



College Possible is driven by the simple idea that America's children should go as far as their talent and motivation can take them.

[CollegePossible.org](http://CollegePossible.org)



# HOPE LAB EVALUATION

## Summary of Findings

A three-year study commissioned by College Possible Milwaukee and implemented by Wisconsin HOPE Lab has shown that high school students served by College Possible are 30 percent more likely to enroll in college the year after high school graduation than their peers, and are more likely to enroll in four-year and selective institutions.

In addition to students served by College Possible, the evaluation also includes all students who entered the 11th grade in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 at any of the eight Milwaukee Public Schools where College Possible operated. Subsets of those students were employed for comparison purposes to estimate program impacts.

Hope Lab's evaluation of College Possible Milwaukee examined the impact of College Possible for two cohorts of students attending MPS high schools by comparing program participants to other students who have similar measurable characteristics. The evaluation examined the impact College Possible Milwaukee had on students' odds of enrolling in college and where they enroll, year-to-year persistence in higher education, along with additional information on students' college admissions activities and academic preparation in high school.



College Possible is proudly supported by AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA

“College Possible has taught me to focus on my dreams, and that even though things might be difficult, it’s absolutely worth it in the long run.”

**Zhanela**

UW-Whitewater '18

The study also pointed out that, compared to their peers, College Possible students submitted more admissions and scholarship applications and had higher rates of FAFSA completion. The program also improved ACT Writing and English scores and increased enrollment in science, math, and AP or IB courses during twelfth grade.

Importantly, students who participated in College Possible at higher rates benefited more than students who participated less. Students with high levels of program participation (i.e. who attended at least 50% of available program sessions) had higher rates of immediate college enrollment and enrollment in four-year colleges. They met program targets for numbers of college admissions applications and scholarship applications at much higher rates than those with lower levels of participation.

### Key Findings

- + College Possible students were 30 percent more likely to enroll in college immediately after high school and 30 percent more likely to attend a 4-year college or university relative to the comparison group.
- + The greater the participation in the College Possible program, the higher the college enrollment and persistence rate.
- + This study strengthens the body of evidence demonstrating the impact College Possible has on the students we serve.

Compared to the matched comparison group,  
**COLLEGE POSSIBLE STUDENTS:**

COMPLETED  
**1.4x**  
more scholarship applications

ARE  
**30%**  
more likely to enroll in college immediately after high school

ARE  
**30%**  
more likely to attend a 4-year college or university

**↑ PROGRAM PARTICIPATION = ↑ COLLEGE ENROLLMENT + ↑ PERSISTENCE RATE**

The greater the participation in the College Possible program, the higher the college enrollment and persistence rates.

*The Wisconsin HOPE Lab was established in 2013 by Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus to engage in translational research aimed at improving equitable outcomes in postsecondary education. The Lab is housed in the School of Education and is led by Acting Director Dr. Jed Richardson. For more information, see [www.wihopelab.com](http://www.wihopelab.com).*