

PhD Completion and Attrition: How Does UMBC Compare?

Aggregate Demographic Completion Data By Broad Field

The Graduate School at UMBC

PhD Completion Project

In 2004, UMBC was selected to participate in the PhD Completion Project, a grant-funded project that addressed the issues surrounding PhD completion and attrition. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), with generous support from Pfizer and the Ford Foundation, provided funding in two phases to 29 U.S. and Canadian research universities to gather baseline data, create intervention strategies and pilot projects, and evaluate the impact of these projects on doctoral completion rates and attrition patterns. Presented here is the baseline data gathered at the beginning of the project that compares where UMBC was in comparison to other universities at that time. We will repeat the data analysis with the more recent cohorts that have benefited from the retention and completion activities that have been implemented.

Interventions

Goals: Engage in activities to increase PhD completion in at least 8 programs. Implement at least 6 new interventions in the following areas:

- Selection/Matching
- Mentoring and Advising
- Financial Support and Structure
- Program Environments
- Research Experiences
- Curricular and Administrative Processes and Procedures

Baseline Data Collected

Understanding and improving degree completion and attrition rates is key to increasing the effectiveness of doctoral programs.

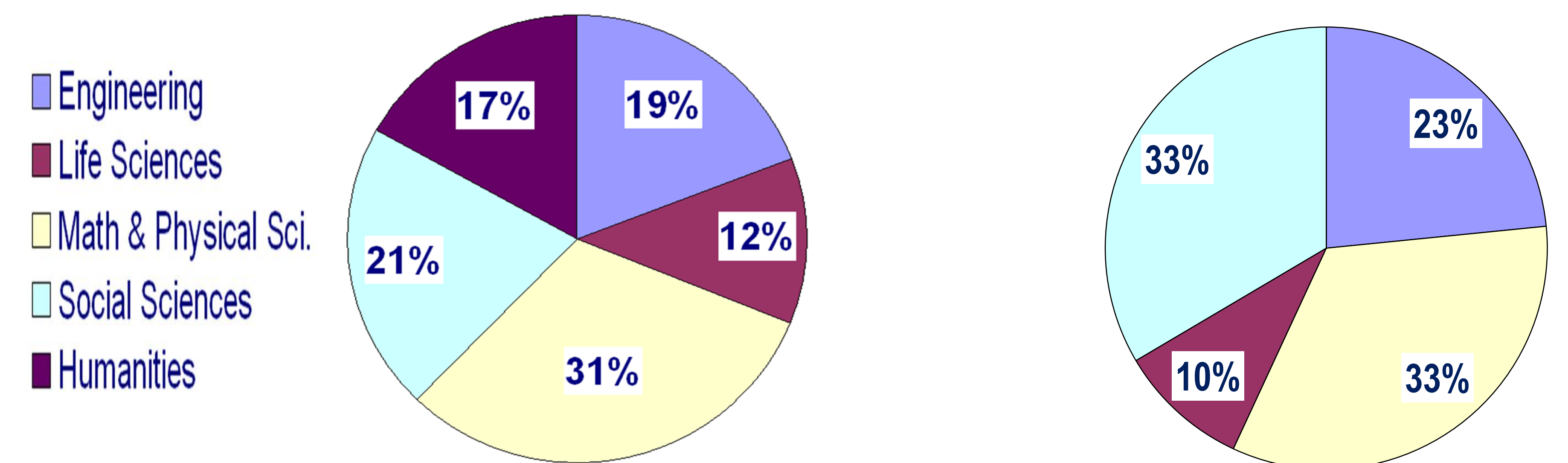
- Completion and attrition data by program
- Aggregate demographic completion data by broad field
- Factor assessments for each institution and program
- Student Exit Surveys (Completers and Non-Completers)
- Phone Exit Interview

Ten-Year Completion Analysis: For Students Entering PhD Programs in 1992-93 through 1994-95

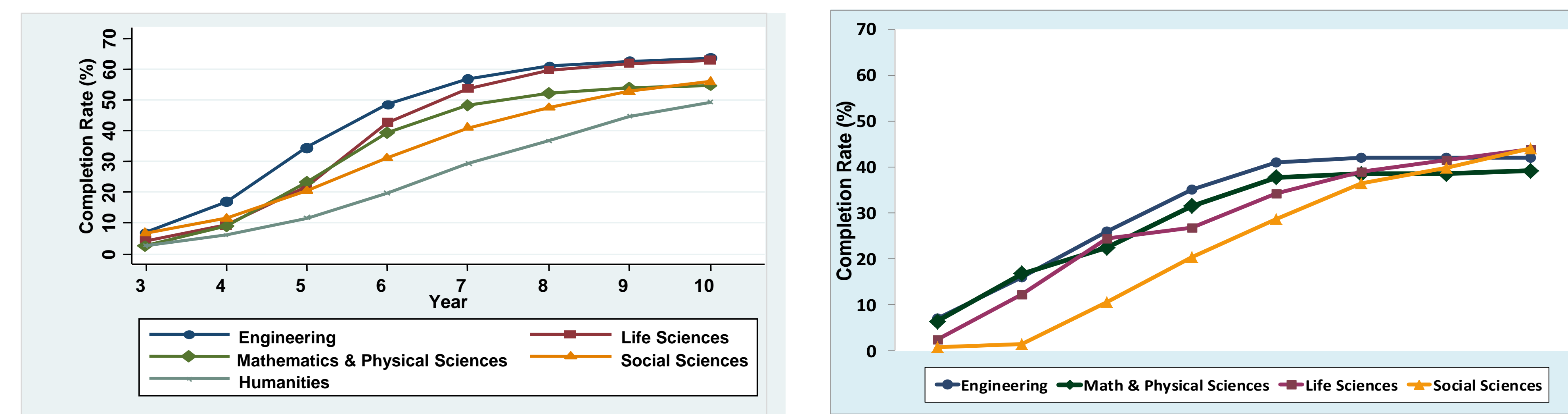
CGS (N=12,135)

UMBC (N=435)

Approximate distribution across fields

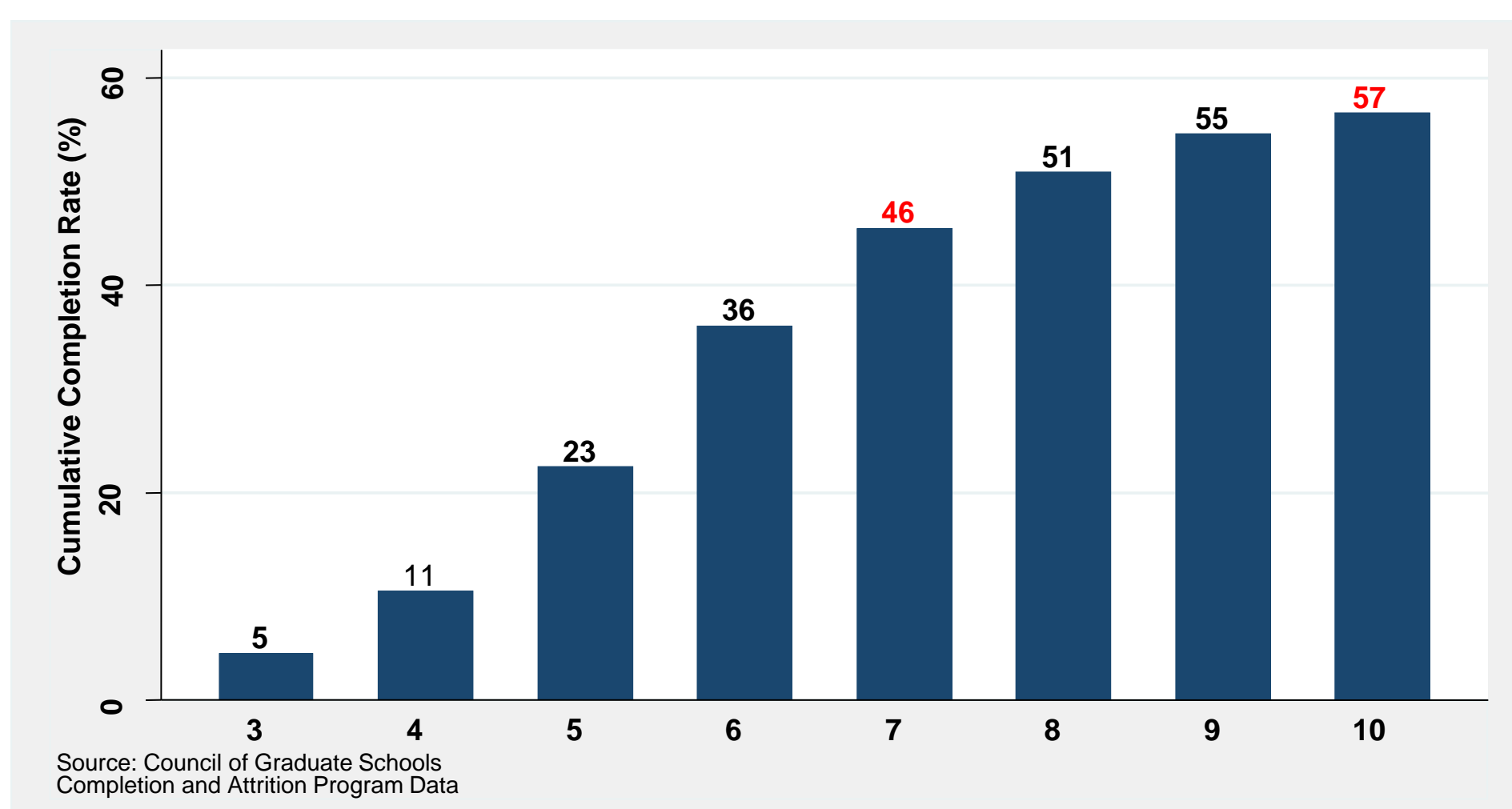


Ten-Year Cumulative Completion Rates by Broad Field

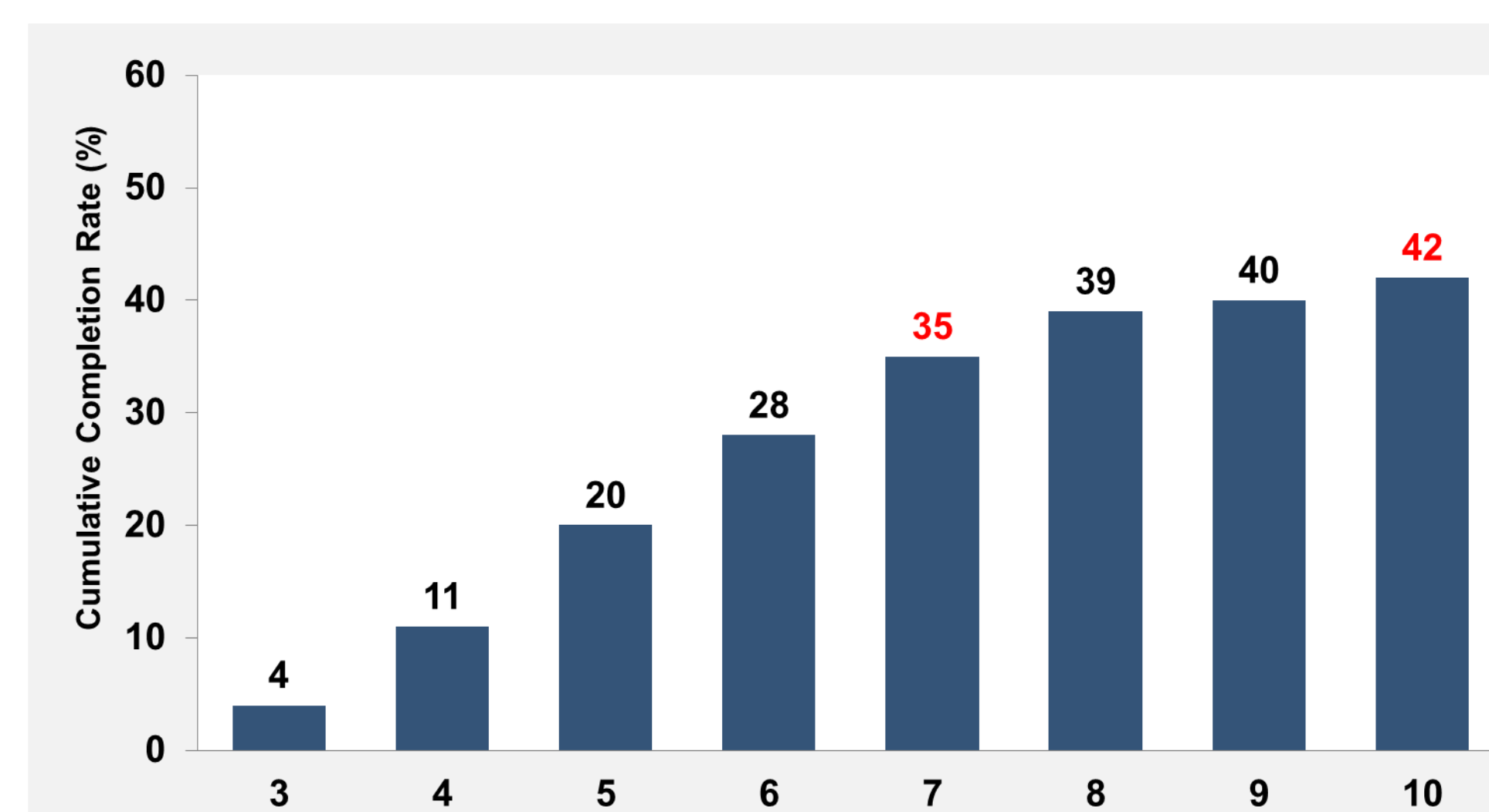


CGS

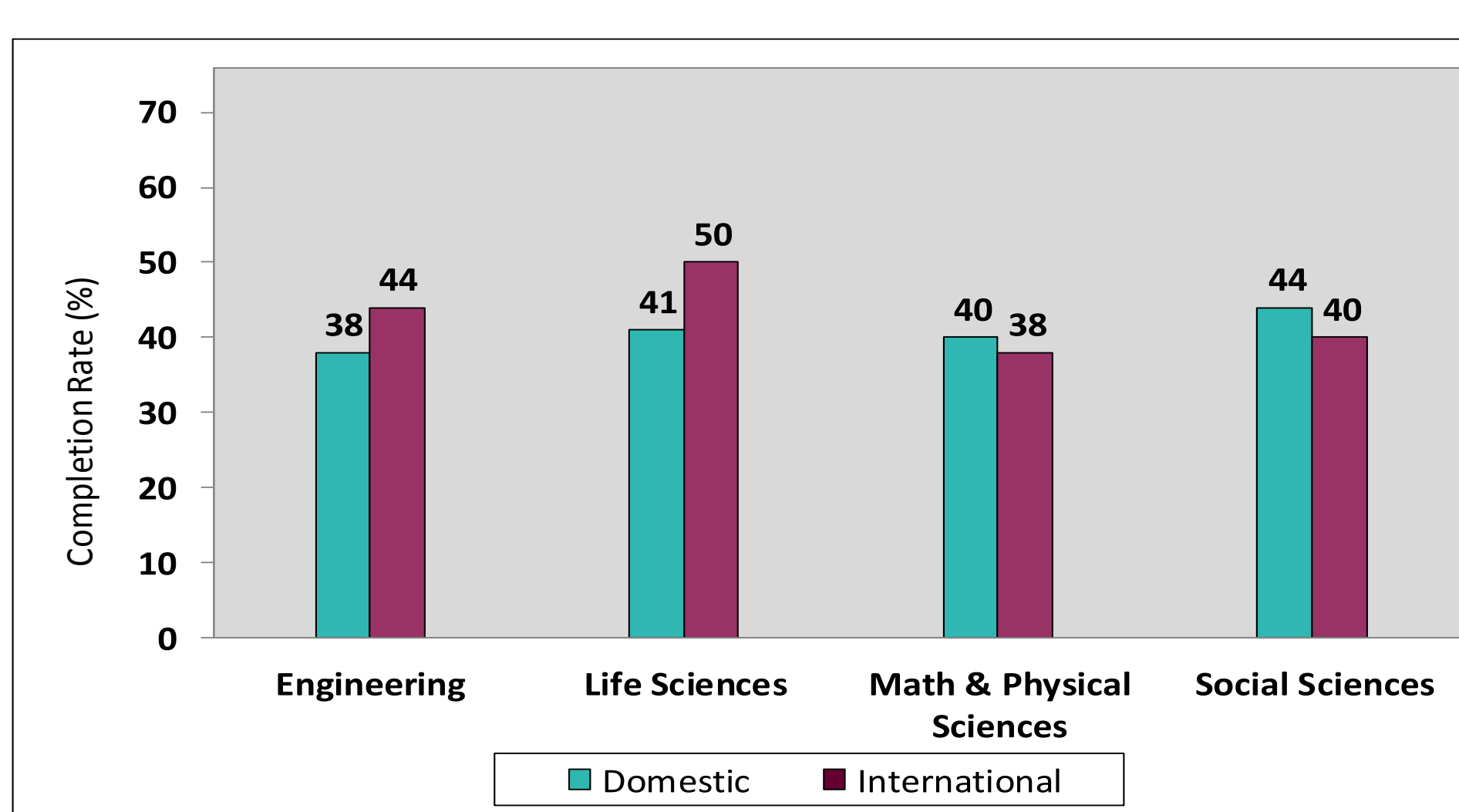
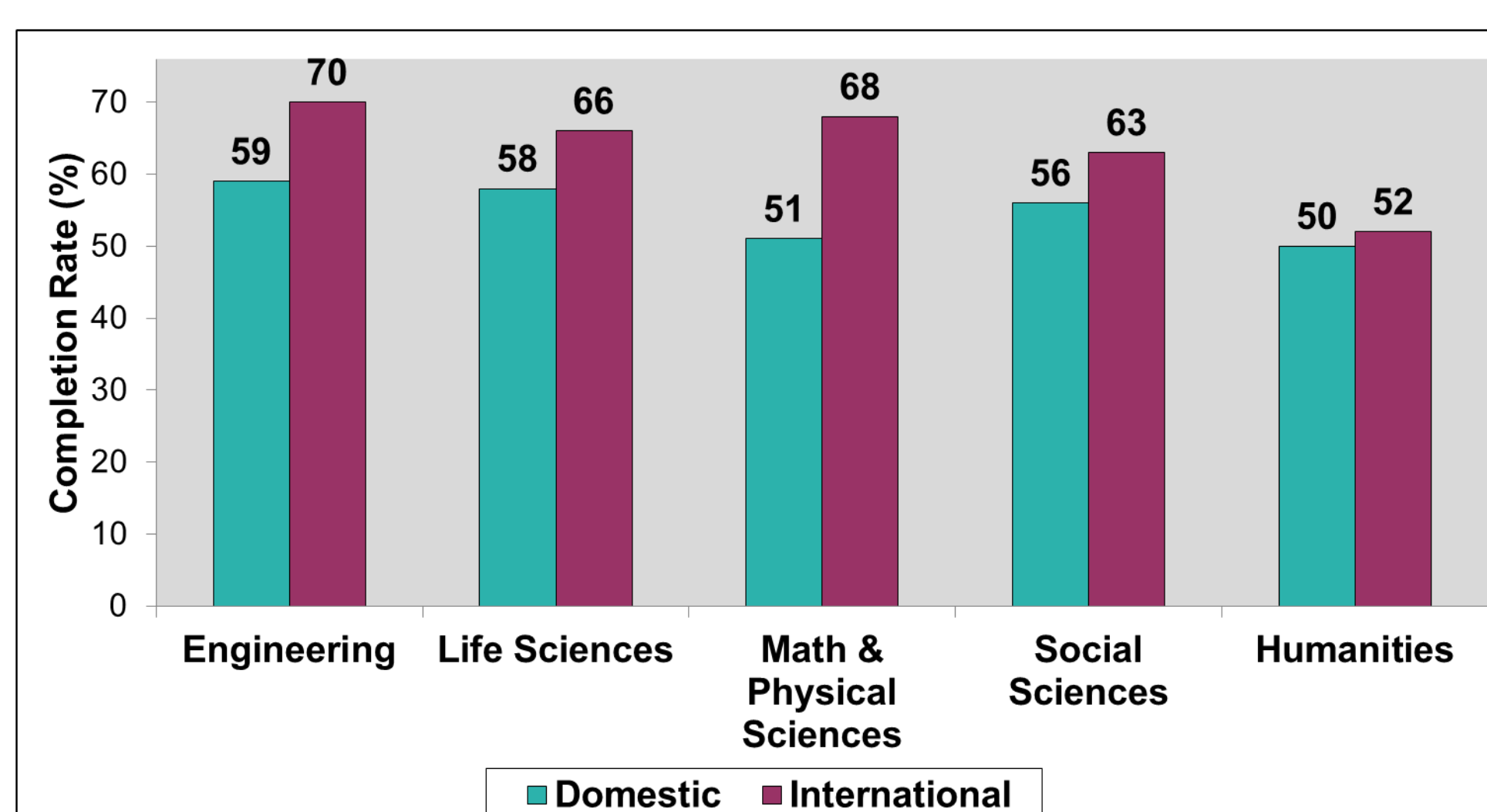
Overall Ten-Year Completion Rates



UMBC



Ten-Year Completion Rates by Field and Citizenship



Ten-Year Completion Rates: Broad Field and Gender

