

SUMMARY 2017

This document represents a summary of statewide findings from the Postsecondary Readiness Reports. The Iowa Postsecondary Readiness Reports (PRR) provide Iowans information on postsecondary enrollment patterns, remedial course-taking rates, and postsecondary retention and award rates that can be connected to every public high school in Iowa. The Postsecondary Readiness Reports connect data from the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Board of Regents. Reports by school are available at the following website: (<http://educateiowa.gov/postsecondaryreadiness>).

The PRR are significant because they provide a statewide portrait of how prepared Iowa high school graduates are for success in postsecondary education in a variety of areas including arts, sciences, engineering, or workforce-bound career and technical education programs. The reports provide local results to help guide improvement efforts in Iowa schools.

Key Findings

- **70.8** percent of Iowa high school graduates (2012-13 - 2014-15 cohorts) enrolled in college or training programs within one year of high school graduation.
- **47.3** percent of high school graduates in the 2009-10 cohort earned some type of postsecondary award within six years of high school graduation.
- **89.3** percent of students who enroll in college do so within the first year and **94.3** percent within two years of high school graduation.
- **16.5** percent of students enrolled at an Iowa public institution (2014-15 cohort) took a remedial math class within one year of high school graduation.
- **7.6** percent of students enrolled at an Iowa public institution (2014-15 cohort) took a remedial English class within one year of high school graduation.

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

70.8 percent of Iowa public high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary one year after graduation. This represents the average enrollment for the graduating classes of 2013-2015.

Most students who go to college do so in the first year following high school graduation. Findings show 89.3 percent of students who enroll in college do so within the first year. For the 2009-10 cohort that enrolled (within six years of high school graduation), 94.3 percent of students enroll within two years of high school graduation.

Gaps exist in enrollment rates for students from diverse backgrounds and students who face economic challenges. Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, students whose first language is not English, students in special education, and black and Hispanic students enroll in postsecondary institutions at a lower rate than the state average.

A slight decline can be found in enrollment rates when comparing the data reported in the January 2017 release of the PRR. The update to the PRR includes information about students who take longer to complete high school, such as students who take 5 and 6 years to graduate.

Table 1: Postsecondary Enrollment 1 Year after High School Graduation

Category	Iowa
All HS Graduates	70.8%
Female	75.7%
Male	65.9%
Asian	76.3%
Black	61.5%
Hispanic	56.3%
White	72.5%

Table 2: First Year Enrollment Rates by Report

HS Cohort	Jan 2017 Report	Oct 2017 Report	Difference
2009-2010	72.0%	72.3%	0.3%
2010-2011	70.8%	71.1%	0.3%
2011-2012	70.6%	70.8%	0.2%
2012-2013	71.0%	70.6%	-0.4%
2013-2014	71.7%	70.8%	-0.9%
2014-2015	NA	71.0%	NA

REMEDIAL COURSEWORK

The Postsecondary Readiness Reports provide information about the preparedness of Iowa high school students in the key content areas of English and mathematics. Students who are not ready for college-level coursework are usually placed into remedial classes (called “developmental courses” at colleges and universities). The U.S. Department of Education defines remedial classes as those that fall below the 100 level (e.g., Math 50). However, the process for placing students into remedial classes varies by college. For example, at Iowa’s public universities remedial math is required if a placement test indicates a student is not ready for college-level algebra. Many community colleges also use placement tests, but they may or may not require students to take remedial classes. Remedial class credits do not count toward a degree and usually must be completed prior to attempting college-level coursework.

Category	Math	English
All HS Graduates	16.5%	7.6%
Female	19.3%	7.9%
Male	13.5%	7.3%
Asian	11.1%	7.3%
Black	38.6%	27.0%
Hispanic	25.2%	13.7%
White	14.8%	6.1%

Data reflects only Iowa public two- and four-year institutions for the 2014-2015 cohort

The Postsecondary Readiness Reports provide rates at which students enroll in remedial math and/or English courses in the first year after high school graduation. Remedial course-taking data in this report are shown only for students who attended an Iowa public community college or university. Data is not available for students who attend a postsecondary institution outside of Iowa or private in-state higher education institutions. Table 3 shows the percent of students in the 2014-2015 cohort that enrolled at an Iowa public community college or university in the first year after high school graduation and took a remedial math or English course.

Note: Some Iowa community colleges are implementing alternative methods of remediation, such as co-requisite courses or supplemental instruction where support is integrated into a regular class and not taken as a separate course. These new delivery models could impact developmental rates in areas where they are in place.

POSTSECONDARY RETENTION AND AWARDS

The Postsecondary Readiness Reports also provide postsecondary enrollment and award trends beyond the first year after high school graduation. For the first time, the Iowa Postsecondary Readiness reports include a 6th year completion of post-secondary. Figure 1 shows 47.3 percent of Iowa students from the Class of 2010 received a postsecondary award within six years after graduation. For each year after high school graduation, every student is grouped into one of the categories defined below:

- **No Enrollment Found:** Students who did not match any postsecondary enrollment or receive any postsecondary award in a given year or previous years

- **No Longer Enrolled, No Award:**

Students who enrolled in a previous year but not in a given year and have received no award

- **Enrolled:** Students who enrolled in a given year

- **Award:** Students who received any postsecondary award (i.e. degree, certificate, diploma, etc.) in a given year or a previous year

