

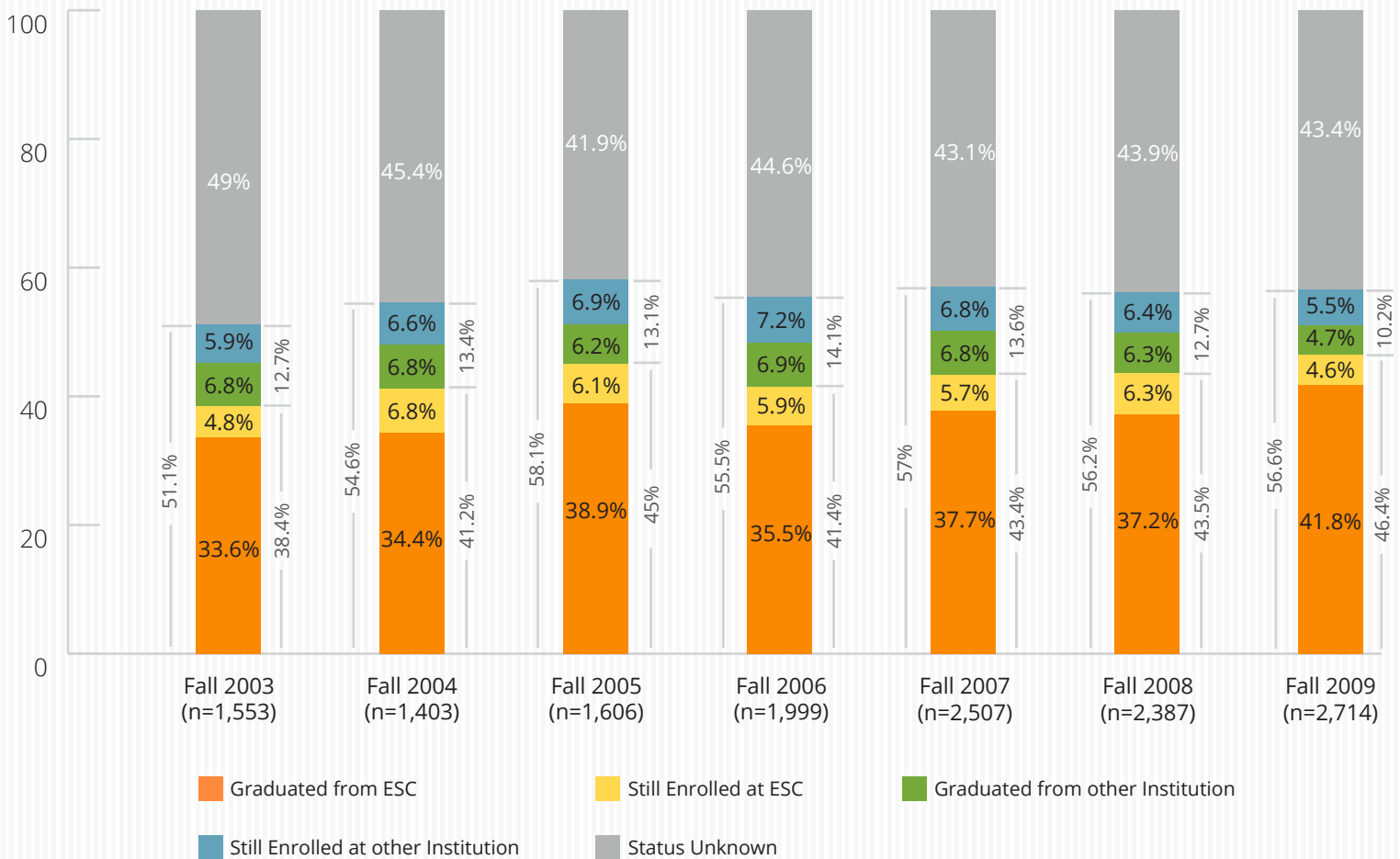
# Graduation Rates and Retention Rates

Methods for calculating graduation and retention rates as reported on College Navigator are based on cohorts of students that began their studies as full-time, first-time degree-seeking students in a given fall term, tracked over six years, or 150% of normal time for completion. Students who have already attended another postsecondary institution, or who began their studies on a part-time basis, are not tracked for this rate. The overall graduation rate for the Fall 2009 cohort of first-time, full-time degree seeking students was 24%, however, most Empire State College students are not included in this calculation, given that they frequently enroll part time, and have had some prior college enrollment experience elsewhere. First-time, full-time students represent less than two percent of undergraduate fall enrollment.

First to second year retention rates provided by College Navigator measure the percentage of first-time students seeking bachelor's degrees who return to continue studies the following fall. Retention rates for first-time, full-time bachelor's degree seekers initially enrolling at Empire State College in Fall 2013 was 57%, while for part-time students of this type, the rate was 52%.

Graduation and retention rates vary nationally by sector and selectivity. The 2015 Digest of Education Statistics indicates that the six-year graduation rate for four-year public institutions that promote access (open admission) was 34.5%. The equivalent rate at all four-year publics was 58.5%, while at four-year publics that are highly selective the rate was 85%.

The college's internally defined approach for computing retention and graduation rates is more inclusive, by design. Cohorts of new, matriculated (degree-seeking) students are tracked over time, indefinitely, and irrespective of entry status (first-time, transfer, full or part time). New matriculated students initially enrolling in the Fall 2013 had a one-year retention rate of 66.9%. The graph below provides a snapshot of the status of cohorts of new, matriculated undergraduate students who initially enrolled at Empire State College during the fall terms between 2003 and 2009 (as of July 2016), six years after their initial enrollment. Irrespective of the cohort, more than half of all students initially enrolling at Empire State College either graduated or were still enrolled six years later, and the majority of those students either completed or were retained through Empire State College.



<sup>1</sup> <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=SUNY+Empire+State+College&s=all&id=196264>

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 2015 [Table 326.10]

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from Empire State College, Decision Support Annual Retention Cube

<sup>4</sup> Graph based on Student Achievement Measures (SAM) conventions for the bachelor's degree-seeking model. "Graduated from ESC" includes bachelor's completers and associate completers that have not subsequently re-enrolled or completed a bachelor's. Students who initially obtained an associate degree from ESC then subsequently re-enrolled or completed another degree at ESC, or re-enrolled/completed another degree elsewhere are classified based on their most recent activity. Cohort n's based on students found via the NSC.