



PhD Completion Project: Preliminary Data Analysis

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PhD Completion & Attrition

I. The CGS Database: Data Tools and Templates & Demographic Characteristics



Data Tools and Templates

1. Completion Template
2. Attrition Template
3. Aggregate Demographic Completion Template (race/ethnicity, gender, citizenship)
4. Exit Survey Template
5. Pre-Project Assessment Survey



Completion Templates

10-year and 7-year cohorts

Entering student academic year cohort*	Number of entering doctoral students	Number of students who left program after receiving master's degree	Number of students admitted to PhD candidacy**	Of those admitted to PhD candidacy**:									Number who are still enrolled after 10 years
				Number who completed within given number of years after enrolling									
				3 years [≤ 3 Years]	4 years [> 3 ≤ 4 Years]	5 years [> 4 ≤ 5 Years]	6 years [> 5 ≤ 6 Years]	7 years [> 6 ≤ 7 Years]	8 years [> 7 ≤ 8 Years]	9 years [> 8 ≤ 9 Years]	10 years [> 9 ≤ 10 Years]		
1992-93													
1993-94													
1994-95													
1995-96													
1996-97													
1997-98													
1998-99													
1999-2000													
2000-01													
2001-02													
2002-03													
2003-04													
Totals													



Attrition Templates

After Enrollment		Year 1 [≤ 1 Year]							Year 2 [$> 1 \leq 2$ Years]						Year 3 [$> 2 \leq 3$]						Year 4 [$> 3 \leq 4$]						Year 5 [$> 4 \leq 5$]																						
Cohort	Cohort Size	Without MA	With MA - without C	With Candidacy	Transfer Out	Stop Out	Ph.D. Degree	Continuing	Info Unknown	Without MA	With MA - without C	With Candidacy	Transfer Out	Stop Out	Ph.D. Degree	Continuing	Info Unknown	Without MA	With MA - without C	With Candidacy	Transfer Out	Stop Out	Ph.D. Degree	Continuing	Info Unknown	Without MA	With MA - without C	With Candidacy	Transfer Out	Stop Out	Ph.D. Degree	Continuing	Info Unknown	Withdrew	Transfer Out	Stop Out	Ph.D. Degree	Continuing	Info Unknown										
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Data Tools and Templates

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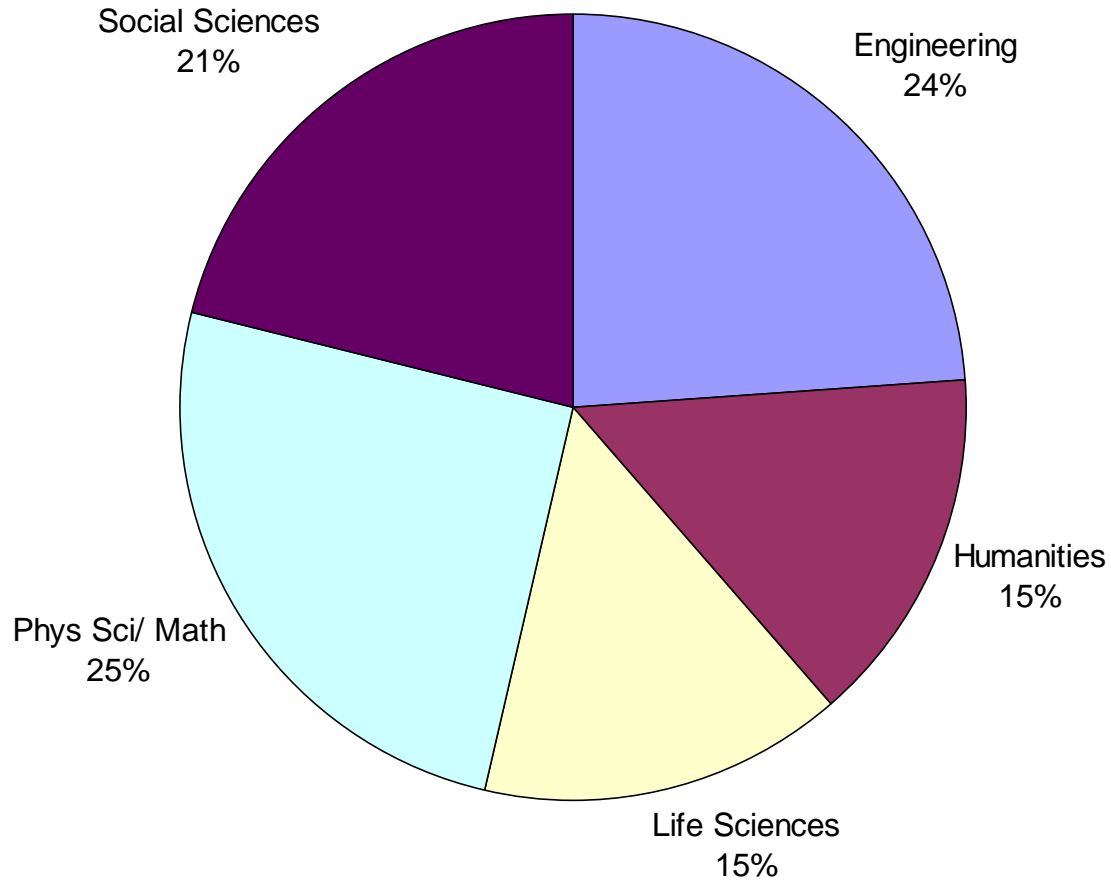


10+ Programs

- English (19)
- Mathematics (19)
- Physics (19)
- Chemistry (17)
- Psychology (17)
- Computer Sciences (16)
- History (16)
- Biology (12)
- Sociology (12)
- Political Science (10)



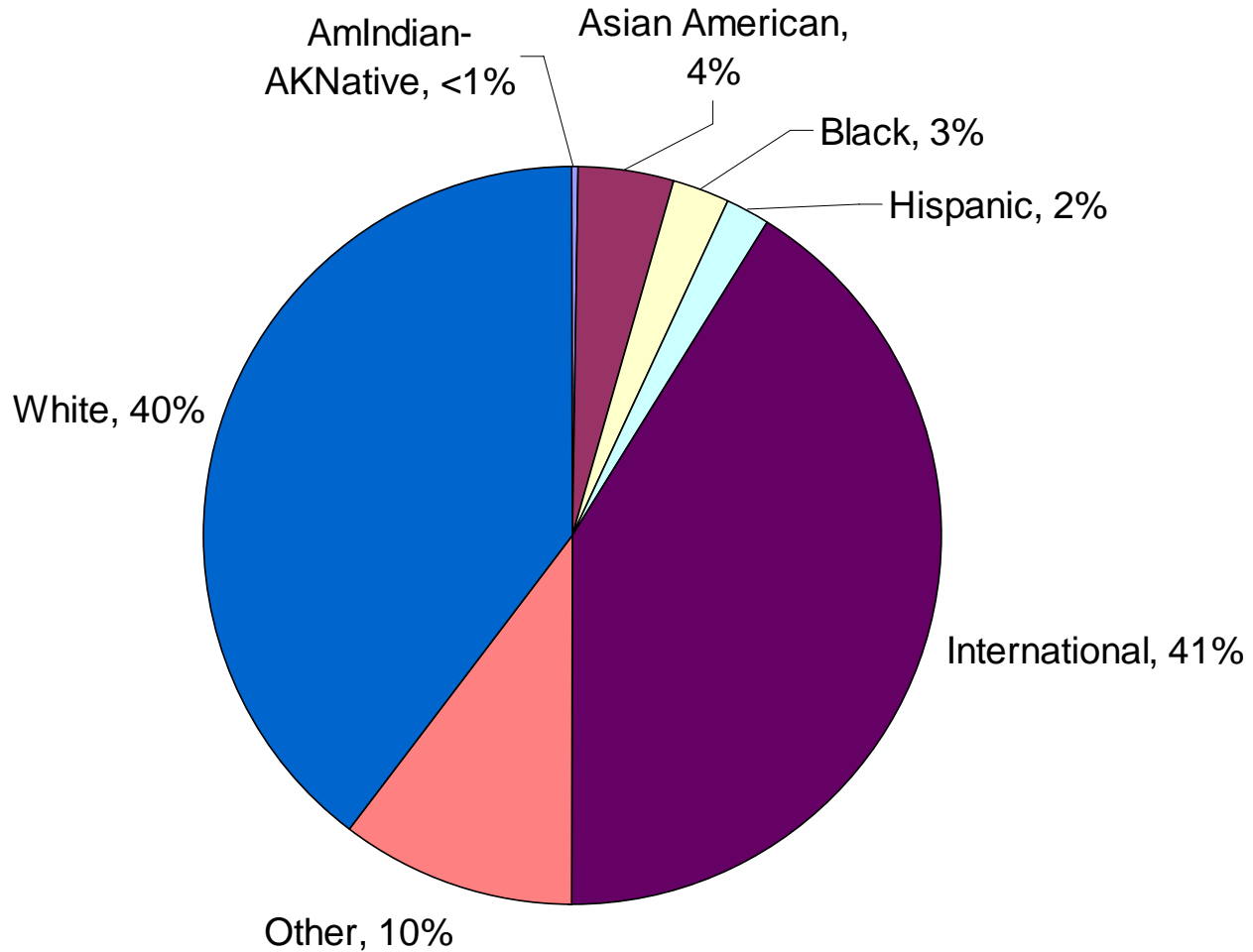
Entering Ph.D. Students by Broad Field 1992 to 2003 Cohorts





Entering Ph.D. Students by Race/Ethnicity and Citizenship

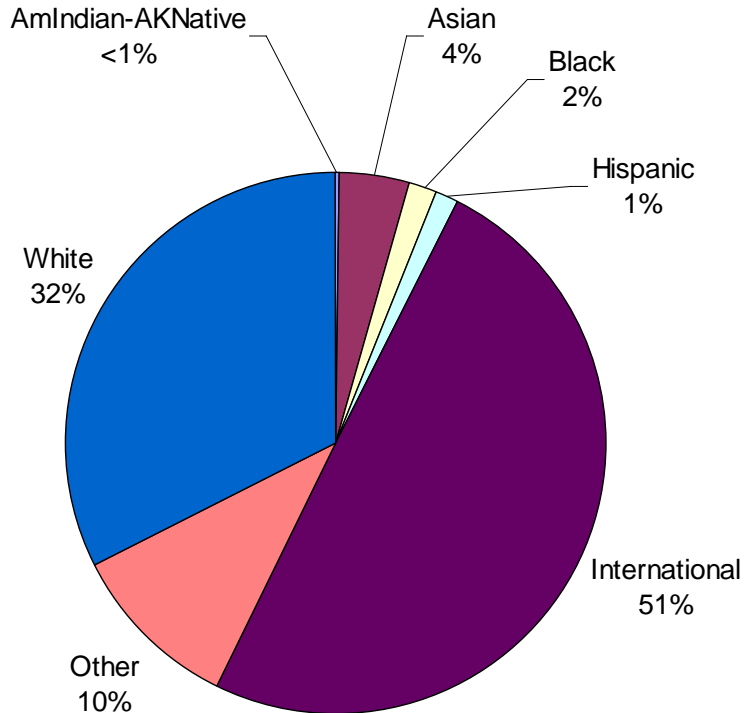
1992 to 2003 Cohorts



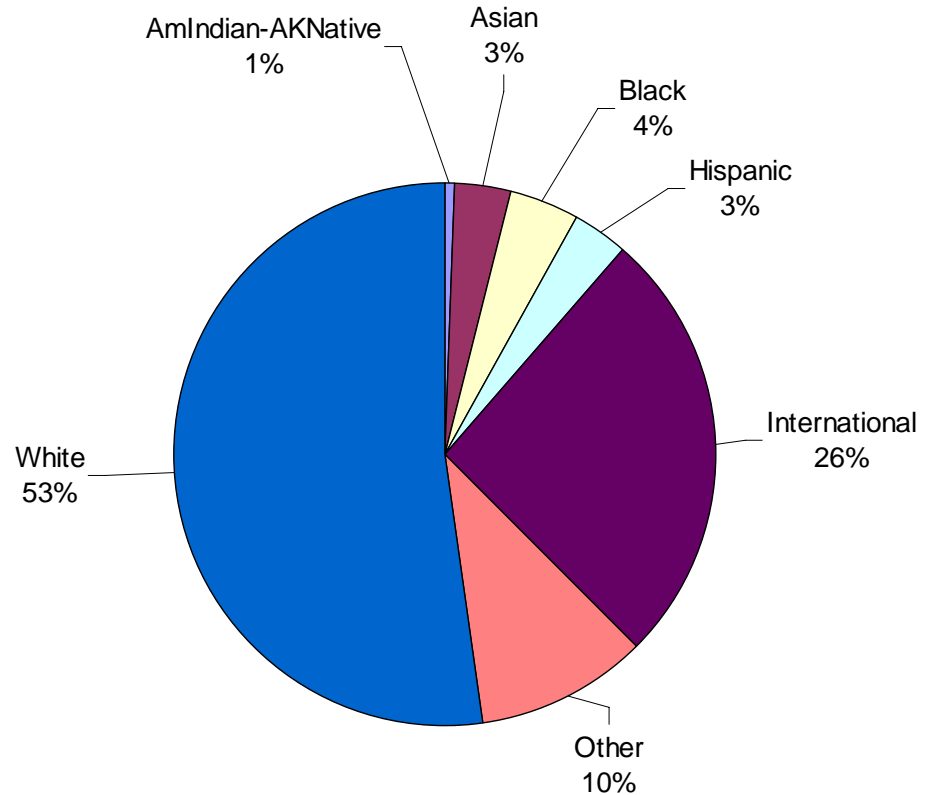


Entering Ph.D. Students by Race/Ethnicity and Citizenship (SEM Fields vs. Social Sciences/Humanities)

Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics (SEM)



Social Sciences and Humanities





PhD Completion & Attrition

II. Preliminary Data Trends



Candidacy

- 69.18% (193)—Default Definition
 - “Successful completion of coursework and qualifying examinations”
- 11.83% (33)—Definition “A”
 - “Successful completion of preliminary examinations and/or defense of the dissertation prospectus”
- 0.36% (1)—Definition “B”
 - “Award of the master's degree signifies admission to doctoral candidacy”
- 9.68% (27)—Definition “C”
 - Candidacy is not defined or granted by the institution
- 5.38% (15)—Definition “D”
 - Other



Master's Requirements & Distinctions

- 65% (180)—Do not require a master's
 - 18% (49)—Require a master's degree
 - 18% (50)—Did not specify
-
- 4% (10)—Do not distinguish between those seeking a master's and those seeking a Ph.D.



Enrollment Distinctions

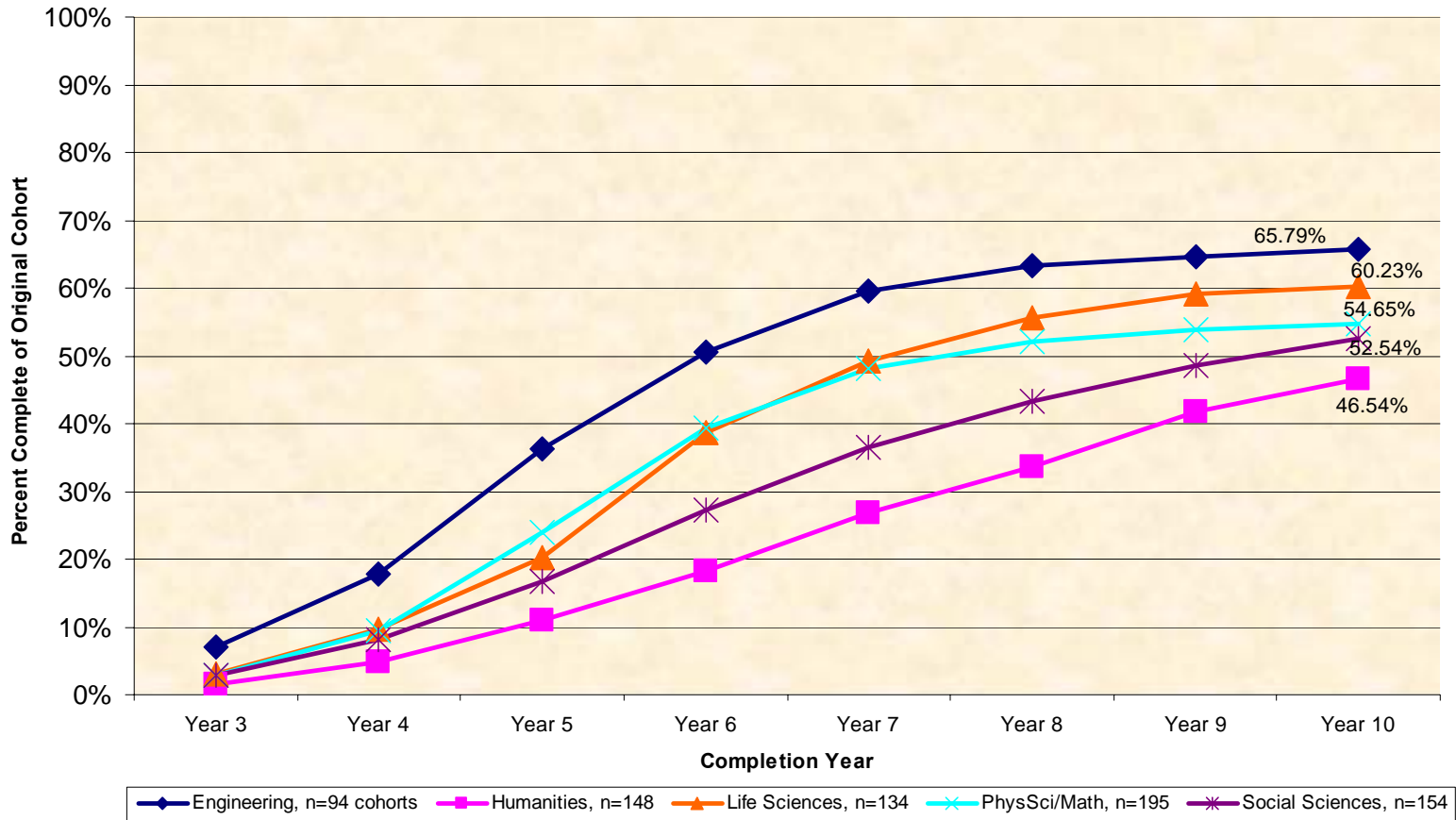
- 67% (186)—Have a continuous enrollment policy
 - 88% (164)—Effective for all students
 - 11% (21)—Effective for candidates
 - <1% (1)—Did not indicate

- 22% (60)—Do not have a continuous enrollment policy

- 12% (33)—Did not specify

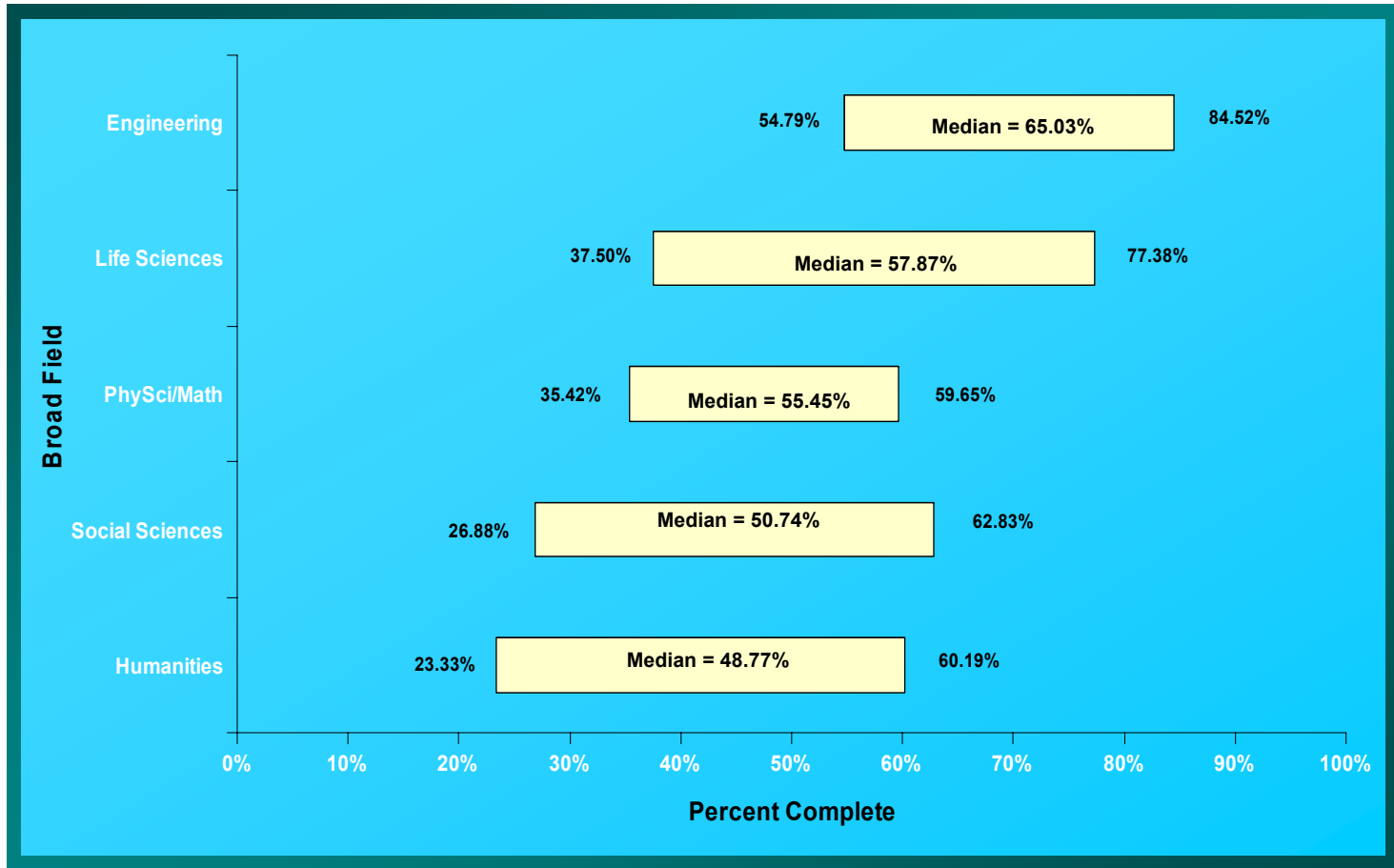


Cumulative 10-year Doctoral Completion Rates from Original Cohorts by Broad Field





Range of 10-year Ph.D. Completion Rates by Broad Field

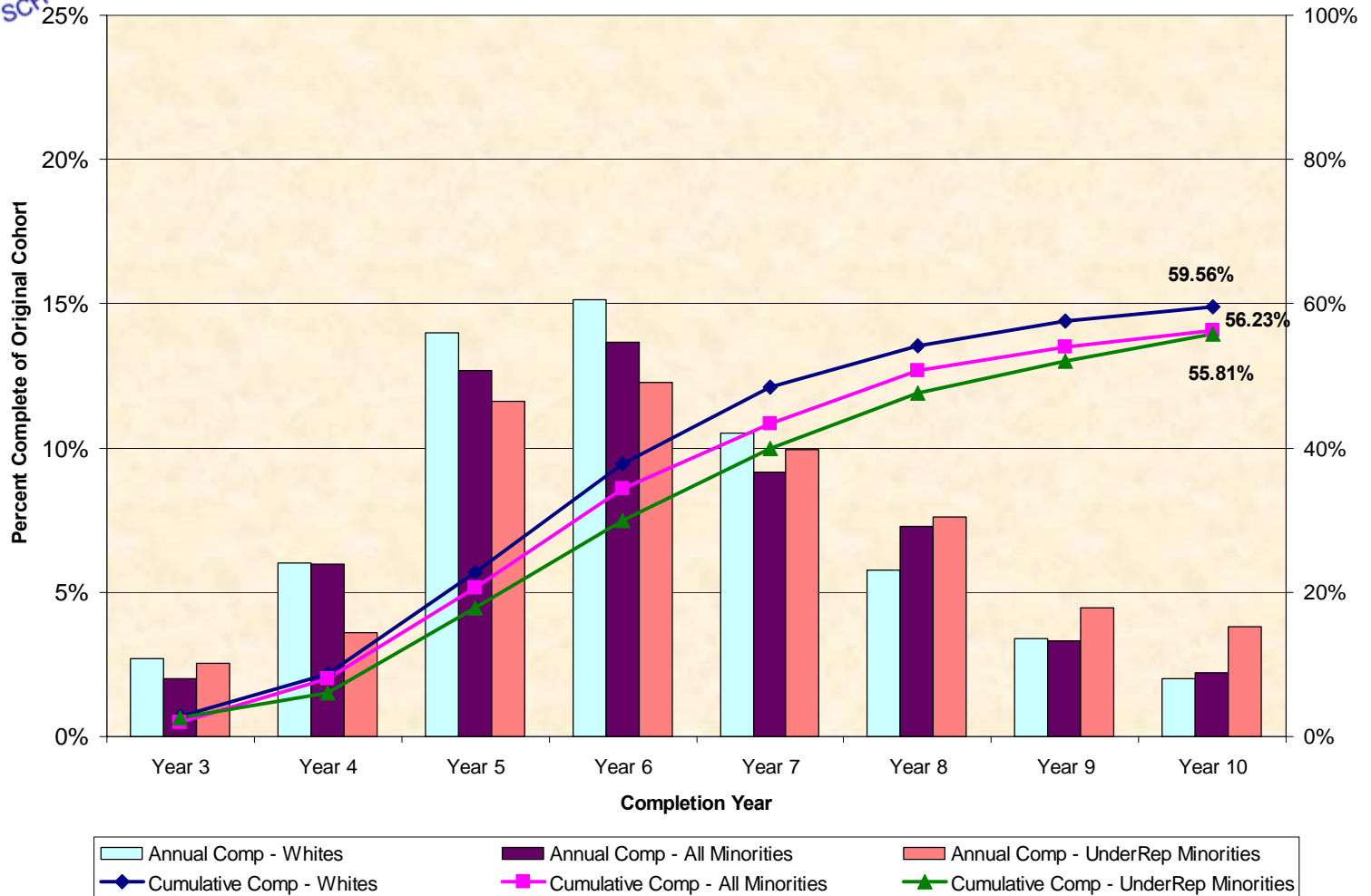




Do Demographics Matter?

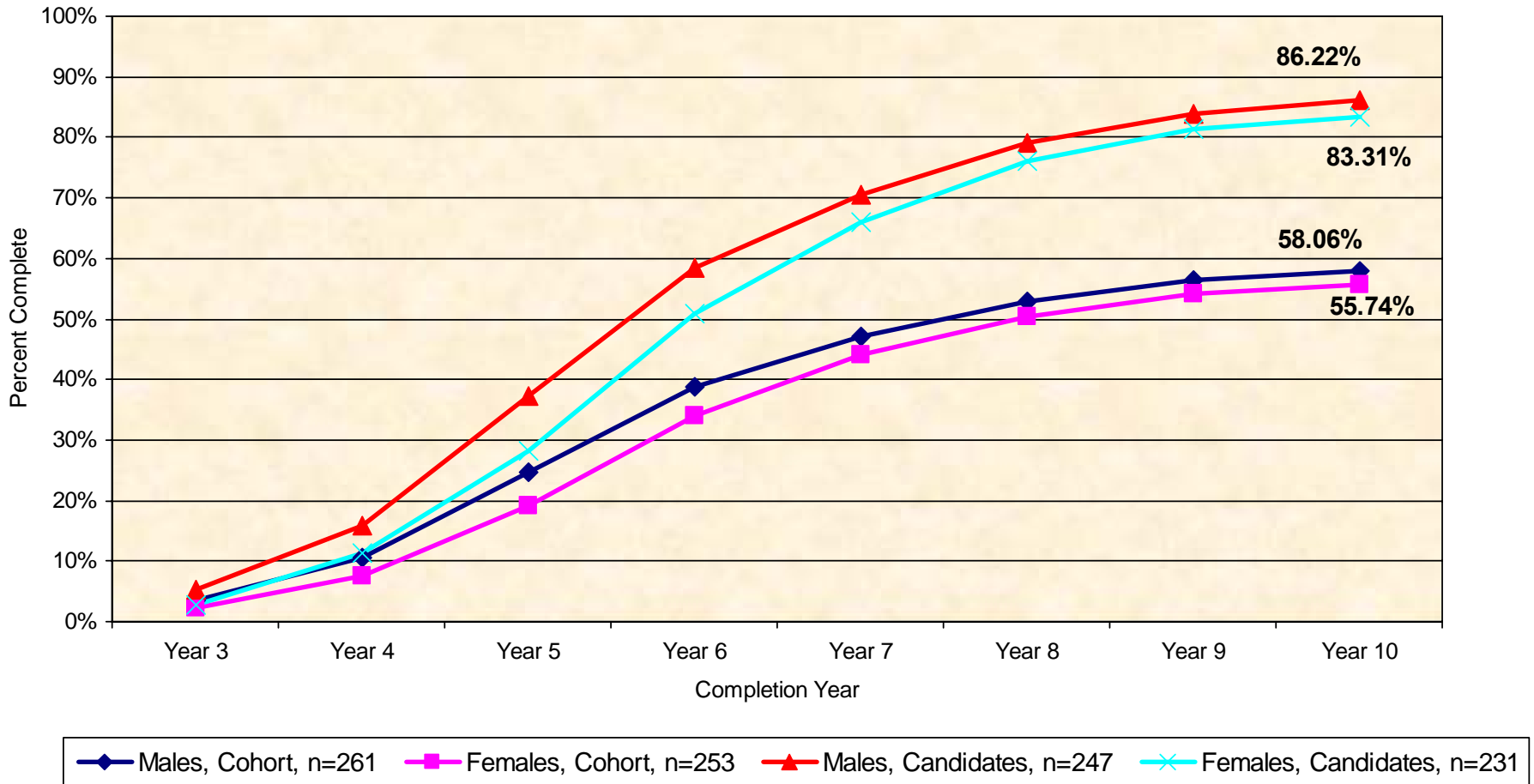


10-year Cumulative & Annual Ph.D. Completion by Racial/Ethnicity, All Fields from Cohort



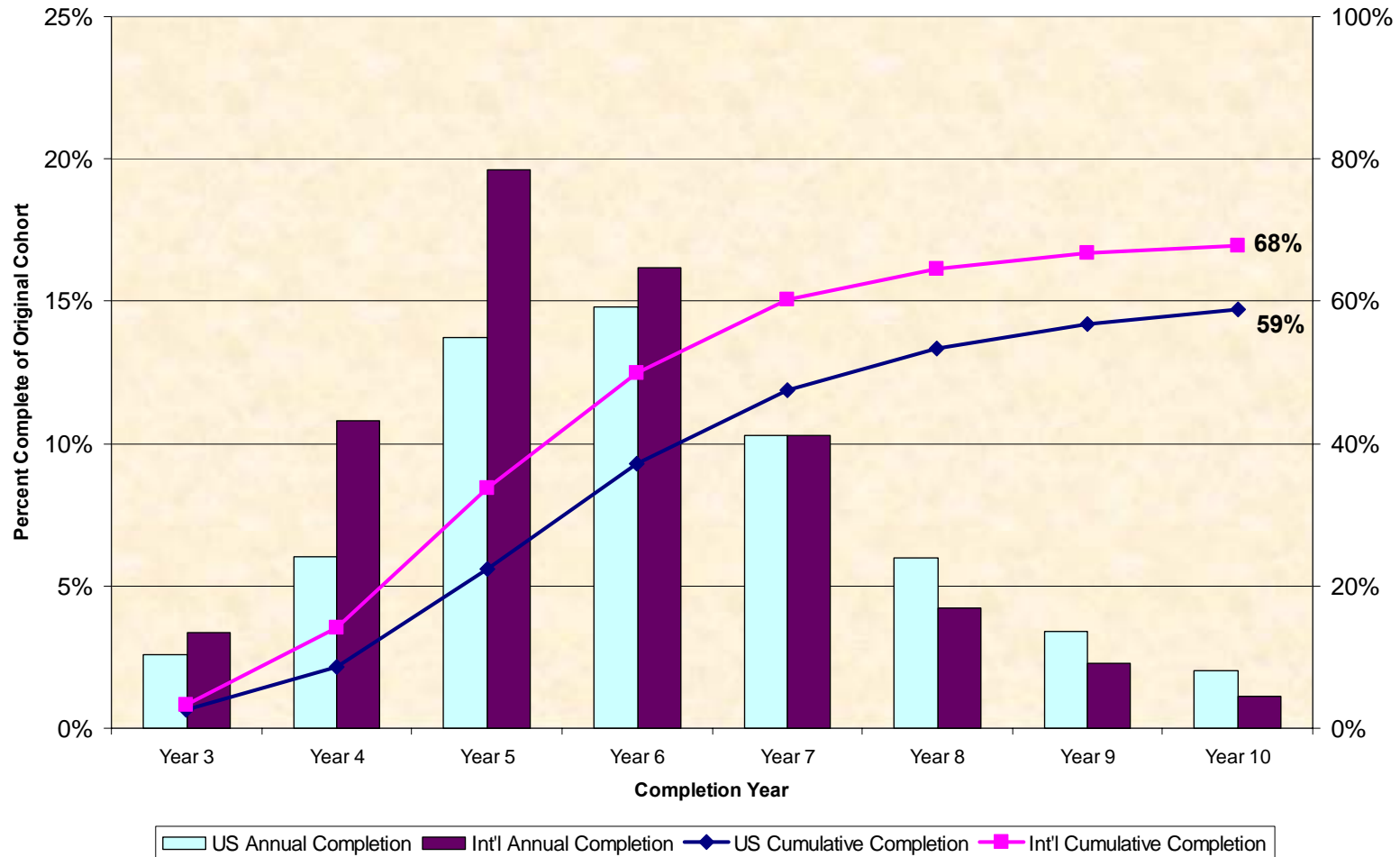


All Fields 10-year Cumulative Ph.D. Completion Original Cohort and Candidates by Sex





10-year Cumulative & Annual Ph.D. Completion U.S. vs. International, All Fields





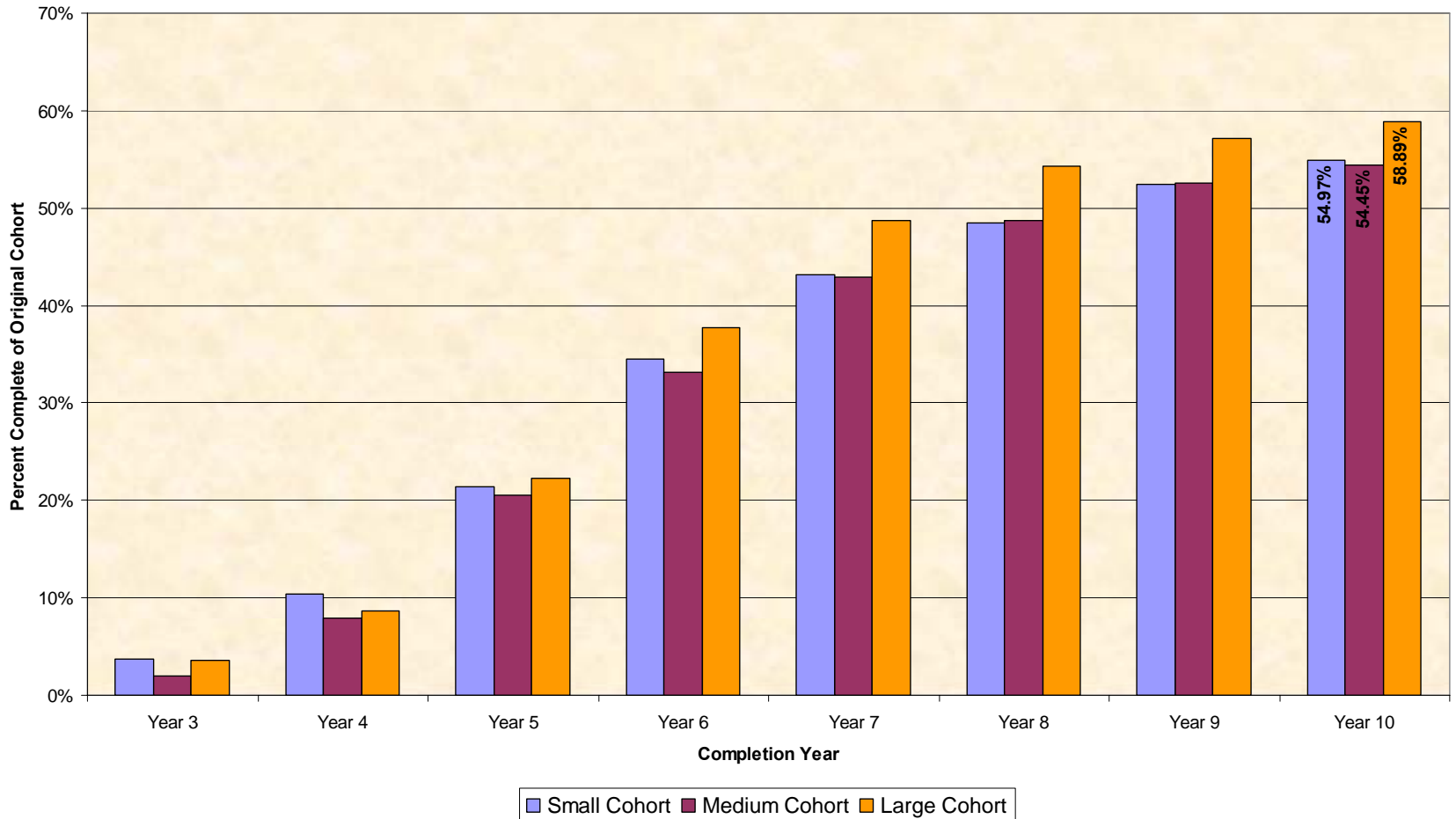
Does Program Size Matter?



10-year Ph.D. Completion Rates by Program Cohort Size

Cohorts: 64.97% (471) Small ❖ 26.48% (192) Medium ❖ 8.55% (62) Large

Students: 35.96% (3822) Small ❖ 37.95% (4033) Medium ❖ 26.09% (2773) Large

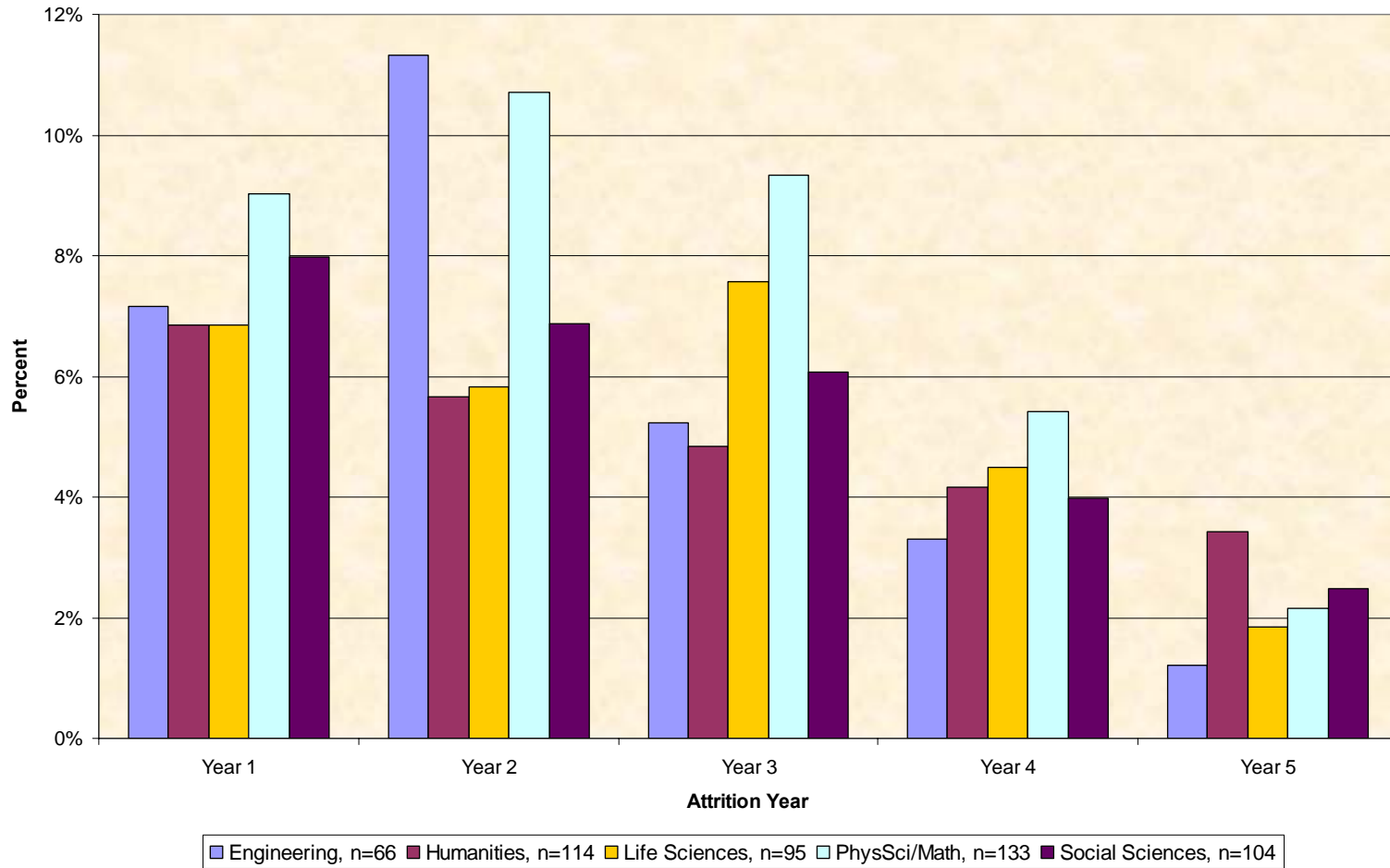




Do Early and Late Attrition Differ By Field Area?

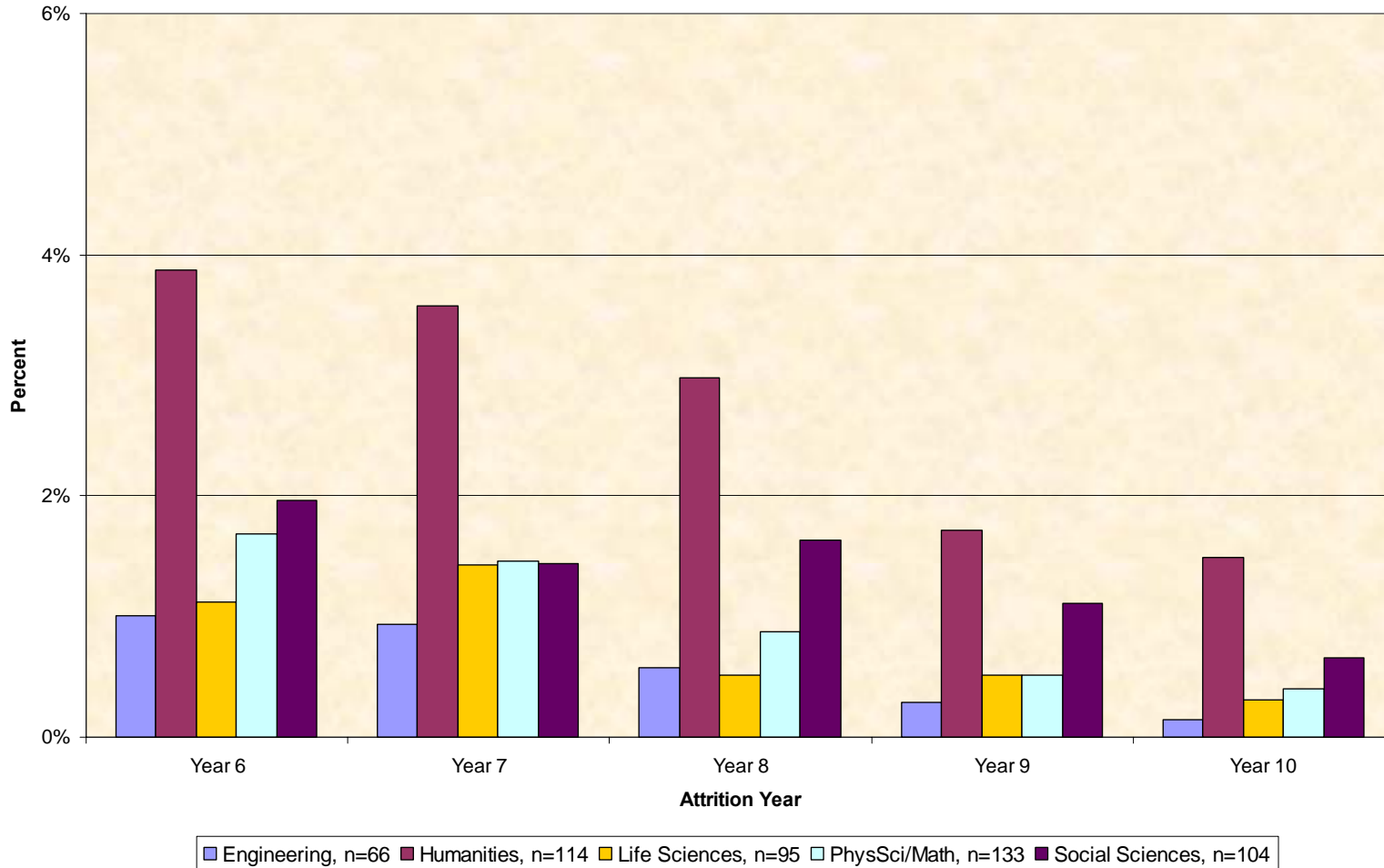


Early Ph.D. Attrition among 10-year Cohorts Annual Rates by Broad Field





Late Ph.D. Attrition among 10-year Cohorts Annual Rates by Broad Field

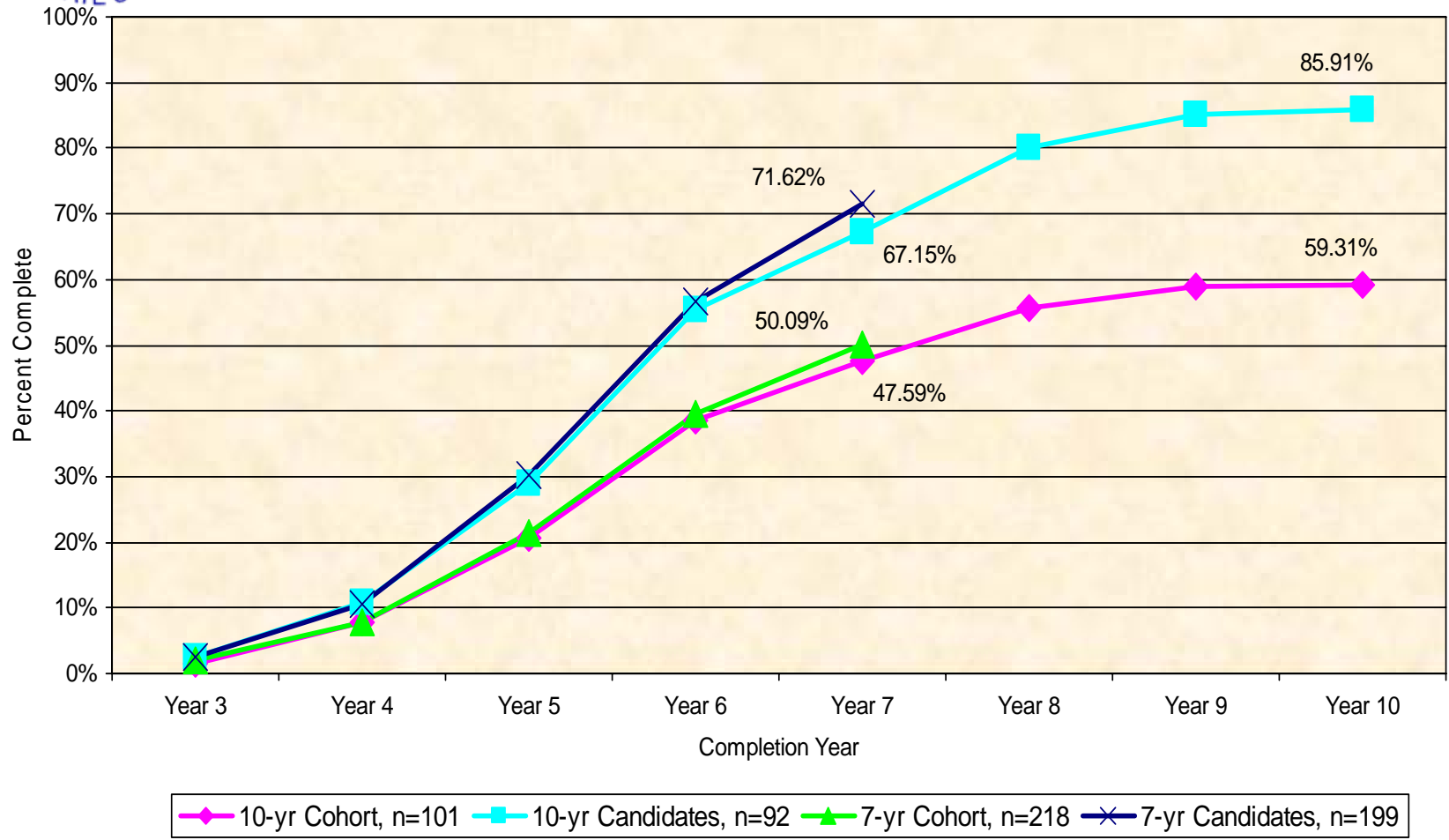




Do Completion Rates Change Over Time?



Life Sciences 7-yr vs. 10-yr Cumulative Completion from Original Cohort and Candidacy





III. Do Program and Policy Interventions Matter?