

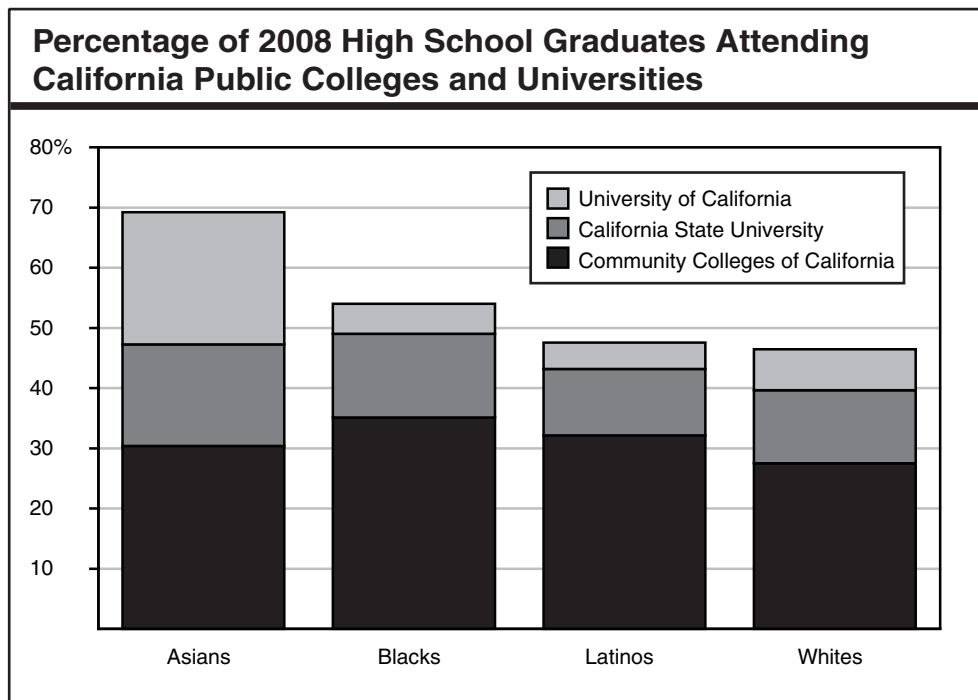
**HIGHER EDUCATION: ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What Is the Variation in Racial and Ethnic Group Participation At California Public Colleges and Universities?**



As shown in the graph below, the percentage of high school graduates enrolled at California’s public colleges and universities varies by race and ethnicity.

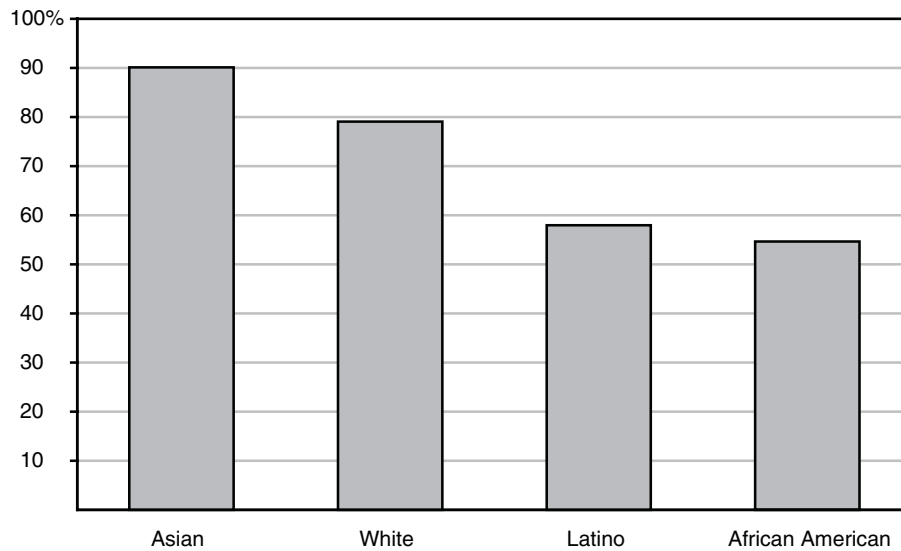
- Black and Latino high school graduates enroll at a higher rate than white graduates, but at a lower rate than Asian graduates.
- Enrollment rates vary by segment. For example, black and Latino high school graduates are more likely to enroll at California State University (CSU) than at the University of California (UC). The reverse is true for Asian students.



But looking beyond high school graduates reveals a different story.

- Although black and Latino high school graduates enroll in college at a greater rate than white graduates, the black and Latino populations *as a whole* have lower college participation rates than whites. This is because a larger percentage of black and Latino students do not graduate from high school. As shown in the figure on the next page, the high school graduation rates for black and Latino students are from 15 percent to 30 percent lower than white and Asian students.

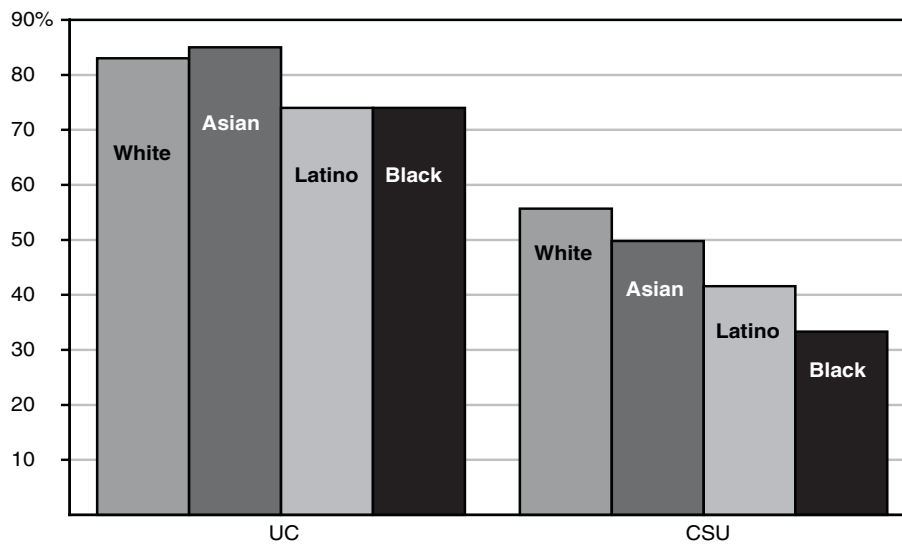
**California High School Graduation Rates  
Class of 2008**



- Additionally, once in college, black and Latino students are not as likely to complete their degrees as their white and Asian counterparts. As shown in the figure below, the percentage of black and Latino students who earn college degrees within six years is lower than other groups at UC and CSU.

**Six-Year Completion Rates at UC and CSU**

*(2002 Cohort)*



This is one of a series of issue briefs examining important questions about higher education funding in California. For more information on this topic, or to request other briefs from this series, contact the Legislative Analyst's Office Higher Education section at (916) 445-4656, or visit our Web site at [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov).