



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

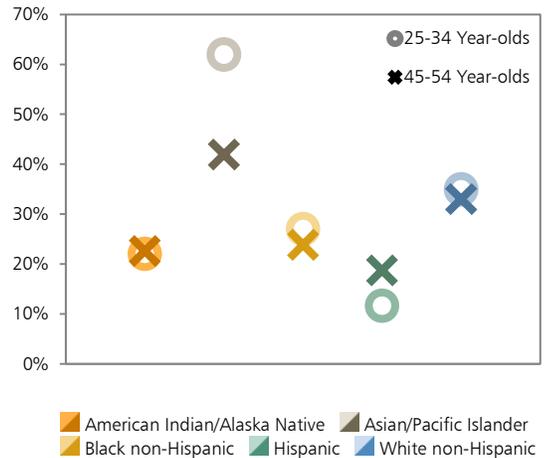
OKLAHOMA

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Oklahoma related to: current levels of educational attainment, our projections of high school graduates into the future, and two common barriers to student access and success – insufficient academic preparation and inadequate finances.

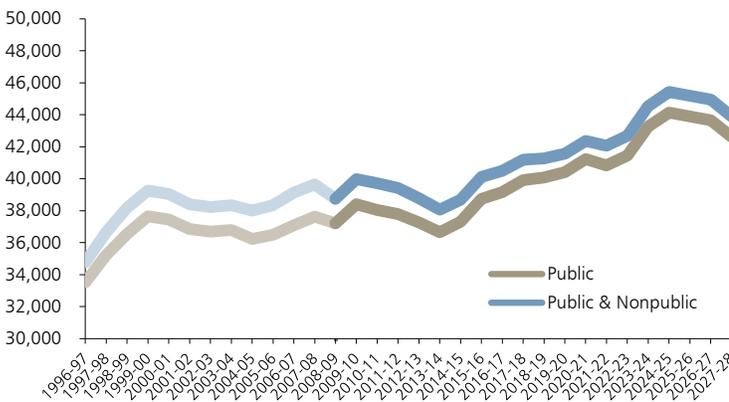
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

Workforce projections indicate there will be a growing demand for well-educated labor, which means that younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. Overall in Oklahoma between 2008 and 2010, 31% of both younger adults (ages 25-34) and older adults (45-54) had a postsecondary degree.

- However, rates of postsecondary degree attainment are lower than the regional and national average for most race/ethnicities by age group.
- Only Asian/Pacific Islander young adults clearly outpaced their older counterparts in postsecondary degree attainment. Younger White non-Hispanic adults were about as likely as their older counterparts to have achieved an associate’s degree or better.
- Younger Hispanic adults earned postsecondary degrees at a low rate relative to all other racial/ethnic groups, and also lower than their elders.
- About 22% of Native American/Alaska Natives in either age group had degrees.



Production of High School Graduates



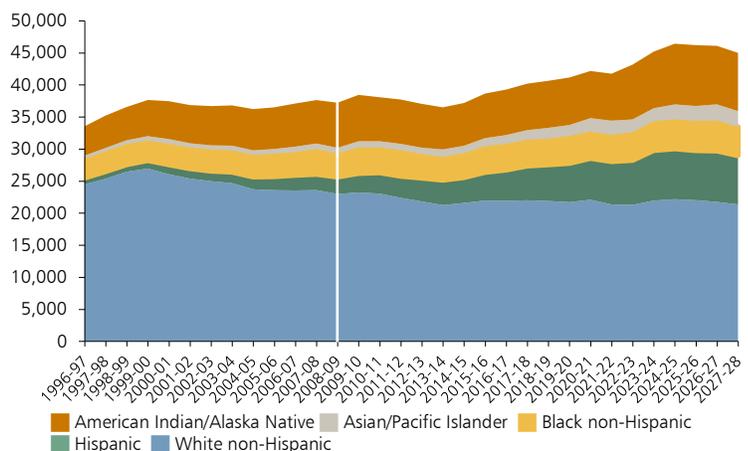
According to our projections, Oklahoma’s future graduating classes will consistently increase in size, after having just experienced a number of years of relatively flat production.

- Oklahoma’s graduating class is projected to have peaked at just short of 40,000 in 2009-10, and is now experiencing several years of reduced class sizes, down to 38,000 by 2013-14, before about 10 years of consistent growth through 2024-25, when it will reach a new high of 45,400 graduates.
- Only 4% of Oklahoma’s graduates were from nonpublic high schools in 2008-09 (about 1,500); this number will decline to about 1,260 by the last projected year, about 3% of that year’s total.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

All of Oklahoma’s projected increases in public high school graduates will occur among non-White graduates.

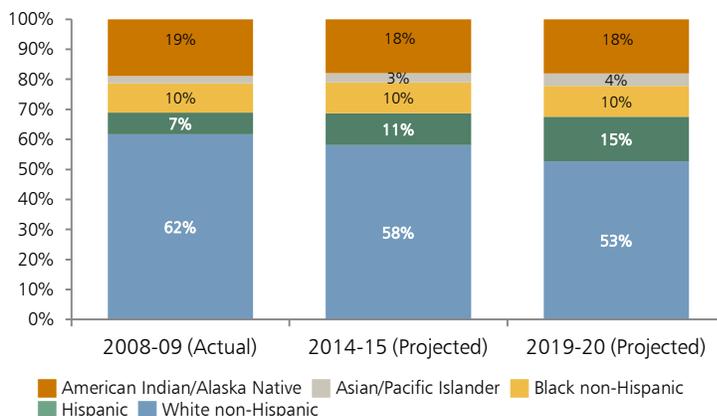
- Our projections indicate that White non-Hispanic graduates peaked around 23,000 in 2009-10 and 2010-11, but will decline 8% over the projected period, to 21,400 by 2027-28.
- The majority of increase will be from Hispanic graduates, rapidly increasing from 2,700 in 2008-09 to almost 8,000 by 2026-27. Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native graduates also contribute to expansion, increasing from 900 to 2,500 and 7,000 to 9,100 over the same years.
- Black non-Hispanic graduate production will be relatively stable throughout, ranging between 4,000 and 4,500.



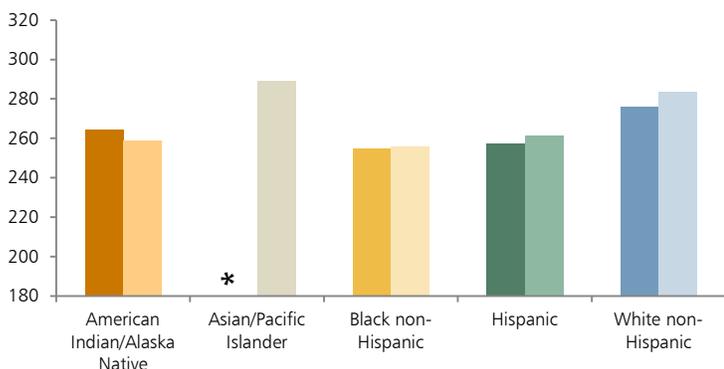
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

As the number of non-White public graduates in Oklahoma declines and other groups increase in number, Oklahoma's public graduating classes will go from 38% non-White in 2008-09 to 50% non-White or more beginning in 2022-23.

- Hispanics account for most of the gains among non-White public high school graduates, increasing from 7% to 17% of the total over the projected period.
- Asian/Pacific Islander graduates increase from 2% to 5% of the total, and American Indian/Alaska Native graduates gain 1%, from 19% to 20%, between 2008-09 and 2027-28.
- Black non-Hispanics hold steady at 10% of the total throughout.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



Note: Oklahoma in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades. *Reporting standards were not met and no score is available.

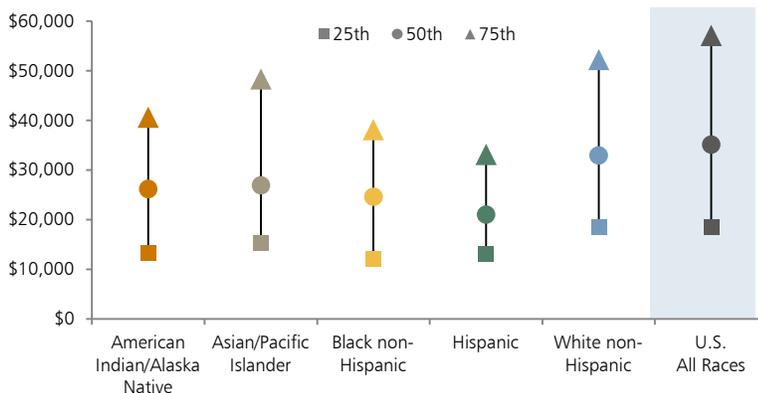
Academic preparation is a major factor in college access and success, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides some indication of differences by race/ethnicity.

- The average composite math and reading score across race/ethnicities for eighth graders in Oklahoma in 2011 ranged by almost 50 points, from 255 for Black non-Hispanics to 276 for White non-Hispanics, with American Indians/Alaska Natives, Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics showing the lowest average scores.
- Scores for Black non-Hispanic, Hispanic and White non-Hispanic eighth graders in Oklahoma were about at the national average scores for those groups.
- No score was available for Asians/Pacific Islanders.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. Among working-age adults (25-64) in Oklahoma from 2006 to 2010:

- The statewide median income was \$30,479, 87% of the national median income of \$35,147.
- All but White non-Hispanics had median incomes below the statewide median.
- Hispanics were the least well off financially among all races/ethnicities with a median income of \$21,038, 60% of the statewide median, and one in four Hispanics earned roughly \$13,000 or less. One in four Black non-Hispanics earned an estimated \$12,091 or less.



Projections of high school graduates are from WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, 2012. 1996-97 to 2008-09 are actual reported graduates and 2009-10 to 2027-28 are projections. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems supplied the data used in the first and last figures. State-level estimates for those figures are only reported for a racial/ethnic group when the coefficients of variation for all estimates do not exceed 25% and sample size is 50 or greater. Readers should understand that estimates for small samples can be imprecise due to large standard errors. WICHE provides relevant data tables at <http://wiche.edu/knocking-8th/technicalNotes>.

¹Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File. Average annual percent of population aged 25-34 and 45-54 with an Associate's degree or higher in 2008-10.

²Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>. Notes: Composite scores are the average of the Math and Reading scores for 8th graders tested in 2011, scale of 0 to 500; scores for 12th graders taking NAEP were not available for this state.

³Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-10 American Community Survey Five-Year Public Use Microdata Sample File. Note: Percentiles for wage/salary income were calculated for persons age 25-64 with positive earnings; unemployed persons with \$0 income were also included. Figures are in 2010 dollars. Native Hawaiians are included in Asian/Pacific Islander.

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Visit <http://wiche.edu/knocking> to obtain the full publication and download these projections as [graphs](#) or [data files](#).