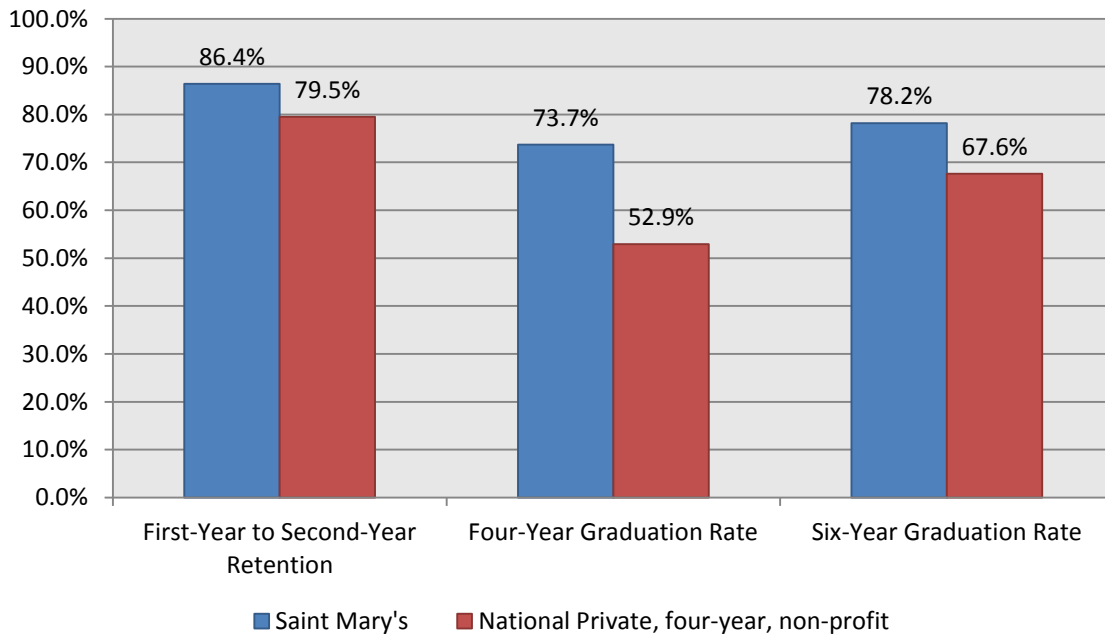


Institutional Research Update (January 2015)

Happy New Year from the Office of Institutional Research. This month we're taking a deeper look at the Fall 2008 first-year, full-time cohort's enrollment and graduation persistence patterns. First, graduation and retention rates will be put into a national perspective using the most recent available national figures from the Fall 2006 cohort. Then you'll find a longitudinal tracking of the 455 students enrolled as a first-time, full-time student in Fall 2008 tracking them to graduation. This data explores the persistence of students of color from the Fall 2008 cohort and how their retention and graduation rates compare to all students in the cohort. The outcomes show that students of color were less likely to be retained to their second year and less likely to graduate than the overall cohort. Data from this analysis also demonstrate that more than 70% of those withdrawing from the Fall 2008 cohort did so prior to beginning their second year at Saint Mary's. Finally, the report investigates how the Fall 2008 cohort's rates compare to the previous twenty years of cohorts.

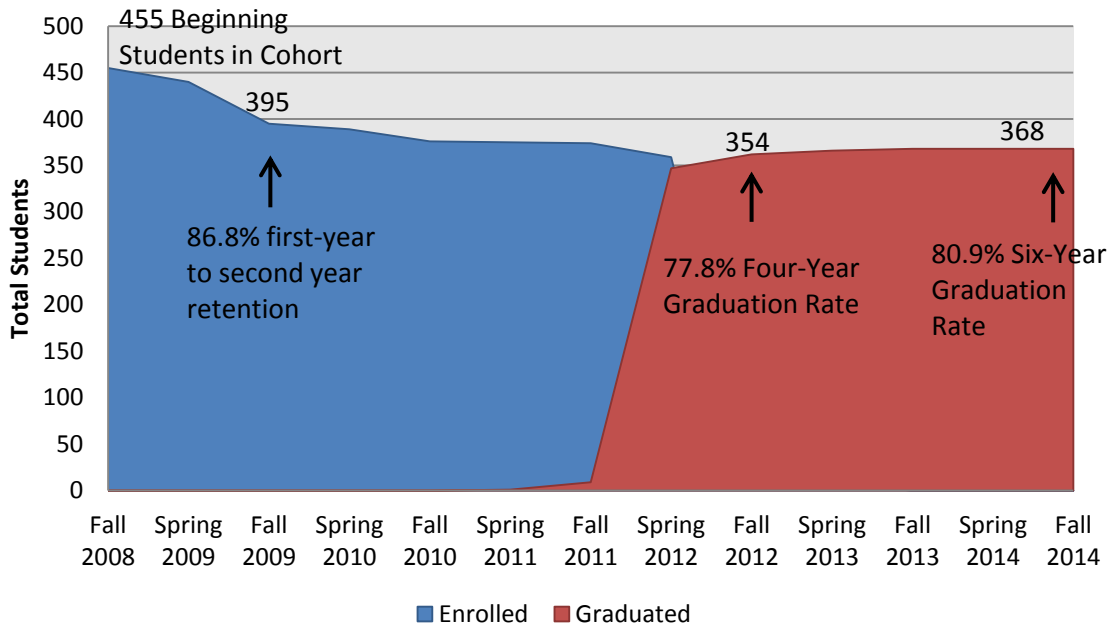
Retention and Graduation Rates in a National Context (Fall 2006 Cohort)



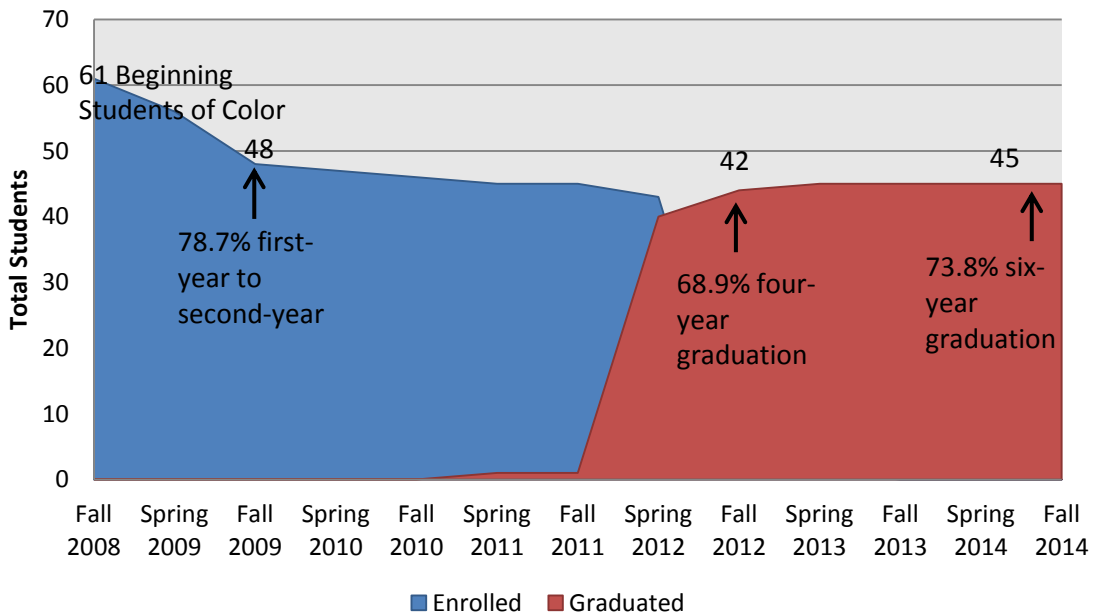
Note: Data from Fall 2006 first-time, full-time cohort. Federal reporting guidelines require institutions report four and six-year graduation rates based on the first-time, full-time entering fall cohort.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Tracking Enrollment and Graduation of First-Time, Full-Time Students Entering in Fall 2008

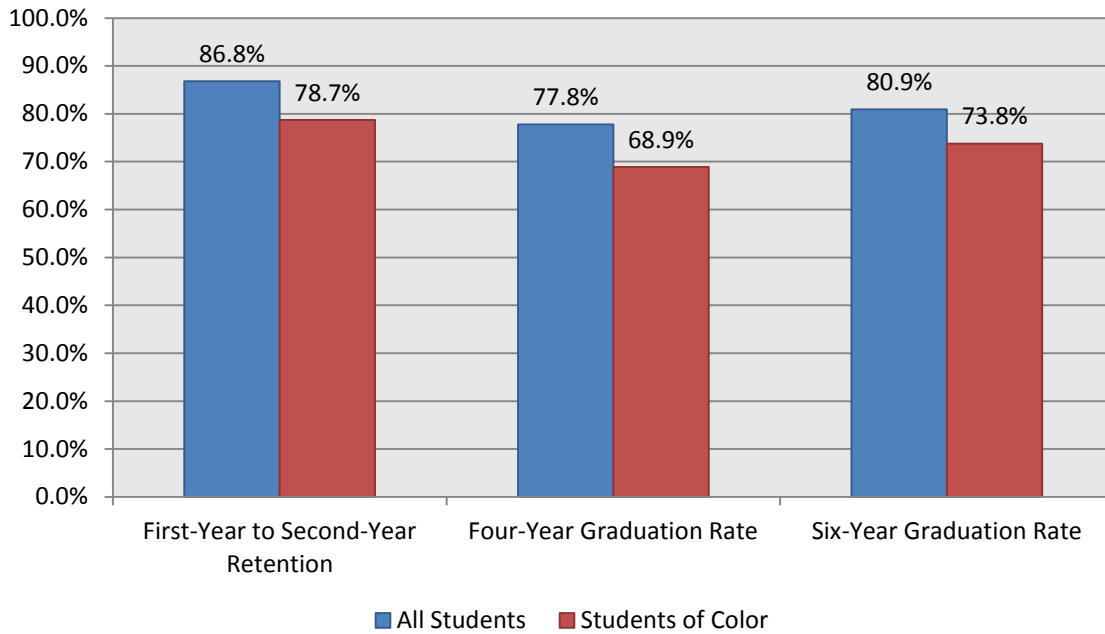


Tracking Enrollment and Graduation of First-Time, Full-Time **Students of Color** Entering in Fall 2008

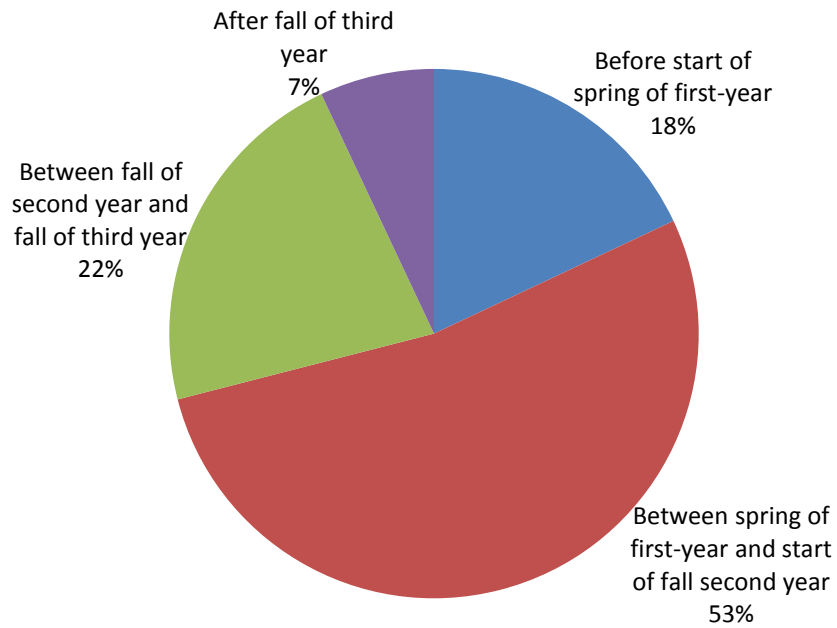


Note: Four-year graduation rate federally defined as those first-time, full-time students entering in Fall 2008 who graduated on or before August 31, 2012. Six-year as those graduating on or before August 31, 2014.

Retention and graduation rate comparison between students of color and all students entering in Fall 2008

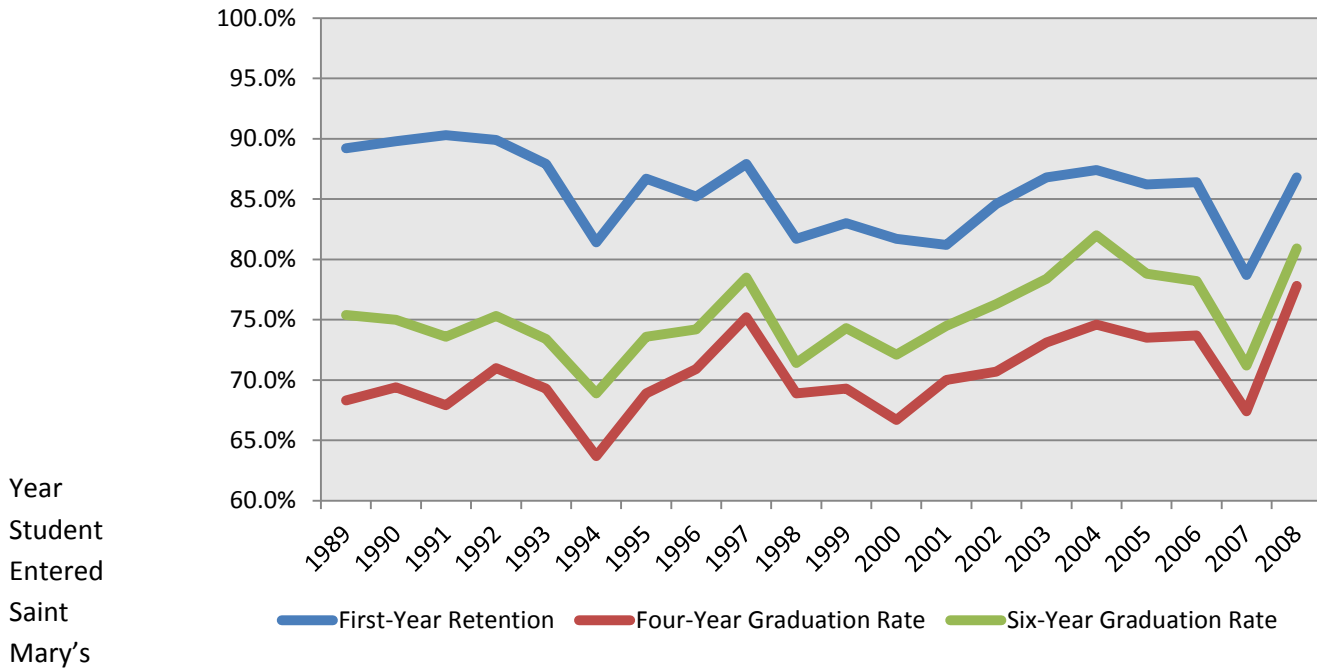


For students who did not graduate from Saint Mary's, when did they withdraw?



*Fall 2008 entering first-time, full-time cohort.

How does the persistence of the fall 2008 cohort compare to the last twenty years of first-year cohorts?



- **Retention:** Seven cohort years had higher retention rates than fall 2008 over the previous twenty years.
- **Four-Year Graduation Rate:** Fall 2008 had the second highest four-year graduation rate of any cohort over the previous twenty years.
- **Six-Year Graduation Rate:** Fall 2008 had the third highest six-year graduation rate of any cohort over the previous twenty years.

Overall Take-Aways:

- Retention and graduation rates at Saint Mary's exceed the national average for private, four-year, non-profit institutions.
- While retention and graduation rates are strong at Saint Mary's overall, students of color are less likely to be retained and to graduate than the cohort overall from Fall 2008.
- For first-time, full-time students who entered in Fall 2008 and left the College, the majority departed between spring semester of the first-year and the start of the fall semester of their second year.
- Retention and graduation rates declined for students entering the College between 1989 and 1994. Rates recovered for students entering through 1998 and a steady increase was again seen in cohorts entering between 2001 and 2004. Students entering in Fall 2007 were retained at a very low rate compared to historic standards impacting graduation rates as well. Rates for the Fall 2008 entering cohort have rebounded strongly. Rates for the Fall 2008 cohort are among the highest seen over the last twenty years of entering first-time, full-time students.