

COLLEGE RESULTS ONLINE



The Education Trust

WWW.COLLEGERESULTS.ORG

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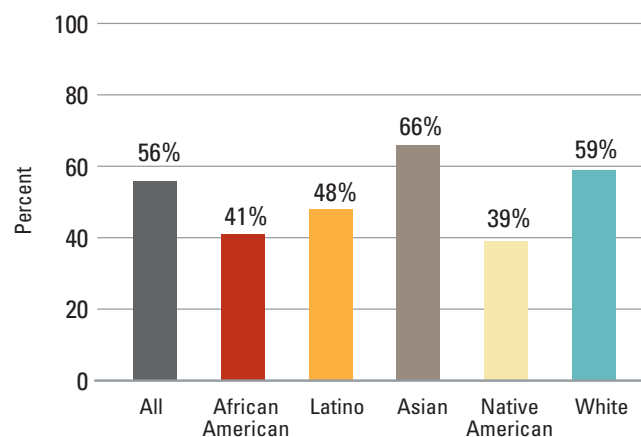
Increasing Chances for College Success

College Results Online, www.collegeresults.org, is an interactive, user-friendly Web tool designed to provide policymakers, school counselors, parents, and students with information about college-graduation rates. Created by The Education Trust, this free tool allows users to select virtually any four-year public or private nonprofit college or university in the country and see how its graduation rate compares with that of similar institutions serving similar student populations. It also allows an examination of graduation rates by students' race, ethnicity, and gender, which can help students choose a school that increases their chances of college success. This information reveals that some institutions do a much better job of graduating students than others. It also shows that at most colleges, significant gaps continue to exist in graduation rates between white students and students of color—and between men and women.

Graduation Rates

High school students are enrolling in college in record numbers. Today, two-thirds of new high school graduates head straight to postsecondary education. Each year, more than 1.1 million first-time, full-time freshmen enter the doors of four-year colleges in hopes of leaving in a cap and gown. But only about half of these students, on average, will make it across the stage at commencement within six

Six-Year Graduation Rates at Four-Year Institutions, By Race and Ethnicity, Entering Class of 2000



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Data are for first-time full-time freshman who entered college in fall 2000.

years. Graduation rates are even lower for minority students.

If we focus only on the four-year colleges and universities where African Americans make up at least 5 percent of undergraduates, graduation rates are cause for grave concern. At more than one-fifth of these institutions, less than one-third of African-American students graduate within six years. And at about one in five of these schools, the African-American graduation rate is less than 20 percent. The numbers are also troubling at schools where Latinos account for at least 5 percent of all students. At one-eighth of these institutions, the Latino graduation rate is 30 percent or less.

How College Results Online Works

College Results Online draws on the nation's most comprehensive database of college-graduation rates. It allows users to select an institution to see how its graduation rate compares with that of other similar institutions. To determine similar institutions, the tool uses a number of statistically correlated factors, such as students' scores on college-admissions tests, the size of the institution, the percentage of low-income students on campus, and the school's financial resources.

College Results Online allows users to:

- Examine overall graduation rates at specific colleges and universities and see how those rates have changed over time.
- Learn about universities' records in graduating diverse groups of students.
- Examine graduation rates by students' gender.
- Compare the graduation rates of similar institutions—colleges and universities that share many characteristics and serve similar student populations.
- Find colleges that meet specific academic goals and provide the support students need to graduate.
- Obtain data in one convenient place about individual colleges.
- Look for institutions based on specific student and institutional characteristics, including graduation rates.

About The Education Trust

The Education Trust is a nonpartisan, national organization committed to the high academic achievement of all students, pre-K through college, and to closing the achievement gaps that separate low-income students and students of color from other young people. We created this Web tool to give the public and policymakers more information about colleges and universities and to demonstrate that the practices of these institutions have an enormous influence on whether students graduate.

Along with College Results Online, The Education Trust has released reports that help you better understand college-graduation rates. "One Step from the Finish Line: Higher College-Graduation Rates Are Within Our Reach," explains College Results Online, guides readers on how to use it, and highlights the strategies of some successful colleges and universities. "Choosing to Improve: Voices From Colleges and Universities With Better Graduation Rates," offers a detailed examination of the practices of schools with high graduation rates and outlines a growing body of research that tells us that what colleges do matters a great deal—from their efforts to keep new students engaged to their use of data to uncover obstacles to college completion. Other recent higher education reports include "Promise Abandoned" and "Engines of Inequality." The reports can be found at www.edtrust.org.



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