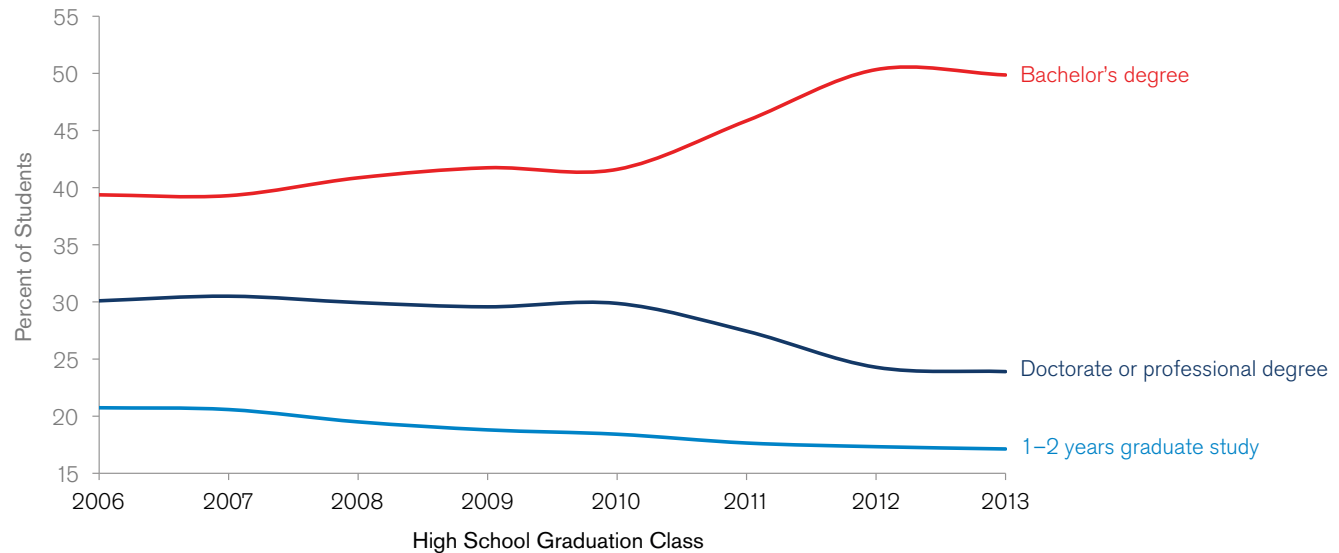


More 2013 ACT-tested high school graduates expected to earn a bachelor's degree as their highest degree than did ACT-tested graduates in 2006.

Trends in Expected Degrees: 2006–2013

RICHARD BUDDIN

Percent of ACT-Tested High School Graduates Expecting Their Highest Level of Education as Bachelor's Degree, 1–2 Years of Graduate Study, or Doctorate or Professional Degree by Year



Note: Data come from 12,066,671 high school graduates who took the ACT from 2006 to 2013.

Over the past 8 years, about 90% of high school graduates taking the ACT® college readiness assessment have reported that they planned to earn at least a bachelor's degree.¹

In recent years, the composition of expected degrees has changed. About 39% of 2006 graduates expected to earn a bachelor's degree and not seek further education. The rate of students expecting to earn a four-year degree increased to 50% in 2013.

The rise in expected bachelor's degrees was offset by declines in the rate of students expected to earn graduate degrees. The rate of

students expecting to attend 1–2 years of graduate study fell by 4 points between 2006 and 2013 (21% to 17%, respectively). Similarly, the rate of students expecting to earn a doctorate or professional degree decreased by 6 points between 2006 and 2013 (30% to 24%, respectively). ■

¹ Since many students take the ACT as part of the college application process, this statistic may not be representative of all graduating high school students in the country.