

Freshman Admission Expectations



THE UNIVERSITY
of
WISCONSIN
MADISON

Admission Criteria

Admission is competitive and selective. Our admission counselors review each application individually, looking for students who meet the university's high academic standards while also demonstrating leadership qualities, nonacademic achievement, diversity in personal background and experience, and potential for contribution to the Wisconsin community.

Academic preparation and success are the primary considerations for admission. We do not have a minimum GPA, test score, or class rank above which admission is guaranteed. No single attribute or characteristic guarantees the admission of any applicant, and outstanding performance in one area may compensate for less-than-competitive performance in another. We consider all achievement—both academic and personal—with emphasis on:

Rigor of Course Work: Applicants must complete the high school course requirements listed below, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, honors, and accelerated courses when appropriate and possible.

	Minimum for Application	Typical for Admission
English	4	4+
Math*	3	4+
Social Studies	3	4+
Science	3	4
Single Foreign Language	2	4
Additional Academic/Fine Arts	2	2+
Total Units	17	22+

*Math requirement includes at least one year each of algebra, geometry, and advanced math, or an integrated sequence of courses.

Academic GPA: Students must earn good grades and maintain a high level of achievement in challenging course work. We recalculate GPAs based on unweighted academic courses only.

Grade Trends: The pattern of grades is important. An increasingly strong academic record improves the likelihood of admission.

Class Rank: We request class rank and consider rank in addition to all other factors. Admission data indicates that those who provide rank are more likely to be admitted.

Test Scores (ACT or SAT): Either the ACT or SAT is required, including results from a standardized writing test. This writing requirement must be fulfilled with the ACT Assessment plus the ACT Writing Test or the SAT (critical reading, math, and writing).

Nonacademic Qualifications: In addition to academic achievement, we look for students who demonstrate qualities such as leadership and concern for others and the community; achievement in the arts, athletics, and other areas; diversity in personal background and experience; and a family legacy of success at UW–Madison. While nonacademic qualifications will make a good applicant strong, they will never make an academically weak applicant admissible.

Profile of Admitted Freshmen

Following are the general qualifications of admitted freshmen. These figures are not cutoffs. They are the middle 50% range, so 25% of admitted students fall below the range and 25% place above it.

Class Rank	86–96th percentile
GPA*	3.5–3.9
ACT	26–30
SAT	1770–2010

*Unweighted, academic GPA

Likelihood of Admission

This chart may help gauge the likelihood of admission, based on numbers alone. Choose the indicator that reflects your strongest qualification (e.g., ACT score or GPA) as one measure of admission probability. Keep in mind that no single attribute guarantees admission.

Test Score		GPA (unweighted, academic)				
		4.0–3.8	3.7–3.6	3.5–3.4	3.3–3.1	<3.1
Class Rank (percentile)		Class Rank (percentile)				
ACT	SAT (avg)	99–95	94–86	85–76	75–61	<61
36–30	800–690	95%	90%	70%	50%	30%
29–28	680–640	90%	80%	55%	35%	20%
27–26	630–610	85%	60%	50%	20%	10%
25–24	600–570	75%	50%	30%	10%	5%
<24	<570	70%	40%	20%	5%	1%

How to Apply

Apply online at apply.wisconsin.edu or download an application at www.admissions.wisc.edu.

Application Deadlines

You can apply for admission beginning September 15 of your senior year in high school. February 1 is our application deadline for fall admission, and October 1 is the deadline for spring.

For More Information

Office of Admissions

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Madison, WI 53706–1481
608/262–3961

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owisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu

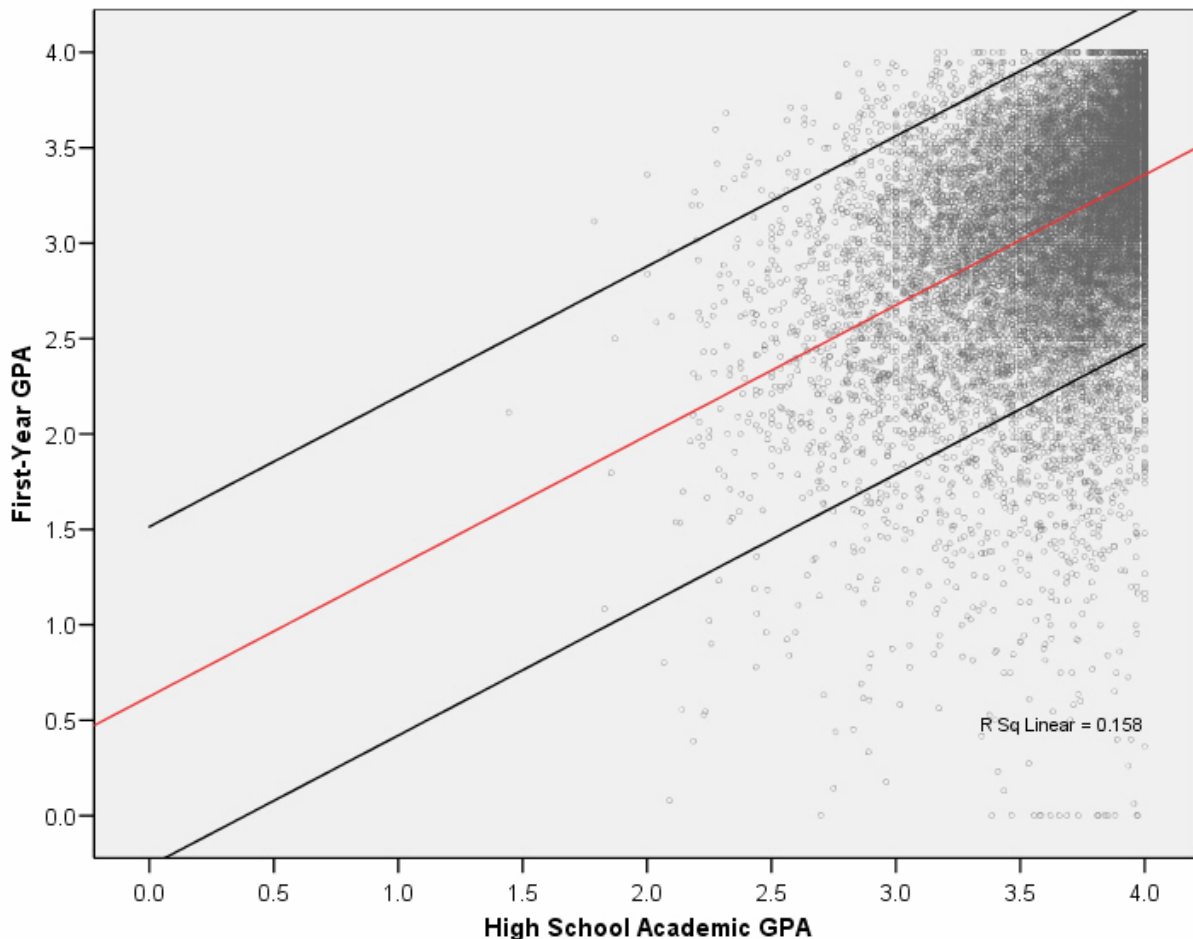
The Relationship between Academic Preparation Indicators and First-Year GPA at UW-Madison

The following three charts show the relationship between first-year GPA and high school GPA (Chart 1), high school rank percentile (Chart 2) and ACT composite score (Chart 3) for freshmen who first enrolled at UW-Madison in fall 2002, 2003, 2004 or 2005. These three variables are often assumed to be good predictors of college outcomes when, in fact, none of these indicators alone is a reliable predictor of success at UW-Madison. The regression line (straight line that best describes the relationship between first-year GPA at UW-Madison and the three preparation indicators) is shown in red on each chart. The 90% confidence intervals are shown in black.

Chart 1: High School GPA and First-Year GPA

Each dot on the charts represents a single student and shows the intersection of his/her first-year GPA at UW-Madison and his/her high school GPA. There is a concentration of students in the upper right of the chart because UW-Madison attracts well-prepared students with high GPAs. We know that students who do well in high school often do well in college. However, this chart also shows many dots (students) who had high GPAs in high school but failed to do well at UW-Madison (dots below the red line) and many students who had lower GPAs who did quite well (dots above the red line). The relatively low r^2 value of .158 means that only 16% of the variance in first-year GPAs can be explained by differences in high school GPAs. Conversely, 84% of the variance in first-year GPAs at UW-Madison is due to factors other than high school GPA (such as rigor of high school curriculum, motivation, courses taken etc.). For Chart 1, the 90% confidence interval shows that we would expect 90% of UW-Madison students with a high school GPA of 3.7 (approximate UW-Madison average) to have first-year GPAs between 2.20 (where 3.7 high school GPA intersects the lower black line) and 4.00 (where it intersects the top black line).

Chart 1: Freshmen at UW-Madison (Fall 2002-2005)

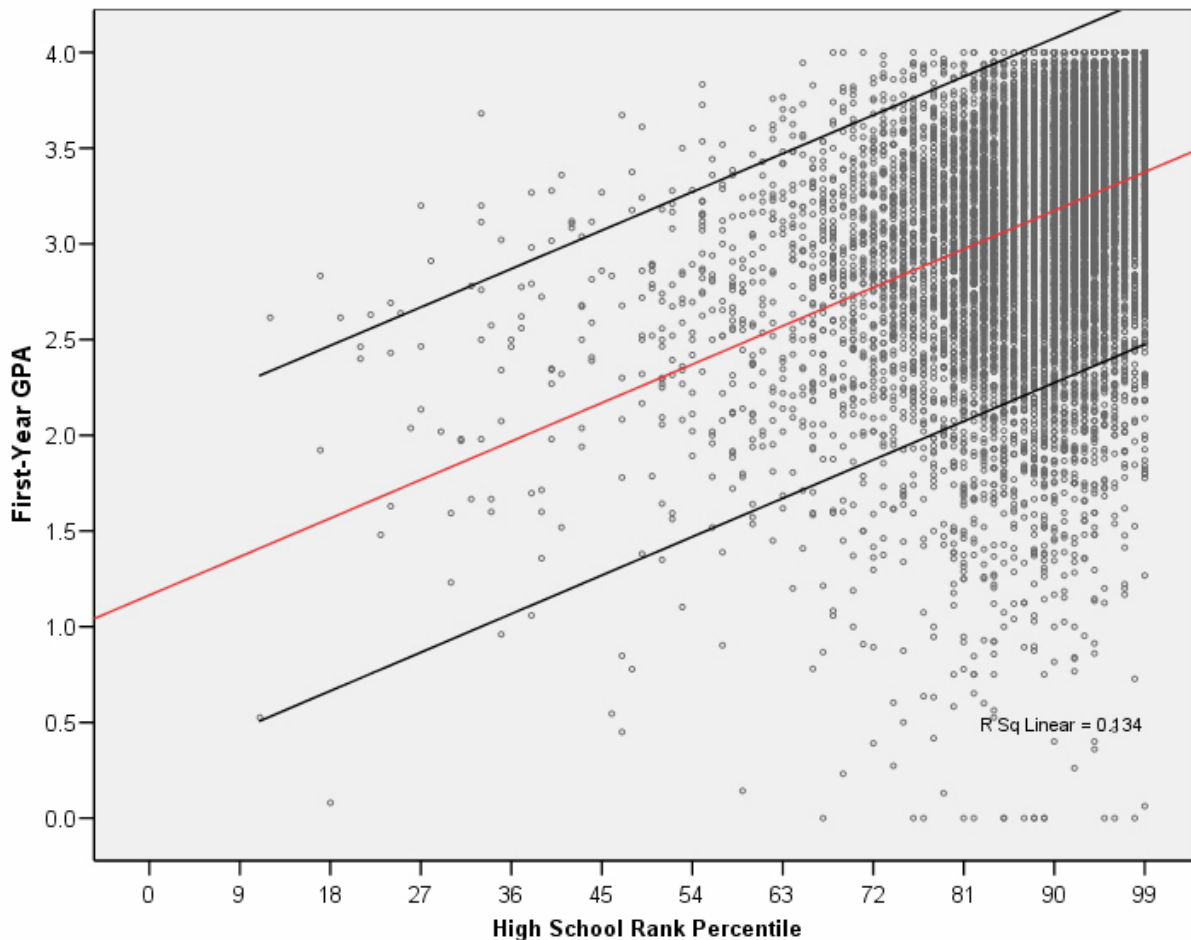


n=21,055.

Chart 2: High School Rank Percentile and First-Year GPA

Each dot on the charts represents a single student and shows the intersection of his/her first-year GPA at UW-Madison and his/her high school rank percentile. There is a concentration of students in the upper right part of the chart because UW-Madison attracts well-prepared, high ranking students. Here again, we see highly ranked students who failed to do well at UW-Madison and lower ranked students who did quite well. The relatively low r^2 value of .134 means that only 13% of the variance in first-year GPAs can be explained by differences in high school rank. In other words, 87% of the variance in first-year GPAs is due to something other than high school rank. High school rank explains even less of the variance in first-year GPAs than high school GPA does. For Chart 2, the 90% confidence interval shows that we would expect 90% of UW-Madison students with a high school rank of 89% (approximate UW-Madison average) to have first-year GPAs between 2.10 (where 89% high school rank intersects the lower black line) and 4.00 (where it intersects the top black line).

Chart 2: Freshmen at UW-Madison (Fall 2002-2005)

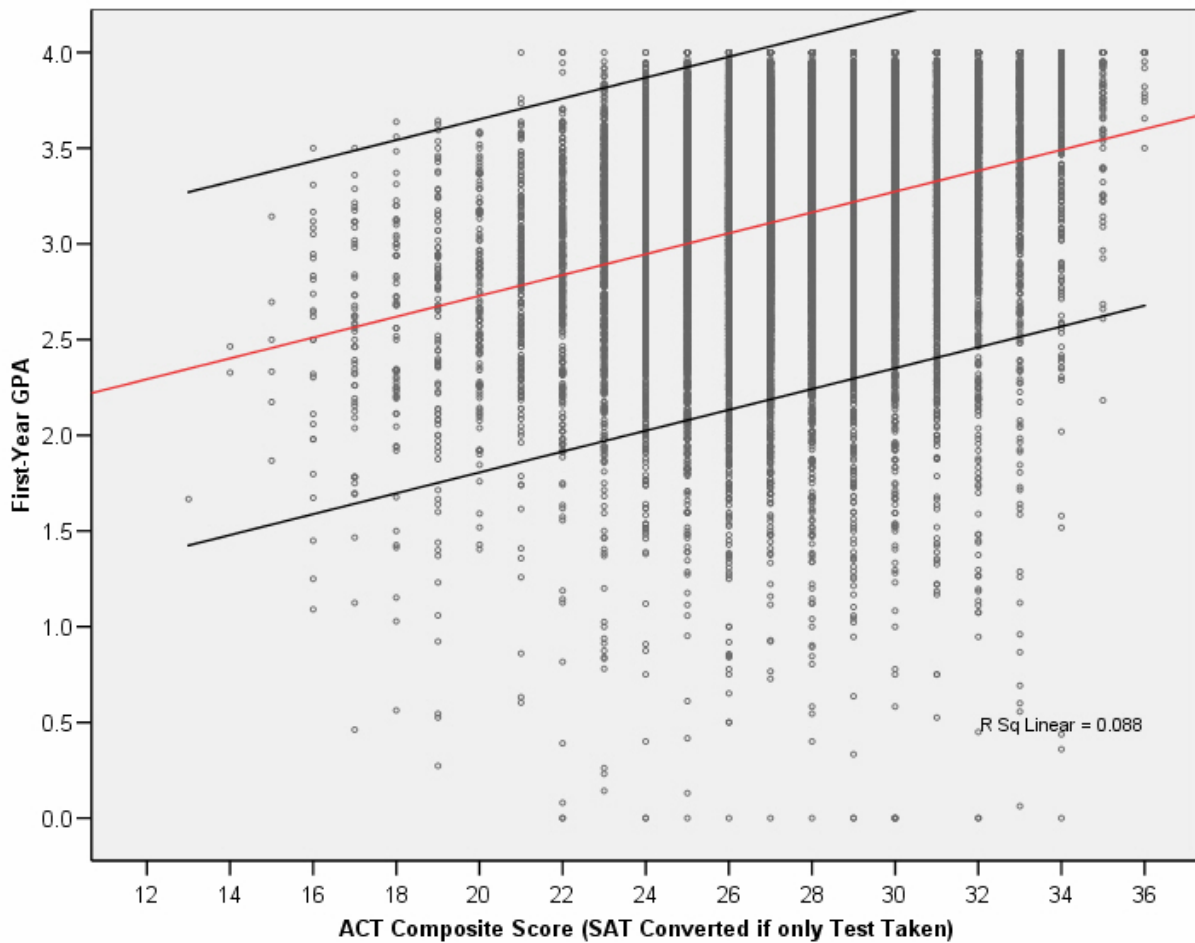


n=17,593.

Chart 3: ACT Composite Score and First-Year GPA

Each dot on the charts represents a single student and shows the intersection of his/her first-year GPA and his/her ACT composite score. There is a concentration of students in the upper right part of the chart because UW-Madison attracts well-prepared, high scoring students. Here again, there are high scoring students who failed to do well at UW-Madison and many lower scoring students who did quite well. The dots on Chart 3 are the most spread out of the three charts showing that the relationship between these variables in the weakest. The low r^2 value of .088 means that only 9% of the variance in first-year GPAs can be explained by differences in ACT scores. As with the other charts, a high proportion – in this case 91% - of the variance in first-year GPAs is due to something other than ACT scores. ACT scores explain the least amount of variance in first-year GPAs of the three preparation measures shown. For Chart 3, the 90% confidence interval shows that we would expect 90% of UW-Madison students with an ACT composite score of 28 (approximate UW-Madison average) to have first-year GPAs between 2.00 (where an ACT score of 28 intersects the lower black line) and 4.00 (where it intersects the top black line).

Chart 3: Freshmen at UW-Madison (Fall 2002-2005)



n=19,757. Note: SAT scores were converted to ACT scores in cases when students only took the SAT. Conversion was made using a table provided by *The College Board*.

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Chart 4: Fall 2006 New Freshmen Non-Minority Admits

		High School Rank Percentile									
		90-99	80-89	70-79	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29	10-19	Under 10
ACT/SAT Score	36	9									
	35	62	4				1				
	34	143	21	5	2						
	33	228	55	5	4	1					
	32	299	88	18	12		1		1		
	31	369	170	43	4	2	1				
	30	493	252	44	9	2			1		
	29	473	286	59	6	2	1	1			
	28	544	390	46	6	2		1			
	27	498	357	58	6	2	1				
	26	391	325	53	7	3		1			
	25	315	211	33	7	3					
	24	195	91	26	4			2			
	23	94	49	15	3	1	1				
	22	26	22	9	2	3	1	1	1		
	21	13	9	8	4	1					
	20	5		6	1	1		1			
	19										
	18	1	1	1	1			2			
	17										
16											
15											
14											
13											
12											
11											
10											

Chart 5: Fall 2006 New Freshmen Minority Admits

		High School Rank Percentile									
		90-99	80-89	70-79	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29	10-19	Under 10
ACT/SAT Score	36	2									
	35	17	1			1		1			
	34	17	6	1	1						
	33	39	3	3	3	1					
	32	36	13	5	4	1	2				
	31	49	20	7	2	2					
	30	41	26	14	1	1	1		2		
	29	41	24	11	1	2	1				
	28	50	35	13	1	1				1	
	27	34	38	14	9	3	2				
	26	36	25	12	6	3	2				
	25	37	42	15	4	3	5	1			
	24	25	37	12	9	2	1	1	1		
	23	16	26	19	11	4	2	1	1		
	22	16	16	9	11	2	1			1	
	21	16	14	10	9	4	2				
	20	13	14	17	4	1					
	19						1	1			
	18	7	7	2	3	1		1			
	17	5	1	2	2	3	1				
16	4	2		1							
15	2		1								
14	1	1	1		1						
13											
12											
11											
10											

Source: UW-Madison Office of Admissions

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Chart 6: Fall 2006 New Freshmen Non-Minority Non-Admits

ACT/SAT Score	High School Rank Percentile									
	90-99	80-89	70-79	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29	10-19	Under 10
36										
35		1				1				
34	3		1		1	2				
33	3	1	2	3	1		1			
32	9	3	7	7	8	1				
31	7	12	37	37	13	2	4	1		
30	4	13	73	46	21	6	3			
29	14	37	109	70	24	10	2	3		
28	13	45	165	83	41	16	8		1	
27	9	83	208	121	44	21	7	2	1	
26	11	88	195	114	48	20	11	2	1	
25	14	128	199	116	56	37	10	4	2	
24	13	155	169	88	45	26	10	7		
23	36	144	154	71	41	23	12	3	1	
22	24	103	80	73	29	20	9	2	1	
21	16	59	72	43	24	12	2	2		
20	6	25	35	26	17	11	1	3	1	
19										
18		5	9	8	9	4	6	2	1	1
17	2	3	2	4	3		1			
16			2	1	1	1	1	1		
15				1						
14										
13										
12										
11										
10										

Chart 7: Fall 2006 New Freshmen Minority Non-Admits

ACT/SAT Score	High School Rank Percentile									
	90-99	80-89	70-79	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29	10-19	Under 10
36										
35										
34	1									
33	1			1	1					
32			1		1					
31		1	3	6	1	2	1			
30			3	6	3	1	1		1	
29	3	1	5	3	8	3	2			
28	3	4	12	12	5		2	1		
27	1	4	6	9	7	3	1		1	
26		7	10	6	11	1	1	4		
25	5	5	15	10	9	1	2	2		2
24		10	15	12	7	2	4			
23	2	8	15	11	10	3	2	2		
22	3	8	6	13	6	8	3	3	1	1
21	7	5	12	9	7	7	7	3	1	
20	2	7	8	2	6	4	3	1		
19										
18	2	2	9	10	4	6	2	2		
17	1	1	6	8	7	4	3		3	1
16	3	2	4	5	2	6	3	1		
15	1	2	3	1	6	3	1	1		1
14	4	2	2		3		1	1		
13			1			1	1	2		
12				1						1
11				1						
10							1			

Source: UW-Madison Office of Admissions

ADMISSIONS OF LOW-SCORING APPLICANTS

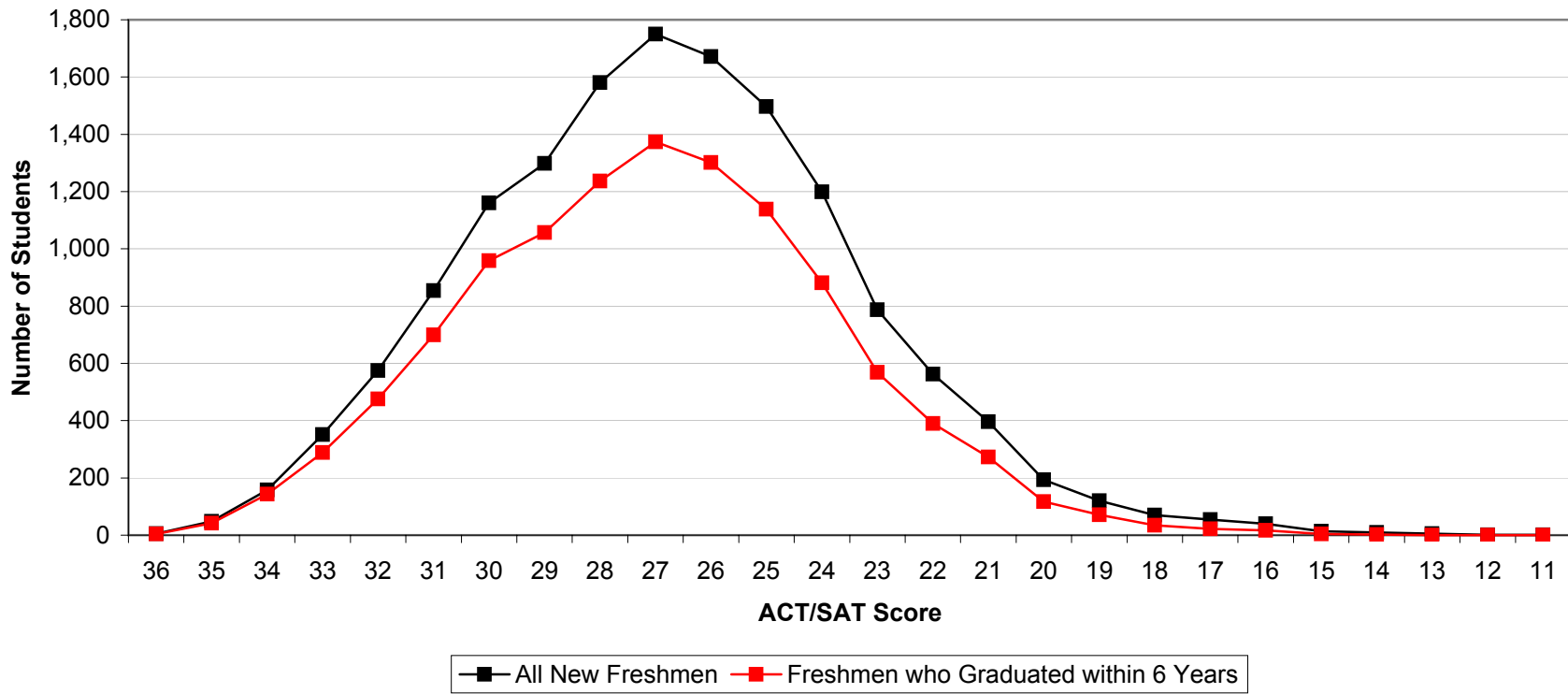
Based on applications between 1989 and 1997

- * 135,695 total applications
- * 95,231 of those included ACT scores
- * 4,463 targeted minority applicants submitted ACTs

Results for those scoring 15 or below:

ACT	Minority			Majority		
	Appl	Adm	%	Appl	Adm	%
6	1	0	0%	2	1	50%
7	1	1	100%	2	1	50%
8	1	0	0%	4	0	0%
9	7	1	14%	5	2	40%
10	11	2	18%	12	5	42%
11	9	1	11%	18	8	44%
12	18	7	39%	36	19	53%
13	49	12	24%	77	32	42%
14	70	32	46%	124	41	33%
15	139	66	47%	212	103	49%
	306	122	40%	492	212	43%
As % of Appls:	0.23%			0.36%		
As % of Adms:	0.12%			0.21%		

Chart 8: ACT/SAT Scores of Freshmen at UW-Madison (1998-2000)



Source: Academic Planning and Analysis, Office of the Provost, clh

Chart 9

Retention and Graduation Rates of New Freshmen by Fall Semester Entrance Cohort

Fall Semester of Entrance	Cohort Head Count	Cumulative Graduation / Retention Rates									
		Retention Rate After—			After 4 Years		After 5 Years		After 6 Years		
		1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	
1996	5,455	91.1	83.9	81.5	41.2	39.3	73.3	6.4	77.8	2.0	
1997	5,881	91.7	85.6	81.7	42.2	39.5	74.4	7.0	79.2	2.4	
1998	5,596	92.6	85.3	82.5	42.8	38.9	75.4	6.0	79.7	1.9	
1999	5,671	91.6	84.5	81.3	42.4	38.2	73.8	6.5	78.2	2.2	
2000	5,717	91.8	85.6	82.0	45.7	35.6	75.3	5.6	79.2	2.5	
2001	6,095	92.4	86.2	82.6	47.0	35.1	76.3	6.5			
2002	5,514	92.8	87.0	83.7	50.4	34.4					
2003	5,578	92.9	87.2	83.5							
2004	5,642	94.0	89.3								
2005	6,141	92.9									

Notes: Fall Semester entrance cohorts include undergraduates enrolled in the fall who were new freshmen in the immediately previous summer term. Undergraduates who enter a PharmD or Vet Med program without a Bachelor's degree are counted as "graduated" in this tabulation when they complete 120 credits

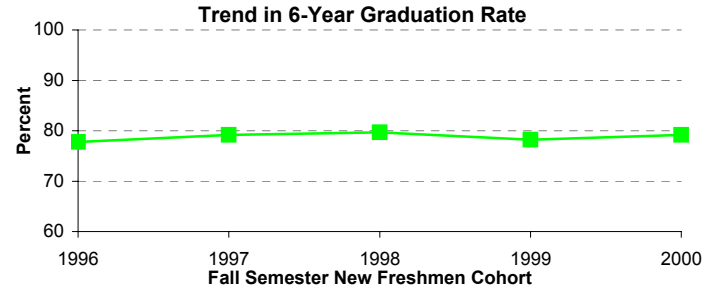
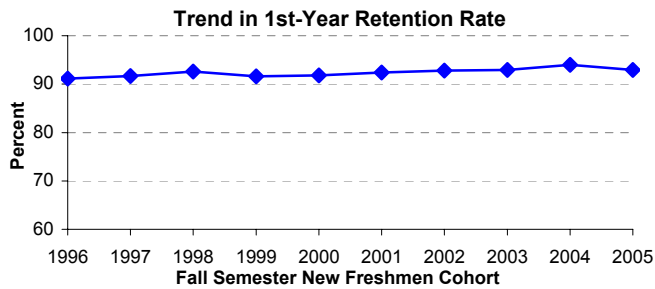


Chart 10

Retention and Graduation Rates of New Freshmen Targeted Minorities by Fall Semester Entrance Cohort

Fall Semester of Entrance	Cohort Head Count	Cumulative Graduation / Retention Rates									
		Retention Rate After—			After 4 Years		After 5 Years		After 6 Years		
		1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	
1996	254	84.6	70.1	69.7	20.9	40.2	47.2	9.4	51.6	5.1	
1997	300	88.7	78.0	71.3	24.7	43.3	52.7	14.0	58.7	6.7	
1998	341	86.5	70.7	65.1	21.1	41.3	48.1	12.3	54.5	4.1	
1999	363	83.2	68.3	65.8	21.2	41.3	48.2	11.6	54.8	5.5	
2000	362	82.9	74.3	68.2	20.7	44.8	51.1	9.9	57.7	5.0	
2001	388	84.0	74.5	70.6	24.7	41.2	53.6	10.3			
2002	437	88.6	81.5	77.3	32.0	41.9					
2003	419	89.7	80.9	76.1							
2004	494	88.3	81.8								
2005	535	89.2									

Notes: Fall Semester entrance cohorts include undergraduates enrolled in the fall who were new freshmen in the immediately previous summer term. Undergraduates who enter a PharmD or Vet Med program without a Bachelor's degree are counted as "graduated" in this tabulation when they complete 121 credits. Targeted minorities include African-American, Native American, Hispanic, and Southeast Asian (Cambodians, Laotians, Vietnamese and Hmong).

