

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Wisconsin Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Wisconsin graduating class, 66,729 graduates (an estimated 100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.3. This compares to 46,738 (an estimated 73 percent) with an average of 22.2 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 4,054 African American graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (6 percent) with an average Composite score of 15.7. This compares to 4,510 (7 percent) with an average of 15.8, and 3,125 (7 percent) with an average of 16.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 559 American Indian graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.8. This compares to 572 (1 percent) with an average of 16.6, and 235 (1 percent) with an average of 19.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 44,567 White graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (67 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.4. This compares to 46,371 (68 percent) with an average of 21.6, and 34,064 (73 percent) with an average of 23.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 6,985 Hispanic graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (10 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.7. This compares to 6,613 (10 percent) with an average of 17.8, and 3,435 (7 percent) with an average of 19.4, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 2,467 Asian graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.6. This compares to 2,423 (4 percent) with an average of 20.7, and 1,859 (4 percent) with an average of 20.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 72 Pacific Islander graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (0 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.8. This compares to 87 (0 percent) with an average of 19.3, and 49 (0 percent) with an average of 21.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 Wisconsin graduating class average English score was 19.4. This compares to 19.8 and 21.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Wisconsin graduating class average math score was 20.2. This compares to 20.3 and 22.0 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Wisconsin graduating class average reading score was 20.4. This compares to 20.6 and 22.5 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Wisconsin graduating class average science score was 20.6. This compares to 20.8 and 22.3 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.

- In 2019, 24 percent of Wisconsin graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 25 and 35 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 38 percent of Wisconsin graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 36 and 21 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 56 percent of Wisconsin graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 59 and 74 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 39 percent of Wisconsin graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 40 and 52 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 40 percent of Wisconsin graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 42 and 53 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 36 percent of Wisconsin graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 36 and 49 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 23,877 (36 percent) of Wisconsin graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 25,318 and 23,430 (37 and 50 percent) out of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2019 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 37 percent.
- In 2019, 12 percent of Wisconsin graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 10 and 3 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

STEM

- In 2019, 26,039 Wisconsin graduates (39 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Wisconsin graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.6, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 20.8 and 22.4, respectively.
- Compared to 19 percent of 2019 Wisconsin graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 19 and 26, respectively.
 - 2019 Wisconsin graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.4. This compares to 28.2 in 2015.
 - 2019 Wisconsin graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.5. This compares to 28.4 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 46,988 Wisconsin graduates (70 percent) were likely to attain the Silver ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate or higher based upon ACT Composite score, compared to 1,273,362 (71 percent) nationally.

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2019 ACT-tested Wisconsin high school graduates, ACT research estimates that an increase of 0.1 in state average ACT Composite score for the 2019 graduating class would result in:
 - 164 more students enrolling in college.
 - 183 more students persisting to year two.
 - 139 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 205 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 195 more students persisting to year four.
 - 207 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Wisconsin, 22,103 of the 2019 graduates (33.1 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.2, compared to an average of 18.9 for 44,626 of the 2019 graduates (66.9 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 175,854 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Wisconsin ACT-tested graduates.
 - 105,136 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Wisconsin ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Wisconsin's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Wisconsin - Madison, the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, and the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.
 - For Wisconsin's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, Winona State University, and the University of Minnesota - Duluth.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 66 percent of Wisconsin graduates opted into the ACT Educational Opportunity Service (EOS). EOS is a free service that allows students to gain exposure to recruitment, scholarship agencies, colleges, and universities that students may not have accessed on their own. The ACT Get Your Name in the Game initiative encourages colleges and universities to recruit underserved EOS participants to increase access and opportunity for all.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 5,592 ACT fee waivers to qualified Wisconsin students across all grades. However, 1,685 students (30.1 percent) did not take advantage of this opportunity to test for free. This compares to 487,749 waivers issued nationally, of which 135,569 (27.8 percent) students did not take advantage. Fee waivers represent a great opportunity for students of low socioeconomic status to retake without incurring any fees.

Postsecondary Aspirations

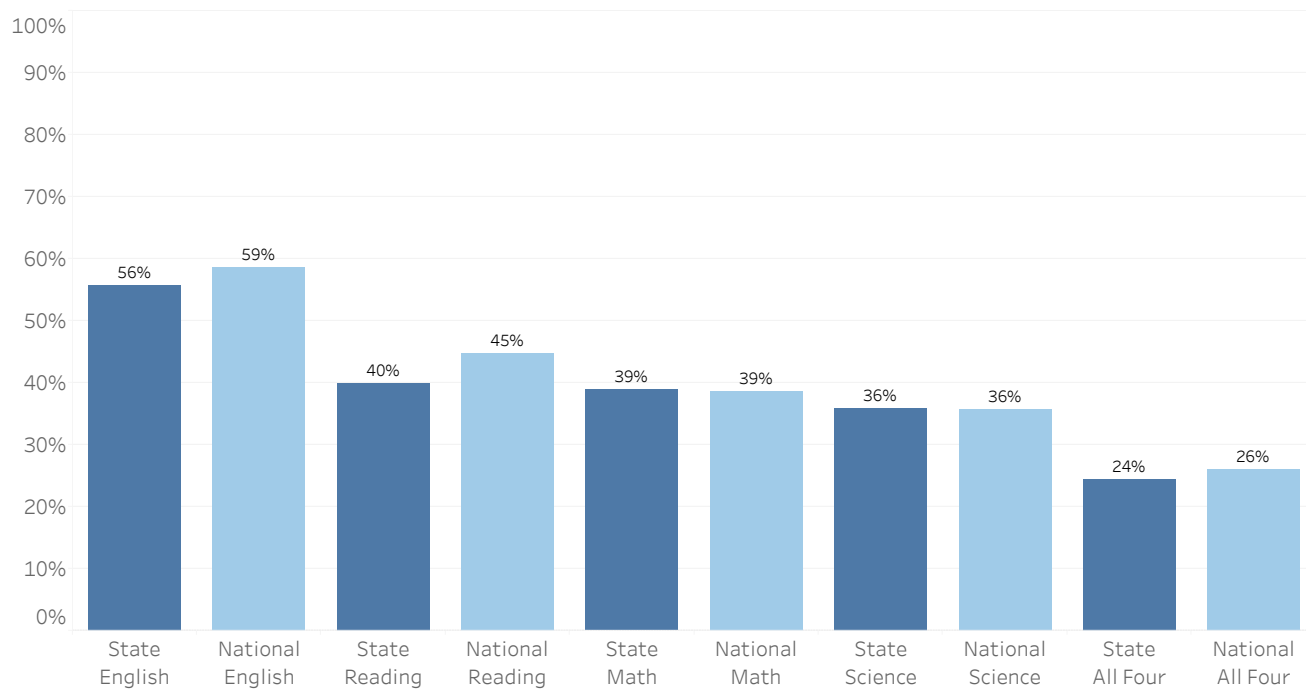
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 13,886 students (21 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.1.
 - 24,489 students (37 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.0.
 - 7,436 students (11 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.9.
- In the Wisconsin graduating class of 2019, 9,542 students (14 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Wisconsin graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.

Additional Points

- The Wisconsin ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 450 members from across the state. The membership includes educators from state agencies, K-12, access, postsecondary institutions, and workforce development. Each year, the WI ACT Council hosts a state conference that brings together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.
- In 2019, ACT State Organizations honored College and Career Readiness Champions across the country. The Wisconsin honorees were:
 - Madison Xiong, high school senior, Ronald Reagan High School; Laura Bushendorf, Career Technical and Education Coordinator, Chippewa Falls School District; Tanya Boettcher, Career Coach, Lakeshore Technical College; and John Glynn, Area Manager, We Energies.
- There is good news in that 69% of Wisconsin's 2019 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 75% of Wisconsin's 2018 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 58% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 11,611 of the 2018 ACT-tested graduates from Wisconsin would have enrolled in postsecondary education.
- Over 292,000 National Career Readiness Certificates have been awarded in Wisconsin, demonstrating individuals' career readiness strengths to employers.

WISCONSIN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks* by Subject



Data From Graph Above

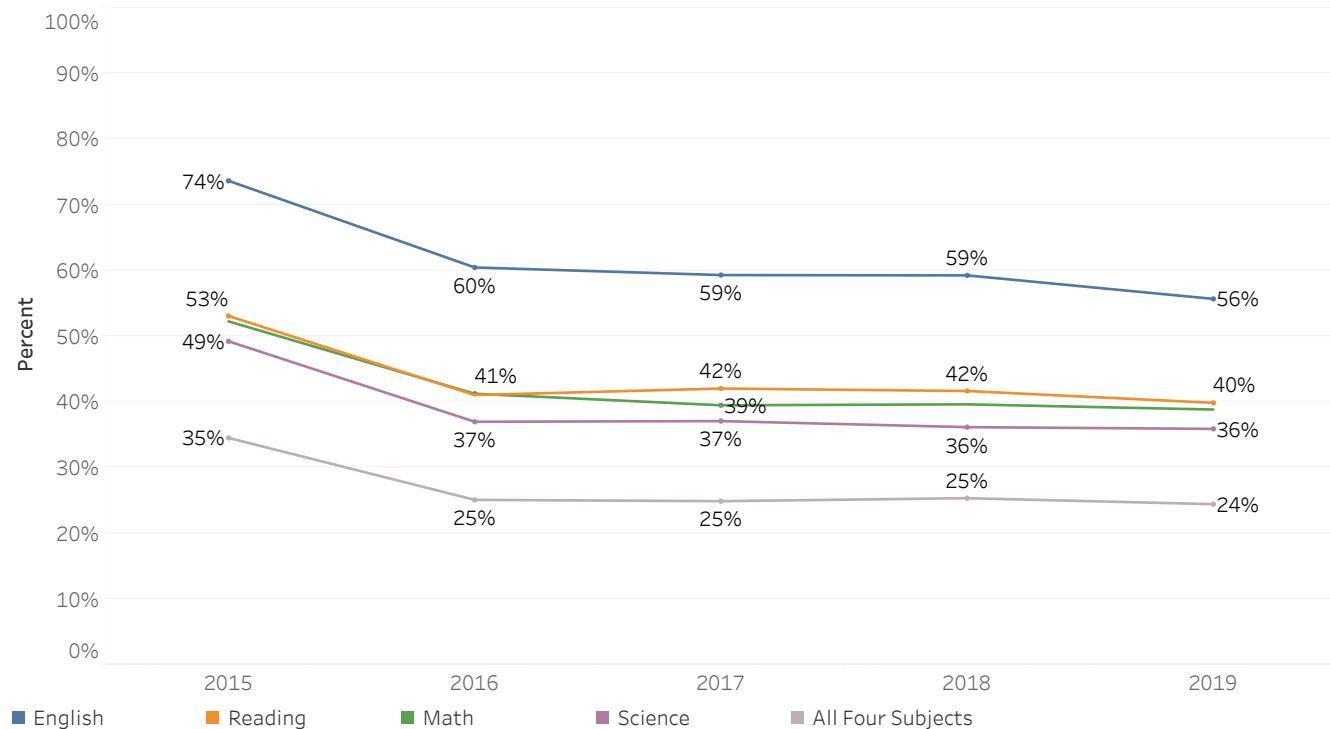
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
56%	59%	40%	45%	39%	39%	36%	36%	24%	26%

* The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses. Throughout this report, benchmark attainment corresponds with students meeting or exceeding 18 in English, 22 in Reading, 22 in Math and 23 in Science.

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

WISCONSIN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015–2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*



Data From Graph Above

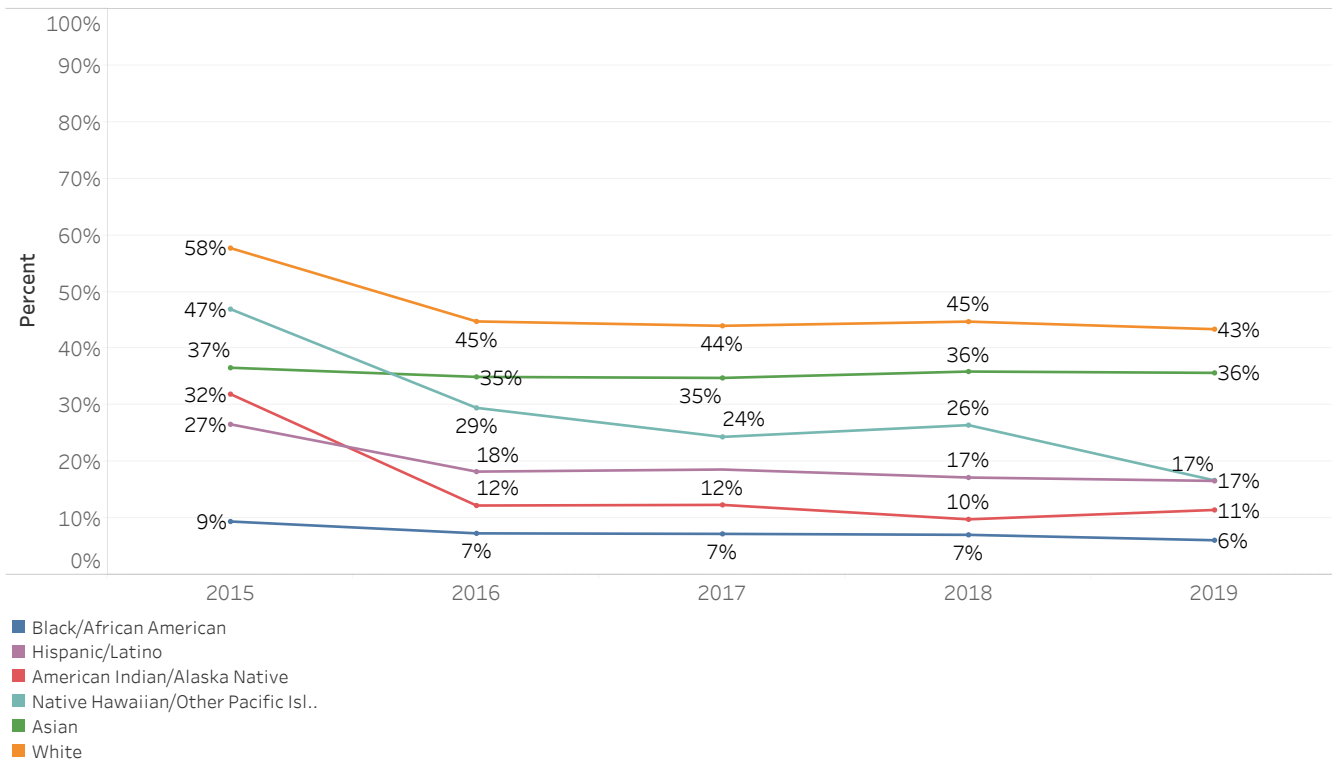
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	74%	53%	52%	49%	35%
2016	60%	41%	41%	37%	25%
2017	59%	42%	39%	37%	25%
2018	59%	42%	40%	36%	25%
2019	56%	40%	39%	36%	24%

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WISCONSIN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015-2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting Three or More Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity



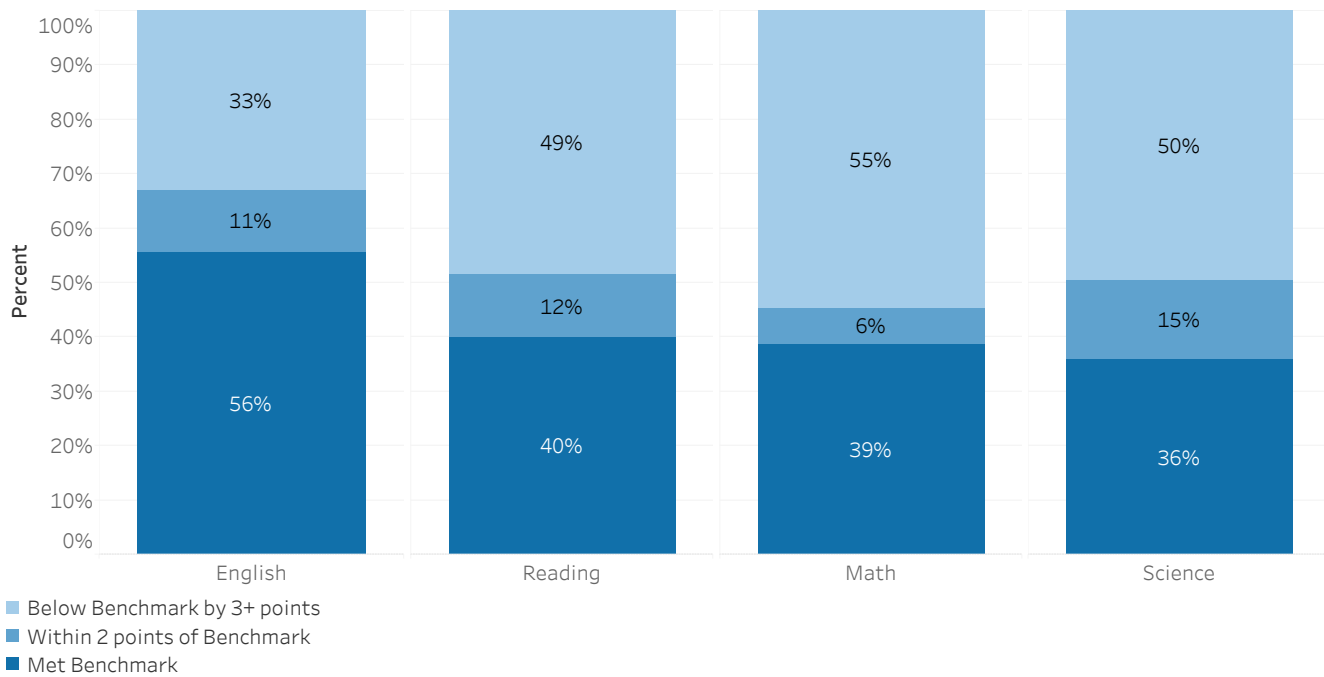
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	9%	27%	32%	47%	37%	58%
2016	7%	18%	12%	29%	35%	45%
2017	7%	19%	12%	24%	35%	44%
2018	7%	17%	10%	26%	36%	45%
2019	6%	17%	11%	17%	36%	43%

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WISCONSIN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment and Subject



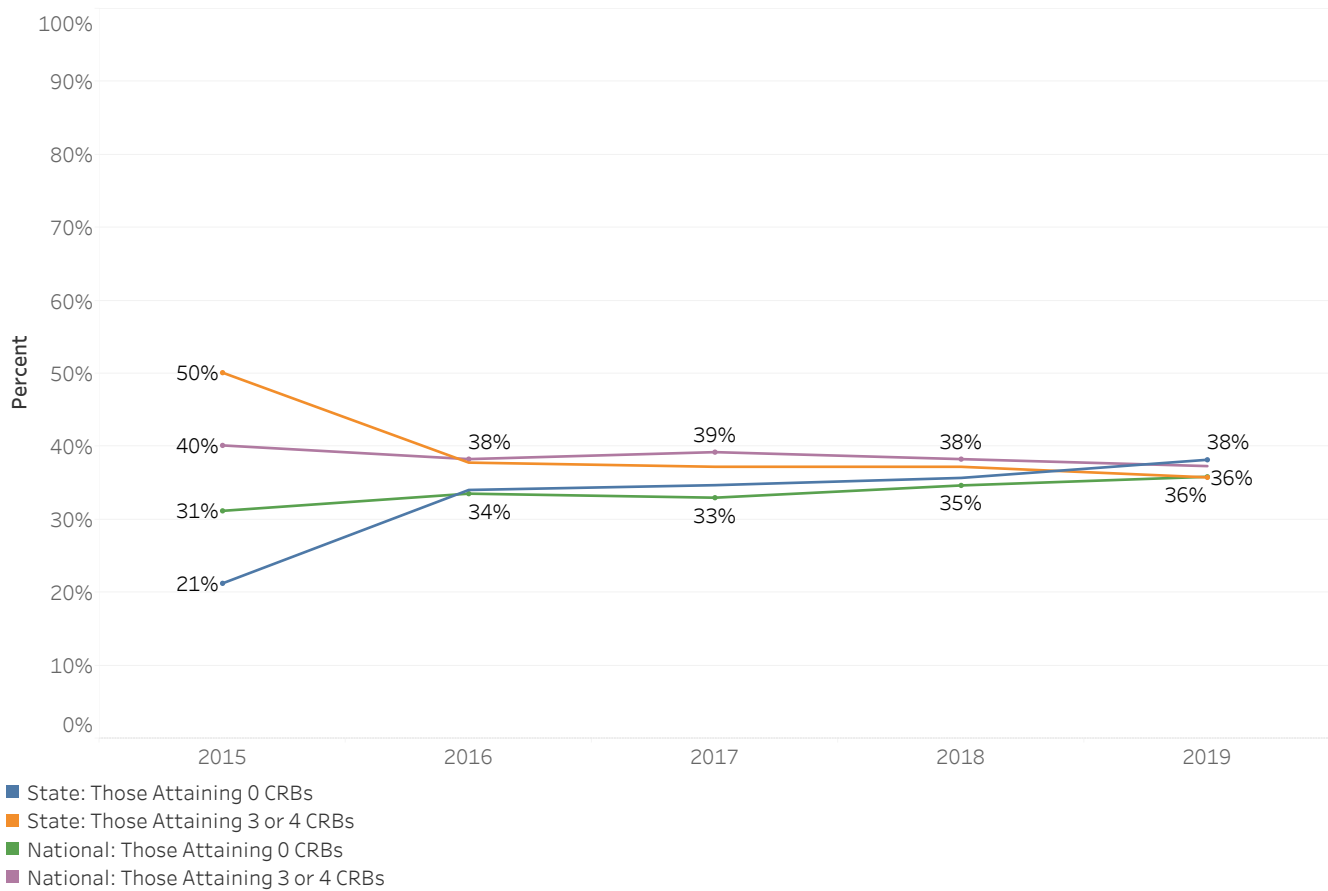
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	33%	11%	56%
Math	55%	6%	39%
Reading	49%	12%	40%
Science	50%	15%	36%

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WISCONSIN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015–2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*



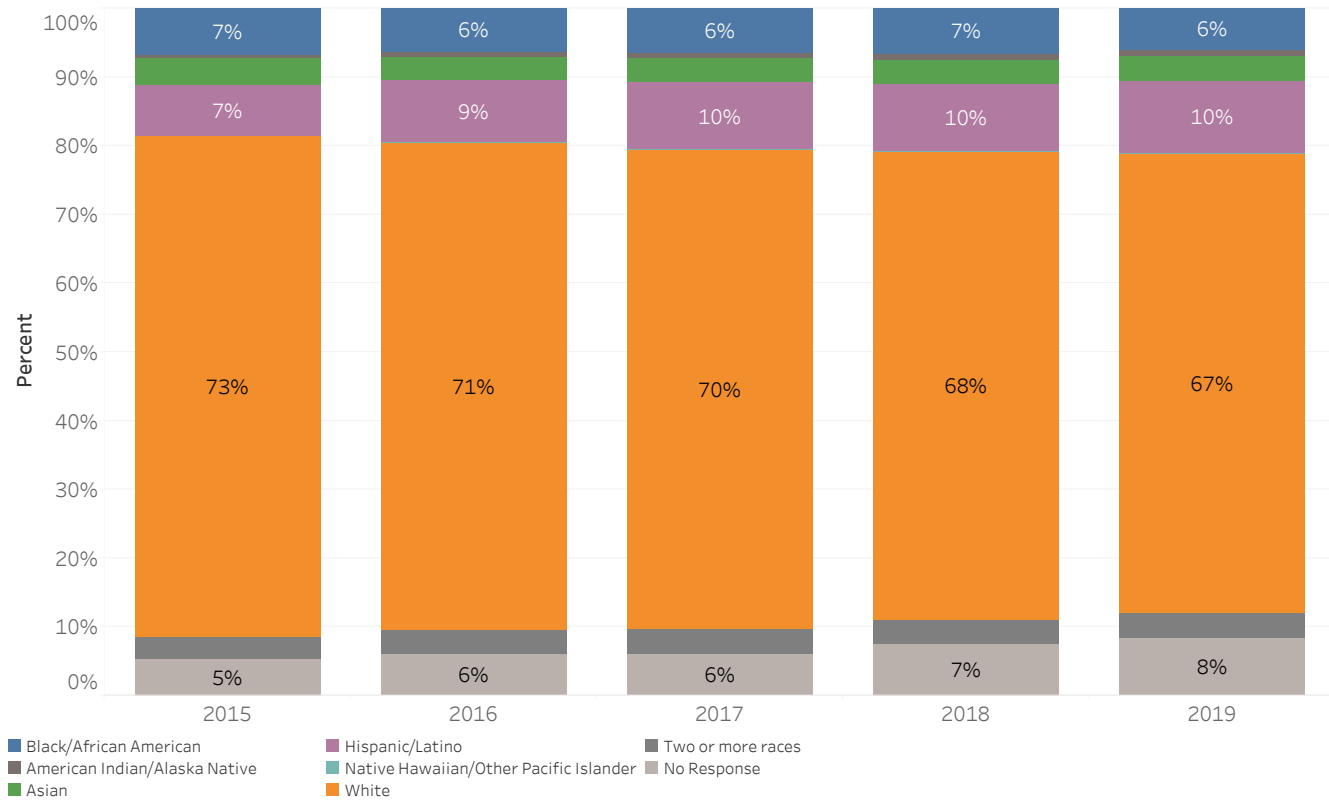
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	21%	50%	31%	40%
2016	34%	38%	34%	38%
2017	35%	37%	33%	39%
2018	36%	37%	35%	38%
2019	38%	36%	36%	37%

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WISCONSIN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015-2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity



Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	No Response
2015	7%	1%	4%	7%	0%	73%	3%	5%
2016	6%	1%	3%	9%	0%	71%	4%	6%
2017	6%	1%	4%	10%	0%	70%	4%	6%
2018	7%	1%	4%	10%	0%	68%	4%	7%
2019	6%	1%	4%	10%	0%	67%	4%	8%

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WISCONSIN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

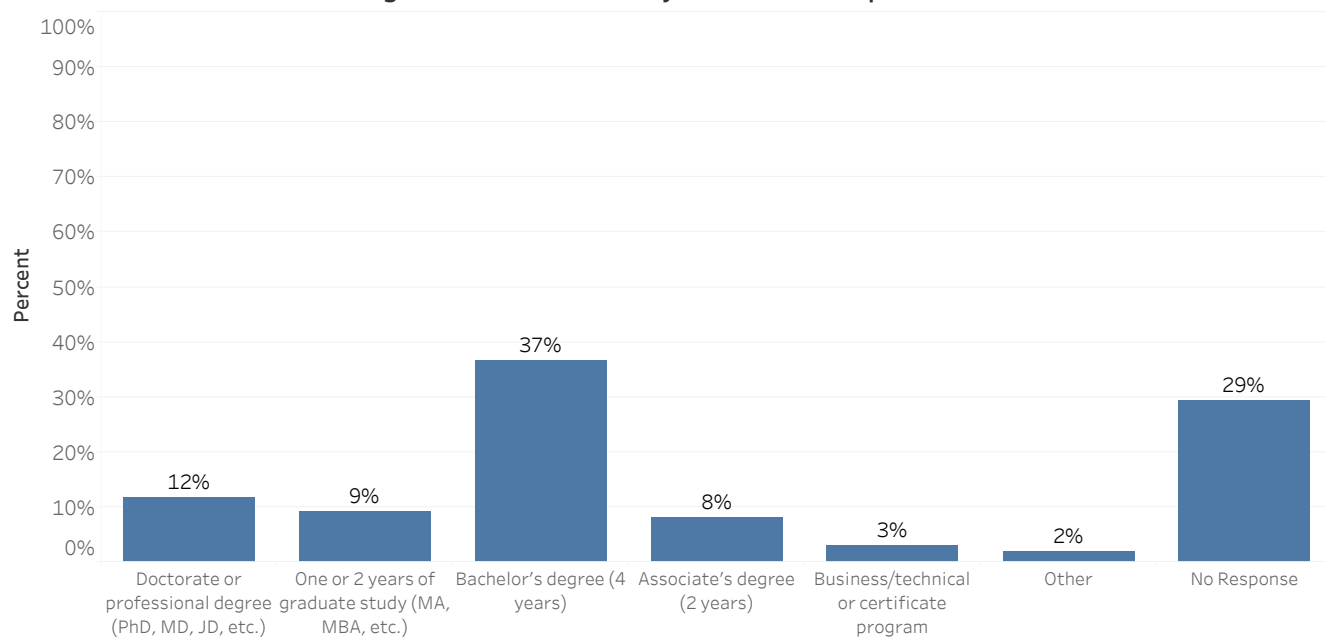
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	46,738	66,564	66,734	68,000	66,729
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	21.6	19.7	19.7	19.8	19.4
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.5	20.7	20.6	20.6	20.4
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.0	20.4	20.4	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.3	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.6
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.2	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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WISCONSIN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Educational Aspirations



Data From Graph Above

	% of Graduates
Doctorate or professional degree (PhD, MD, JD, etc.)	12%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	9%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	37%
Associate's degree (2 years)	8%
Business/technical or certificate program	3%
Other	2%
No Response	29%

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