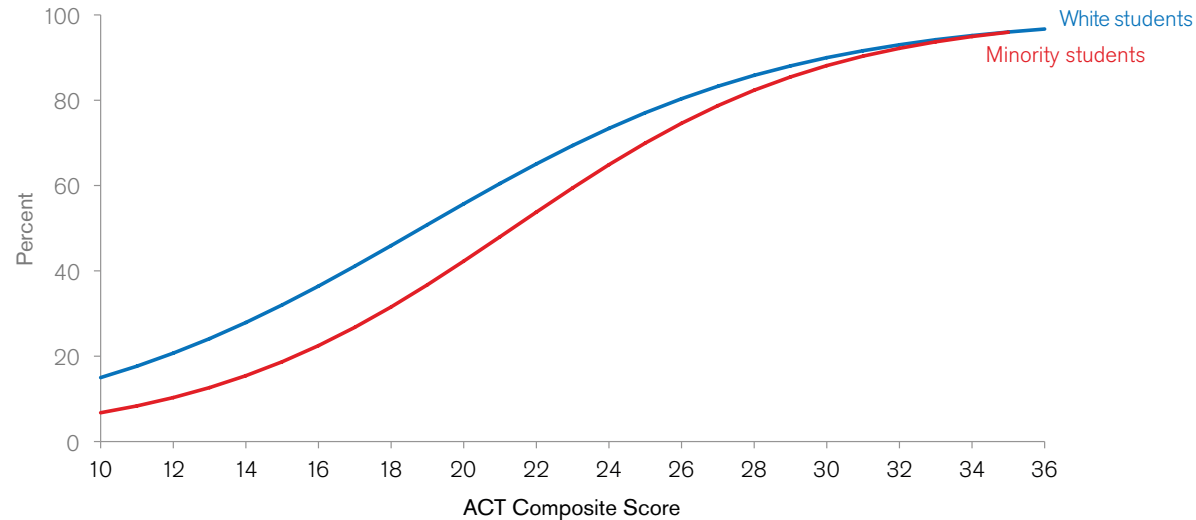


# Year 6 College Cumulative GPA by ACT Composite Score and Race/Ethnicity

## Among Students Enrolled in a Four-Year Postsecondary Institution

JUSTINE RADUNZEL

Students' Chances of Achieving a 3.00 or Higher Year 6 College Cumulative GPA by ACT Composite Score and Race/Ethnicity



Note: Underrepresented racial/ethnic minority students included African American, American Indian, and Hispanic students. Results based on data from nearly 69,000 ACT-tested students who enrolled in a four-year postsecondary institution as new students in fall 2000 through 2003 and were still enrolled six years later or had completed a bachelor's degree prior to the end of year 6. Nearly 60 institutions were represented. For a more detailed description of the study, see [ACT Research Report 2013-5](#).

A recent ACT study<sup>1</sup> that included data from nearly 60 four-year postsecondary institutions found that the typical chances of achieving a 3.00 or higher year 6 cumulative grade point average (GPA) was 23 percentage points higher for White students than for underrepresented racial/ethnic minority students (64% versus 41%, respectively).

However, when students' academic achievement levels (as measured by Composite score on the ACT® college readiness assessment) were taken into account, smaller racial/ethnic differences in students' chances were seen, especially among students with higher ACT Composite scores. For example, for students with an ACT Composite

score of 25, White students had a 77% chance of achieving a 3.00 or higher year 6 cumulative GPA, compared to a 70% chance for minority students.

For students with ACT Composite scores of 29 or above, chances of achieving a 3.00 or higher year 6 cumulative GPA for minority students were within 3 percentage points of those for White students. ■

<sup>1</sup> Justine Radunzel and Julie Noble, *Differential Effects on Student Demographic Groups of Using ACT College Readiness Assessment Composite Score, ACT Benchmarks, and High School Grade Point Average for Predicting Long-Term College Success through Degree Completion*, ACT Research Report 2013-5 (Iowa City, IA: ACT, Inc., 2013). [http://www.act.org/research/researchers/reports/pdf/ACT\\_RR2013-5.pdf](http://www.act.org/research/researchers/reports/pdf/ACT_RR2013-5.pdf).

For both White and underrepresented racial/ethnic minority students, the chances of achieving a 3.00 or higher college cumulative GPA six years after enrolling in a four-year postsecondary institution increased as their ACT Composite score increased.

Racial/ethnic gaps in rates of achieving a 3.00 or higher year 6 cumulative GPA were substantially reduced when students' academic achievement levels were taken into account.