



The Council of
Independent Colleges

Building Places
of Promise:
**Unlocking
Student
Success**

2025 Institute for Chief Academics Officers with
Chief Student Affairs Officers and Chief Student Success Officers
November 1–4, 2025 🗝️ JW Marriott, Indianapolis, IN

Unlocking Potential: A Collaborative Blueprint for Student Athlete Success

Presenters from St. Edward's University:

Marianne Ward-Peradoza, Provost; Lisa L. Kirkpatrick, Vice President for Student Affairs and Administration; and Jim Sarra, Director of Athletics

Moderator:

Linda McMurdock, Vice President for Student Affairs, Mount St. Mary's University



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St. Edward's University Presenters:

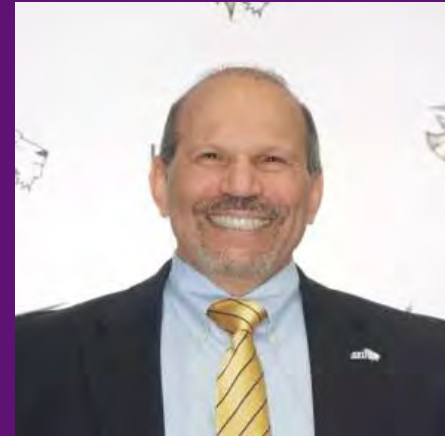
Marianne Ward-Peradoza, Provost

Lisa L. Kirkpatrick, Vice President,
Student Affairs & Administration

Jim Sarra, Director of Athletics

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Agenda

- Context Matters
- Student Success Framework
- Leveraging our Mission in Athletics
- The Blueprint for Student-Athlete Success
- Student-Athlete Outcomes
- It Takes all of Us!



About St. Edward's University



- Austin's private Catholic university
- Congregation of Holy Cross founded in 1885
- 3,000 students
- 350 faculty members
- 35,000+ alumni worldwide
- 60+ undergraduate and graduate programs
- Distinctive academics, experiential learning and personalized student success programs
- A Hispanic Serving Institution and Minority Serving Institution
- Top five University in the West by *U.S. News and World Report*



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Living our Holy Cross Mission



“How we educate the mind
will change with the time;
how we cultivate the heart is
and will remain timeless.”

Blessed Basil Moreau



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Context Matters

- Covid was a beast!
- The importance of athletics in a strategic plan
- Culture eats strategy for lunch!
- Leadership is everything



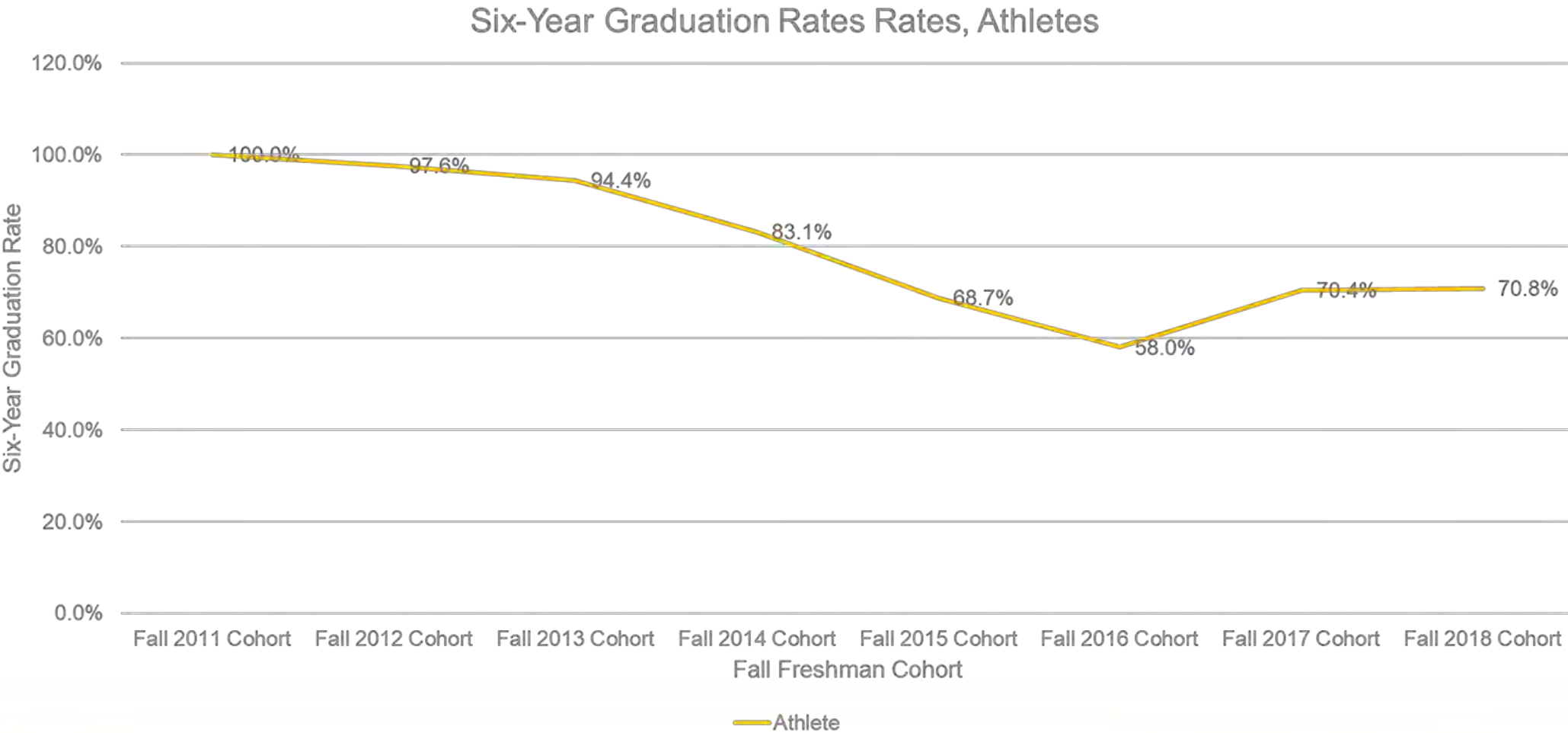
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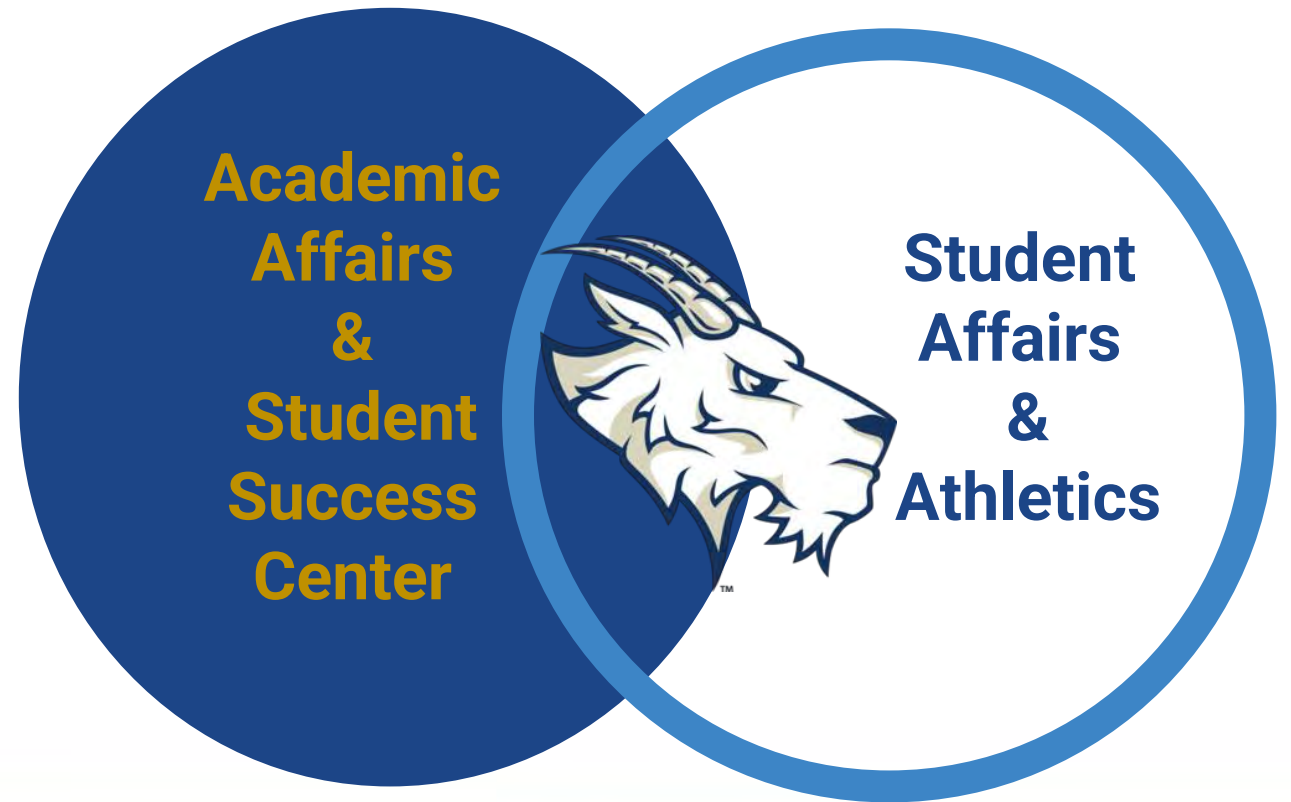
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Informed by Data: 6 Year Graduation Rates



Student Success Framework

- A holistic approach to provide students with the support they need
- Student Success Team of SEU faculty and staff from around campus
- Collaborate to create a highly personalized experience that propels our students forward



Leveraging our Mission in Athletics

Vision

St. Edward's Athletics aspires to be an elite D-II intercollegiate program that will compete for championships and set the standard for excellence.

Mission

We are committed to personal development, empowering tomorrow's leaders who impact their communities while embodying our Holy Cross values.

Core Values

- ❖ Academic Excellence
- ❖ Accountability
- ❖ Commitment
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Fun
- ❖ Honesty
- ❖ Integrity
- ❖ Respect



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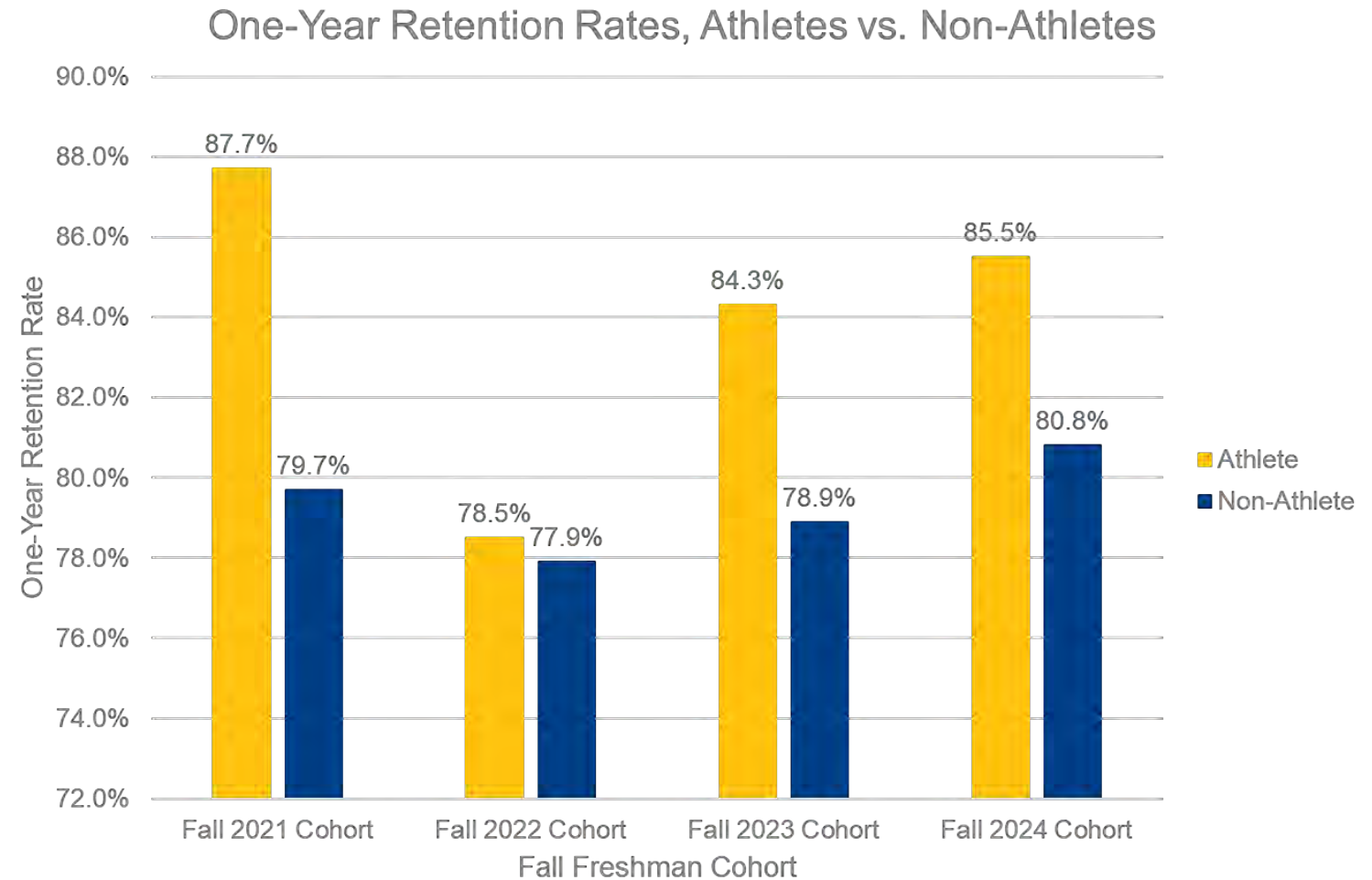
Blueprint for Student-Athlete Success

- Freshman athletes have designated success coach
- Advising based on game schedules
- TOPPER PRIDE course for athletes' college transition
- Athletic Liaison Success Coaches attend team practices and events
- Athletes receive priority registration, early support
- Success coaches and athletic staff collaborate on student support; engage Student Affairs areas as needed



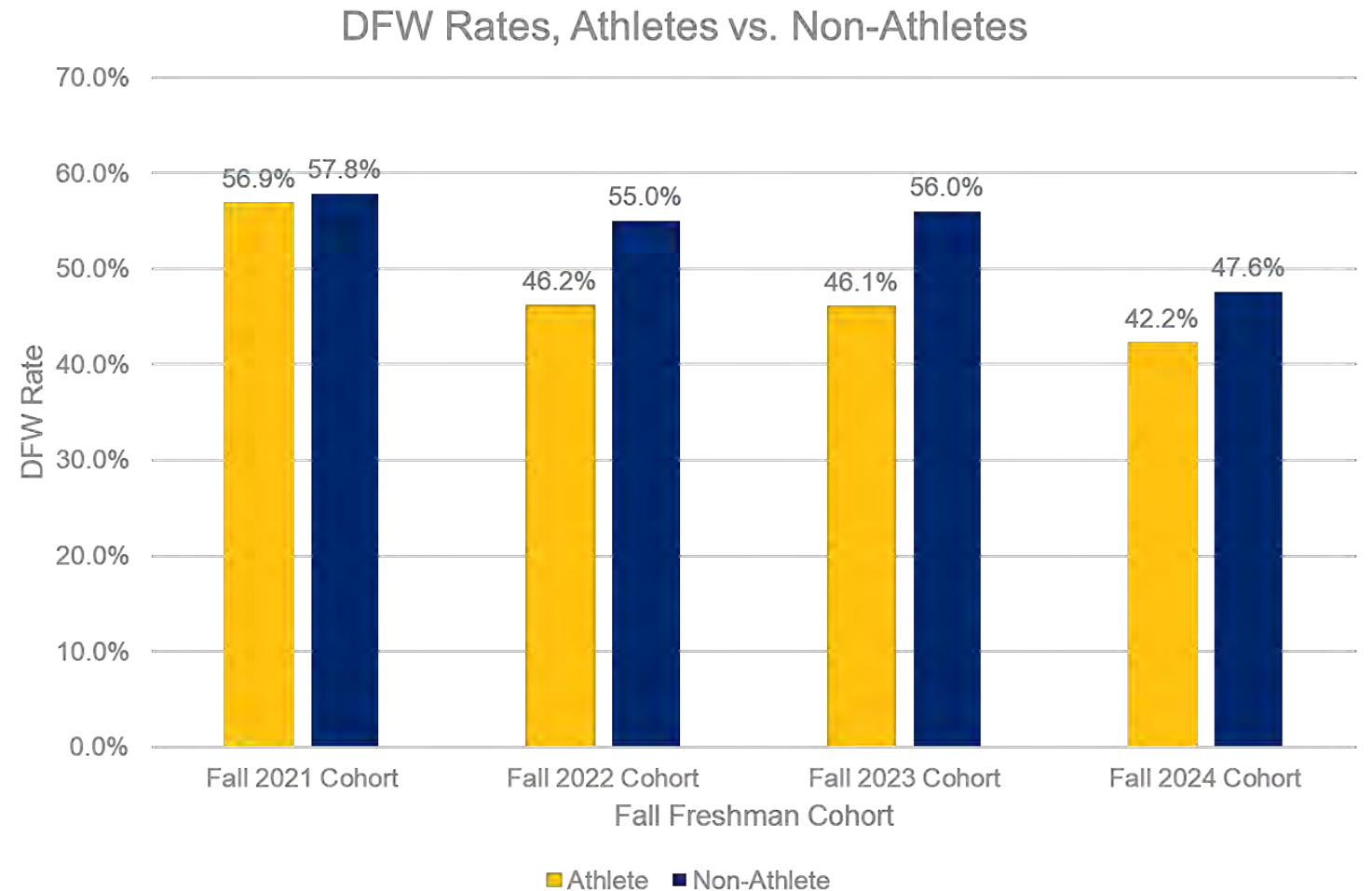
Informed by Data: Retention

- In the four most recent cohorts, athletic retention rate exceeded that of non-athletes in each year.
- The retention rate for athletes over this period was 84% compared to 79% for non-athletes



Informed by Data: DFW Rates

- Athletes were less likely to receive unsatisfactory grades (D/W/F) than non-athletes.



Advanced Experiential Learning

FA 24 and SP 25 Graduates:

- Athletes: 100%
- Non-Athletes: 97.4%

Internship Completion

FA 24 and SP 25 Graduates:

- Athletes: 82.61%
- Non-Athletes: 79.41%



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It Takes All of Us



- Holy Cross mission and values ignite holistic student-athlete development
- A vibrant, inclusive community fuels success through shared values
- Purposeful achievement blazes beyond sports, forging character and holistic success



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Q & A



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Thank you for attending this session!



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