



HMoob American Undergraduate Students at University of Wisconsin's 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges

– Background, Enrollment Statistics, and Graduation Trends

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SUMMARY

The Paj Ntaub Research Team is a collective of HMoob¹ American student activists and scholars at the Center for Research on College-Workforce Transitions (CCWT) housed within the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison). This report was compiled by members of the Paj Ntaub team and draws on institutional research data provided by the University of Wisconsin System Office of Policy Analysis and Research. We combine this data with U.S. Census and other demographic data reports to provide a profile of the basic higher educational statistics for HMoob American students in the UW System Universities.

The HMoob started arriving in Wisconsin shortly after the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 and continued to be resettled until about 2006, after the closing of the last refugee camp in Thailand. It was not until 2006, however, that UW-Madison, and in 2008 the rest of the UW System schools, began offering “Hmong” as an ethnic category on their application for admissions. Therefore, the data presented in the report only includes students who self-identified as “Hmong” since 2008. This report is the first time that disaggregated HMoob student data has been publicly reported as the UW system typically combines data on Hmong students with larger categories such as “Asian,” Southeast Asian,” or “Targeted Minority” when publishing publically available data digests and other reports concerning students.

The key findings featured in this report include:

- From Fall 2009 to Fall 2018, over 22,000 HMoob American undergraduate students were enrolled in one of Wisconsin’s 13 4-year comprehensive public colleges. This is approximately 1.7% of all students enrolled during this time period (Chart 4, page 12).
- Excluding UW-Oshkosh and UW-Green Bay (which have both had a slight increase), the enrollment of HMoob American undergraduate students has declined across the UW System Universities from 2009 to 2018 (Chart 4, page 12).
- UW-Milwaukee has by far served the majority of HMoob American undergraduate students from 2008-2018 (6,494 students), followed by UW-Madison (3,132 students), UW-Oshkosh (2,700 students), and UW-Eau Claire (2,265 students) (Chart 4, page 12).
- The vast majority of HMoob American undergraduate students who attend one of Wisconsin’s 13 4-year comprehensive public colleges are from Wisconsin; approximately 92% (2,209 students) of the Fall 2018 cohort of HMoob American students were in-state students from Wisconsin (see page 13)
- The vast majority of HMoob American undergraduate students are the first in their families to go to college. Of the 5,843 New Freshman or New Transfer HMoob American undergraduate students who began in the Falls of 2009-2018, 80% (4,692 students) were first-generation college students (Chart 6, page 16).
- The vast majority of HMoob American undergraduate students are Federal Pell Grant recipients, indicating they are in high financial need. Of the 20,244 HMoob American undergraduate students enrolled in one of UW’s 4-year comprehensive colleges from 2009-2017, 80% (16,259 students) received Pell Grants (Chart 7, page 17).

¹ We spell the ethnic group of focus in this study - HMoob - in lieu of Hmong (the more common spelling, particularly in the United States). The capitalization of both H and M are intended to be more inclusive of various HMoob dialects because Mong Green/Leng is pronounced without the aspirated “h.” Additionally, capitalizing H and M challenges the history of White HMoob dominance in the United States. Borrowing from the Hmong Romanized Phonetic Alphabet (RPA), our spelling HMoob rejects the Americanization of this ethnic group name and allows us to reclaim and embrace HMoob identity, history, and heritage.

- The six-year graduation rates from Fall 2009 – Fall 2012 for HMoob American full-time new freshman who began at one of Wisconsin’s 13 4-year comprehensive public colleges is much lower than that of their peers. In examining the available data; 46% of HMoob American undergraduates graduated within six years across the UW System compared to a rate of 61.93% for the total student population (Table 3, page 19).
- Excluding “Undeclared Majors,” the top four majors at the time of enrolment for HMoob American undergraduate students are Biology, Nursing, Psychology, and Computer Science (Table 4, page 22; Table 8, page 28).

The findings of low and declining enrollment of HMoob Americans in the UW System, a lower 6-year graduation rates in comparison to the average, a comparatively low number of HMoob Americans at Wisconsin’s flagship school, and higher rates of first-generation college status and Pell Grants awards all indicate that HMoob Americans continue to face challenges as they work toward college attainment in Wisconsin. These findings shed light on patterns in higher education for HMoob American undergraduate students in Wisconsin as well as characteristics and needs of this population. The data and issues brought to light by this report can be of use to scholars, advocates, community members, and educators who work toward the advancement of HMoob Americans in Wisconsin.



Members of Tsev Koom Siab (the Hmong Living Learning Community) celebrating Hmong Heritage Month at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (April 2012).

BACKGROUND

The HMoob are an ethnic group with histories tracing back to Southern China.² Over centuries, HMoob were politically displaced all over Southeast Asia. HMoob history overlapped with United States history during the Vietnam War when the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruited HMoob and other groups living along the Vietnam-Lao border as guerrilla soldiers for the CIA's covert operation in 1964. When the U.S. pulled out of Southeast Asia in 1975, the HMoob people were left to defend themselves against persecution and detention under the leadership of the Pathet Lao government. Subsequently, many HMoob families had no choice but to flee to Thailand in search of refuge. Once registered as political asylum seekers with the United Nations (UN) in Thailand, many HMoob families were resettled in third countries such as the United States. In the United States, Wisconsin has the third largest HMoob population (approximately 55,000 people³) behind Minnesota and California.⁴

Reception of HMoob Americans in the United States

Like all other immigrants and refugees in the United States, Hmong Americans have been subjected to a process of racialization since their arrival. Because of this, it is important to understand how processes of racialization can impact the educational experiences of HMoob Americans. Current literature on Asian Americans suggest that Asian Americans are characterized by two dominant racialized discourses: the model minority and the perpetual foreigner.⁵ On the one hand, the perpetual foreigner discourse characterizes Asian Americans as outsiders whose cultures are diametrically opposed to that of mainstream white Americans. On the other hand, the model minority stereotype portrays Asian Americans as intelligent, self-sufficient, law-abiding citizens whose academic and economic successes can be attributed to their hard work.⁶ The model minority stereotype makes invisible the experiences of Asian Americans who face academic and economic struggles. Asian Americans who do not fit into the racist image of a model minority are then rendered as perpetual foreigners. In this way, these two racialized discourses reinforce one another in ways that continue to marginalize Asian Americans. HMoob Americans have been positioned in both of these racialized discourses since their arrival to the United States.

HMoob population in Wisconsin over the past 30 years

The HMoob are the largest Asian ethnic group in Wisconsin, accounting for approximately 36 percent of individuals in Wisconsin who self-identified as "Asian or Asian American" on the 2010 U.S. Census. This population has grown tremendously over the past 20-30 years. According to Census data, between 1990 and 2000, Wisconsin's HMoob population more than doubled from approximately 16,000 people to over 33,000. Again, over the next 10-year span, 2000 to 2010, the HMoob population in Wisconsin grew by more than 40 percent from over 33,000 people to approximately 47,000 people. Some of this population growth can be attributed to migration and refugee resettlement.

2 Lee, G. Y., & Tapp, N. (2010). *Culture and customs of the Hmong*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood.

3 2011-2015 American Community Survey

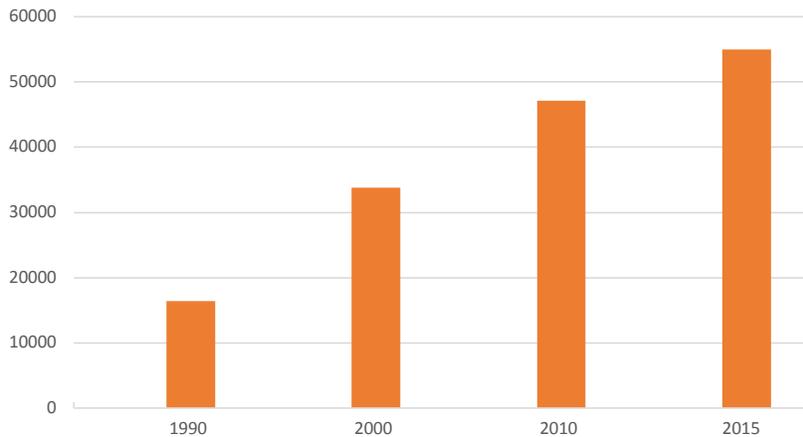
4 Pfeifer, M. E., Sullivan, J., Yang, K., & Yang, W (2013). Hmong population and demographic trends in the 2010 census and 2010 American community survey. *Hmong Studies Journal*, 13(2), 1-33.

5 Lee, S. J. (2008). Model minorities and perpetual foreigners: The impact of stereotyping on Asian American students. In M. Sadowski (Ed.), *Adolescents at school: Perspectives on youth, identity, and education* (2nd ed., pp. 75-82). Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press; Lee, S. J. (2009). *Unraveling the "model minority" stereotype: Listening to Asian American youth* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

6 Lee, 2009

However, more and more, the growth of the HMoob population in Wisconsin can be attributed to the establishment of community roots and having families in the state. This can be seen through the growing number of Wisconsin’s HMoob population being born in the U.S; for example, between 2006-2010 over half of Wisconsin’s HMoob population (54%) was born in the U.S compared to 42 percent in 2000. Though an accurate estimate of the current HMoob population will not be available until the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census, the 2011-2015 American Community Survey provides us with the most recent estimates of the HMoob population in Wisconsin since the 2010 census, estimating Wisconsin’s HMoob population at almost 55,000 people in 2015.

Chart 1. Wisconsin’s HMoob Population 1990-2015



HMoob Population in Wisconsin by County, 2010

According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS), Wisconsin’s HMoob population totaled almost 55,000 people. The Wisconsin counties with the highest HMoob population in 2015 were: Milwaukee (13,110), Dane (6,413), Marathon (5,486), Brown (4,647), and Sheboygan (4,559) (See Table 1).

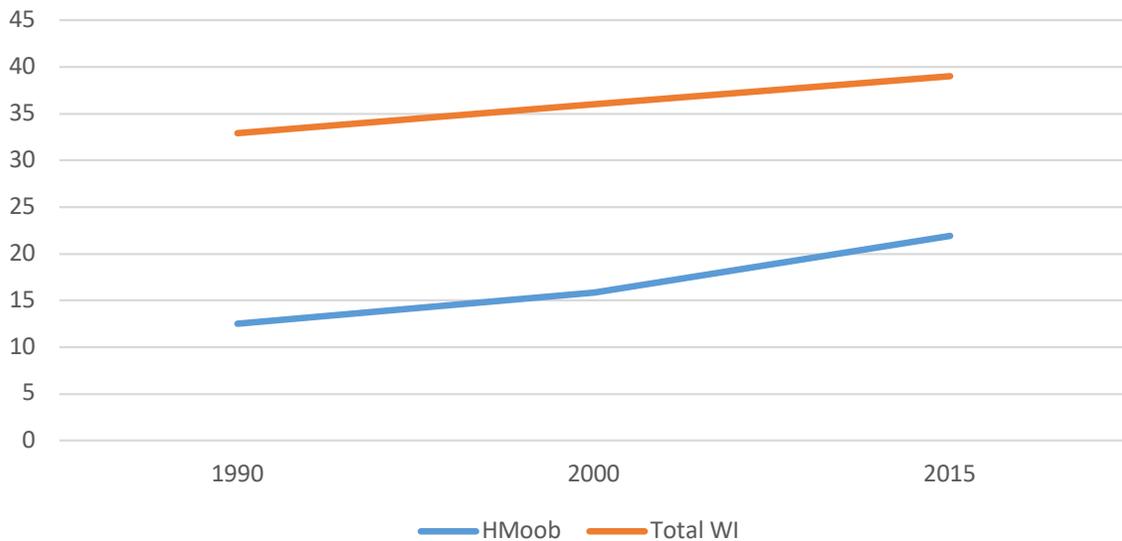
Table 1. Top 15 Wisconsin Counties with the largest HMoob Populations, 2011-2015 American Community Survey

County	Population	County	Population
Milwaukee	13,110	Eau Claire	2068
Dane	6413	Manitowoc	1679
Marathon	5486	Portage	1149
Brown	4647	Wood	788
Sheboygan	4559	Waukesha	750
La Crosse	3866	Chippewa	557
Outagamie	3678	St. Croix	432
Winnebago	2279	Total	54,641

Age Distribution of Wisconsin's HMoob Population

The 2011-2015 ACS estimates show that the average age of the Wisconsin HMoob population (21.9 years old) is significantly younger than the average age of the general Wisconsin population (39 years old). This could be due to the aging Baby Boomer generation (those born in 1946 and 1964) that make up a large proportion of Wisconsin's population.⁷ With nearly 40 percent of the HMoob in Wisconsin under the age of 18, this means that a large portion of the HMoob in Wisconsin is either of or almost of "traditional" college-age (ages 18-22). A pressing issue to consider is: how are institutions of higher education prepared to support the needs of this growing population of HMoob American students?

Chart 2. Median Age of Wisconsin's HMoob Population vs. State Average



Income Levels of Wisconsin's HMoob Population

According to the 5-year estimates from the 2011-2015 ACS, the median income for all Wisconsin families is \$68,064. HMoob families in Wisconsin have a lesser median income of \$51,688, which is also significantly less than all Asian families in Wisconsin (\$67,966). Interestingly, the percentage of HMoob in Wisconsin over the age of 16 that are in the labor force (71.6%) is higher than that of the general Wisconsin population (67.2%). However, while only 8.6 percent of all Wisconsin families live in poverty, 20.4 percent of HMoob families in Wisconsin are living in poverty. The poverty guidelines released by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services⁸ show that a family of four with a household income of less than \$25,750 annually is living in poverty. When the family income numbers are broken down into per capita dollars, the income differences across racial/ethnic groups across Wisconsin become more stark (Table 2), with HMoob families having the smallest per capita income across all these groups.

7 Curtis, K.J. & Lessem, S.E. (2014). *2010 Census Chartbook: Demographic Trends in Wisconsin*. Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension. www.apl.wisc.edu/publications/2010_Census_Chartbook_WI.pdf

8 <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

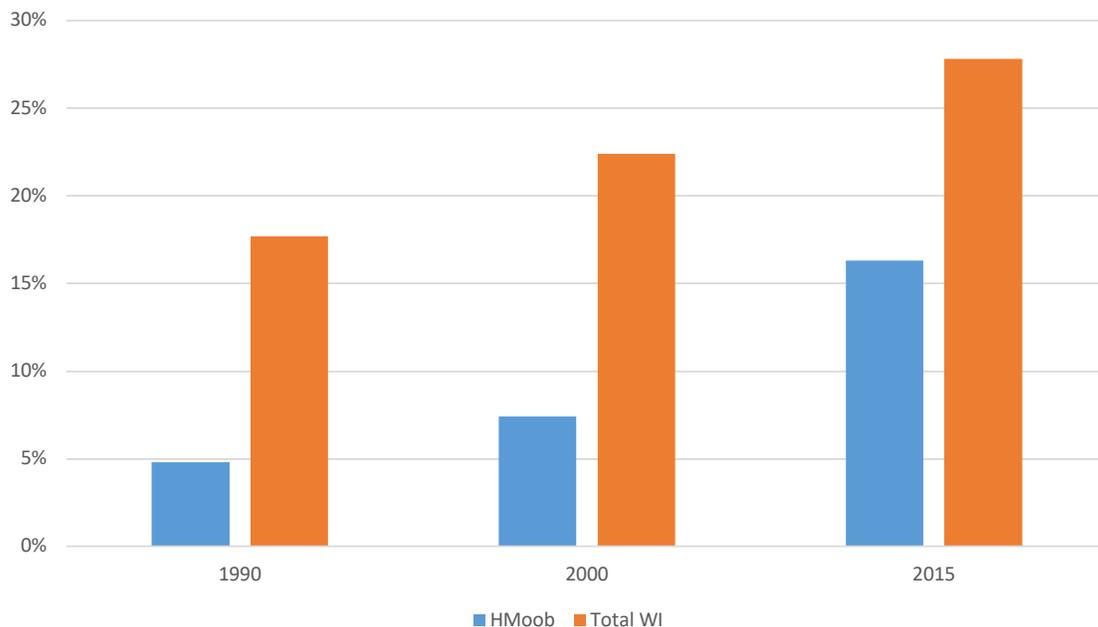
Table 2. Median family income and per capita income by Race/Ethnicity in Wisconsin (2015)

Racial/Ethnic Group	Median family income (dollars)	Per capita income (dollars)
Hmoob	51,688	12,645
White	71,230	30,268
Black or African American	30,542	14,461
American Indian and Alaska Native	42,072	17,773
Asian	67,966	24,677
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	37,426	30,308
Some other race	35,294	13,358

Educational Attainment of Wisconsin’s HMoob Population

Since 1990, the proportion of HMoob in Wisconsin who are 25 years and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher has significantly increased (see Chart 3). In comparison to the rest of the Wisconsin population, there is still a significant discrepancy between degree holders. Moreover, the 2011-2015 ACS estimates show that the largest proportion of the HMoob Wisconsin population who are 25 years and older holds a high school diploma or equivalent (26.0%), which is lower than that of the state’s (32.0%). Of the Wisconsin HMoob population over 3 years of age that are enrolled in school (23,263 or 42.6% of the HMoob Wisconsin population), nearly 72 percent (6,672) are enrolled in pre-K – 12 schooling. This means that about 30.5 percent of the total Wisconsin HMoob population are potential prospective students of higher education institutions. This value is relatively high compared to the state percentage of those enrolled in pre-K – 12 schooling being only 18.4 percent of the total Wisconsin population.

Chart 3. HMoob in Wisconsin who are 25 years and older with a Bachelor’s degree compared to State Average





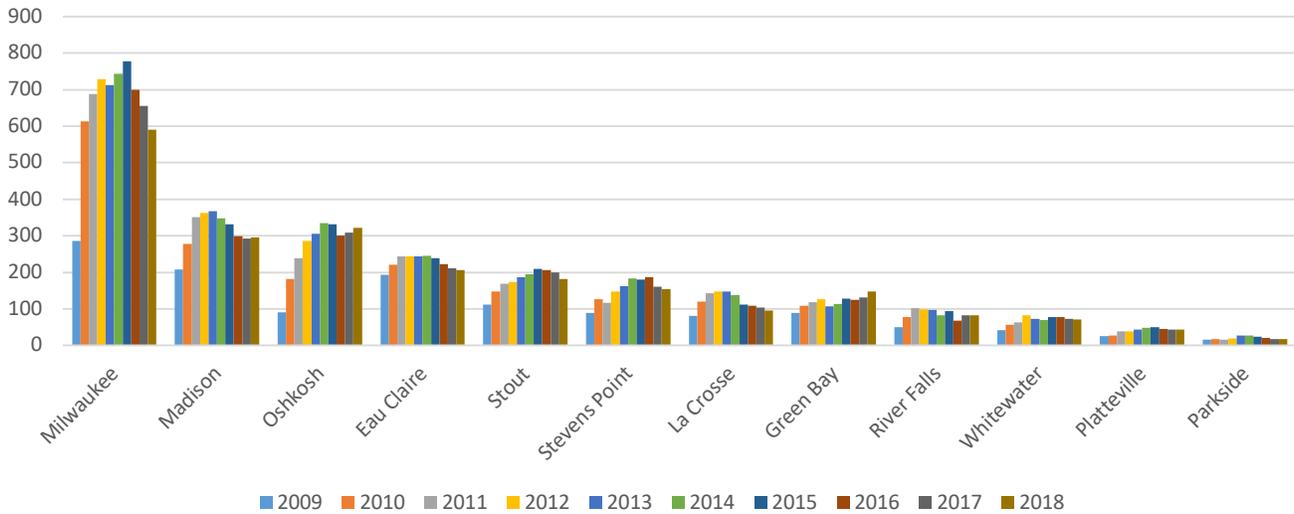
Members of the 2018-2019 HMoob American Studies Committee (HMASC).

HMOOB AMERICAN STUDENTS AT UW 4-YEAR COLLEGES

Total Enrollment of HMoob American Undergraduate Students (Fall 2009-Fall 2018) by 4-Year UW College

From Fall 2009 to Fall 2018, over 22,000 HMoob American undergraduate students were enrolled in one of Wisconsin's 13 4-year comprehensive public colleges. This is approximately 1.7% of all students enrolled during this time period. UW-Milwaukee has by far served the majority of HMoob undergraduate students during this time (6,494 students), followed by UW-Madison (3,132 students), UW-Oshkosh (2,700 students), and UW-Eau Claire (2,265 students). These numbers correspond somewhat with the total campus student body size as Milwaukee, Madison, Oshkosh, and Eau Claire each have four of the top five largest undergraduate student bodies of UW's 4-year comprehensive colleges. However, Milwaukee's HMoob American student body is almost double that of Madison's even though Madison's total student body is consistently larger than Milwaukee's. This could be because Milwaukee County's HMoob population is more than double that of Dane County at 13,110 compared to 6,413 according to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey. Additionally, even though UW-Whitewater has a slightly larger undergraduate student body than UW-Eau Claire, UW-Eau Claire's HMoob American student population is much greater than Whitewater's which averages only 68 HMoob undergraduate students per year. Chart 4 below shows the total student enrollment from Fall 2009-Fall 2018 by 4-year UW campus.

Chart 4. HMoob American Undergraduate Student Total Enrollment at UW 4-Year Campuses, Fall 2009 - Fall 2018

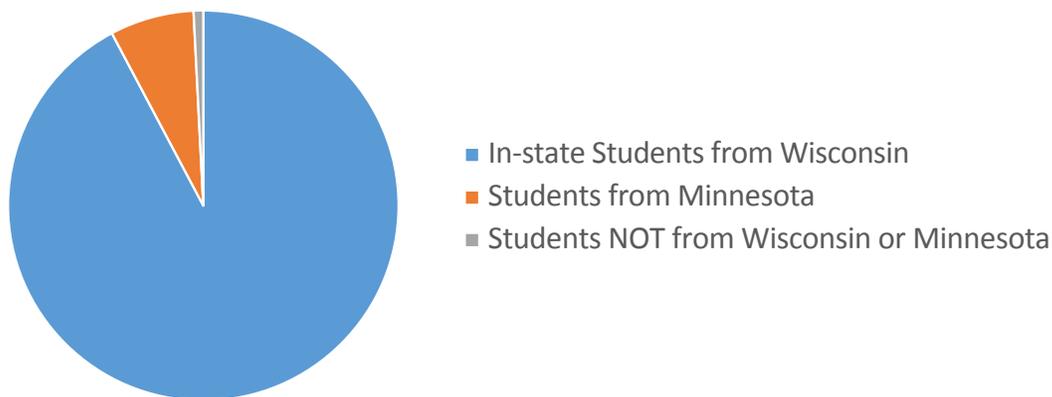


Demographic Background of HMoob American Undergraduates at 4-Year UW Colleges

Home County or Home State of HMoob American Undergraduate Students, Fall 2018

In examining the Fall 2018 cohort of HMoob American undergraduate students attending one of Wisconsin’s 13 4-year comprehensive public colleges (2,209 students), the vast majority (92%) were in-state students from Wisconsin. Only 168 HMoob American undergraduates enrolled in one of the 4-year UW campuses came from out-of-state; the vast majority of out-of-state students (154 students or 91.6%) came from Minnesota. Milwaukee County is the home county for the majority of HMoob undergraduate students with a total of 540 students in Fall 2018. Milwaukee County is followed by Marathon County (275 students), Sheboygan County (177 students), Brown County (154 students), and Outagamie County (150 students).

Chart 5. Home State of Fall 2018 Cohort of HMoob American Undergraduate Students



The top 10 home counties for HMoob American undergraduates in Fall 2018 almost directly corresponded with the top 10 counties with the highest HMoob populations according to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (See Table 3). The only exception to this correspondence was Dane County which had the second largest HMoob population (6,412) in 2015 but was seventh in the number of HMoob undergraduates enrolled in a 4-year UWs in Fall 2018. It is important to note that this comparison is imperfect as it refers to different years; still, it brings up important questions regarding college pathways for HMoob students in Dane County.

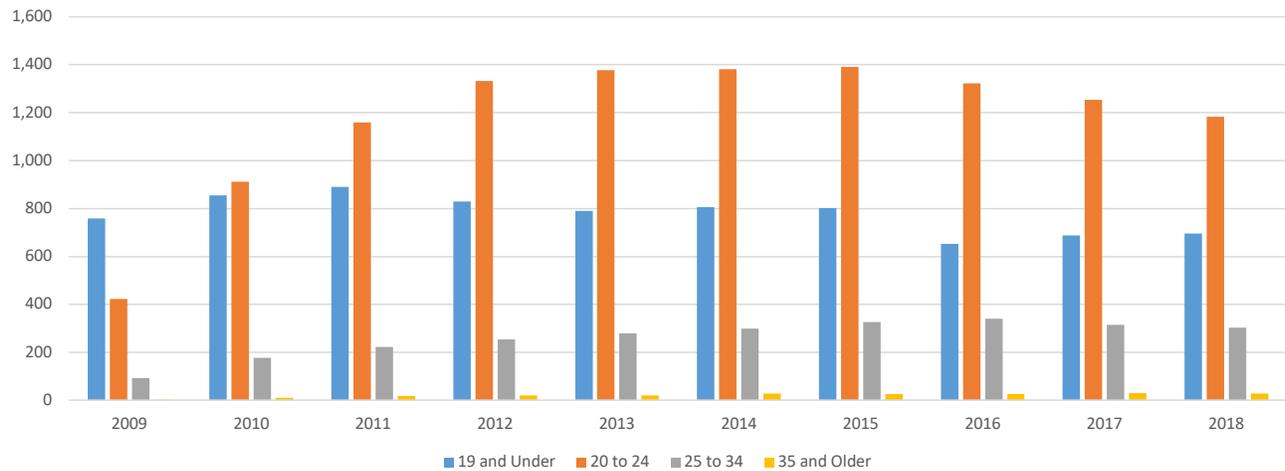
Table 3. Top 10 Home Counties for HMoob American Undergraduate Students in Fall 2018

Top 10 Wisconsin Counties with the largest HMoob Population (2015)		Top 10 Wisconsin Home Counties for HMoob Undergraduates (Fall 2018)	
County	HMoob Population	County	Number of HMoob Students
Milwaukee	13,110	Milwaukee	540
Dane County	6413	Marathon	275
Marathon	5486	Sheboygan	177
Brown	4647	Brown	154
Sheboygan	4559	Outagamie	150
La Crosse	3866	La Crosse	118
Outagamie	3678	Dane	115
Winnebago	2279	Winnebago	115
Eau Claire	2068	Eau Claire	113
Manitowoc	1679	Manitowoc	65

HMooB American Undergraduate Students by Age Group, Fall 2009-Fall 2018

The vast majority (87%) of the 22,308 HMooB American undergraduate students who attended one of the UW 4-year schools from Fall 2009 – Fall 2018 were under the age of 25. Approximately 35 percent (7,765 students) were 19 and under, 52 percent (11,734 students) were between the ages of 20-24, 12 percent (2,604 students) were between the ages of 25-34, and less than 1 percent (205 students) were age 35 or older. These data indicate that the HMooB American undergraduate student population at UW’s 4-year schools is relatively young and of “traditional” college age (18-22). Chart 6 represents the age grouping of HMooB American undergraduate students from Fall 2009 – Fall 2018.

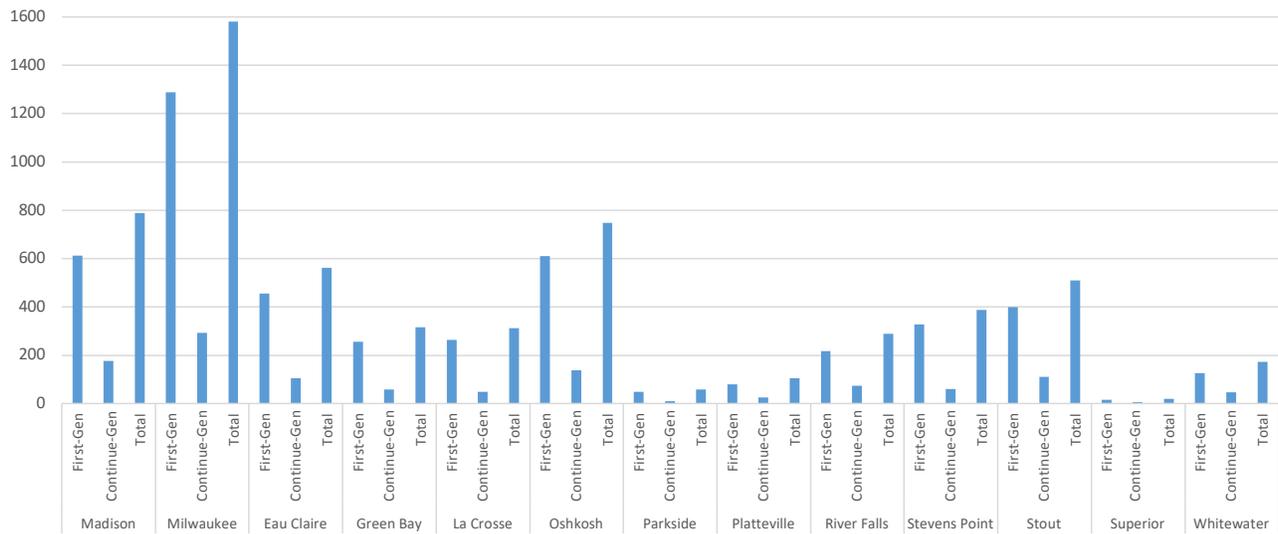
Chart 6. HMooB American Undergraduate Students at UW 4-Year Campuses by Age Group, Fall 2009 to Fall 2018



First-Generation College Student Status of HMoob American Undergraduate Students, Fall 2009-Fall 2018

There were 5,843 New Freshman or New Transfer HMoob American undergraduate students beginning in the Falls of 2009-2018. A total of 4,692 (80%) of these students identified as first-generation college students. This indicates that the vast majority of HMoob undergraduate students at UW’s 4-Year comprehensive colleges are the first in their families to attend college. Chart 7 represents the number of first-generation HMoob American undergraduate students versus continuing-generation HMoob American undergraduates at each of the UW 4-year campuses.

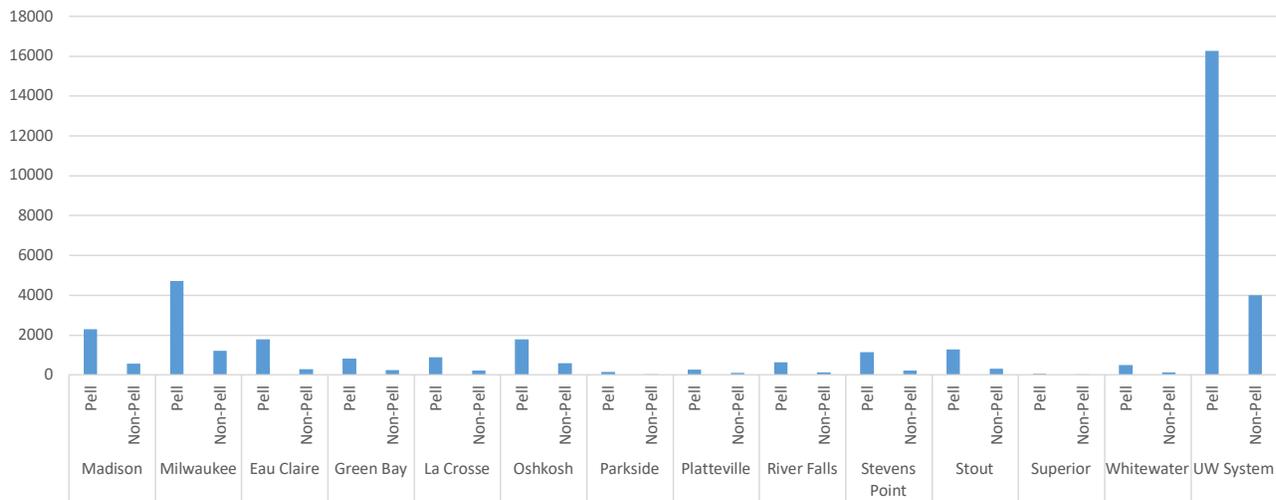
Chart 7. First-Generation Status of New Freshman or New Transfer HMoob American Students, Falls 2009-2018



Pell Grant Status of HMoob American Undergraduate Students, Fall 2009-Fall 2017

In addition to the majority of HMoob American undergraduate students at UW’s 4-year comprehensive campuses being first-generation college students, the majority are also Federal Pell Grant recipients. Of the 20,244 HMoob American undergraduates enrolled in one of UW’s 4-year comprehensive colleges during the Falls of 2009-2017 (Pell information is not yet available for Fall 2018 or beyond), 16,259 students (80%) received Pell Grants. Such grants vary in amount (the maximum award amount for 2019-2020 is \$6,195), but are always awarded to undergraduate students who display high financial need. Therefore, if Pell Grant status is taken as a proxy for low-income status, it can be argued that the majority of HMoob undergraduate students at UW’s 4-year comprehensive colleges are low-income students. Chart 8 represents the number of HMoob American undergraduate students who were Pell grant recipients in Fall 2009 – Fall 2017 versus non-Pell grant recipients at each of the UW 4-year campuses.

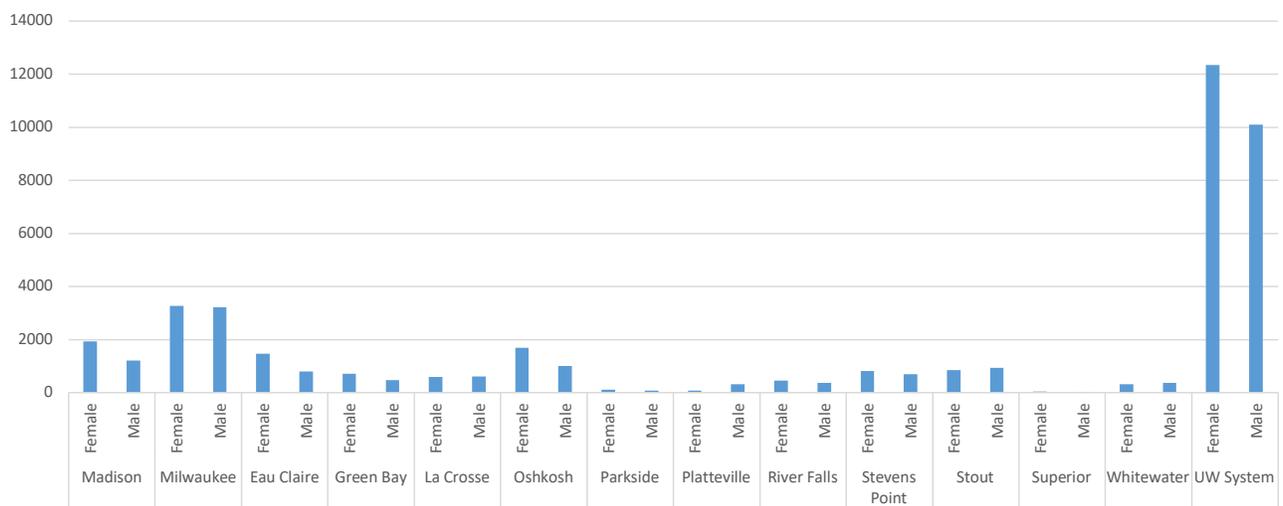
Chart 8. Pell Status of HMoob Undergraduate Students, Fall 2009-Fall 2017



HMooB American Undergraduate Students by Sex, Fall 2009-Fall 2018

According to data from UW System’s Office of Policy Analysis and Research regarding students’ sex, a slight majority of HMooB American undergraduate students (55%) enrolled in one of the UW’s 4-year comprehensive colleges in Fall 2009 - Fall 2018 were classified as female (12,352). This is slightly more than the total student body population during a similar time period (Fall 2009 – Fall 2017), which classified 53% (65,162 students) as female and 47% (57,112) as male. A total of 10,101 HMooB American undergraduate students (45%) enrolled Fall 2009-Fall 2018 were classified as male. Chart 9 represents the number of HMooB American undergraduate students categorized as male or female at each of the UW 4-year campuses from Fall 2009 – Fall 2018.

Chart 9. HMooB Undergraduate Students by Sex, Fall 2009-Fall 2018



Six-Year Graduation Rates for HMooB American Undergraduate Students from Fall 2009 – Fall 2012

In examining the available data regarding six-year graduation rates for all full-time new freshman who began at one of the UW’s 4-year comprehensive colleges from Fall 2009 to Fall 2012 and who graduated within six years from the same institution, HMooB American undergraduate students have a considerably lower six-year graduation rate than the average student population at all institutions. The 6-year graduation rate for HMooB American students is similar to that of the general “underrepresented minority” graduation rate (which includes students who indicated “African American,” “American Indian,” “Hispanic/Latino(a),” or “Southeast Asian” alone or in combination with other races/ethnicities on their admissions materials) with some variation based on campus. Table 4 represents these graduation rates.

Table 4. Six-Year Graduation Rate for Full-Time New Freshman at the UW 4-Year Campus where they began from Fall 2009 to Fall 2012 - All Students, Underrepresented Minority Students*, HMooB Students

University (ordered from largest to smallest undergraduate population)	2009		2010		2011		2012					
	All Students Grad (%)	Under- represented Minority Grad (%)	HMooB Grad (%)	All Students Grad (%)	Under- represented Minority Grad (%)	HMooB Grad (%)	All Students Grad (%)	Under- represented Minority Grad (%)	HMooB Grad (%)			
Madison	84.9%	74.4%	66.3%	84.9%	74.8%	62.1%	87.2%	80.2%	78.8%	87.2%	82.2%	80.6%
Milwaukee	40.8%	25.4%	35.1%	40.1%	27.3%	29.1%	41.5%	26.0%	41.8%	44.3%	30.4%	35.3%
Oshkosh	50.9%	25.4%	20.8%	52.6%	30.3%	35.3%	52.3%	35.0%	36.7%	53.4%	38.5%	47.3%
Whitewater	60.0%	36.8%	58.3%	57.4%	37.2%	44.4%	61.7%	51.2%	42.9%	58.0%	35.4%	55.6%
Eau Claire	64.6%	59.5%	63.5%	67.7%	62.7%	66.7%	66.6%	52.8%	56.7%	66.8%	47.9%	41.9%
La Crosse	68.3%	51.3%	38.7%	67.8%	51.2%	34.4%	70.5%	50.9%	40.6%	70.7%	54.2%	**
Stout	57.3%	41.7%	50.0%	54.2%	37.5%	25.0%	54.3%	44.5%	41.2%	58.2%	46.3%	57.1%
Stevens Point	63.7%	46.9%	55.6%	63.3%	46.6%	42.9%	65.0%	54.2%	59.1%	62.1%	52.8%	46.7%
Platteville	54.0%	22.2%	**	53.9%	27.1%	**	52.8%	35.0%	**	53.6%	31.3%	**
Green Bay	45.7%	32.9%	35.3%	48.9%	37.5%	**	51.1%	42.0%	72.7%	52.2%	52.2%	28.0%
River Falls	57.1%	40.0%	47.8%	53.9%	36.5%	45.2%	52.9%	27.9%	25.7%	56.5%	35.0%	38.1%
Parkside	33.1%	26.0%	**	24.3%	20.3%	**	34.0%	27.4%	**	38.1%	26.7%	**
Superior	40.4%	33.3%	**	42.5%	34.8%	**	43.4%	35.0%	N/A	36.0%	26.5%	**
UW System	60.7%	43.0%	46.3%	60.9%	42.2%	42.0%	62.5%	45.9%	49.6%	63.6%	45.6%	46.1%

* "Underrepresented Minority students" includes students who indicated "African American," "American Indian," "Hispanic/Latino(a)," or "Southeast Asian" alone or in combination with other races/ethnicities on their admissions materials.

** To protect student privacy, graduation numbers and rates are not shown when five or fewer students graduated.

Chart 10 represents the six-year graduation rate for all students by UW 4-year campus for students beginning in Fall 2009 – Fall 2012 compared to the available data regarding the six-year graduate rate for HMoob American undergraduate students during that same time period.

Chart 10. Average Six-Year Graduation Rate for All Students compared to HMoob American Undergraduate Students (Fall 2009-2012)

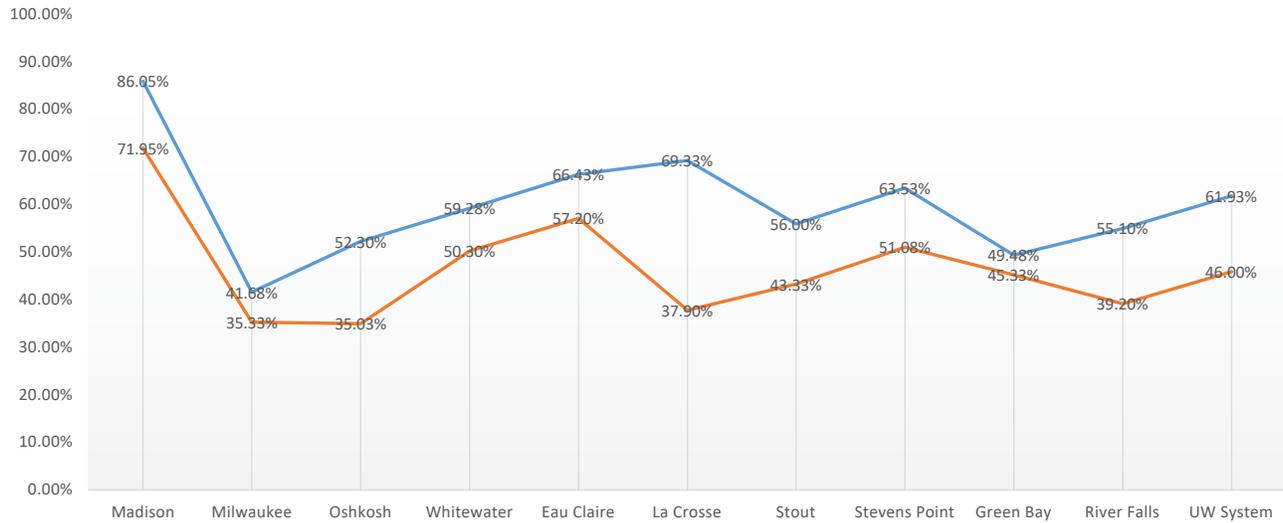
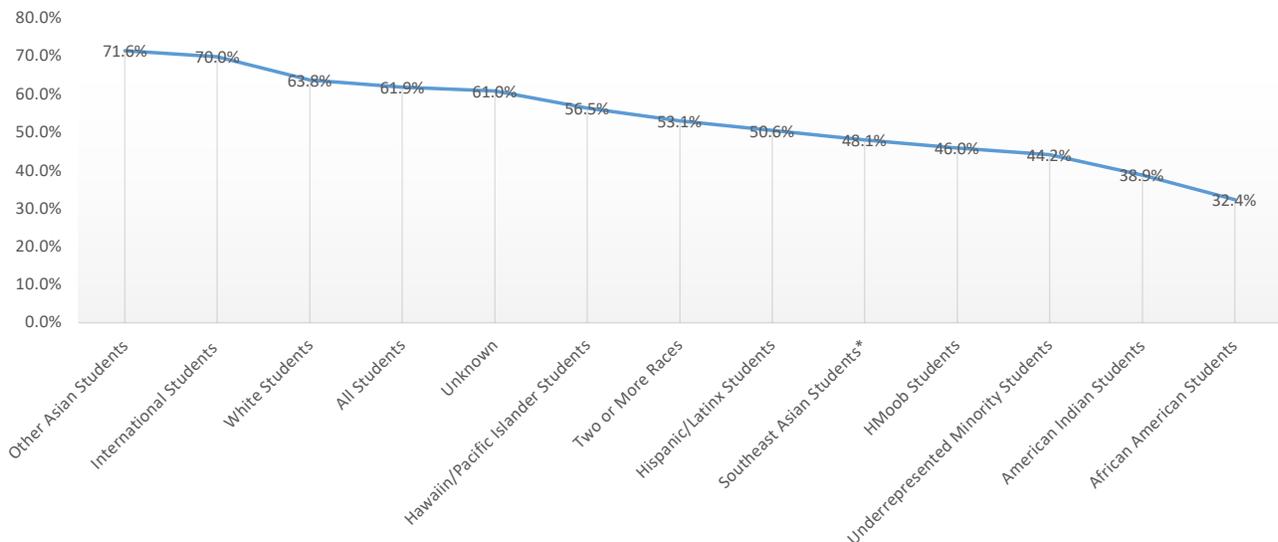


Chart 11 provides a deeper picture of the six-year graduation rate for all full-time new freshman who began at one of the UW 4-year schools in Fall 2009 – Fall 2012 and who graduated from that same institution. This chart demonstrates that while the demographic group with the highest average six-year graduate rate across the UW system was “Other Asian Students,” (which includes students who self-identified as “Asian” but not “Hmong,” “Cambodian,” “Laotian,” or “Vietnamese” on their admissions application) at around 70 percent, “HMoob Students” had an average graduate rate of only 46 percent. This data counters a common “model minority” stereotype concerning Asian American students, further points to the need to disaggregate HMoob student data from larger data categories, and demonstrates the need for more support for HMoob American students.

Chart 11. UW System 6-Year Graduation Rate Comparison, Fall 2009-2012



Declared First Majors for HMoob American Undergraduate Students at UW's 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges, Fall 2018

Aside from “Undeclared Major,” the top four declared majors for HMoob American undergraduate students at all UW 4-year schools in Fall 2018 were: Biology, Nursing, Psychology and Computer Science. Table 5 represents the top 15 declared majors and Table 9 (page 28) provides a complete list of all declared majors for HMoob American undergraduate students during the Fall of 2018.

Table 5. Top 15 Declared First Majors for HMoob Undergraduate Students at UW's 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges, Fall 2018

Major	Number of Students
Undeclared Major	360
Biology	126
Nursing	102
Psychology	92
Computer Sciences	71
Computer Information Systems	8
Computer and Information Systems	6 = 85
Information Science and Technology	55
Undeclared Major - Business	54
Unknown	54
Biomedical Sciences	41
Clinical Laboratory Science	7
Medical Technology	3 = 51
Business Administration	47
Management	1 = 48
Elementary Education	46
Business: Accounting	42
Business: Marketing	38
Art	31
Criminal Justice	31

IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report highlights some of the educational characteristics and struggles of HMoob Americans at UW's 4-year comprehensive public universities. Excluding UW-Oshkosh and UW-Green Bay, enrollment of HMoob Americans is proportionally low and declining in the UW System; and the enrollment numbers are especially low at the flagship campus UW-Madison. And across the system the six-year graduation rate for HMoob Americans is well below the average. There is clearly an unmet educational need for HMoob Americans in the UW System; a finding that is further supported by the fact of their high rates of first-generation college status and Pell Grants awards. These findings are concerning and raise serious questions about how the concept of the Asian "model minority" in the United States might serve to obfuscate the serious challenges faced by HMoob Americans in Wisconsin as well as contribute to the invisibility of HMoob Americans in higher education.

We propose that the findings of this report highlight the following implications and recommendations:

- In order to further direct attention on the educational characteristics and struggles of HMoob Americans undergraduate students in the state, we call on the UW Systems Universities and the Wisconsin Technical College System Colleges to disaggregate their data and to make public the educational statistics of their HMoob American students. The Wisconsin Technical College System's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Work Group has similarly called for WTCS Colleges to disaggregate their data, including the disaggregation of the "Asian" category.⁹
- Given the evidence in this report of the unmet educational needs of HMoob Americans in the state, UW Systems educators, advisors, and administrators should direct resources to proactive measures to support the educational attainment of their HMoob American students, including:
 1. Recruiting more HMoob American students from the state.
 2. Recruiting and employing academic and career advisors with backgrounds in HMoob history and culture to advise and support HMoob American students.
 3. Maintaining and expanding student support programs that support first-generation, low-income, and minoritized students, including many HMoob Americans (e.g. Student Support Services, TRIO programs, and the Precollege Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence).
 4. Supporting the development of HMoob American studies courses on their campus, to both educate Wisconsinites about the history and culture of the largest Asian American group in their state, and to provide a curriculum and space for HMoob Americans themselves to discuss and cultivate their own ethnic identities.

Plans for future research: The serious questions that this report raises include reasons why the enrollment of HMoob Americans in the UW System is proportionally low and declining; and what social and educational experiences on the campuses of the UW 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges influence the below average graduation rates of HMoob Americans. We propose that qualitative research to document the experiences of HMoob American students in the state is the best way to identify the factors that negatively influence their educational attainment, in order to inform policies and develop mechanisms for changing the situation. The Paj Ntaub Research Team is conducting the needed research on this problem at the UW System flagship campus UW-Madison; and our preliminary finding and recommendations are published in our report (<http://ccwt.wceruw.org/documents/Our%20HMoob%20American%20College%20Paj%20Ntaub%20research%20brief.pdf>). We also encourage other scholars to take up the issues raised in this report to help build a body of research concerning the postsecondary educational experiences of HMoob Americans.

⁹ Wisconsin Technical College System Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Work Group. (2018) WCTS System-Wide Equity Report. Wisconsin Technical College System. Retrieved, <https://www.wtcsystem.edu/wtcsexternal/cmspages/getdocumentfile.aspx?nodeguid=82fb034a-52bb-48a7-82be-9495d4670792>

Appendix

Table 6. Total Enrollment of HMoob Undergraduate Students (Fall 2009-Fall 2018) by 4-year UW College

	2009 Enrollment		2010 Enrollment		2011 Enrollment		2012 Enrollment		2013 Enrollment		2014 Enrollment		2015 Enrollment		2016 Enrollment		2017 Enrollment	
	HMoob	Total																
Madison	207	29,925	278	30,170	351	30,014	362	30,507	368	30,972	347	30,990	332	31,365	299	31,407	292	31,872
Milwaukee	286	25,204	613	25,239	688	24,639	728	24,175	713	23,004	743	23,079	777	22,284	700	21,375	655	20,750
Oshkosh	90	11,672	181	12,230	239	12,273	286	12,384	306	12,623	335	13,312	331	12,710	301	12,479	309	12,412
Whitewater	41	9,730	56	10,144	63	10,228	82	10,752	73	10,852	70	10,971	78	11,142	77	11,380	73	11,128
Eau Claire	193	10,617	220	10,800	243	10,579	243	10,500	243	10,388	245	10,167	238	9,956	223	10,043	211	10,104
La Crosse	80	8,871	120	9,073	143	9,211	148	9,515	148	9,684	137	9,815	112	9,702	108	9,737	103	9,691
Stout	112	7,973	147	8,301	168	8,353	174	8,270	187	8,180	195	8,254	210	8,388	206	8,398	199	8,116
Stevens Point	89	8,804	127	9,062	117	9,085	148	9,296	162	9,292	184	8,998	180	8,857	186	8,297	161	7,880
Platteville	25	6,971	27	7,232	39	7,460	38	7,840	44	7,867	48	8,047	49	7,983	45	7,865	44	7,621
Green Bay	89	6,369	108	6,389	118	6,445	127	6,611	107	6,444	113	6,668	128	6,528	124	6,738	131	6,815
River Falls	49	6,222	78	6,373	102	6,324	99	6,046	97	5,787	83	5,721	93	5,507	68	5,482	82	5,678
Parkside	15	5,153	17	5,015	16	4,766	19	4,601	27	4,489	27	4,448	24	4,300	20	4,276	17	4,168
Superior	7	2,576	6	2,631	6	2,655	8	2,550	7	2,522	8	2,455	9	2,362	8	2,365	8	2,368
UW System	1,283	140,087	1,978	142,659	2,293	142,032	2,462	143,047	2,482	142,104	2,535	142,925	2,561	141,084	2,365	139,862	2,285	138,603

Table 7. Home Counties in Wisconsin for HMoob Undergraduates Students, Fall 2018

County	U of Madison	U of Milwaukee	U of Eau Claire	U of Green Bay	U of La Crosse	U of Ostkosh	U of Parkside	U of Platteville	U of River Falls	U of Stevens Points	U of Stout	U of Superior	U of Whitewater	Total
Milwaukee	74	363	4	8	6	29	8	4	2	14	8		20	540
Marathon	32	27	35	14	3	46		4	3	56	51		4	275
Sheboygan	26	68	3	13	3	34	1	9	1	6	4		9	177
Brown	5	42	4	65	3	18		1		9	6		1	154
Outagamie	10	20	9	10	2	77	2	4		6	7		3	150
La Crosse	6	1	22	9	64	4	1			2	8		1	118
Dane	69	10	6	3	1	7		4		3	2		10	115
Winnebago	9	12	4	5	2	63		3		6	5		6	115
Eau Claire	14	4	62	2		2		1	1	2	25			113
Manitowoc	8	14	3	16		10	1	5		3	2		3	65
Portage	5	2	4		3	3		2		28	1			48
Wood	2		7			4		2		15	2	1		33
Dunn	2		7		1			1	1		13		1	26
Waushara	1	13				1		1		1	3	1	4	25
Fond DuLac	2	3				13					2		1	21
St Croix			2		1	1			7		7			18
Washington	2	5								1				8
Chippewa			4								3			7
Jefferson	2									1			4	7
Ozaukee		2				2	1							5
Green Lake						2							2	4
Pierce			1						2		1			4
Racine					1		1						1	3
Grant						1		1						2
Ashland		1												1
Columbia						1								1
Juneau			1											1
Kenosha	1													1
Rock	1													1
Trempealeau					1									1

Table 8. 6-year Graduation Rate Comparison for full-time new freshman enrolled in the 4-Year UW System school in Falls 2009-2012

	2009		2010		2011		2012		Total	
	Cohort #	Grad %	Total Cohort #	Average Grad %						
HMood Students	480	46.3%	483	42.0%	512	49.6%	438	46.1%	1,913	46.0%
Underrepresented Minority Students	2,590	43.0%	2,819	42.2%	2,999	45.9%	2,933	45.6%	11,341	44.2%
Southeast Asian Students*	519	47.8%	538	45.2%	561	50.3%	506	49.2%	2,124	48.1%
African American Students	769	30.3%	825	31.9%	819	31.9%	750	35.5%	3,163	32.4%
American Indian Students	99	31.3%	79	43.0%	84	35.7%	79	45.6%	341	38.9%
Other Asian Students	373	68.1%	385	71.4%	445	71.9%	425	74.8%	1,628	71.6%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Students	29	48.3%	32	62.5%	16	50.0%	23	65.2%	100	56.5%
Hispanic/Latinx Students	869	50.9%	982	48.2%	1,063	51.7%	1,141	51.4%	4,055	50.6%
Two or More Races	479	51.6%	558	50.4%	657	58.0%	664	52.4%	2,358	53.1%
White Students	21,561	62.6%	21,326	62.8%	20,858	64.5%	20,918	65.4%	84,663	63.8%
Unknown	352	57.7%	43	65.1%	34	52.9%	22	68.2%	451	61.0%
International Students	519	65.7%	580	71.6%	484	68.0%	851	74.7%	2,434	70.0%
All Students	29,479	60.7%	29,259	60.9%	28,854	62.5%	28,989	63.6%	116,581	61.9%
UW System	1,283	0.9%	1,978	1.4%	2,293	1.6%	2,462	1.7%	2,482	1.7%

Table 9. Declared First Majors for HMoob Undergraduate Students at UW's 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges, Fall 2018

Major	Number of Students
Undeclared Major	360
Biology	126
Nursing	102
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Unknown	54
Biomedical Sciences	41
Clinical Laboratory Science	7
Medical Technology	3
	=51
Business Administration	47
Management	1
	=48
Elementary Education	46
Business: Accounting	42
Business: Marketing	38
Art	31
Criminal Justice	31
Sociology	28
Business: Finance, Investment and Banking	25
Social Work	25
Education	24
Human Resources Management	23
English	22
Business: Information Systems	21
Mechanical Engineering	21

Major	Number of Students
Kinesiology	20
Family Studies	20
Electrical Engineering	18
Chemistry	17
Human Services Leadership	16
Management	14
Information Technology Management	13
Nursing	13
Apparel	13
Human Biology	13
Civil and Environmental Engineering	11
Biochemistry	11
Biochemistry	10
Information and Communication Technologies	10
Computer Engineering	10
Health	10
Communication Studies	10
International Studies	10
Communication	9
Computer and Information Systems	9
Kinesiology	9
Management	9
Engineering Technology	9
Health Administration	9
Health Information Management and Technology	9
Human Development	9
Communication	9
Communication	9
Political Science	9
Human Development	9
Microbiology	8
Human-Technology Interaction	8
Computer Sciences	8

Major	Number of Students
Physical Education	8
Fine Arts	8
Mathematics	8
History	8
Animal Sciences	7
Fisheries and Water Resources	7
Neuroscience	7
General Business	7
Architectural Studies	6
Information Technology	6
Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management	6
Radio-TV Film	6
Interactive Web Management	6
Rehabilitation Psychology	6
Electrical Engineering Technology	6
Communication Disorders	6
Dietetics	6
Economics	6
Liberal Studies	6
Interior Architecture	5
Conservation & Environmental Science	5
Supply Chain and Operations Management	5
Early Childhood Education	5
Biomedical Engineering	5
Music	5
Theatre	5
Graphic Design and Interactive Media	5
Health Sciences	5
Physics	5
Social Welfare	5
Anthropology	5
Interior Architecture	4
Zoology	4

Major	Number of Students
Nutritional Sciences	4
Business Management	4
Applied Sciences	4
Marketing Communication	4
Professional Communication/Emerging Media	4
Communication Arts	4
Digital Marketing Technology	4
Public Health	4
Industrial Technology Management	4
Graphic Communications	4
Mechanical Engineering Technology	4
Film	4
Applied Mathematics	4
Public Administration	4
Japanese Studies	3
Genetics and Genomics	3
Business: International Business	3
Personal Finance	3
Special Education	3
Health Promotion/Wellness	3
Family and Consumer Science	3
Civil Engineering	3
Industrial Design	3
Design Arts	3
Imaging	3
Health/Wellness	3
Textile Design	3
Retail	3
Community and Nonprofit Leadership	3
Linguistics	3
Geography	3
Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation	3
Organizational Change Leadership	3

Major	Number of Students
Life Sciences Communication	2
Asian Studies	2
Business Finance	2
Human Resources Management	2
Entrepreneurship	2
Mass Communications	2
Computer Sciences	2
Information Science	2
Education Studies	2
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	2
Health and Human Performance	2
Physical Education	2
Biomedical Engineering	2
Materials Science and Engineering	2
Packaging	2
Studio Art	2
Entertainment Design	2
Arts Management	2
Spanish	2
Nursing	2
Occupational Studies	2
Environmental Health	2
Rehabilitation Sciences	2
Retail Management	2
Communication	2
Social Work	2
Rehabilitation Counseling	2
Social Studies	2
Criminal Justice	2
Global Studies	2
Media Arts and Game Development	2
Legal Studies	2
Women and Gender Studies	2

Major	Number of Students
Interdisciplinary	2
Wildlife Ecology	1
Environmental Horticulture	1
Horticulture	1
Food Sciences	1
Conservation	1
Resource Management	1
Landscape Architecture	1
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	1
Conservation Biology	1
Business: Actuarial Science	1
Management and Human Resources	1
Business Administration (EDP)	1
Supply Chain Management	1
Real Estate Property Management	1
Journalism	1
Integrated Strategic Communication	1
Applied Computing	1
English as a Second Language	1
Art Education	1
Music Education, Vocal	1
Exercise and Sport Science	1
Occupational Safety	1
Community Engagement and Education	1
Biological Systems Engineering	1
Chemical Engineering	1
Plastics Engineering	1
Industrial Engineering	1
Manufacturing Engineering	1
Software Engineering	1
Environmental Engineering Technology	1
Music:Performance	1
Interior Design	1

Major	Number of Students
Game Design and Development-Art	1
Performing Arts: Music	1
Performing Arts: Theatre	1
Graphic Design	1
French	1
Chinese	1
Radiation Therapy	1
Therapeutic Recreation	1
Environmental Public Health	1
Communication Disorders	1
Exercise Sciences	1
Food Sciences	1
Classics	1
Philosophy	1
Material Sciences	1
Geology	1
Geoscience	1
Recreation Management	1
Social Studies	1
Social Science for Teacher Certification	1
Applied Social Science	1
Archeological Studies	1
Geospatial Analysis and Technology	1
Natural Science	1
Democracy and Justice Studies	1
Environmental Studies	1
Women and Gender Studies	1
Total	2,209



HMoob American Studies Committee

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