School of Journalism Retention and Graduation Rates

The School of Journalism begins tracking its majors when they attain U3 standing. Students with U3 standing have earned between 57 and 84 credits. The program has identified retention and graduation rates of 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 U3 students better reflects the performance of our program rather than students’ exploratory activity in their early career and provides data more comparable to journalism programs that admit students to the major as juniors.

All data was provided by Stony Brook University’s Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness.

An analysis of our retention data for all U3 majors for the past 7 years shows that the School of Journalism retains its majors at a rate of 70.8 percent, as compared with 63.5 percent for all other majors at Stony Brook University.
The School of Journalism’s 4-year graduation rate for its majors over the past 7 years is 33 percent, as compared with 38 percent for other majors at Stony Brook University. While the 4-year graduation rate in the same major is about 33 percent, when counting students who graduate in any field in 4 years, this figure increases to over 50 percent.

The School of Journalism’s 6-year graduation rate over the past 7 years is 56.8 percent; the University’s is 52.8 percent. When counting students who graduate in any major in 6 years, the graduation rate exceeds 80 percent.
When analyzed further to probe the differences among the School of Journalism’s majors, our analysis shows:

- There is no statistically significant difference in 4-year and 6-year graduation rates between our U3 transfer students and our non-transfer students.
- There is a slight difference in 1-year retention rates, between 3rd and 4th years, for transfer and non-transfer students: 67 percent for transfers vs. 73 percent for non-transfers. But the difference is not statistically significant.