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For both lower- and higher-income students, the chances of achieving a 3.00 or higher college cumulative GPA six years after enrolling in a four-year postsecondary institution increased as their ACT Composite score increased.

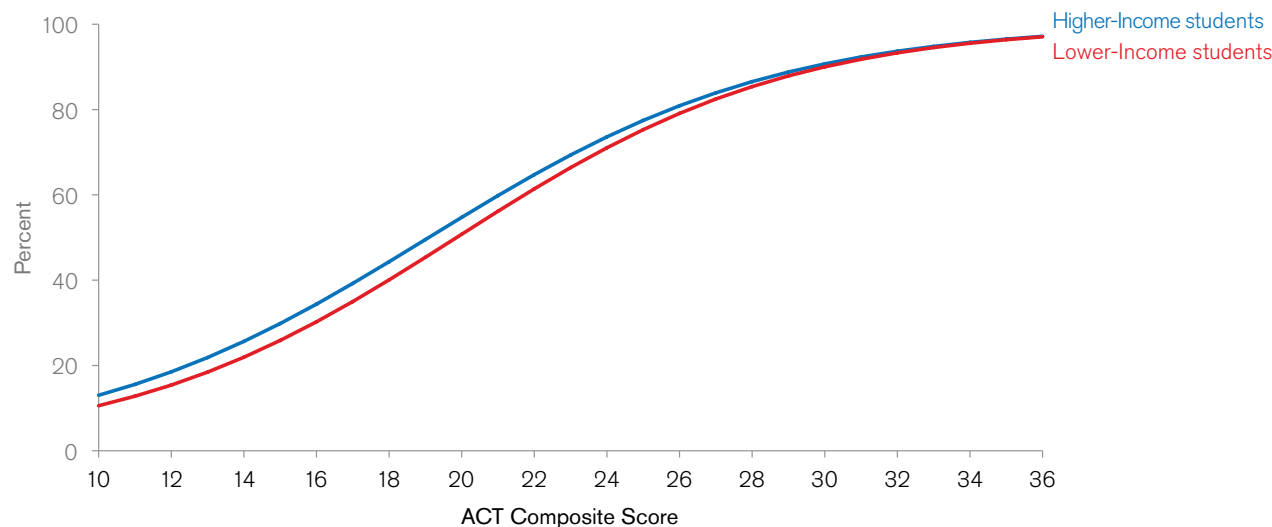
**Differences in rates of achieving a 3.00 or higher year 6 cumulative GPA between higher- and lower-income students were smaller when students' academic achievement levels were taken into account.**

# Year 6 College Cumulative GPA by ACT Composite Score and Economic Status

## Among Students Enrolled in a Four-Year Postsecondary Institution

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Students' Chances of Achieving a 3.00 or Higher Year 6 College Cumulative GPA by ACT Composite Score and Family Income Range



Note: Students with a family income of less than \$30,000 per year are defined as lower-income students. Students with a family income of more than \$60,000 per year are defined as higher-income students. Results based on data from nearly 69,000 ACT-tested students who enrolled in a four-year postsecondary institution as new students in fall 2000 through 2003 and were still enrolled six years later or had completed a bachelor's degree prior to the end of year 6. Nearly 60 institutions were represented. For a more detailed description of the study, see [ACT Research Report 2013-5](#).

A recent ACT study<sup>1</sup> that included data from nearly 60 four-year postsecondary institutions found that the typical chances of achieving a 3.00 or higher year 6 cumulative grade point average (GPA) was 10 percentage points higher for higher-income students than for lower-income students (66% versus 56%, respectively).

However, when students' academic achievement levels (as measured by Composite score on the ACT® college readiness assessment) were taken into account, smaller differences in students' chances between higher- and lower-income students were seen, especially among students with higher ACT Composite scores. For example, for

students with an ACT Composite score of 25, higher-income students had a 77% chance of achieving a 3.00 or higher year 6 cumulative GPA, compared to a 75% chance for lower-income students.

For students with ACT Composite scores of 29 or above, chances of achieving a 3.00 or higher year 6 cumulative GPA for lower-income students were within 1 percentage point of those for higher-income students. ■

<sup>1</sup> Justine Radunzel and Julie Noble, *Differential Effects on Student Demographic Groups of Using ACT College Readiness Assessment Composite Score, ACT Benchmarks, and High School Grade Point Average for Predicting Long-Term College Success through Degree Completion*, ACT Research Report 2013-5 (Iowa City, IA: ACT, Inc., 2013). [http://www.act.org/research/researchers/reports/pdf/ACT\\_RR2013-5.pdf](http://www.act.org/research/researchers/reports/pdf/ACT_RR2013-5.pdf).