



# Diversifying Society's Leaders? The Determinants and Causal Effects of Admission to Highly Selective Private Colleges

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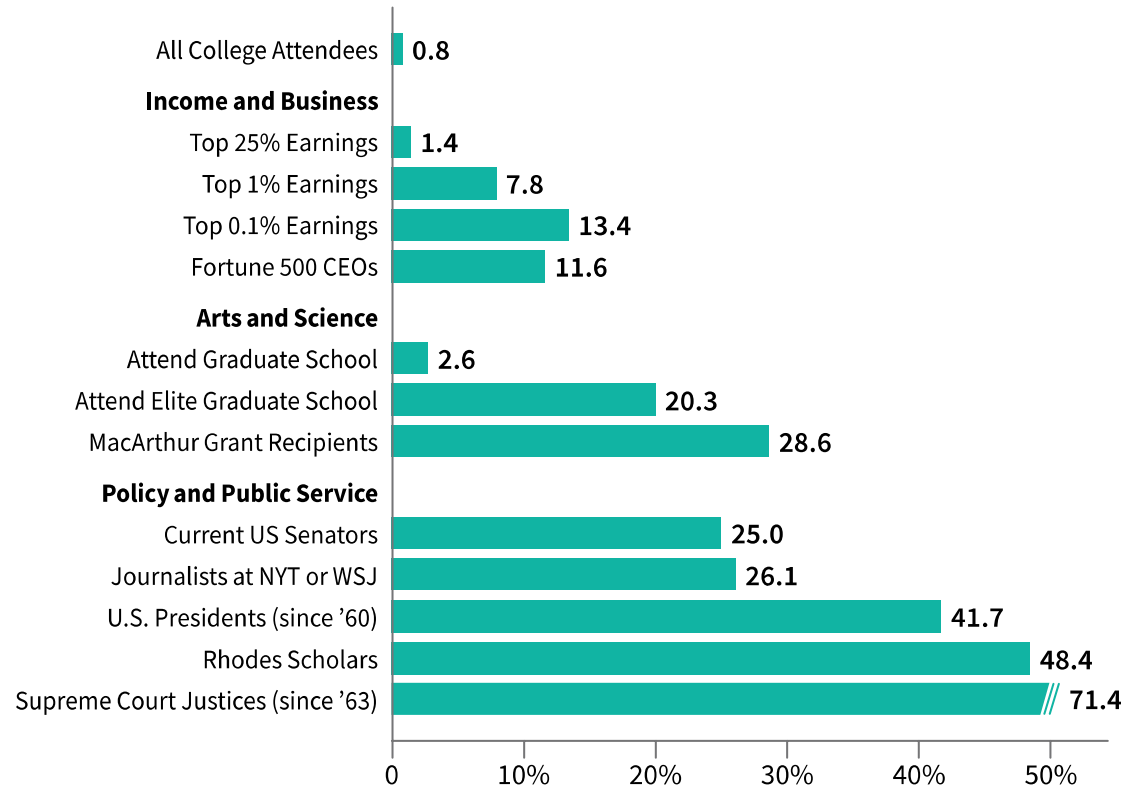
**NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY FIGURES**

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# High-income and leadership positions in the U.S. are disproportionately held by people who attended Ivy-Plus colleges.



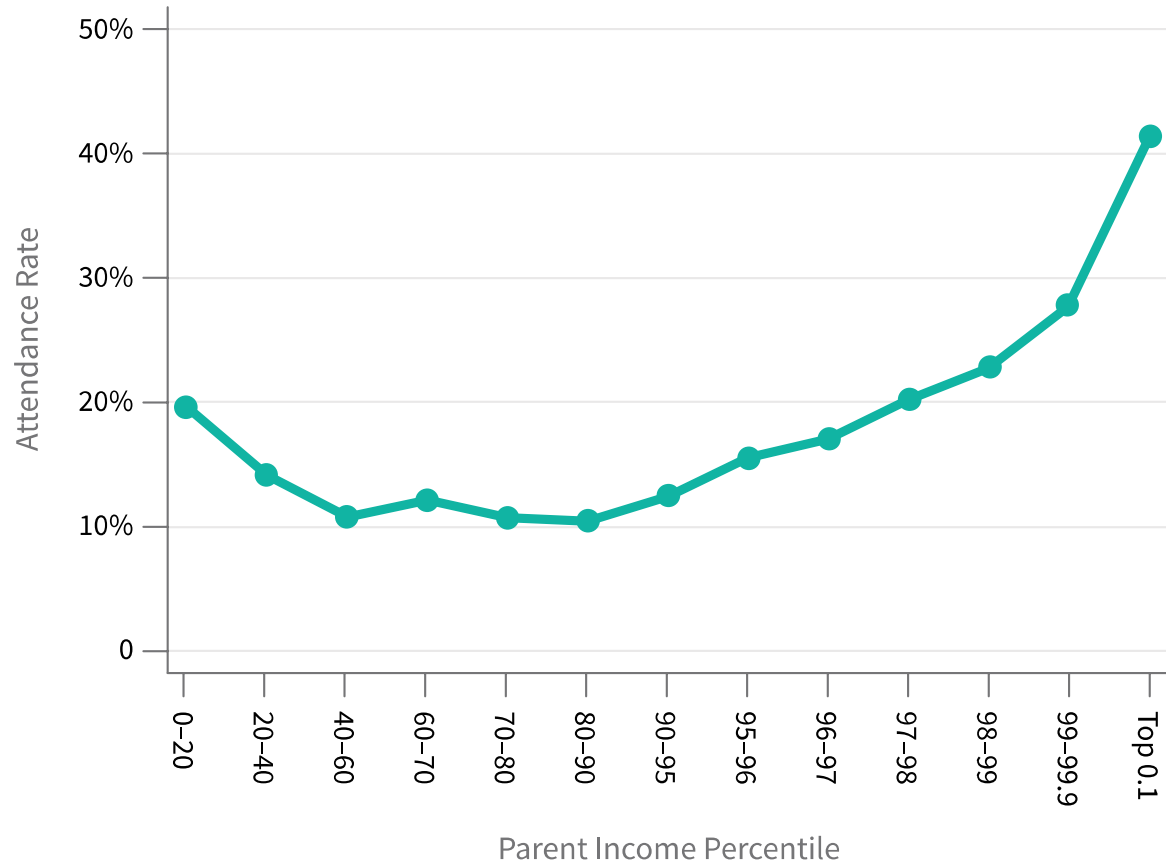
## Figure Description

This figure shows the proportion of individuals in various positions who attended an Ivy-Plus college as an undergraduate.

## Source

Chetty, Deming, & Friedman. Diversifying Society's Leaders? The Determinants and Causal Effects of Admission to Highly Selective Private Colleges (July 2023) Non-technical Summary | [https://opportunityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CollegeAdmissions\\_Nontech.pdf](https://opportunityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CollegeAdmissions_Nontech.pdf)

**Among students scoring at the 99th percentile on the SAT/ACT, students from the highest income families attend Ivy-Plus colleges at far greater rates than those from lower-income families.**



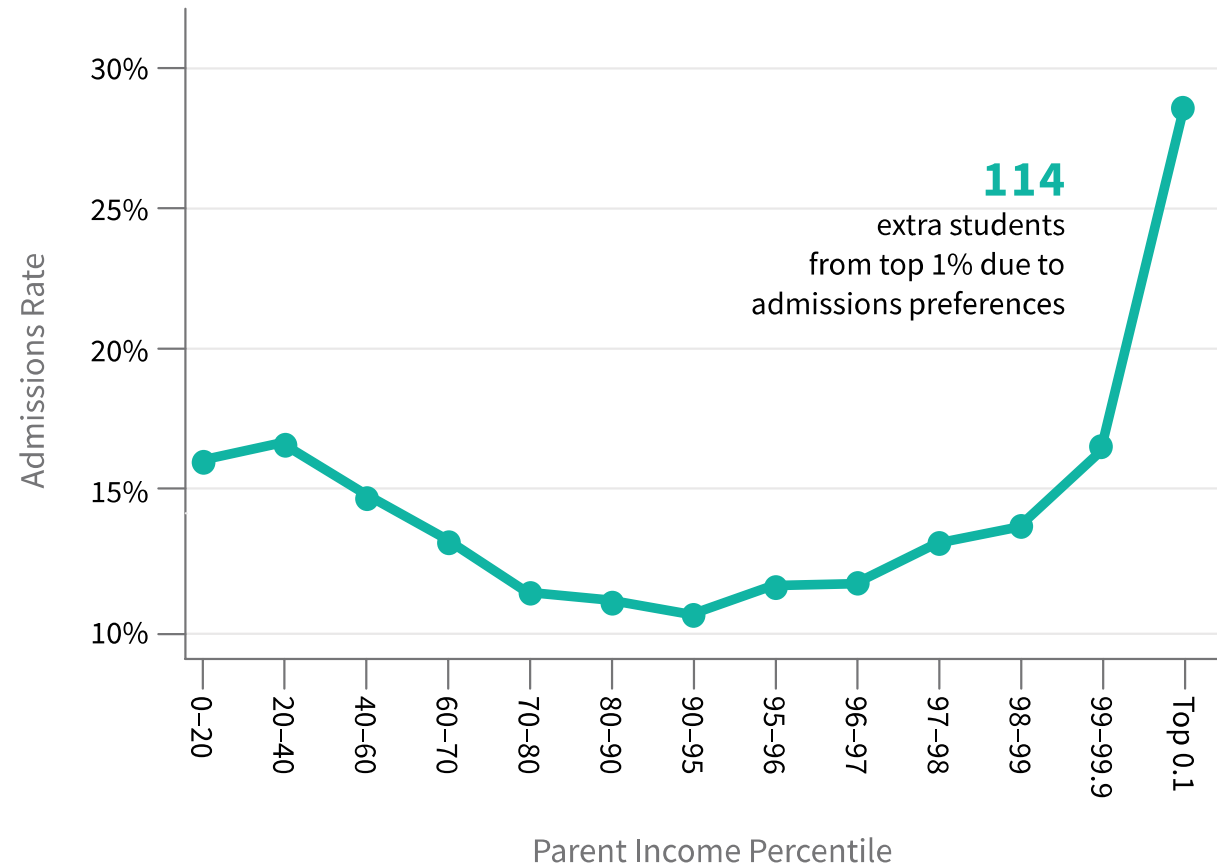
**Figure Description**

This figure shows the undergraduate Ivy-Plus attendance rate according to families' income for students scoring at the 99th percentile on the SAT/ACT (SAT score of 1510 or ACT score of 34). Families in the top 1% earn >\$611,000; those between the 70th to 80th percentile (the midpoint of the income distribution for Ivy-Plus applicants) earn between \$91,000 and \$114,000; and those below the 20th percentile earn <\$23,000.

**Source**

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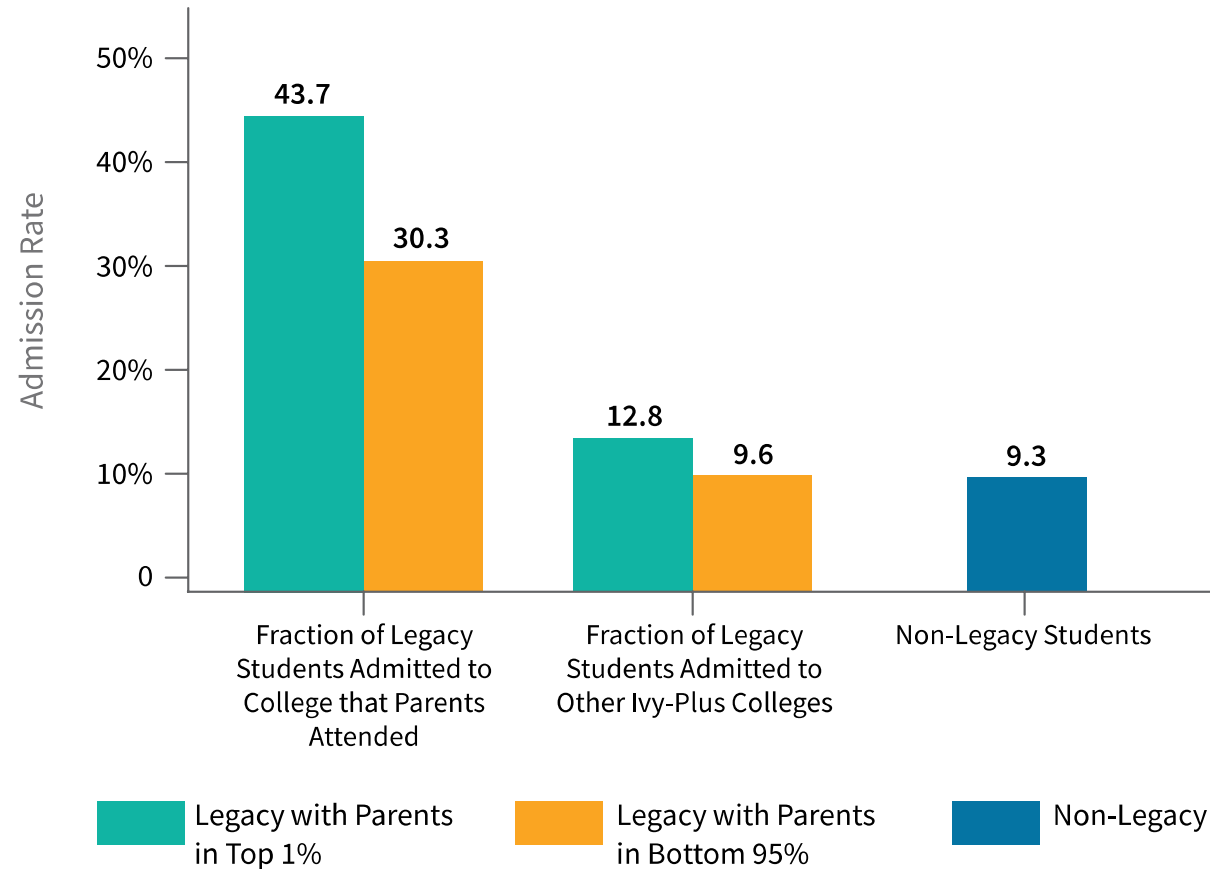
# Ivy-Plus colleges admit students from the highest income families at much higher rates than lower-income students with the same SAT/ACT scores.



## Figure Description

This figure shows admissions rates for students at Ivy-Plus colleges by parental income with SAT/ACT scores comparable to current students. We estimate there are 114 extra students admitted at Ivy-Plus colleges from families earning in the top 1% (per class of 1,650 students) due to admissions preferences. This is calculated as the difference between the actual admissions rate for students from the top 1% and their admissions rate if it were equal to middle-class students (parental incomes in the 70th–80th percentile) with the same SAT/ACT scores.

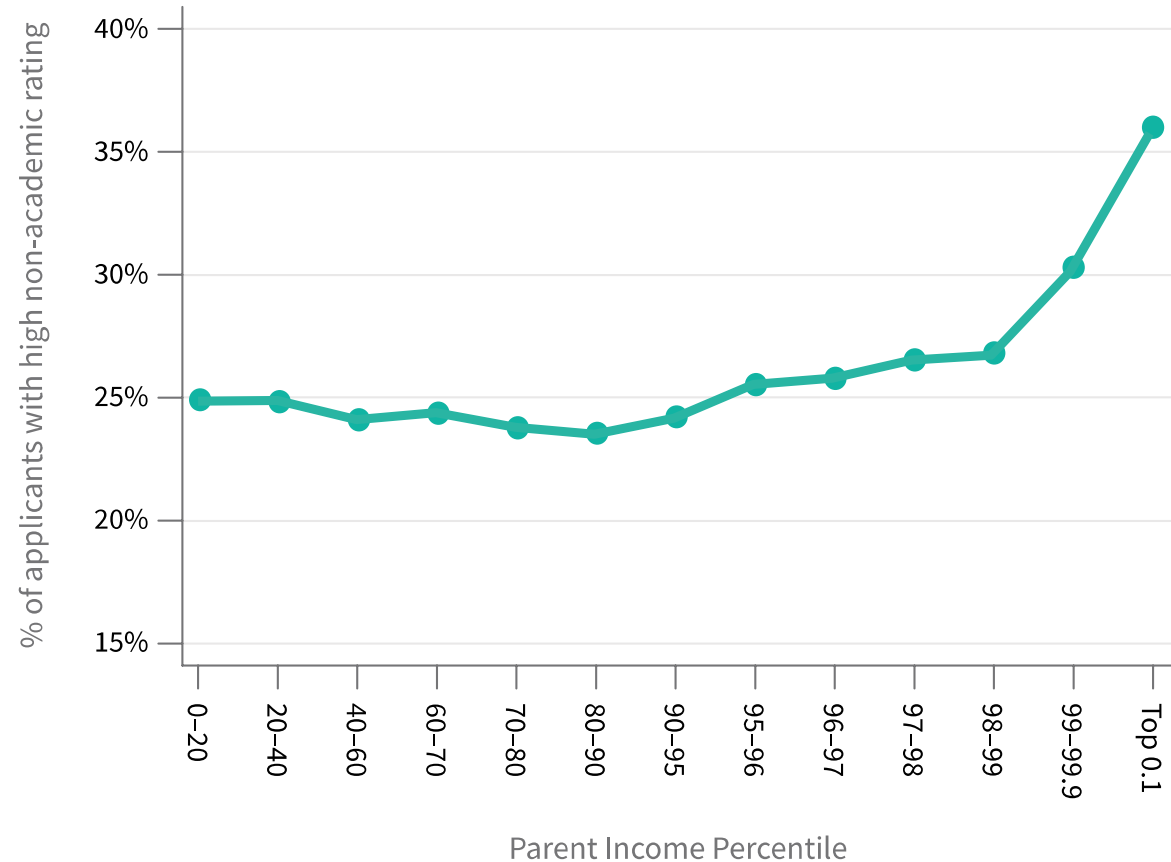
# Legacy students are more likely to be admitted to the Ivy-Plus colleges their parents attended, especially if their parents have high-incomes, but not to other Ivy-Plus colleges.



## Figure Description

This figure compares admissions rates to Ivy-Plus colleges by legacy status and parental income among applicants with comparable SAT/ACT scores. The left pair of bars show admissions rates for legacy applicants at the college their parents attended; the second pair of bars shows admissions rates for the same students at other Ivy-plus colleges; and the last bar shows admissions rates for non-legacy students.

## Students from high-income families receive significantly higher non-academic admissions ratings than students from lower-income families with comparable SAT/ACT scores.



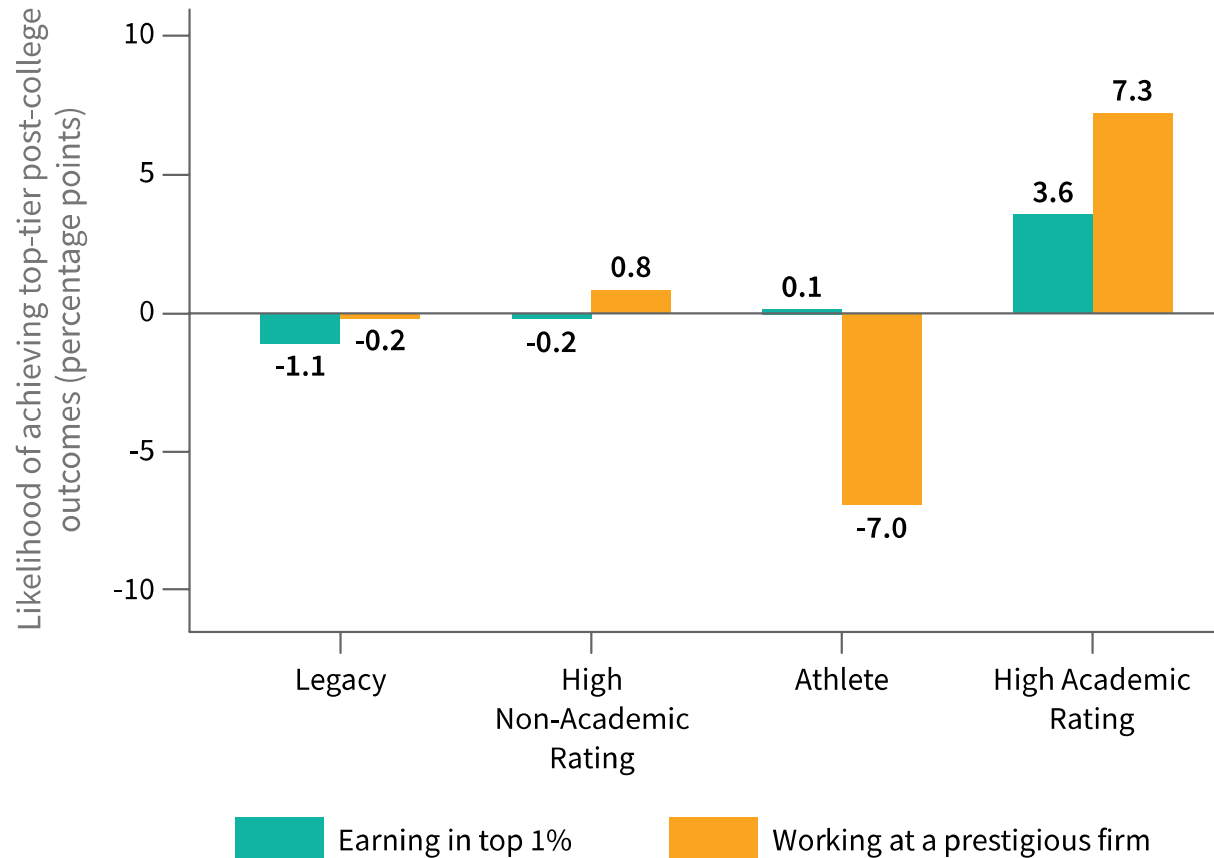
### Figure Description

This figure shows the percentage of applicants who receive high non-academic ratings by parental income, controlling for SAT/ACT scores.

### Source

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Non-technical Summary | [https://opportunityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CollegeAdmissions\\_Nontech.pdf](https://opportunityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CollegeAdmissions_Nontech.pdf)

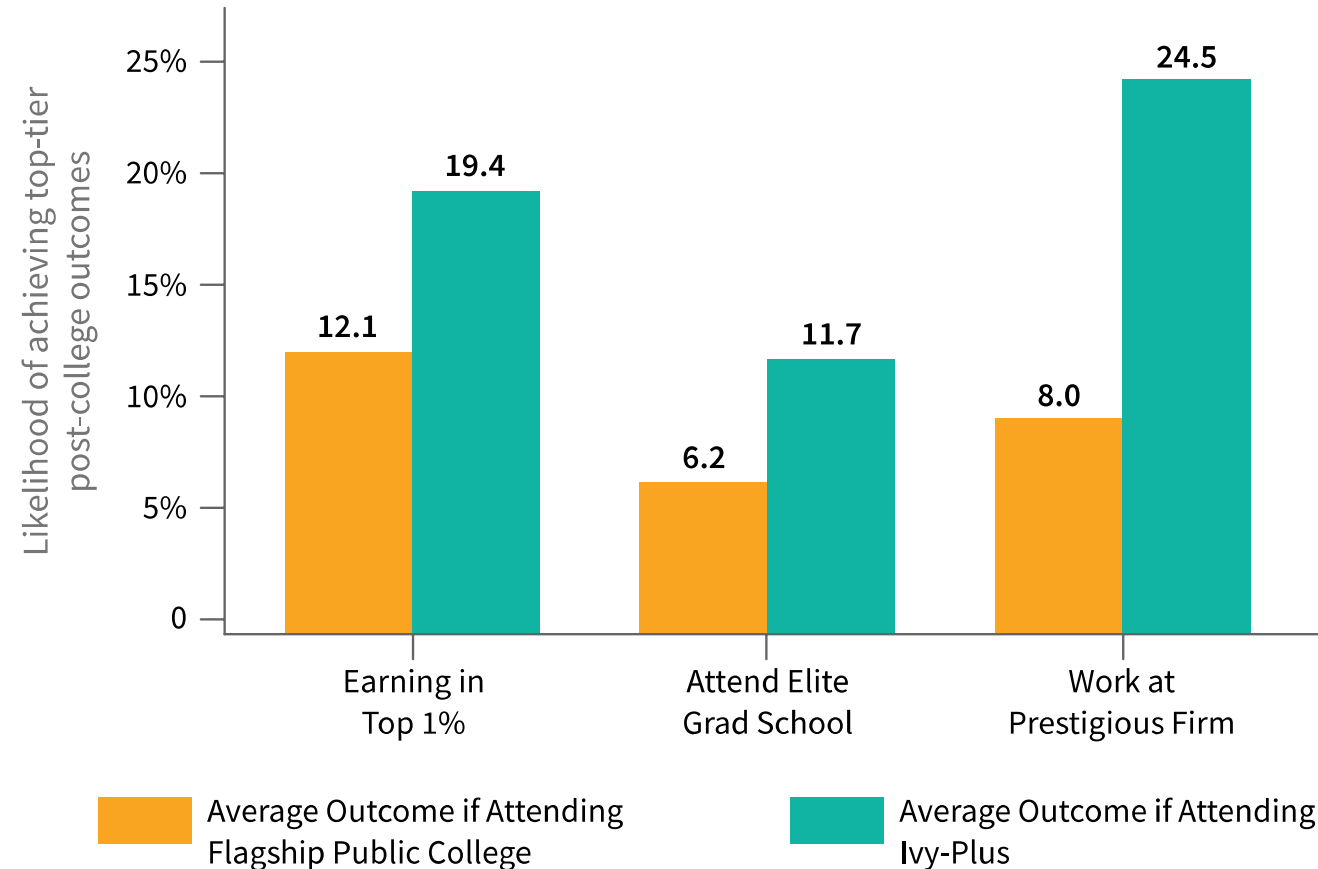
## The factors that lead to admission advantages for students from high-income families are unrelated to or negatively associated with post-college success.



### Figure Description

This figure shows how the chances of achieving earnings in the top 1% or working at a prestigious firm vary with candidates' application credentials. For example, compared to all other applicants to Ivy-Plus colleges, those with high academic ratings are 3.6 percentage points more likely to earn in the top 1% (relative to an average rate of 11.4%) and 7.3 percentage points more likely to work at a prestigious firm (relative to an average rate of 22.4%).

# Attending an Ivy-Plus college instead of a flagship public college increases students' chances of earning in the top 1%, attending an elite graduate school, and working at a prestigious firm.



## Figure Description

This figure shows how attending an Ivy-Plus college instead of a highly selective flagship public college affects a given student's chances of earning in the top 1%, attending a top graduate school, and working at a prestigious firm. We estimate these effects by comparing outcomes for students admitted vs. rejected from waitlists at Ivy-Plus colleges.