



Chapter 4 Undergraduate Student Success

Goals

The University of Michigan prepares its students to become leaders in the 21st century. The U-M's academic and extra-curricular programs have been developed and implemented so that each student can complete a meaningful degree program in a reasonable time, and thereby advance his or her career and personal goals.

Overview

The University takes a number of steps to facilitate students' timely progress to degree completion. This includes providing sufficient course offerings, excellent advising and mentoring, as well as ensuring that in-state students who demonstrate financial need receive sufficient financial aid. Out-of-state students also benefit from these resources, including access to financial assistance.

Each U-M undergraduate school or college has developed initiatives to help students address impediments to successful completion of a degree. The academic units monitor student performance in key courses and require additional academic advising for students who need more support. In addition, all students may take advantage of academic support services and programs, such as departmental tutoring, study skills workshops, mentoring, and programs offered by the Sweetland Writing Center and the Science Learning Center.

This chapter includes data on graduation rates by first-year undergraduate cohorts, retention rates (percentage of first-year students who return to U-M the following fall), and survey data related to student satisfaction with the U-M academic experience.

Ninety-seven percent of first-year undergraduates enroll the following fall, and 82% of Michigan undergraduate students complete their first degree within four years of enrolling as first-year undergraduates. About 93

percent of recent undergraduates earn a degree within six years of initial enrollment. University of Michigan students' six-year completion rates are now 10 percentage points higher than the average of public Association of American Universities (AAU) member institutions, and equal to the average of AAU private universities. These high rates reflect U-M's ability to recruit excellent, well-prepared students and deliver high-quality education in a supportive environment.

U-M undergraduates are surveyed regularly and report positive opinions of the University as a whole and of their individual academic programs.

In addition to graduate school or employment, University of Michigan students are increasingly interested in becoming entrepreneurs, with a growing number of students launching business ventures.

For more information

Additional data on undergraduate demographics can be found in Chapter 2 on admissions and enrollment and in Chapter 7 on diversity. Information about undergraduate costs and financial aid is in Chapter 3.

Most Popular Undergraduate Majors of 2023-24 Graduates

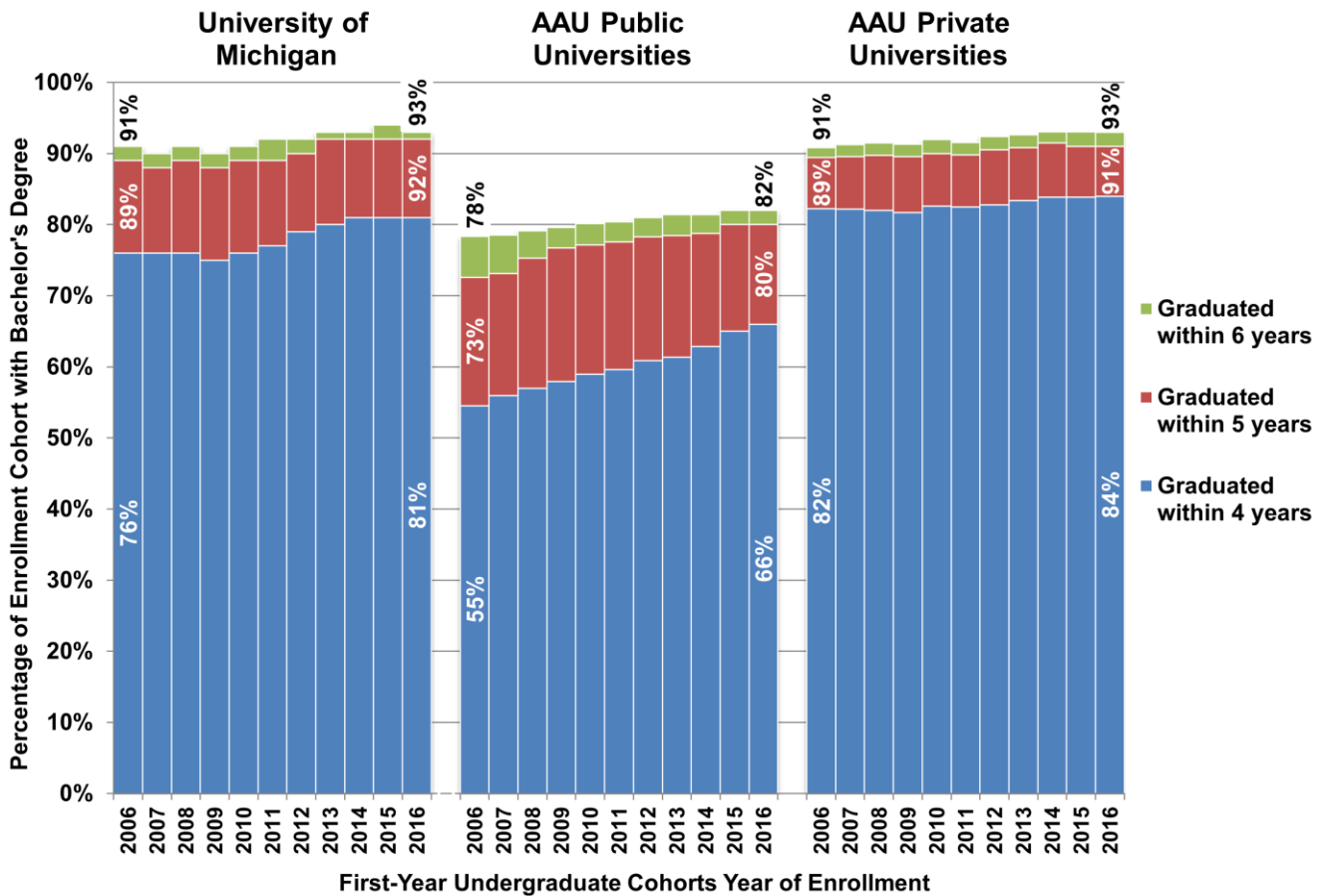
- **Computer Science** (13.2%)
- **Economics** (7.9%)
- **Business** (6.5%)
- **Psychology** (3.9%)
- **Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience** (3.7%)

Charts in Chapter 4

- 4.1 **Graduation Rates for U-M, AAU Public and AAU Private Universities for First-Year Undergraduate Cohorts Starting Fall 2006-2016.**
- 4.2 **Average Retention Rates of First-Year Undergraduates at U-M and Peer Schools, 2012-2022 Cohorts.**
- 4.3 **Responses of U-M Seniors to Survey Questions about Satisfaction with Academics, Course Availability and Advising, 2009-2024.**

U-M graduation rates are far higher than the average rates for AAU public universities and comparable to the average 6-year rates for AAU private universities.

4.1 Graduation Rates for U-M, AAU Public and AAU Private Universities¹ for First-Year Undergraduate Cohorts Starting Fall 2006-2016.



SOURCE: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

This chart shows the percentages of first-year undergraduate cohorts that have graduated with a bachelor’s degree in four, five and six years. The bottom axis represents the year each first-year cohort started college. Comparative data from Association of American Universities (AAU) institutions² are displayed for 2006 through 2016 cohorts. (AAU schools used to compute the averages based on student status six years since the cohort entered college.)

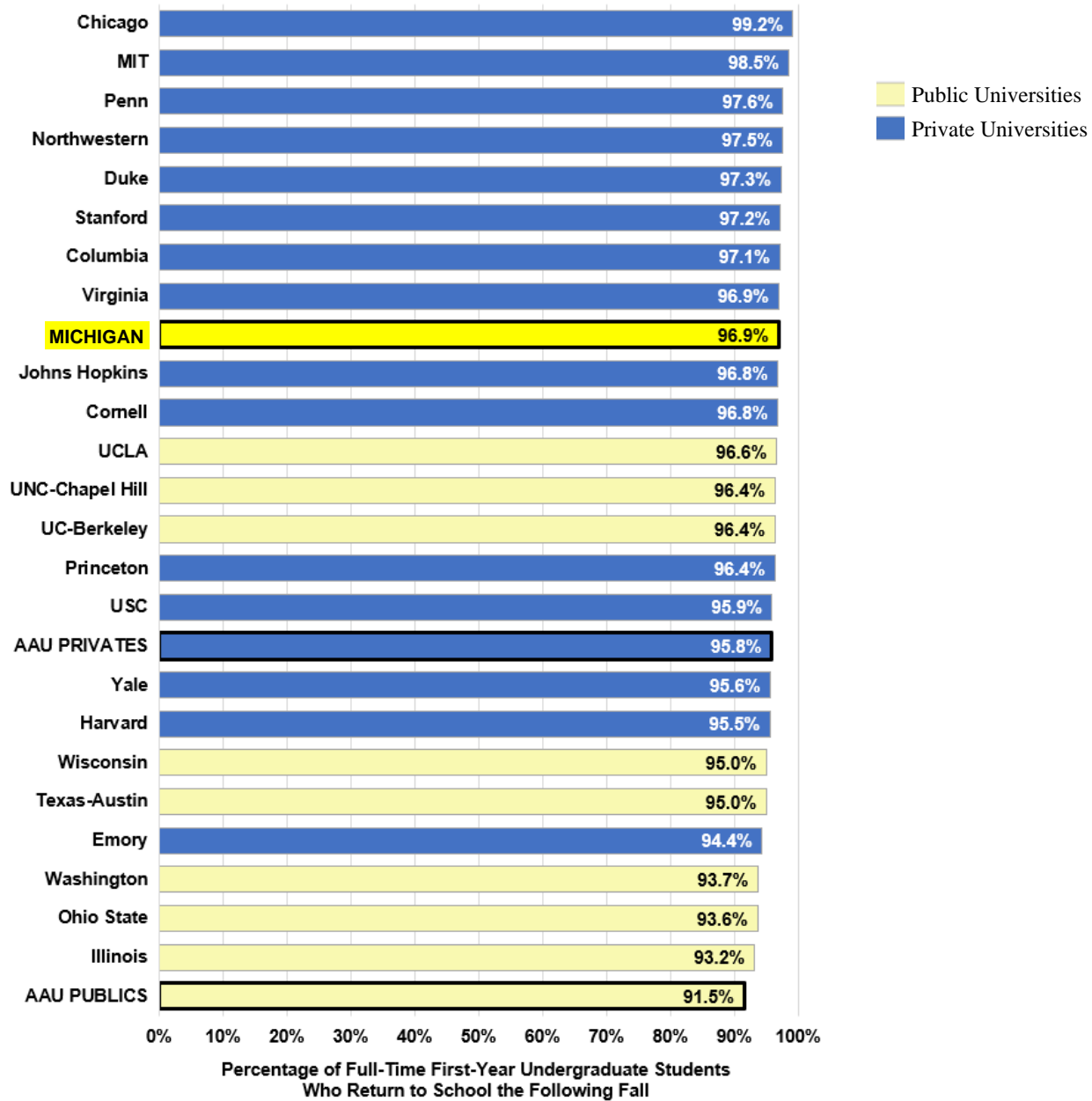
Graduation rates for U-M undergraduate students have increased over time. Please note that by presenting averages of graduation rates for the AAU institution groups smooths the year-to-year variation compared to U-M's single-institution data trend.

¹ A list of current public and private Association of American Universities (AAU) member institutions is found in Appendix A.

² Penn State University graduation rates are not included because the school only reports aggregated data for all PSU campuses to IPEDS.

A high percentage of U-M's first-year undergraduates enroll in courses the following year, and at rates similar to peer institutions.

4.2 Average Retention Rates of First-Year Undergraduates at U-M and Peer Schools, Fall 2012-2022 Cohorts.



SOURCE: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

First-years at the U-M and its peers return to enroll for a second year at high rates. Average retention rates for public and private member schools of the Association of American Universities² (AAU) are shown for comparison. All U-M peer schools are

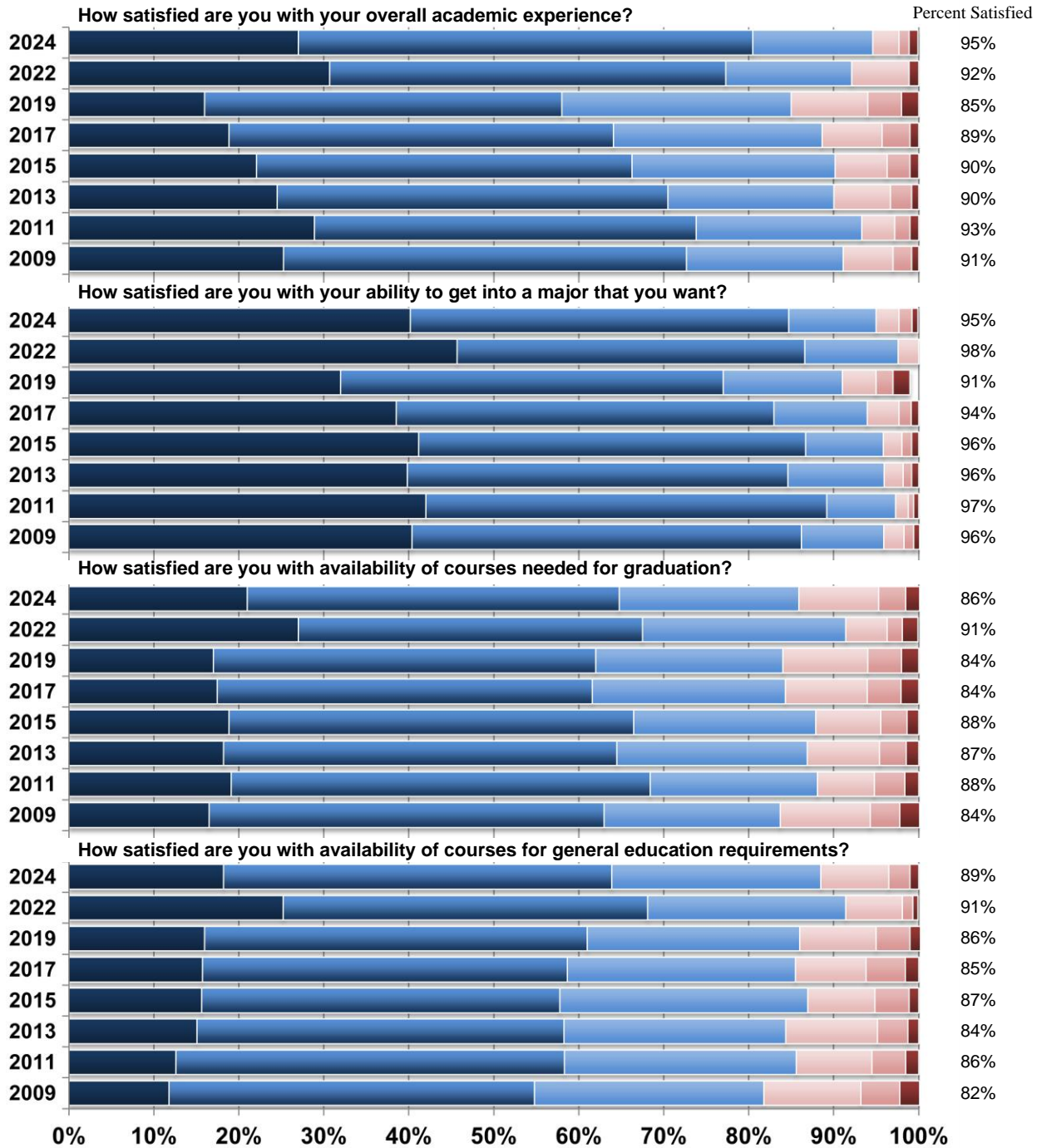
AAU members, although not all AAU members are considered peer schools.

² A list of current public and private Association of American Universities (AAU) member institutions is found in Appendix A.

Seniors have expressed a high level of satisfaction with their U-M academic experience over several measures and satisfaction has generally increased over time.

4.3 Responses of U-M Graduating Seniors to Survey Questions about Satisfaction with Academics, Course Availability, and Advising, 2009-2024.

- Very Satisfied ■ Satisfied ■ Somewhat Satisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied ■ Very Dissatisfied



SOURCE: U-M Asks You (UMAY) undergraduate survey

The percentage to the right of each bar is the fraction of students who replied "Very Satisfied," "Satisfied," and "Somewhat Satisfied" (the segments shaded in blue) for the particular question and year.