



## College-Going Rates of California Public High School Graduates: Statewide and Local Figures

The percentage of public high school graduates entering the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) has increased in the last two years, offsetting the downturn that occurred between 2001 and 2003. In 2005, 9.8% of California public high school graduates entered CSU and 6.4% entered UC. College-going rates for CSU are now well above the rates of the late 1990s. The recovery was weaker for UC, where college going rates now stand at about the same level as the late 1990s.

### Some other trends in college-going rates include:

- **College-going rates for Asians** are much higher than the rates for other ethnic groups.
- **Rates for Latinos going to a UC** have remained the same over the last two years, while increasing at CSU and declining at community colleges.
- **African American college-going rates** have increased for females at UC, while decreasing for males.
- **Gender gaps in college going rates** are evident in each of the segments.
- **College-going rates vary widely from county to county.** Of the 15 largest counties, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Ventura have the highest college-going rates to UC, CSU and CCC, respectively.

	UC	CSU	CC
Both sexes			
All ethnicities	6.4	9.8	27.2
African American	2.8	10.3	30.0
Native American	3.9	7.8	29.9
Asian <sup>2</sup>	19.8	15.2	29.8
Latino	3.0	7.9	28.5
White	5.5	9.5	24.6
Male			
All ethnicities	5.7	8.2	28.3
African American	2.1	7.7	32.2
Native American	3.4	6.3	28.0
Asian	17.6	13.7	32.5
Latino	2.4	6.2	28.5
White	4.9	8.1	25.9
Female			
All ethnicities	7.1	11.2	26.2
African American	3.5	12.5	28.1
Native American	4.3	9.0	31.4
Asian	22.1	16.8	27.2
Latino	3.6	9.4	28.4
White	6.1	10.8	23.3

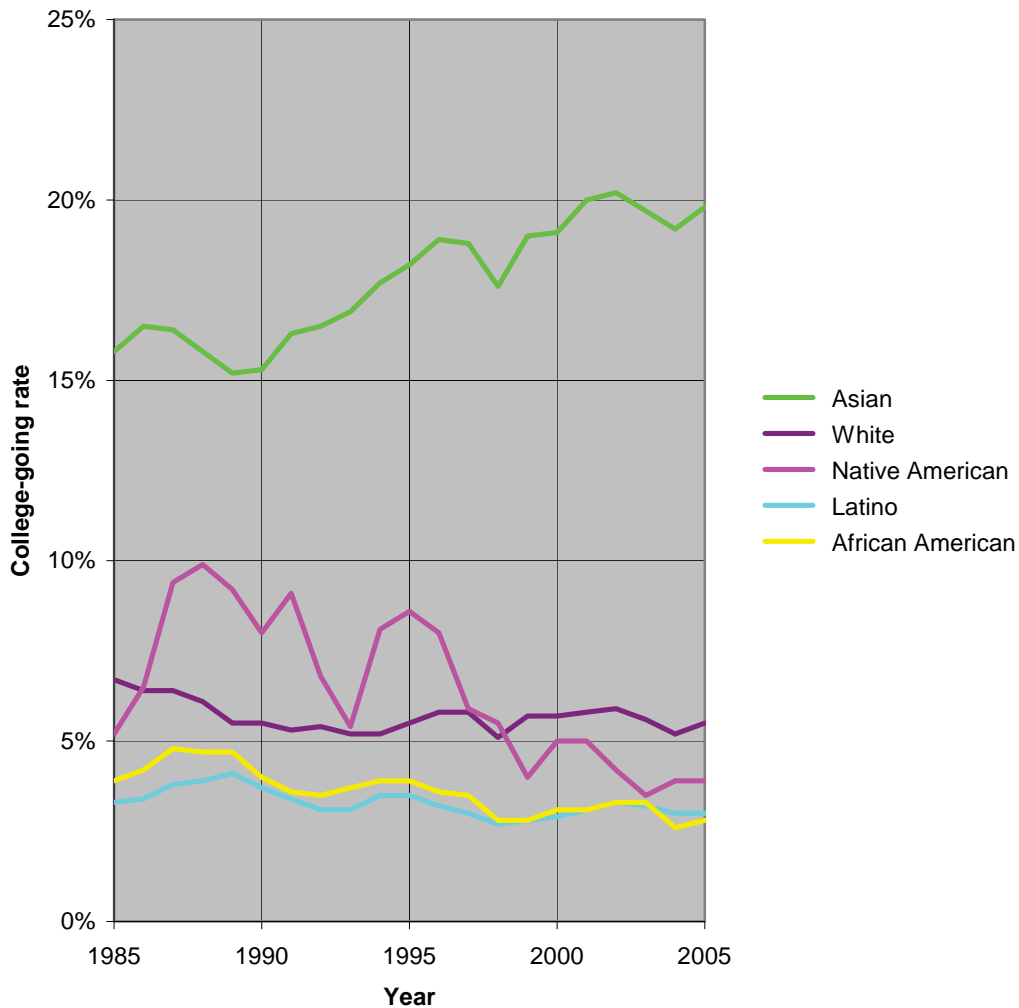
1. College-going rates for public higher education institutions in California are calculated by dividing the number of college freshmen by the number of high school graduates aged 19 and under.  
2. Includes Pacific Islander and Filipino.

### I. Trends by Ethnicity

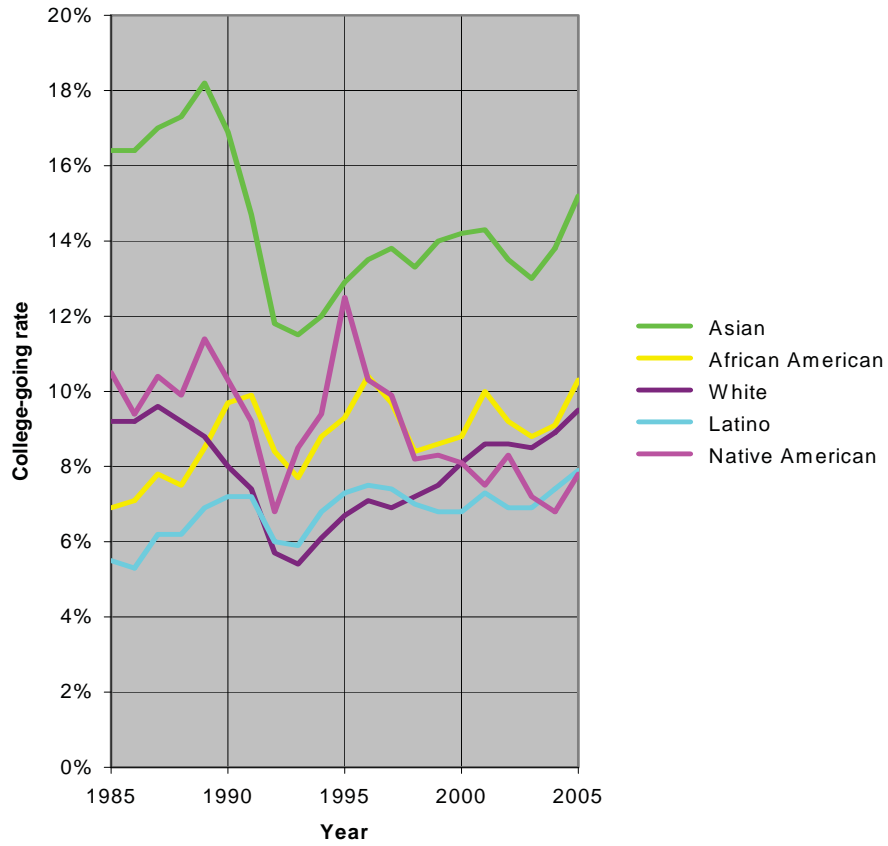
At both UC and CSU, Asians (including Pacific Islanders and Filipinos), tend to have college-going rates that are significantly higher than other races/ethnicities. In 2005, Asians had a college-going rate to UC of 19.8%, whereas Whites had a rate of 5.5%.

While African Americans have the lowest college-going rates for UC, they tend to have particularly high rates for CSU. In 2005, African American high school graduates enrolled in CSU institutions at a rate of 10.3%, Whites had a rate of 9.5%, and Latinos attended at a rate of 7.9%.

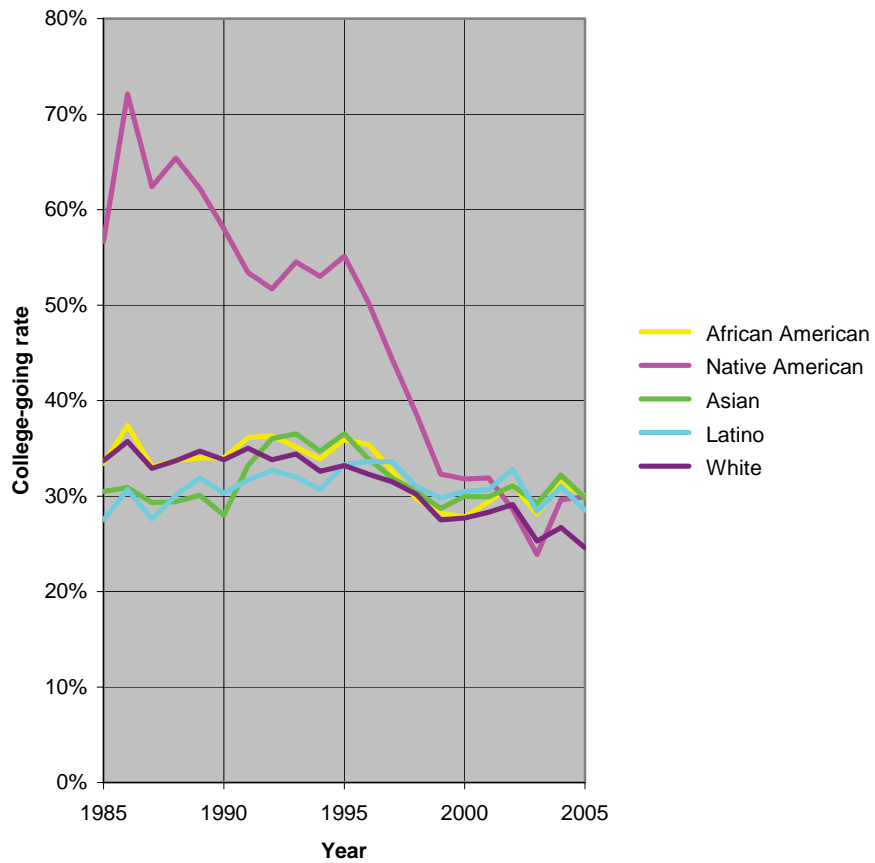
**Display 2: College-Going Rates for the University of California (UC) by Ethnicity**



**Display 3: College-Going Rates for the California State University (CSU) by Ethnicity**



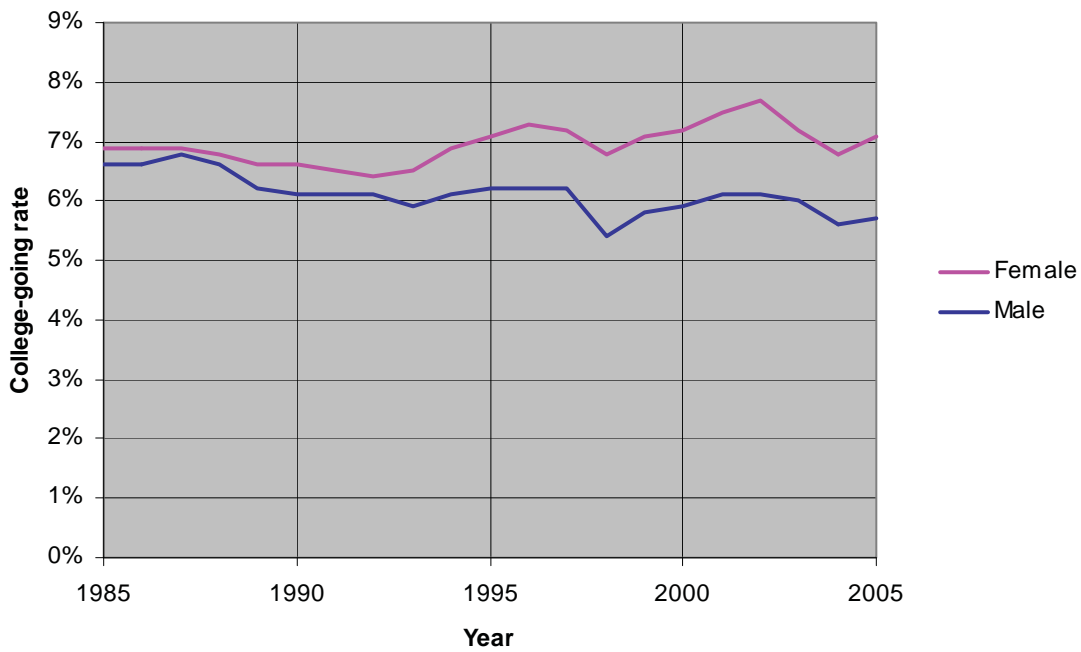
**Display 4: College-Going Rates for the California Community Colleges (CCC) by Ethnicity**



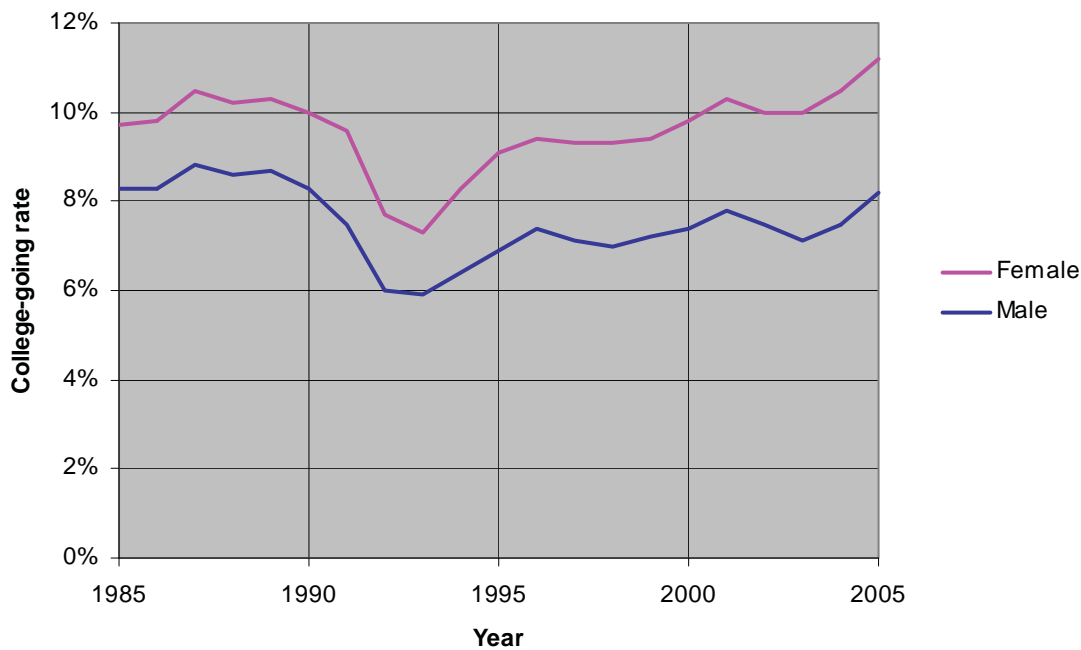
## 2. Trends by Gender

Data show that gender gaps are evident in all three segments. Over the last two decades, females have consistently had higher college-going rates than males, and the gap appears to be growing wider. In 1985, female high school graduates went on to a UC campus at a rate of 6.9%, gradually increasing to a rate of 7.1% in 2005. Males, on the other hand, attended a UC at a rate of 6.6% in 1985 which declined to a rate of 5.7% in 2005 (see Display 5). Similar trends can be seen in college-going rates for CSU with females attending at a rate of 9.7% in 1985 and increasing to a rate of 11.2% in 2005. Males saw a slight decrease in college-going rates with a rate of 8.3% in 1985 and 8.2% in 2005 (see Display 6).

**Display 5: College-Going Rates for the University of California (UC) by Gender**

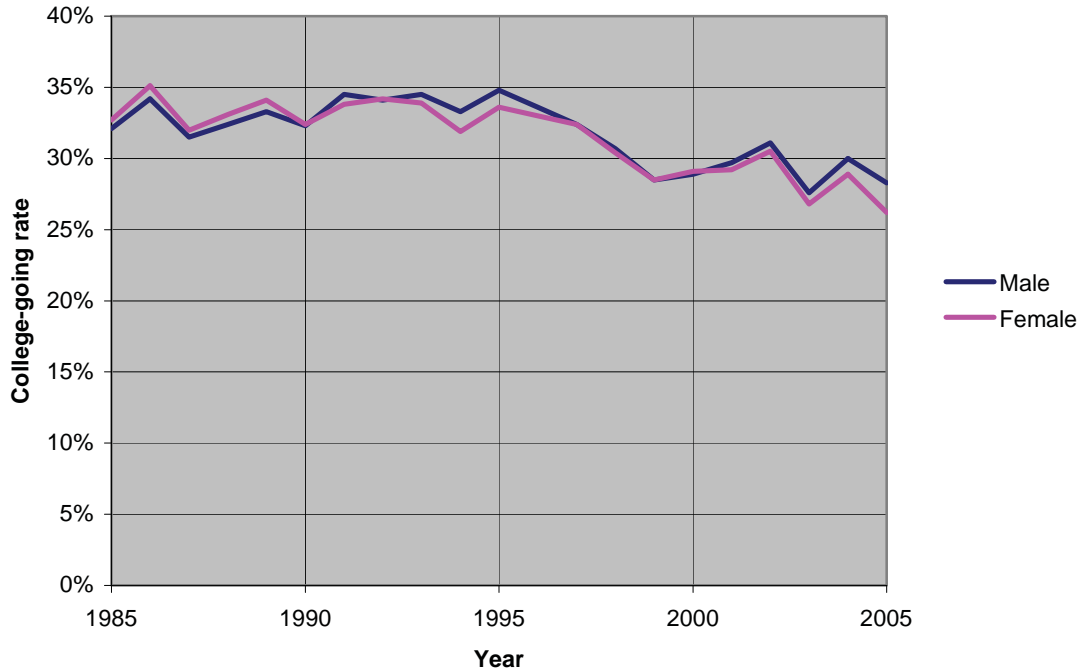


**Display 6: College-Going Rates for the California State University (CSU) by Gender**



At the community colleges, the rates for both genders have been relatively equal over the past 20 years. Beginning in 2002, males began to have higher college-going rate and currently have a rate of 28.3% whereas females have a rate of 26.2% (see Display 7).

**Display 7: College-Going Rates for the California Community Colleges (CCC) by Gender**



### 3. Graduation Rates of Twelfth Graders

In general, twelfth grade graduation rates follow the same pattern as college-going rates with respect to ethnicity and gender (see Display 8). They are calculated by dividing the number of twelfth graders by the number of high school graduates. African Americans, particularly males, graduate at lower rates than their counterparts. In 2004, African American males had a twelfth grade graduation rate of 73%, compared to 95% for Asian females. Not only are a smaller proportion of African American male twelfth graders graduating from high school, an even smaller proportion are going on to college.

When looking at the high rates for Asians, it is important to remember that these rates do not reflect the diversity found among Asian students. Not all Asian ethnicities fit the “model minority” image. For example, certain groups, such as Hmong, who have lower twelfth grade graduation rates, may not be reflected in the data because they represent a small proportion of the Asian population in California.

	Graduation Rate		
	Both sexes	Male	Female
All Ethnicities	88	83	91
African American	80	73	88
Native American	83	79	86
Asian	93	90	95
Latino	83	78	89
White	90	87	93

#### 4. College-Going Rates by County

College-going rates vary widely from place to place. Of the 15 largest counties, in 2005, Santa Clara County sent the highest proportion of high school graduates to UC campuses at 13.1%, while Alameda had the highest CSU rate at 13.1%. Ventura County sends the highest proportion of high school graduates to community colleges with a college-going rate of 45.5%. College-going rates for all counties in California are available at: [www.cpec.ca.gov/onlinedata/cacontext.asp](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/onlinedata/cacontext.asp).

#### 5. Next Steps

Commission staff will develop a report for the December Commission meeting based on this working paper. It will include college-going rates broken down by the socio-economic characteristics of high schools. These figures will allow a comparison of trends in college-going between schools in poorer areas and schools in more affluent areas and show whether the state is making progress in closing the gaps in opportunities for higher education.

In addition, Commission staff plans to examine the factors underlying the variation in college-going from school to school. This analysis will help identify obstacles that students face in moving on to higher education and will form a basis for policies to improve opportunities for students from geographic areas and ethnic groups that tend to have low college-going rates. Further analysis can also be done on individual campuses in the UC and CSU systems, with an attempt to identify trends in the demographics of students going to each school.

	1990	1995	2000	2005
<b>University of California</b>				
Santa Clara	8.8	9.6	10.4	<b>12.3</b>
Alameda	7.7	8.3	9.3	<b>11.0</b>
San Mateo	8.3	7.3	9.2	<b>10.3</b>
Contra Costa	10.0	9.5	9.8	<b>9.1</b>
Orange	8.9	9.4	8.5	<b>7.7</b>
Los Angeles	7.0	7.5	7.2	<b>6.9</b>
Ventura	6.4	6.2	6.2	<b>6.2</b>
San Diego	6.6	7.5	6.7	<b>6.0</b>
Sacramento	5.5	5.3	5.8	<b>5.1</b>
Riverside	5.1	5.7	5.8	<b>4.7</b>
San Bernardino	3.6	4.1	4.4	<b>4.3</b>
San Joaquin	3.2	3.4	3.9	<b>3.1</b>
Fresno	3.8	3.7	3.0	<b>3.1</b>
Stanislaus	2.7	2.7	2.8	<b>2.9</b>
Kern	2.3	1.9	2.1	<b>2.7</b>
<b>California State University</b>				
Alameda	11.0	9.4	11.4	<b>13.0</b>
Fresno	11.5	11.1	11.2	<b>12.1</b>
Santa Clara	12.2	9.3	10.9	<b>12.0</b>
San Mateo	10.5	7.1	10.0	<b>11.7</b>
San Diego	8.5	9.3	8.9	<b>10.7</b>
Contra Costa	8.4	7.5	8.5	<b>10.5</b>
Los Angeles	10.8	8.9	8.6	<b>10.2</b>
Sacramento	7.2	8.1	9.7	<b>9.7</b>
Orange	10.1	7.2	8.2	<b>9.7</b>
Kern	6.8	6.7	7.9	<b>9.3</b>
Stanislaus	6.4	7.6	8.5	<b>8.9</b>
San Bernardino	7.9	7.0	7.6	<b>8.8</b>
Riverside	5.4	5.3	6.3	<b>8.3</b>
Ventura	5.8	4.7	5.5	<b>7.0</b>
San Joaquin	5.1	6.0	7.2	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Community Colleges</b>				
Ventura	32.4	39.6	38.5	<b>48.0</b>
Orange	36.3	37.6	35.3	<b>36.6</b>
Sacramento	40.4	41.2	37.6	<b>36.3</b>
Alameda	35.4	36.2	33.8	<b>36.2</b>
Los Angeles	31.0	32.8	28.1	<b>31.1</b>
San Mateo	39.3	43.9	31.5	<b>30.2</b>
San Joaquin	40.4	37.3	34.2	<b>28.1</b>
Kern	41.0	24.5	33.2	<b>26.3</b>
San Diego	33.8	37.1	24.8	<b>21.5</b>
San Bernardino	28.0	20.5	25.4	<b>21.2</b>
Stanislaus	22.8	36.2	35.1	<b>20.7</b>
Santa Clara	36.8	38.6	31.6	<b>18.4</b>
Riverside	29.3	18.7	16.7	<b>17.0</b>
Contra Costa	36.9	36.5	9.7	<b>12.4</b>
Fresno	35.9	41.0	30.7	<b>1.5</b>



