

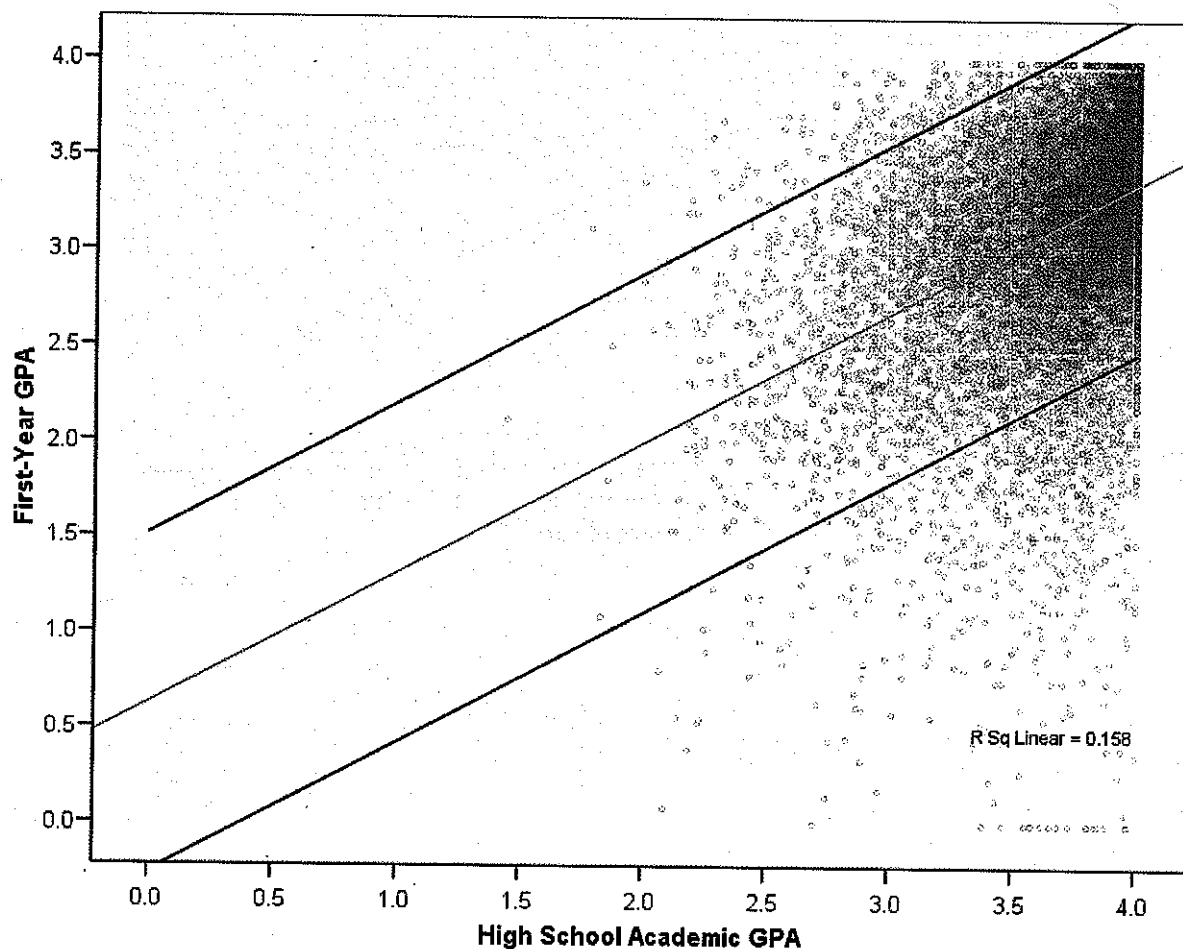
The Relationship between Academic Preparation Indicators and First-Year GPA at UW-Madison

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).

Freshmen at UW-Madison (Fall 2002-2005)



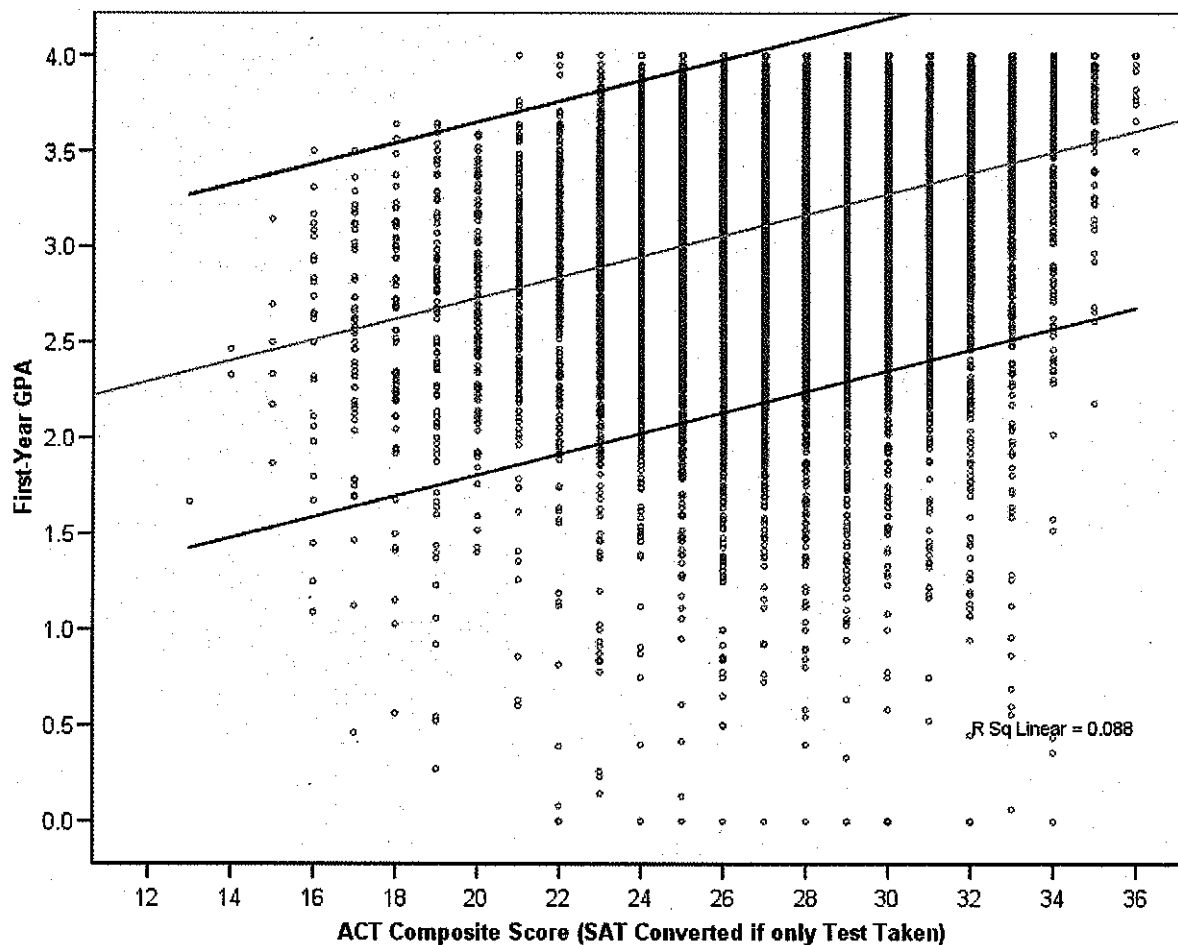
n=21,055.

Academic Planning and Analysis, Office of the Provost, UW-Madison, clh 1/8/2007

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).

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*.

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

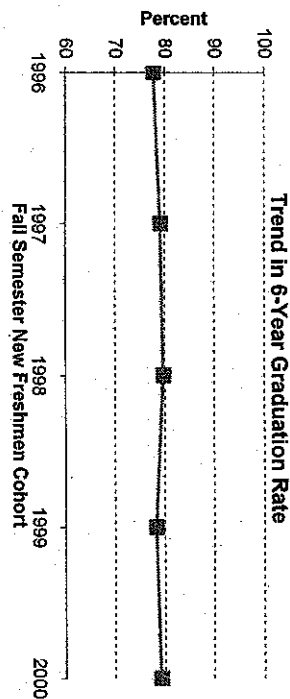
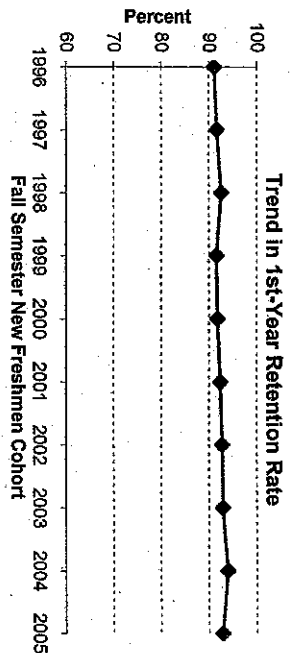
Results for those scoring 15 or below:

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%		

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

Fall Semester of Entrance	Cohort Head Count	Retention Rate After—			Cumulative Graduation / Retention Rates					
		1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	After 4 Years		After 5 Years		After 6 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								

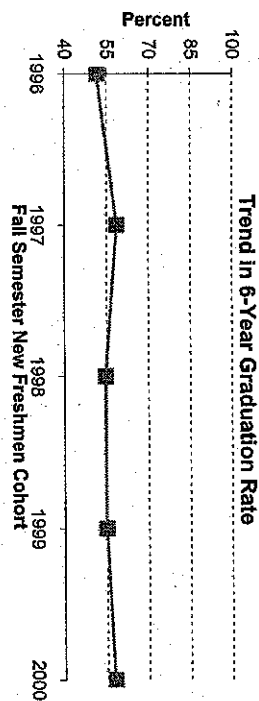
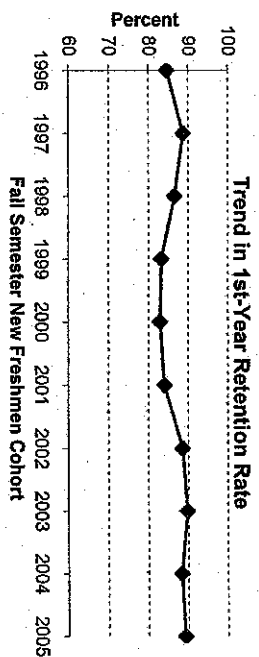
Notes: Fall Semester entrance cohorts include undergraduates enrolled in the fall who were new freshmen in the immediately previous summer term. Undergraduates who enter a PharmD or Vet Med program without a Bachelor's degree are counted as "graduated" in this tabulation when they complete 120 credits.



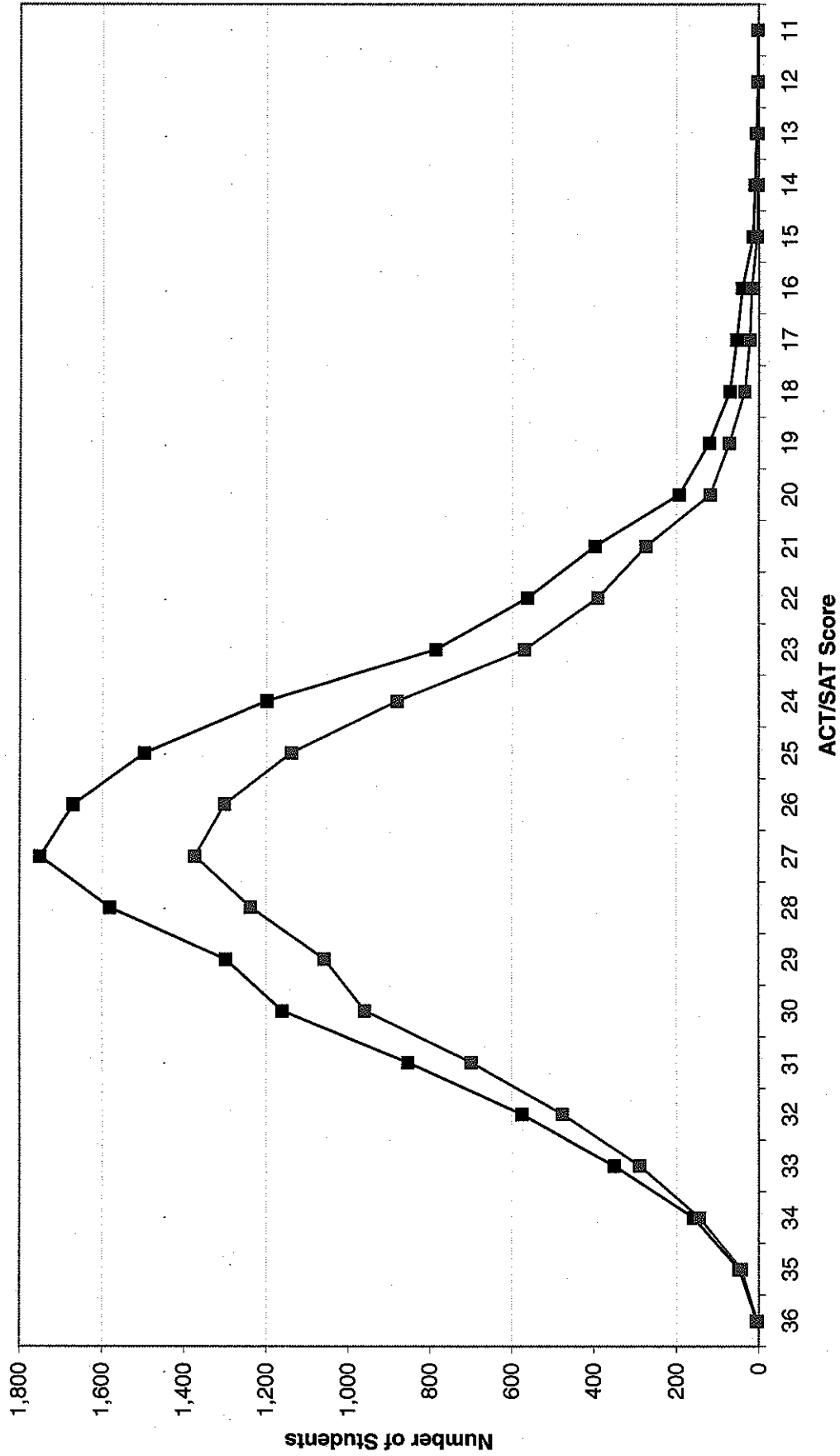
Retention and Graduation Rates of New Freshmen Targeted Minorities by Fall Semester Entrance Cohort

Fall Semester of Entrance	Cohort Head Count	Retention Rate After—			Cumulative Graduation / Retention Rates					
		1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	After 4 Years		After 5 Years		After 6 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 120 credits. Targeted minorities include African-American, Native American, Hispanic, and Southeast Asian (Cambodians, Laotians, Vietnamese and Hmong).



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



All New Freshmen
 Freshmen who Graduated within 6 Years