

Postsecondary outcomes of International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme graduates in the United States

Research summary

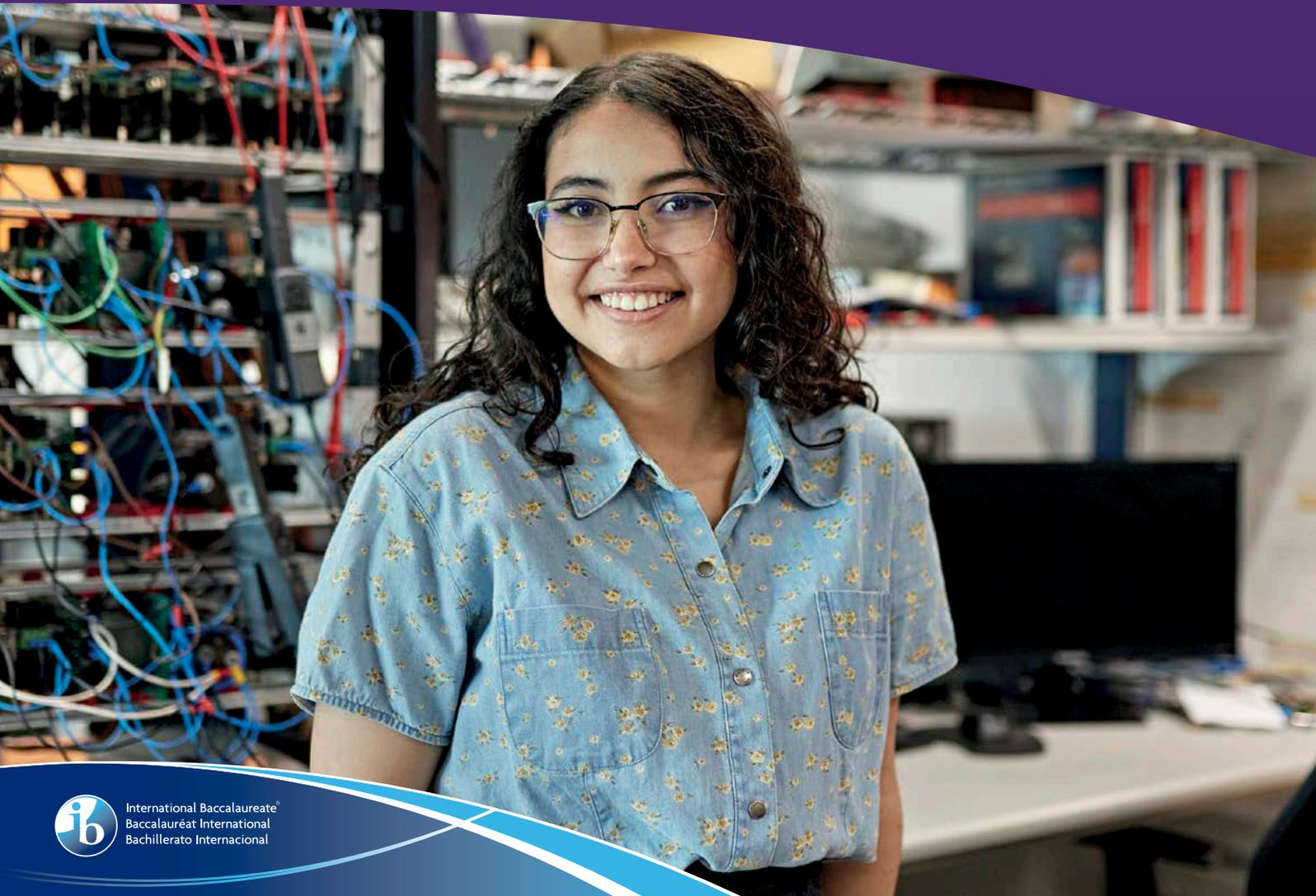
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National Student Clearinghouse

Study managed on behalf of the IB Research department by Olivia Halic



Background

Attending and completing postsecondary education is associated with a wide variety of positive outcomes. In the United States (US), college graduates tend to earn significantly more than those with high school diplomas and also experience lower unemployment and greater job security (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023; Autor, 2014). College can also equip individuals with valuable skills for career success and empower students to become well-rounded and informed citizens (Pascarella, Terenzini, 2005). Additionally, college graduates tend to enjoy better physical and mental health, with lower rates of chronic diseases and mental health issues (Adler, Ostrove, 1999).

Previous research has found that International Baccalaureate (IB) Career-related Programme (CP) graduates enroll, persist and graduate from college at higher rates than students who did not participate in the CP (Mack et al., 2017). To further investigate and extend previous research, this study explores the postsecondary outcomes of CP students from US high schools who attend US higher education institutions.

Data sources

The study combined data from multiple sources: the National Student Clearinghouse (administrative records for over 97% of postsecondary students in the US), the IB, and the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Specifically, this study examines the postsecondary outcomes of US CP students who graduated from US high schools in 2016 and enrolled in higher education institutions in the US ($n = 706$).

Findings

CP graduates have higher immediate college enrollment rates than the national average and favor four-year institutions

Of the CP students who graduated from US high schools in 2016, 72% enrolled in a postsecondary institution immediately after high school graduation, a higher rate than the US national average (64% in 2016). Additionally, CP graduates were more likely to enroll in a four-year institution (55% compared to 43% nationally) and were slightly less likely to enroll in a two-year institution (18% compared to 21% nationally).

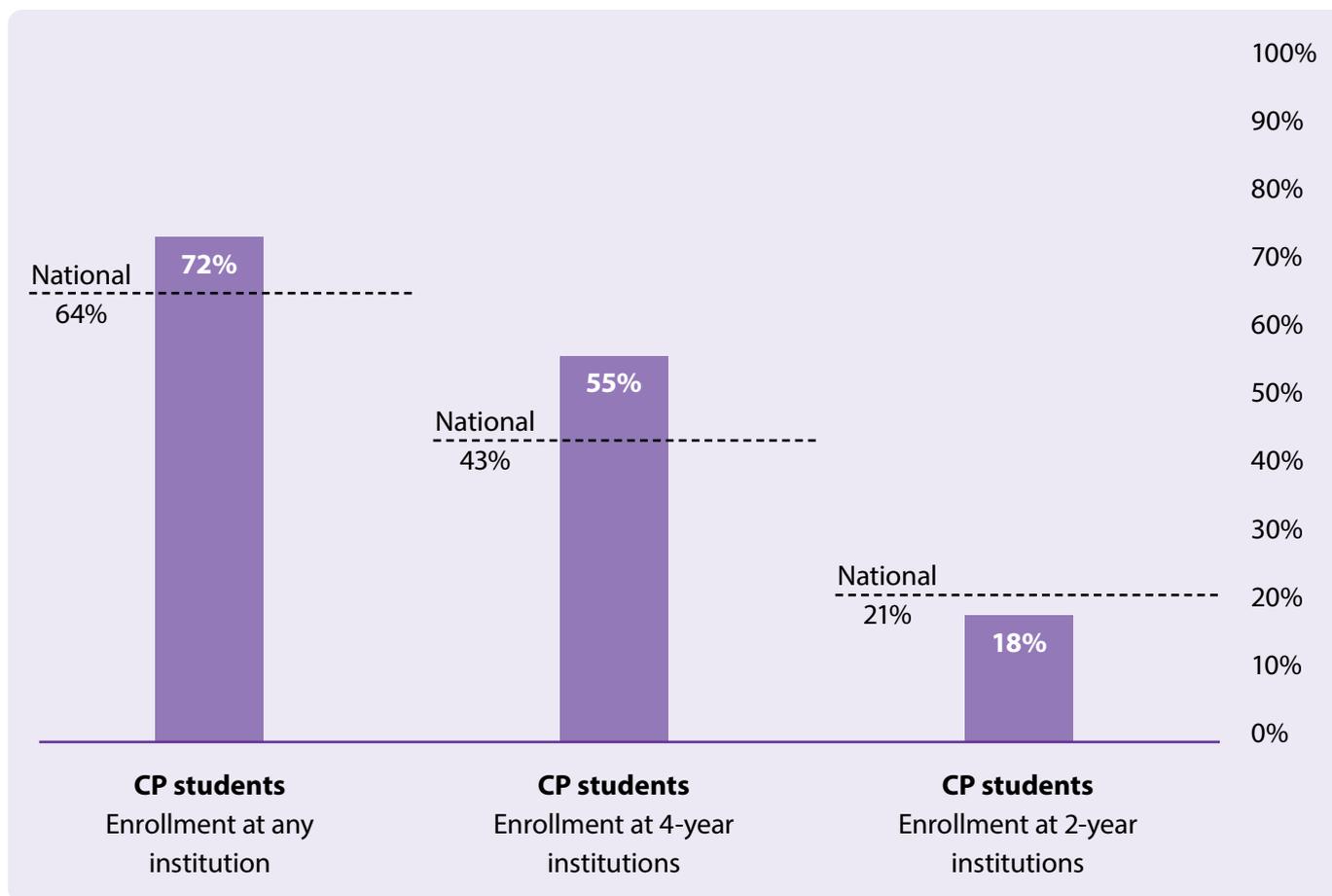


Figure 1. CP immediate postsecondary enrollment by institution type

CP graduates tend to enroll in “More selective” or “Selective” institutions

More than half of CP students (51%) attended “More selective” or “Selective” postsecondary institutions over “Inclusive” institutions (35%).

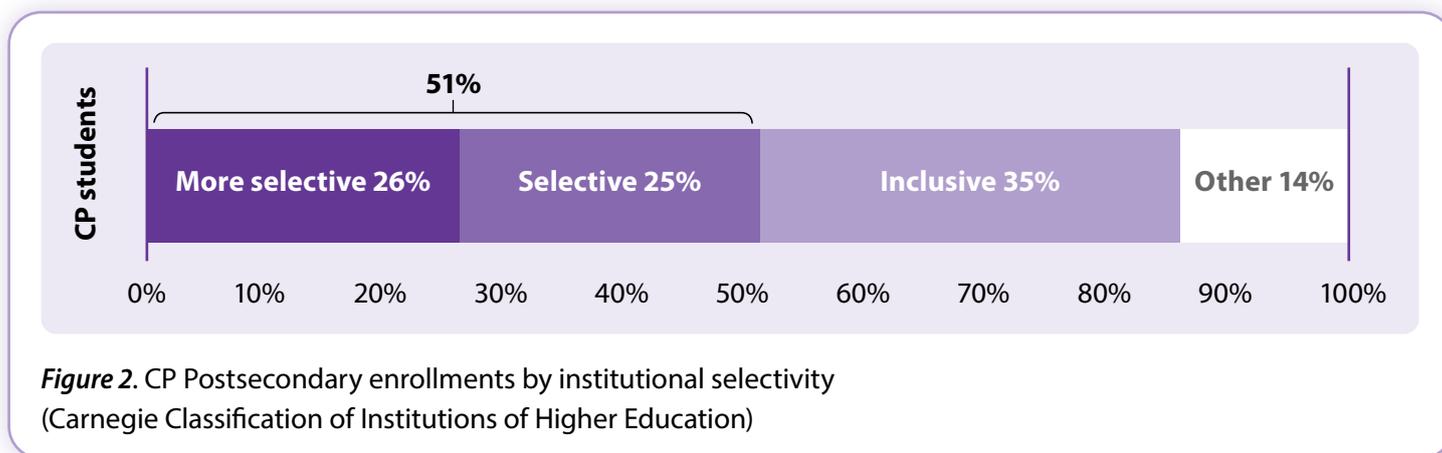


Figure 2. CP Postsecondary enrollments by institutional selectivity (Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education)

CP graduates persist and graduate within six years at notably higher rates than the national average

81% of CP students who enrolled in four-year institutions immediately after graduating high school continued their enrollment the following year, a 9% difference compared to the national average (72%).

Of all CP graduates who enrolled in four-year institutions immediately after high school, 47% graduated within four years, a similar rate to the national average of 49%. However, a considerable difference emerged for six-year graduation rates—77% for CP graduates compared to 68% nationally.

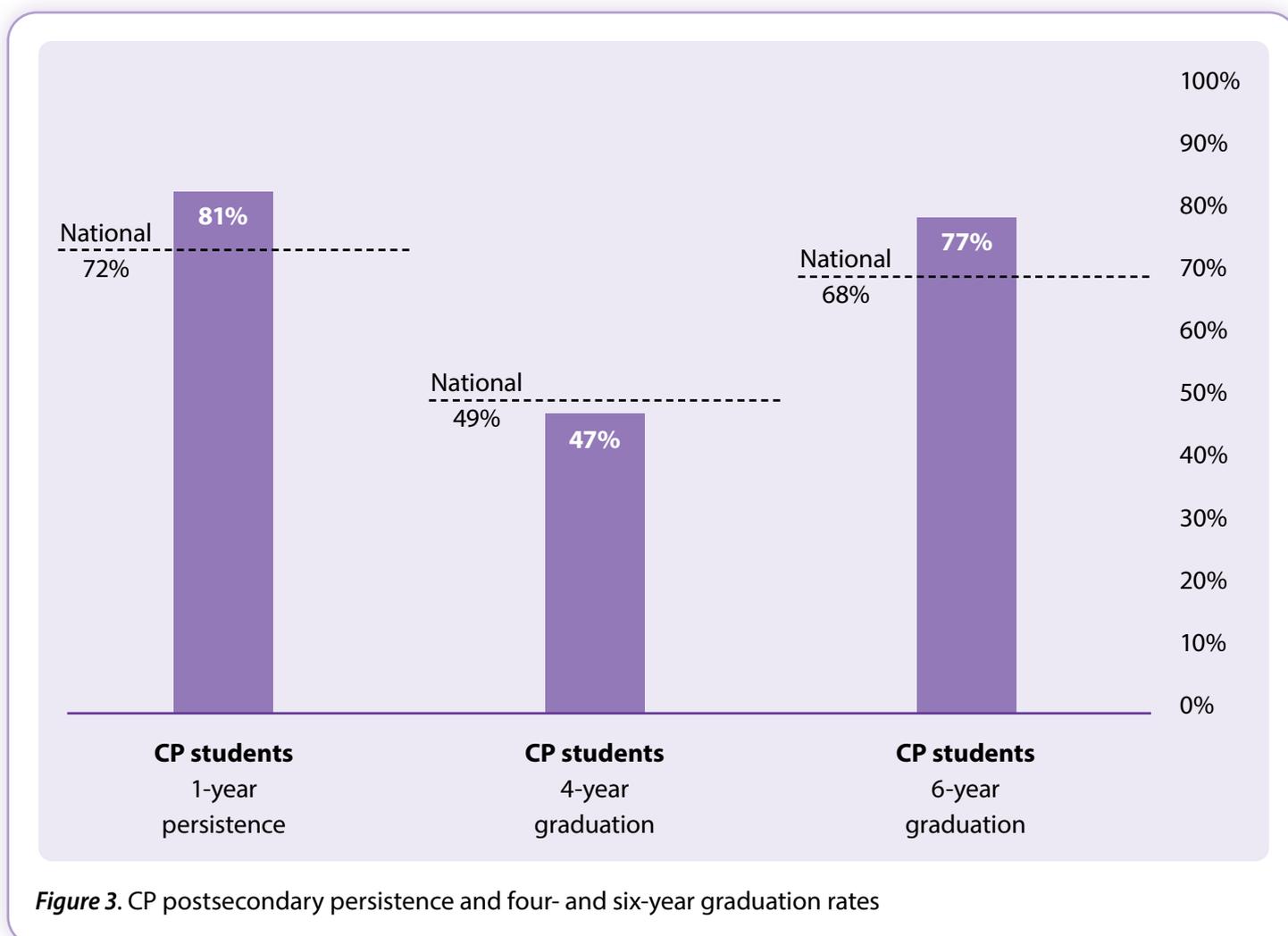


Figure 3. CP postsecondary persistence and four- and six-year graduation rates



Summary

This study finds that, on the whole, US CP students performed better on postsecondary outcomes than the average US high school student. 72% percent of US CP graduates enrolled in college immediately after graduating from high school compared to 64% of all US high school graduates. CP students were also more likely than the national average to enroll in a four-year postsecondary institution and to attend a “More selective” or “Selective” four-year institution. Of the CP graduates who enrolled in college immediately after high school, 81% returned to the same institution the following year compared to 72% of all US students. While CP graduates had similar four-year graduation rates compared to the national average (47% and 49% respectively), they had notably higher six-year graduation rates than US students nationally (77% compared to 68%).

References

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This summary was developed by Emily VanderKamp. A copy of the full report is available at: www.ibo.org/en/research/. For more information on this study or other IB research, please email research@ibo.org.

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