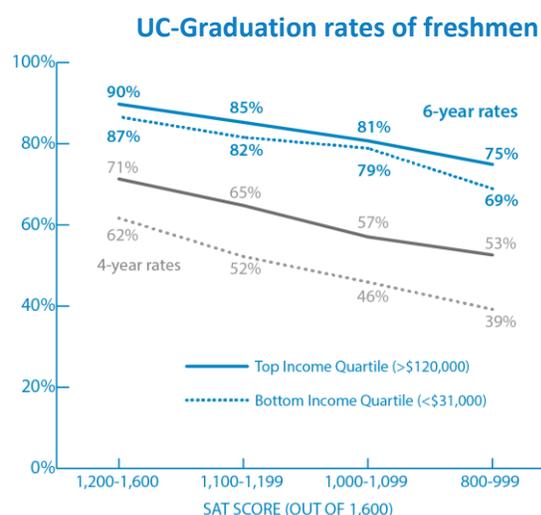
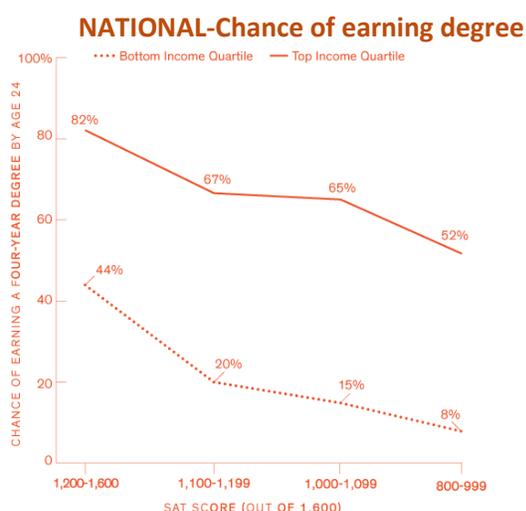


The *New York Times Magazine* published on Sunday, May 18th an article titled “Who Gets to Graduate?” which stated that “Whether a student graduates or not seems to depend today almost entirely on just one factor – how much money his or her parent makes.” It presented national data of students from an eighth grade cohort that showed that those students from low socioeconomic status backgrounds are much less likely to earn a bachelor’s degree than those from high-status backgrounds, regardless of their SAT scores.

In contrast, at the University of California (UC), students are quite successful at earning a degree whether they are from the bottom income bracket or the highest one.



National source: Anthony P. Carnevale and Jeff Strohl, *Rewarding Strivers* (2010). Author’s calculations from Barron’s Selectivity Rankings; National Education Longitudinal Study: Base Year through Fourth Follow-Up, 1988-2000 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2000). Income quartile refers to SES quartiles as calculated in the Study.

UC chart: 2006 entering freshman cohort; includes intercampus transfers. Source UC Corporate Student System (CSS).

UC undergraduates from low-income families have average six-year graduation rates that are 30 to 40 points higher than the national average of students that enter college (different from the cohort presented above). In addition, UC undergraduates from low-income families make greater improvements in graduation rates between years four and six compared to the national average. Whereas only an additional five to 10 percent of low-income students graduate between years four and six nationally, an additional 25 to 30 percent of low-income students at UC graduate between years four and six.

	SAT 1200 to 1600	SAT 1100 to 1199	SAT 1000 to 1099	SAT 800 to 999
4-year National Rates	51%	34	27	16
6-year National Rates	55	38	36	20
4-year UC Rates	62	52	46	39
6-year UC Rates	87	82	79	69

National source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2003-04 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:04/09); graduation rates at first institution. UC source: 2006 entering freshmen; UC CSS.

UC is focused on ways to make improvements and further decrease the gap in four-year graduation rates, including addressing some of the factors that cited (e.g., improving a sense of belonging, creating small cohort experiences, and directing support services through summer or early orientation programs).