College Access and Success among High School Graduates Taking the SAT: African American Students

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Dream Deferred Conference
Overview

- Who is in the studies
  - High math test scores
  - I’m good at math
  - Challenging math courses

- Trend analysis

- Statistical analysis

- Discussion
Identifying “African American” SAT-takers

35. **How do you describe yourself?**
(Mark only one.)
a. American Indian or Alaska Native
b. Asian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander
c. Black or African American
d. Mexican or Mexican American
e. Puerto Rican
f. Other Hispanic, Latino, or Latin American
g. White
h. Other
College Paths of African American SAT Takers

First College Attended by 2005

- No college
- 2-year
- 4-year

2004 N=144,520
2010 N=193,389

Increase from 38% of Black graduating seniors to 41%

4-year Graduation by 2010

- No
- Yes

No college
2-year
4-year

2005

- 24%
- 28%
- 48%

- 21%
- 24%
- 26%

2004 N=144,520
2010 N=193,389
Percentage of African American SAT takers enrolling in and graduating from a four-year college among 2004 and 2010 cohorts, by degree goals.
Percentage of African American SAT takers enrolling in and graduating from a four-year college among 2004 and 2010 cohorts, by self-estimated mathematics ability.
Percentage of African American SAT takers enrolling in and graduating from a four-year college among 2004 and 2010 cohorts, by number of AP exams taken.

Increase in AP Examinees from 21% of Black SAT takers to 30%
Percentage of African American SAT takers enrolling in and graduating from a four-year college among 2004 and 2010 cohorts, by gender

- In 2004 SAT Cohort (N = 144,520)
  - 56% Enrolled in a four-year college
  - 53% Four-year enrollees who graduated by 2010

- In 2010 SAT Cohort (N = 193,389)
  - 57% Enrolled in a four-year college
  - 51% Four-year enrollees who graduated by 2010

58% of Black SAT takers were female in 2004 compared to 56% in 2010.
Percentage of African American SAT takers enrolling in and graduating from a four-year college among 2004 and 2010 cohorts, by parental education

- **2004 SAT Cohort N = 144,520**
  - Enrolled in a four-year college:
    - 69%
    - 67%
    - 59%
    - 52%
    - 43%
  - Four-year enrollees who graduated by 2010:
    - 17,566 Graduate degree
    - 27,753 Bachelor’s degree
    - 13,156 Associate degree
    - 59,480 High school diploma or equivalent
    - 6,271 Less than high school diploma

- **2010 SAT Cohort N = 193,389**
  - Enrolled in a four-year college:
    - 70%
    - 63%
    - 55%
    - 49%
    - 40%
  - Four-year enrollees who graduated by 2010:
    - 25,948 Graduate degree
    - 40,442 Bachelor’s degree
    - 18,505 Associate degree
    - 79,283 High school diploma or equivalent
    - 8,354 Less than high school diploma
Percentage of African American SAT takers enrolling in and graduating from a four-year college among 2004 and 2010 cohorts, by language use
Trends in characteristics of African American SAT takers and 4-year college enrollment and graduation

- Higher aspirations, higher self-perceived ability, higher achievements
- Growth of group from 2004-2010, stable or increasing trends suggest more African American college success by 2016
## What 4-Year Colleges Say They Look For

| 1. Rigorous High School Courses (AP and other) | ✓ |
| 2. High GPA | ✓ |
| 3. High College Entrance Exam Scores (SAT) | ✓ |
| 4. Teacher and counselor recommendations | |
| 5. Well-written Admissions Essay | |
| 6. Expressed interest in attending college | ✓ |
| 7. High Class Rank | ✓ |
| 8. Passion and leadership in extracurriculars | ✓ |

Also considered: Demographics, cultural activities
Top Predictors of 4-year College Enrollment among African American SAT Takers in 2010

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>High SAT score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Expressed interest in attending college (send scores to colleges and aim for at least a 4-year college degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>High GPA (more Honors/AP courses taken, less GPA matters)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Participation in Honors and AP Courses &amp; AP Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>At least one parent with a college degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Passion and/or leadership in Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>English dominant (English only or Bilingual)</td>
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</tbody>
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## Top Predictors of 4-year College Graduation among African American SAT Takers by 2011 (among 2004 cohort)

1. Expressed interest in attending college (attended within one year after high school graduation)

2. High GPA (more Honors/AP courses, less GPA matters)

3. High SAT score

4. At least one parent with a college degree

5. Participation on AP Exams

6. Passion and/or leadership in Sports

7. Took 4 years of a foreign language

8. In top 10% class rank

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**Course rigor matters less for Black students than for other groups**

**Higher ranked for Black students than other groups**
What else matters?

Many other factors help to predict student college enrollment and graduation beyond demographics and quantitative measures such as test scores for African American students.

- **Demographic & Quantitative Measures**
  - College Enrollment Model: 71%
  - College Graduation Model: 63%

- **Other Factors**
  - College Enrollment Model: 29%
  - College Graduation Model: 37%
Conclusions

• FROM WHAT WE CAN MEASURE QUANTITATIVELY:
  – More Black students are taking the SAT, with higher aspirations and higher perceived ability
  – High academic achievement matters most for 4-year college enrollment and graduation
  – Also important:
    • Aspirations/interests matter too
    • Sports participation helps
    • SAT-taking of high school peers and foreign language participation linked to college graduation
    • Demographics play a role too (female, parent education)

• WHAT ABOUT THESE HELP STUDENTS IN COLLEGE TRANSITION?
• WHAT AREN’T WE ABLE TO MEASURE?
Thank you!

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- url to report
### Top Predictors of 2-year College Enrollment among African American SAT Takers in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On college list</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Honors and AP Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressed interest in attending college (send scores to colleges and aim for at least 4-year college degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low SAT Score, Low Class Rank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not on college list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In high school with more students taking SAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one parent with a college degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Higher ranked for Black (and Native American) students than other race groups