

## Many Paths to a UW Bachelors Degree

### Access via the Traditional Path

Students follow various paths as they enter UW institutions and work toward a bachelor's degree. The "traditional path" starts when a student takes the ACT or other college entrance examination, applies to a UW institution, is admitted, enrolls as a full-time student for the fall term following high school graduation, and eventually graduates.

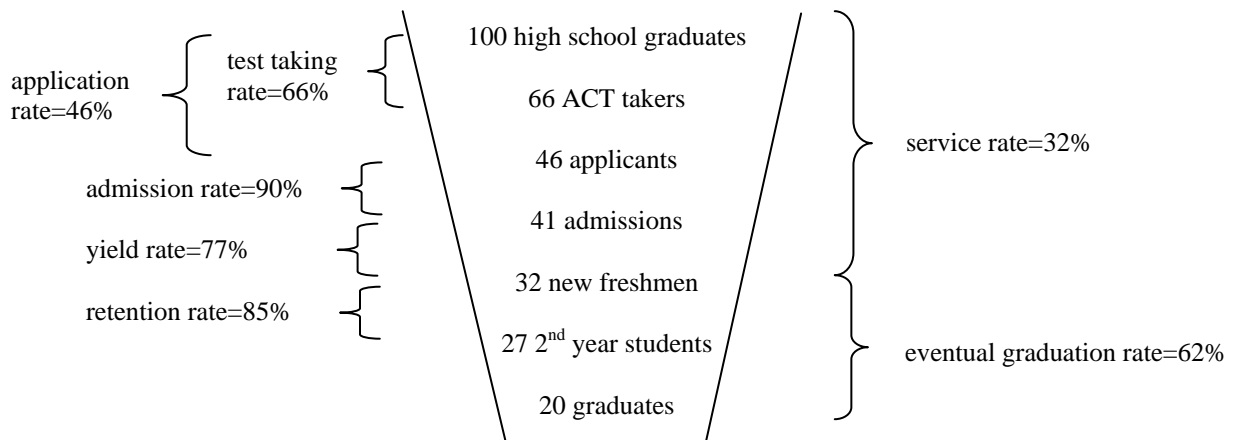
The traditional path, shown below, follows students from high school graduation to the awarding of their bachelor's degrees. For every 100 high school graduates, 66 take the ACT (a test taking rate of 66%) and 46 apply to at least one UW institution (an application rate of 46%). Approximately 41 of these high school graduates will be admitted to at least one UW institution (an admission rate of 90%) and 32 will enroll as full-time students (a yield rate

of 77%). The 32 out of every 100 high school graduates who enroll full-time for the fall following high school graduation comprise the UW's service rate. This 32% service rate is one of the highest in the United States.

Of the 32 full-time fall new freshmen, 27 will be retained to the second year (a retention rate of 85%). Twenty (20) of these students will eventually graduate within six years (a graduation rate of 62%).

Consequently, the traditional path results in the UW System awarding bachelor's degrees to 20 out of every 100 high school graduates. However, enrolling as a full-time new freshman in the fall semester following high school graduation is not the only means to achieve a bachelor's degree.

University of Wisconsin System  
Traditional Path Funnel  
2003-04

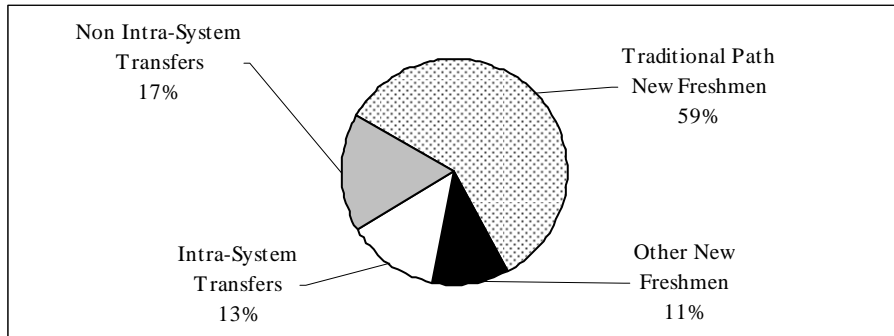


## Profile of Entering Students

The various paths to a UW bachelor's degree can be seen by the composition of the students entering UW institutions each year. The chart below shows that in 2003-04 about 59% of entering UW students started down the traditional path described on the previous page.

The remainder of these entering students transferred to a UW institution - either from another UW institution or from outside the UW System - or entered as "other" new freshmen. The "other" category is made up of part-time, non-immediate, and spring term new freshmen.

**University of Wisconsin System  
Annual New Students  
2003-04 Academic Year**



The table below shows the variation between UW institutions in the proportion of the entering students who take the traditional path. In 2003-04, UW-Madison, at 73%, had the highest proportion of traditional path students followed by UW-La Crosse at 72%. At the other extreme, UW-Superior had the lowest proportion of traditional path students at 31%. UW-Milwaukee,

UW-Parkside, and UW Colleges also had low proportions of traditional path students. At these institutions, between 40% and 50% of the students entered on the traditional path. All institutions, particularly those with lower proportions of traditional path students, provide opportunities for students to pursue bachelor's degrees through non-traditional paths.

**University of Wisconsin System  
Annual New Students by Institution  
2003-04 Academic Year**

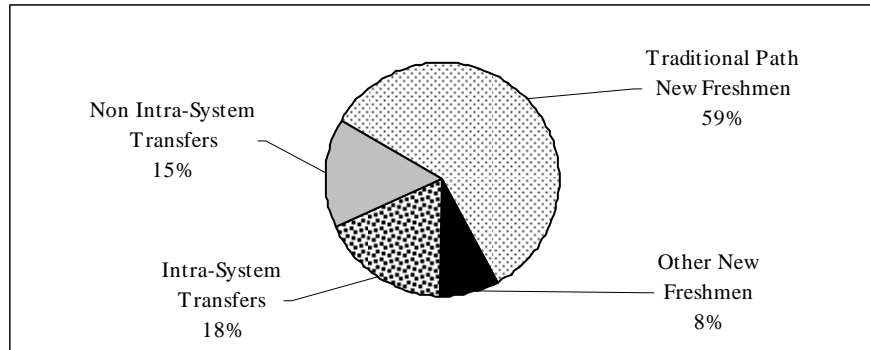
	New Freshmen		Transfers from:		Total
	Traditional Path	Other	Within the UW System	Outside the UW System	
UW-Madison	73%	5%	9%	13%	7,287
UW-Milwaukee	49%	13%	20%	19%	6,644
UW-Eau Claire	68%	3%	13%	16%	2,718
UW-Green Bay	53%	5%	22%	20%	1,766
UW-La Crosse	72%	3%	11%	13%	2,057
UW-Oshkosh	57%	6%	23%	14%	3,005
UW-Parkside	49%	14%	8%	29%	1,699
UW-Platteville	68%	5%	13%	14%	1,635
UW-River Falls	66%	4%	6%	24%	1,799
UW-Stevens Point	58%	5%	18%	19%	2,546
UW-Stout	58%	5%	12%	26%	2,120
UW-Superior	31%	11%	8%	49%	927
UW-Whitewater	67%	3%	17%	13%	2,709
UW Colleges	49%	31%	7%	13%	6,755
Total	59%	11%	13%	17%	43,667

## Profile of Bachelor's Degree Recipients

The opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree through a variety of paths is demonstrated in the composition of the 2003-04 graduating class. While 59% of the graduates originally enrolled as traditional path new freshmen, over 40% entered through non-traditional channels - either as transfers or part-time, non-immediate or spring term new freshmen.

Thirty-three percent (33%) of graduates entered the UW institution from which they graduated as transfer students - 18% from another UW institution and 15% from a college or university outside of the UW System. The remaining 8% of the 2003-04 bachelor's degree recipients entered as non-traditional path new freshmen.

**University of Wisconsin System  
Bachelor's Degree Recipients by Type of Entrance  
2003-04 Academic Year**



There are differences between UW institutions in the proportion of the graduating class who entered on the traditional path. UW-Madison, which has a high proportion of traditional path new students, had the highest proportion of bachelor's degree recipients who took the traditional path. UW-Superior, which had the lowest proportion of entering students who were

traditional path students, also had the lowest proportion of graduates who entered as traditional path students. As the following table shows, there are many routes, other than the traditional path, to obtain a bachelor's degree. These paths are reflected in the diverse missions of the UW institutions.

**University of Wisconsin System  
Bachelor's Degree Recipients by Type of Entrance and Institution  
2003-04 Academic Year**

	New Freshmen		Transfers from:		Total
	Traditional Path	Other	Within the UW System	Outside the UW System	
UW-Madison	70%	8%	10%	12%	6,310
UW-Milwaukee	40%	10%	30%	20%	3,732
UW-Eau Claire	69%	6%	13%	11%	1,850
UW-Green Bay	51%	9%	24%	15%	927
UW-La Crosse	68%	5%	15%	12%	1,633
UW-Oshkosh	56%	6%	27%	11%	1,599
UW-Parkside	41%	18%	11%	30%	614
UW-Platteville	66%	8%	15%	11%	881
UW-River Falls	61%	7%	10%	22%	1,019
UW-Stevens Point	56%	5%	25%	14%	1,650
UW-Stout	53%	6%	18%	23%	1,201
UW-Superior	41%	7%	10%	42%	377
UW-Whitewater	63%	7%	19%	11%	1,675
Total	59%	8%	18%	15%	23,468

## Trends in Traditional Path Students

The UW System has seen a higher proportion of students taking the traditional path in higher education over the last 25 years. In 1979-80, 50% of the UW entering students were traditional path students. By 2003-04, this proportion had risen to 59%. This pattern holds true for all institutions except for UW-Superior, which has become slightly less traditional over the last 25 years. The largest shifts to a more traditional path student body have occurred at UW-Madison and UW-Green Bay. UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, and UW Colleges have seen only slight increases in the proportion of traditional path students over the last 25 years.

The shift to a more traditional path student body over the last 25 years resulted from an increase in the proportion of new freshmen enrolling immediately after high school and from a higher proportion of these immediate new freshmen enrolling full-time rather than part-time. At UW-Madison, the increase in the proportion of traditional path students resulted from a decrease in the proportion of students entering through the transfer process.

**University of Wisconsin System  
Traditional Path New Freshmen to Total New Students by Institution  
1979-80 to 2003-04**

	<b>1979-80</b>	<b>1989-90</b>	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>2003-04</b>
UW-Madison	54%	67%	72%	73%
UW-Milwaukee	34%	35%	44%	49%
UW-Eau Claire	65%	62%	70%	68%
UW-Green Bay	32%	41%	49%	53%
UW-La Crosse	61%	69%	67%	72%
UW-Oshkosh	48%	55%	66%	57%
UW-Parkside	38%	37%	44%	49%
UW-Platteville	57%	62%	63%	68%
UW-River Falls	58%	62%	65%	66%
UW-Stevens Point	56%	60%	56%	58%
UW-Stout	54%	54%	57%	58%
UW-Superior	41%	39%	36%	31%
UW-Whitewater	53%	72%	66%	67%
UW Colleges	45%	40%	48%	49%
Total	50%	52%	58%	59%

Traditional new freshmen are students who enroll full-time in the fall following high school graduation.

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