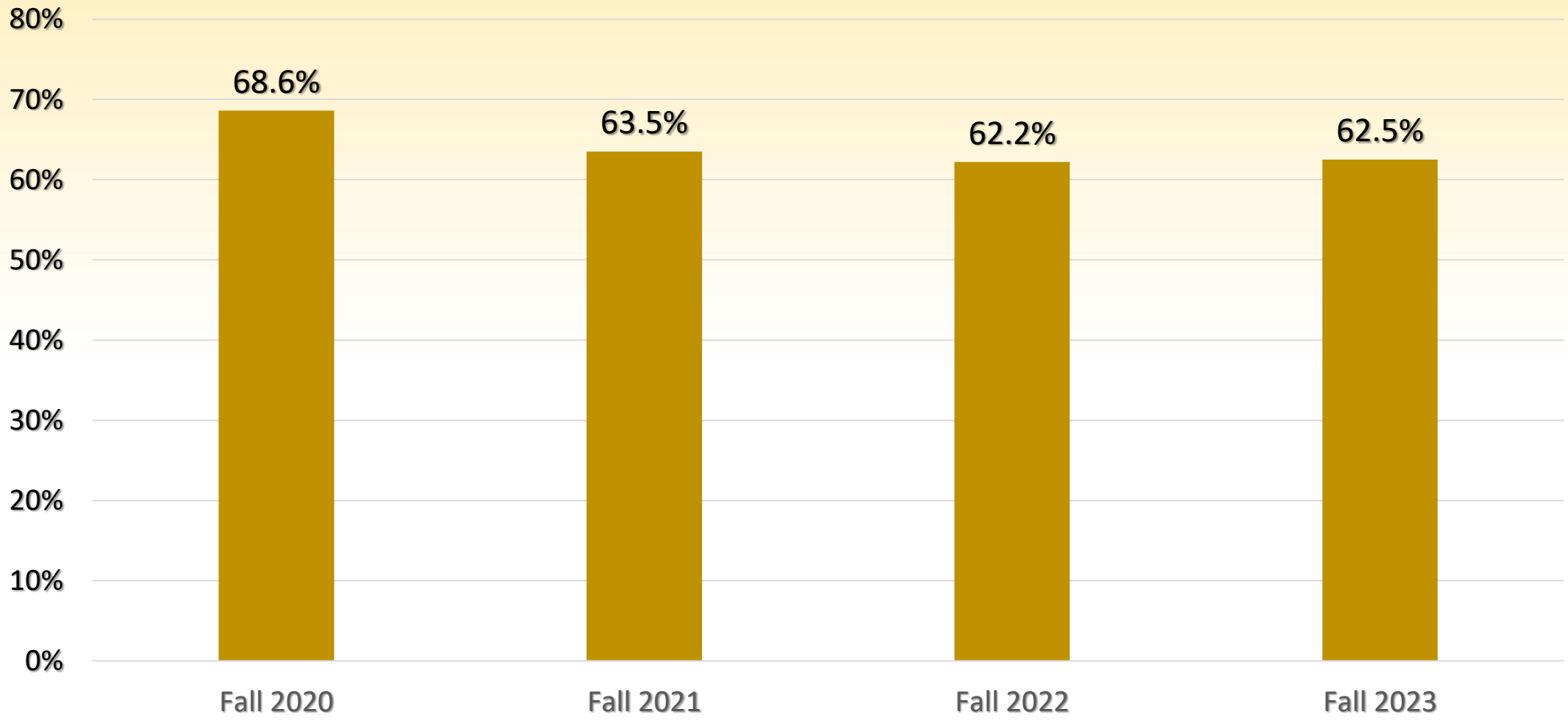


Graduation Initiative 2025: Cal State LA



In- and Post-Covid % of Full-Loaders

First-Time Freshmen



Unmet Needs	Pre-COVID	In-COVID	Post-Covid
Median	**$3,721**	**$4,775**	**$6,728**

Q & A

Contact Us

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