

# SDSU IN BRIEF

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First-Time Freshmen Retention and Graduation Rates

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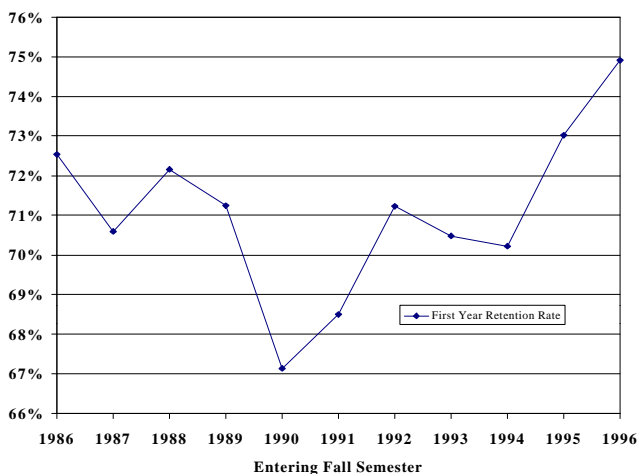
"SDSU" in Brief" is distributed to the SDSU faculty, staff and students and is available on the the Web site. <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/institutional-research/>. Feedback? Questions?- Contact **Sally Farris**, Ext. 46846. Email: [sally.farris@sdsu.edu](mailto:sally.farris@sdsu.edu).

Retention and graduation information for all first-time freshmen and undergraduate transfers has been collected for a 10 year period beginning with their first semester enrolled at the University. The tracking begins with the fall 1986 cohorts and provides the data needed to calculate retention and graduation rates. Retention rates are the percentage of entering students that continued undergraduate enrollment in successive fall terms. Graduation rates are the percentage of entering students that graduate by the end of the academic year. Recent results have shown overall improvements in retention and graduation rates for first-time freshmen and undergraduate transfers.

## First-Time Freshmen

Seventy-five percent of freshmen entering in fall 1996 returned in fall 1997. This is **the highest first-year retention rate** reported since the beginning of freshmen tracking in Fall 1986.

The **two-year retention rate** of 59 percent also shows an increase over previous years. The three to six year retention rates have remained generally unchanged.

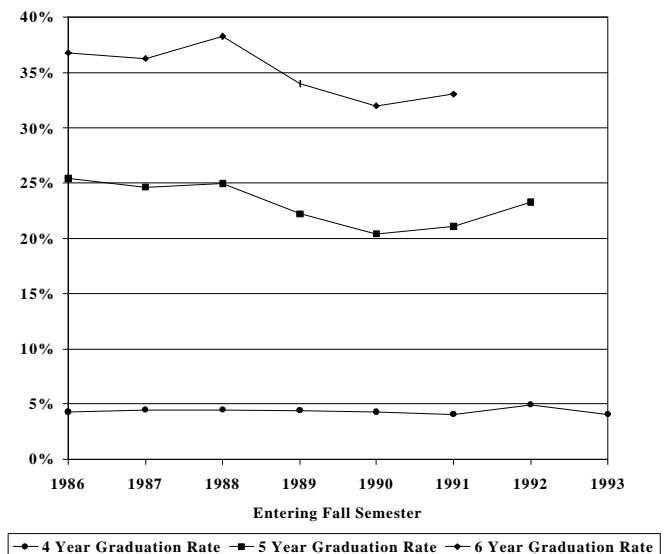


The four year graduation rate historically varies little from 4 percent.

The latest **five year graduation rate** of 23 percent for fall 1992 freshmen is higher than the three previous reporting cohorts.

After experiencing a two year decline, the **six year rate** has increased one percentage point to 33 percent.

The table below displays the four, five, six year graduation rates for first-time freshmen.



Additional retention and graduation information is available on the Academic and Institutional Web site, <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/institutional-research>.