



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

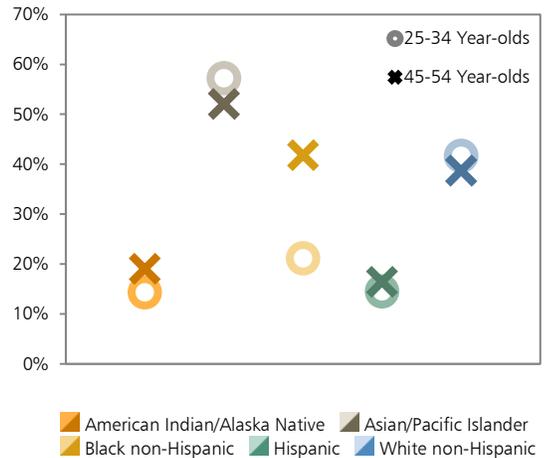
OREGON

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Oregon 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.

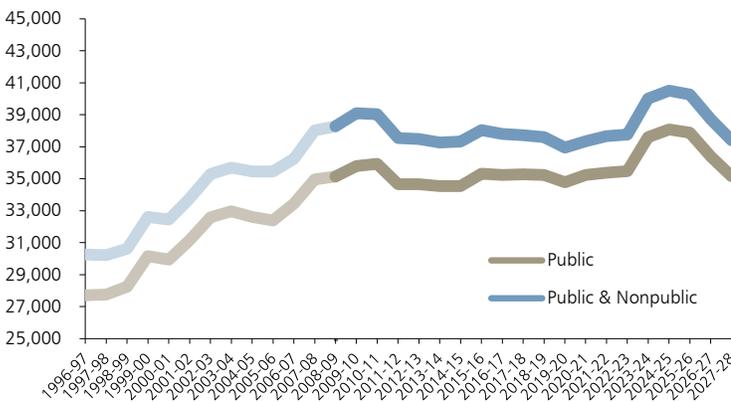
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

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. Data about the proportion of adults ages 25-34 and 45-54 in Oregon between 2008 and 2010 with postsecondary degrees indicate:

- Overall, younger and older adults are about as likely to have postsecondary degrees in Oregon at about 37%.
- The greatest educational attainment gap is between younger and older Black non-Hispanic adults—only about 21% of young Black non-Hispanics have a postsecondary degree compared to 42% of older adults.
- The degree attainment rates for American Indian/Alaska Natives and Hispanics are below the regional and national average for both age groups.
- Only among White non-Hispanics are younger adults earning degrees at a higher rate than their elders; overall this suggests that educational attainment gaps are likely widening.



Production of High School Graduates



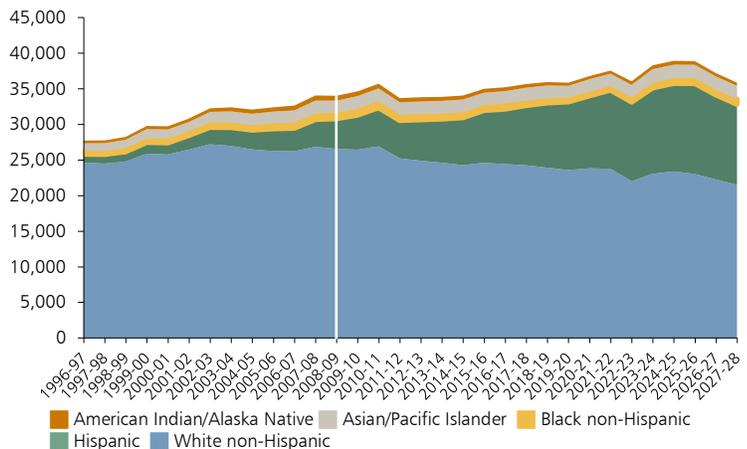
Oregon’s period of sustained growth in high school graduates has largely ended, after peaking around 39,100 graduates in 2009-10, according to our projections.

- Total public and nonpublic graduates are projected to decline and hold steady around an average of 37,500 through 2022-23. There will be a brief spike to 40,000 in 2023-24 that lasts for three years before graduates begin declining again in the last several projected years.
- Nonpublic graduates also peaked in 2009-10 at 3,300 and will begin a generally steady and steep decline of about 32 percent to about 2,300 graduates by the last projected year.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Oregon’s public high school graduating classes are projected to get substantially and rapidly more diverse.

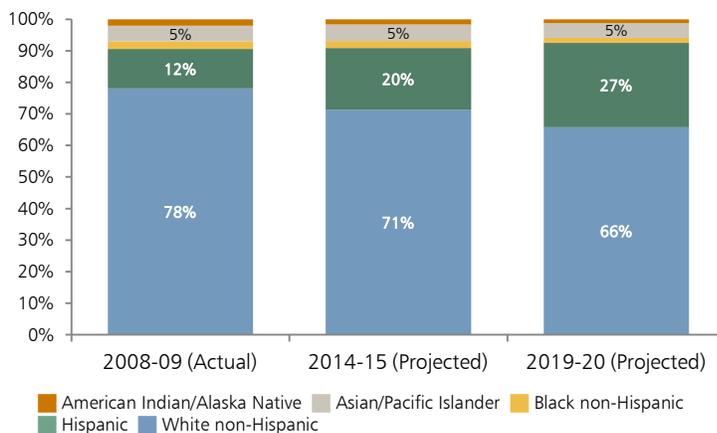
- White non-Hispanic graduates are projected to decline by 19% over the projected period, dropping from about 26,600 students in 2008-09 to 21,500 by 2027-28.
- Counterbalancing these declines are rapid increases in Hispanic graduates, almost tripling from about 4,300 in 2008-09 to 12,700 in 2025-26.
- Asian/Pacific Islander graduates will experience some increase, from about 1,700 in 2008-09 to 1,900 in 2027-28.
- There will be decreases in both Black non-Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native graduates.



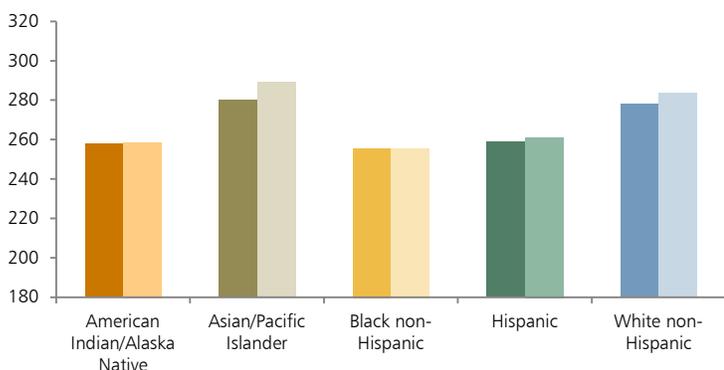
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Oregon’s public high school graduating class was 22% non-White in 2008-09, but non-Whites are projected to increase to 40% of the total by 2027-28, largely in relation to declines in White non-Hispanic graduates and rapid increases in Hispanic graduates.

- The proportion of Oregon’s public high school graduates that are White non-Hispanic will drop from 78% in 2008-09 to 60% by 2027-28.
- Hispanic public high school graduates will increase from 12% of the total in 2008-09 to 32% by the last projected year, 2027-28.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



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

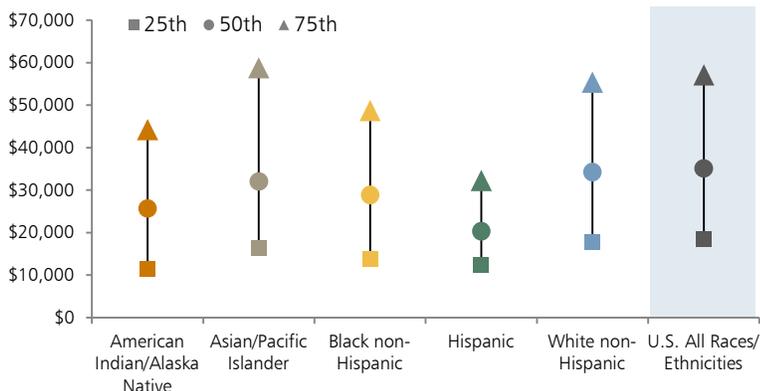
- The average composite math and reading score across race/ethnicities for Oregonian 8th graders in 2011 ranged from 255 for Black non-Hispanics to 280 for Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- The average score for American Indians/Alaska Natives, Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics was about 20 points lower than for White non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders.

Note: Oregon in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

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

- The statewide median income was \$32,076, compared with \$35,147 for the nation.
- Hispanics were the least well off financially among all race/ethnicities with a median income of \$20,320, just 58% of the statewide median, with one in four Hispanics earning \$12,400 or less.
- The median income for American Indians/Alaska Natives was \$25,679, only about 80% of the statewide median.



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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