Stony Brook University

School of Communication & Journalism 2025-26 Annual Report

Enrollment / Retention & Graduation Rates / Time to Degree

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness, July 14, 2026

The following annual report details enrollment, undergraduate retention and graduation rates, and undergraduate time to degree in the School of Communication & Journalism. This report is updated yearly and posted on the School's webpage in compliance with ACEJMC's (Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications) Standard 1: Mission, Governance and Administration.

Enrollment

The School of Communication & Journalism measures enrollment in accordance with University standards, using headcount enrollment statistics from the official fall term day 15 snapshot. Below, programmatic enrollment is detailed for the past 10 years, including information about new and continuing students in these data, "New Transfer" indicates a new external transfer student, students switching their major are included under "Continuing Undergraduate." Students are counted once in each program they are enrolled, and once in the overall total.

	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
School of Communication & Journalism	**254**	**244**	**223**	**235**	**224**	**277**	**289**	**331**	**356**	**365**
Communication (B.A)								**4**	**76**	**127**
New Freshman									32	26
New Transfer								3	15	12
Continuing Undergraduate								1	29	89
Journalism (B.A)	**248**	**242**	**221**	**235**	**217**	**216**	**173**	**164**	**124**	**123**
New Freshman	35	42	42	38	30	40	29	25	18	19
New Transfer	31	28	25	26	24	23	11	12	4	12
Continuing Undergraduate	182	172	154	171	163	153	133	127	102	92
Journalism (M.S)	**6**	**2**	**2**		**1**		**3**	**8**	**11**	**9**
New Graduate							3	5	6	4
Continuing Graduate	6	2	2		1			3	5	5
Mass Communication (B.S.)						**37**	**87**	**127**	**109**	**67**
New Freshman						6	13	17	10	3
New Transfer						6	12	17	10	4
Continuing Undergraduate						25	62	93	89	60
Science Communication (M.S.)						**4**	**7**	**16**	**18**	**19**
New Graduate						3	3	10	8	6
Continuing Graduate						1	4	6	10	13
Science Communication (Cert.)					**6**	**20**	**19**	**13**	**19**	**21**
New Graduate						2	1	2	3	
Continuing Graduate					6	18	18	11	16	21

Retention & Graduation Rates

The School of Communication & Journalism measures Undergraduate student success following the University's "junior year graduation" rate methodology, which tracks outcomes of students beginning in their "junior year." Students "junior year" is considered the third fall after entry for students who entered as full-time, students or the first fall where they reach junior (U3) standing for students entering as transfer students. The University defines U3 standing as having earned between 57 and 84 credits, but in some rare cases can be manually assigned.

The School has identified retention and graduation rates of junior/U3 students as principal measures of program effectiveness because they are committed to their majors by this point in their careers. Some 60 percent of all Stony Brook undergraduates who complete a degree switch their majors at least once. The examination of success rates of students in the junior year better reflects the performance of students at the programmatic level rather than students' exploratory activity in their early career and provides data more comparable to communication and journalism programs that admit students to the major as juniors. Cohorts are based upon enrollment at the official fall census date. Retention rates are calculated as the percent of each cohort enrolled on the official census date the following fall, including those graduating before the following fall for the purposes of this report; graduation rates are the percent who graduated by August 31 two years (equivalent to 4 years from entry for freshmen or 100% of normal time) or four years (equivalent to 6 years from entry for freshmen or 150% of normal time) later.

Retention* & Graduation** rates – Communication (B.A.)

Because Communication is new, 3-year trends are not available. Over the past 2 years, 73.3% of Communication juniors were retained within the Communication program one year later, compared to university-wide where 85.7% of students were retained within their major one year later. Additionally, over the past 2 years, 83.3% of Communication juniors were retained in any program at Stony Brook one year later, compared to university-wide, where 92.5% of juniors were retained in any program at Stony Brook one year later. **Note, these statistics include students graduating in 1 year.*

**Data for graduation rates are not available at this time, as no cohort has had enough time to complete.

Figure 1.1 Percent of junior year students retained in their program one year later
**includes students graduating*

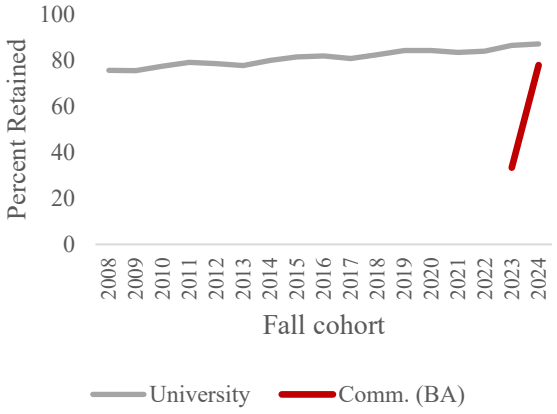
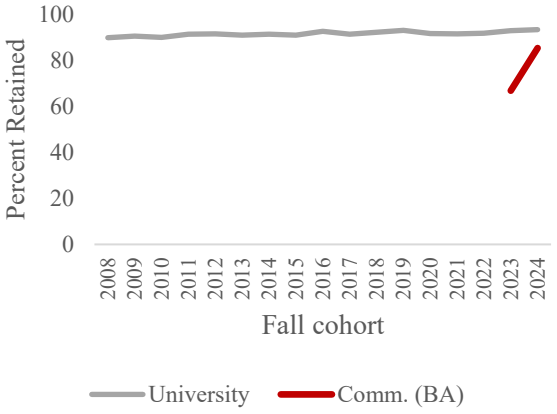


Figure 1.2 Percent of junior year students retained in any program one year later
**includes students graduting*



Retention rates* – Journalism (B.A.)

Over the past 3 years, 84.8% of Journalism juniors were retained within the Journalism program one year later, compared to university-wide where 85.7% of students were retained within their major one year later. Additionally, over the past 3 years, 94.4% of Journalism juniors were retained in any program at Stony Brook one year later, compared to university-wide, where 92.5% of juniors were retained in any program at Stony Brook one year later. **Note, these statistics include students graduating in 1 year.*

Figure 2.1 Percent of junior year students retained in their program one year later
**includes students graduating*

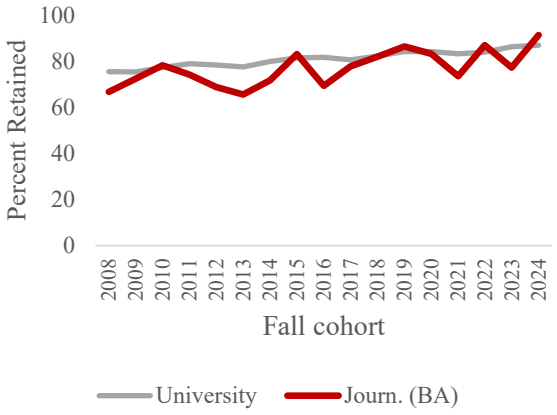
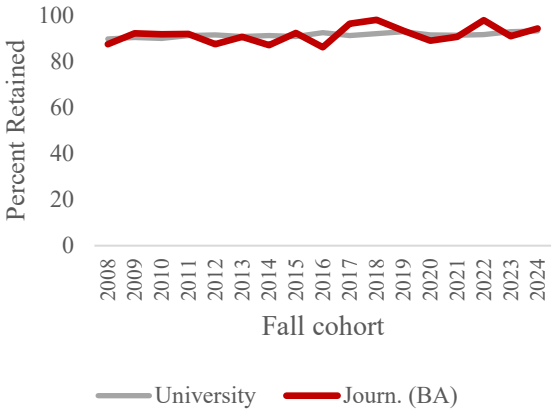


Figure 2.2 Percent of junior year students retained in any program one year later
**includes students graduating*



Graduation Rate – Journalism (B.A.)

Over the past 3 years, 61.5% of Journalism juniors graduated in the Journalism program within two years, compared to university-wide where 65.9% of students graduated in their program within two years. Additionally, over the past 3 years, 71.3% of Journalism juniors graduated in any program at Stony Brook within two years, compared to university-wide, where 69.9% of juniors graduated in any program at Stony Brook within two years.

Figure 2.3 Percent of junior year students graduating in their program within 2 yrs

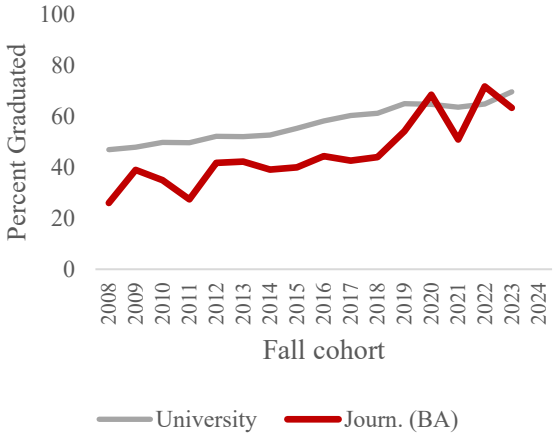
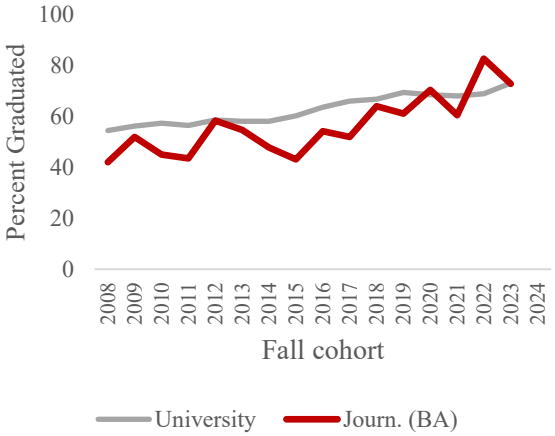


Figure 2.4 Percent of junior year students graduating in any program within 2 yrs



Over the past 3 years, 77.1% of Journalism juniors graduated in the Journalism program within four years, compared to university-wide where 80.8% of students graduated in their program within four years. Additionally, over the past 3 years, 85.5% of Journalism juniors graduated in any program at Stony Brook within four years, compared to university-wide, where 86.0% of juniors graduated in any program at Stony Brook within four years.

Figure 2.5 Percent of junior year students graduating in their program within 4 yrs

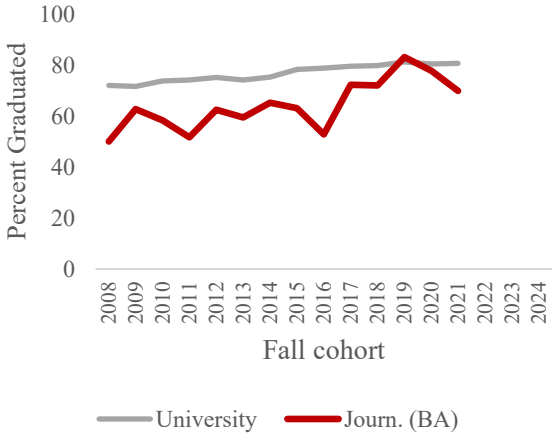
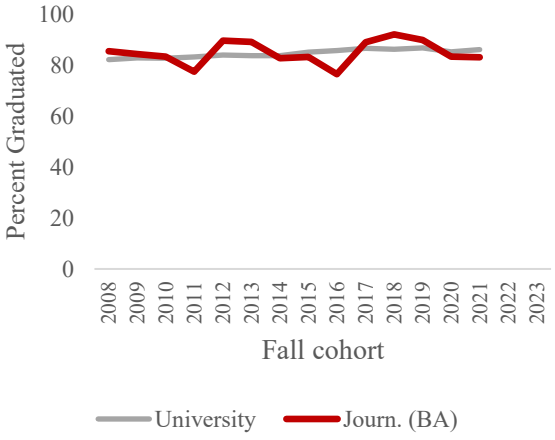


Figure 2.6 Percent of junior year students graduating in any program within 4 yrs



Retention rates* – Mass Communication (B.S.)

Over the past 3 years, 82.7% of Mass Communication juniors were retained within the Mass Communication program one year later, compared to university-wide where 85.7% of students were retained within their major one year later. Additionally, over the past 3 years, 89.8% of Mass Communication juniors were retained in any program at Stony Brook one year later, compared to university-wide, where 92.5% of juniors were retained in any program at Stony Brook one year later.
**Note, these statistics include students graduating in 1 year.*

Figure 3.1 Percent of junior year students retained in their program one year later
**includes students graduating*

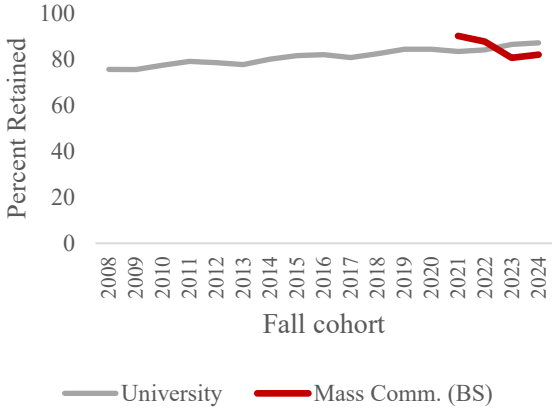
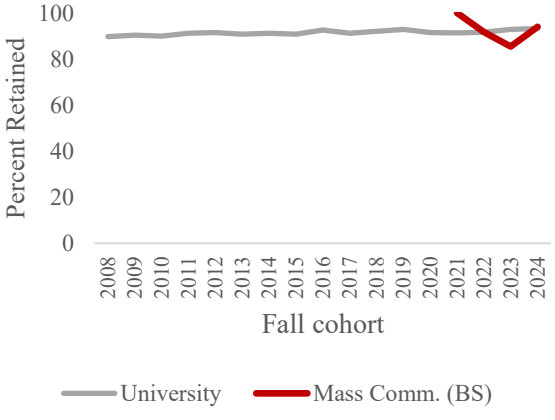


Figure 3.2 Percent of junior year students retained in any program one year later
**includes students graduating*



Graduation Rate – Mass Communication (B.S.)

Over the past 3 years, 64.0% of Mass Communication juniors graduated in the Mass Communication program within two years, compared to university-wide where 65.9% of students graduated in their program within two years. Additionally, over the past 3 years, 68.0% of Mass Communication juniors graduated in any program at Stony Brook within two years, compared to university-wide, where 69.9% of juniors graduated in any program at Stony Brook within two years.

Figure 3.3 Percent of junior year students graduating in their program within 2 yrs

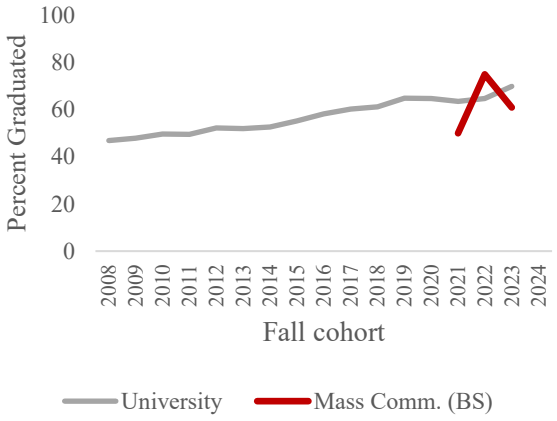
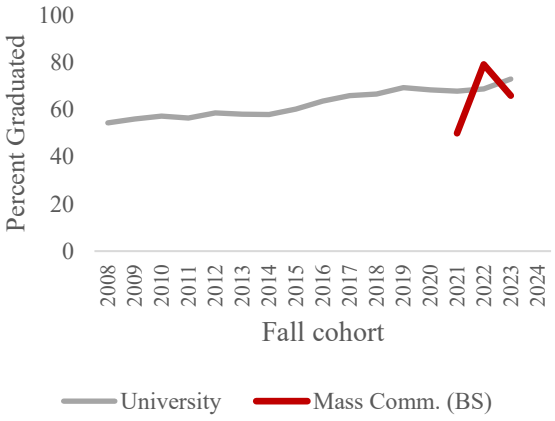


Figure 3.4 Percent of junior year students graduating in any program within 2 yrs



Note: See the appendix for full graduation & retention rate details.

Undergraduate Time to Degree

In addition to undergraduate retention and graduation rates, the School of Communication & Journalism also uses Time to Degree to measure Undergraduate student success. Time to Degree examines a graduating class of students to determine how many years it took them to complete their program. It considers all degrees awarded in an academic year (June 30th – July 1st). Data only include students entering as first-time, full-time students, as transfer student completion is highly dependent on the number of credits at entry.

Typically, an "on-time" four-year completion would take approximately 3.75 years (beginning in August and graduating in May of senior year).

The School of Communication and Journalism has seen a steady improvement in time to degree of the Journalism B.A. program over the past 10 years, reducing the time to completion from over 4 years (completing the summer after senior year) to under 3.75 years (completing in spring of senior year). Students in the initial graduating classes of the Mass Communication B.S. program have also graduated on time. At this point, no student entering as Full-Time, First-Time has completed a Communication degree. These data will be updated in the future as they become available.

	2015 -16	2016 -17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21	2021 -22	2022 -23	2023 -24	2024 -25
School of Communication & Journalism										
Communication B.A.										
Degrees (Entered as FTFT)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Average Time to Degree (Years)										
Mass Communication B.S.										
Degrees (Entered as FTFT)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	12	20
Average Time to Degree (Years)								3.28	3.70	3.87
Journalism B.A.										
Degrees (Entered as FTFT)	19	33	29	29	24	33	31	23	31	22
Average Time to Degree (Years)	4.12	4.06	4.02	4.18	3.97	3.86	3.71	3.83	3.76	3.53
Stony Brook University										
Degrees (Entered as FTFT)	2,142	2,295	2,464	2,406	2,574	2,687	2,835	2,734	2,790	3,031
Average Time to Degree (Years)	4.17	4.12	4.05	4.04	3.99	3.98	3.93	3.94	3.93	3.98

Appendix
Junior Year Graduation Rates – School of Communication & Journalism Compared to Stony Brook University Overall

1-Year Retention Rates

School of Communication & Journalism by Program vs Stony Brook
**Note, these statistics include students graduating in 1 year.*

Retained 1 Year	Metrics	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Communication B.A.	Junior Year Cohort										3	27
	1-Yr Retained Same Major										33.3%	77.8%
	1-Yr Retained Other Major										33.3%	7.4%
	1-Yr Retention Rate										66.7%	85.2%
Journalism B.A.	Junior Year Cohort	46	65	72	54	50	59	54	53	46	44	35
	1-Yr Retained Same Major	71.7%	83.1%	69.4%	77.8%	82.0%	86.4%	83.3%	73.6%	87.0%	77.3%	91.4%
	1-Yr Retained Other Major	15.2%	9.2%	16.7%	18.5%	16.0%	6.8%	5.6%	17.0%	10.9%	13.6%	2.9%
	1-Yr Retention Rate	87.0%	92.3%	86.1%	96.3%	98.0%	93.2%	88.9%	90.6%	97.8%	90.9%	94.3%
Mass Communication B.S.	Junior Year Cohort								10	24	41	33
	1-Yr Retained Same Major								90.0%	87.5%	80.5%	81.8%
	1-Yr Retained Other Major								10.0%	4.2%	4.9%	12.1%
	1-Yr Retention Rate								100.0%	91.7%	85.4%	93.9%
Stony Brook Overall	Junior Year Cohort	4,103	4,434	4,619	4,548	4,621	4,839	4,935	4,873	4,613	4,724	4,644
	1-Yr Retained Same Major	79.9%	81.4%	81.8%	80.6%	82.3%	84.2%	84.2%	83.3%	83.9%	86.3%	87.0%
	1-Yr Retained Other Major	11.3%	9.4%	10.8%	10.7%	9.6%	8.7%	7.3%	8.0%	7.7%	6.5%	6.2%
	1-Yr Retention Rate	91.2%	90.8%	92.5%	91.2%	92.0%	92.9%	91.5%	91.3%	91.6%	92.8%	93.2%

2-Year Graduation Rates

School of Communication & Journalism by Program vs Stony Brook

Graduated in 2 Years	Metrics	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
Communication B.A.	Junior Year Cohort										3
	2-Yr Graduated Same Major										0.0%
	2-Yr Graduated Other Major										50.0%
	2-Yr Graduation Rate										50.0%
Journalism B.A.	Junior Year Cohort	46	65	72	54	50	59	54	53	46	44
	2-Yr Graduated Same Major	39.1%	40.0%	44.4%	42.6%	44.0%	54.2%	68.5%	50.9%	71.7%	63.6%
	2-Yr Graduated Other Major	8.7%	3.1%	9.7%	9.3%	20.0%	6.8%	1.9%	9.4%	10.9%	9.1%
	2-Yr Graduation Rate	47.8%	43.1%	54.2%	51.9%	64.0%	61.0%	70.4%	60.4%	82.6%	72.7%
Mass Communication B.S.	Junior Year Cohort								10	24	41
	2-Yr Graduated Same Major								50.0%	75.0%	61.0%
	2-Yr Graduated Other Major								0.0%	4.2%	4.9%
	2-Yr Graduation Rate								50.0%	79.2%	65.9%
Stony Brook Overall	Junior Year Cohort	4,103	4,434	4,619	4,548	4,621	4,839	4,935	4,873	4,613	4,724
	2-Yr Graduated Same Major	52.7%	55.3%	58.2%	60.3%	61.2%	64.9%	64.7%	63.5%	64.8%	69.6%
	2-Yr Graduated Other Major	5.3%	4.9%	5.5%	5.7%	5.5%	4.4%	3.8%	4.4%	4.0%	3.4%
	2-Yr Graduation Rate	58.0%	60.2%	63.6%	66.0%	66.7%	69.3%	68.4%	67.9%	68.8%	73.0%

4-Year Graduation Rates

School of Communication & Journalism by Program vs Stony Brook

Graduated in 4 Years	Metrics	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Communication B.A.	Junior Year Cohort								
	4-Yr Graduated Same Major								
	4-Yr Graduated Other Major								
	4-Yr Graduation Rate								
Journalism B.A.	Junior Year Cohort	46	65	72	54	50	59	54	53
	4-Yr Graduated Same Major	65.2%	63.1%	52.8%	72.2%	72.0%	83.1%	77.8%	69.8%
	4-Yr Graduated Other Major	17.4%	20.0%	23.6%	16.7%	20.0%	6.8%	5.6%	13.2%
	4-Yr Graduation Rate	82.6%	83.1%	76.4%	88.9%	92.0%	89.8%	83.3%	83.0%
Mass Communication B.S.	Junior Year Cohort								10
	4-Yr Graduated Same Major								70.0%
	4-Yr Graduated Other Major								10.0%
	4-Yr Graduation Rate								80.0%
Stony Brook Overall	Junior Year Cohort	4,103	4,434	4,619	4,548	4,621	4,839	4,935	4,873
	4-Yr Graduated Same Major	75.2%	78.2%	78.7%	79.5%	79.8%	81.2%	80.4%	80.7%
	4-Yr Graduated Other Major	8.5%	6.8%	7.0%	7.1%	6.3%	5.5%	4.7%	5.5%
	4-Yr Graduation Rate	83.7%	85.0%	85.7%	86.6%	86.2%	86.7%	85.1%	86.1%