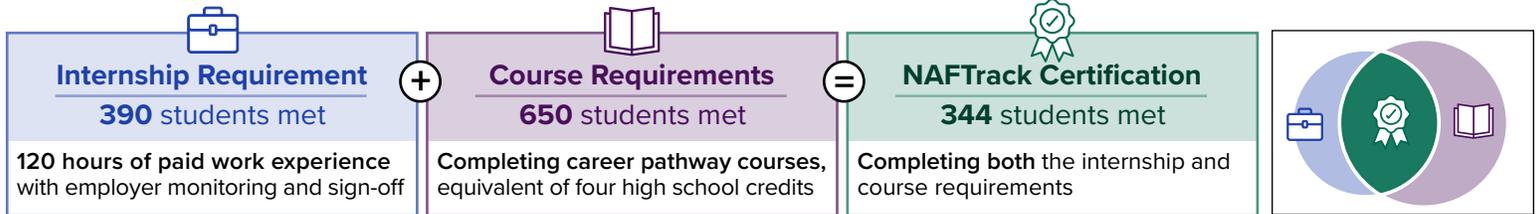


The NAF Design Matters. NAF students who meet NAFTrack certification requirements have higher college enrollment than their peers within two years of high school graduation.



NAF is a nonprofit organization that operates career academies in high schools nationally. The NAF design focuses on small learning communities, or academies, connected to the workplace by local advisory boards, in which students receive career-focused courses and access to opportunities for work-based learning, including internships. American Institutes for Research analyzed college enrollment data for NAF students who were seniors in 2019 compared to their peers in a large urban school district located in the central United States.

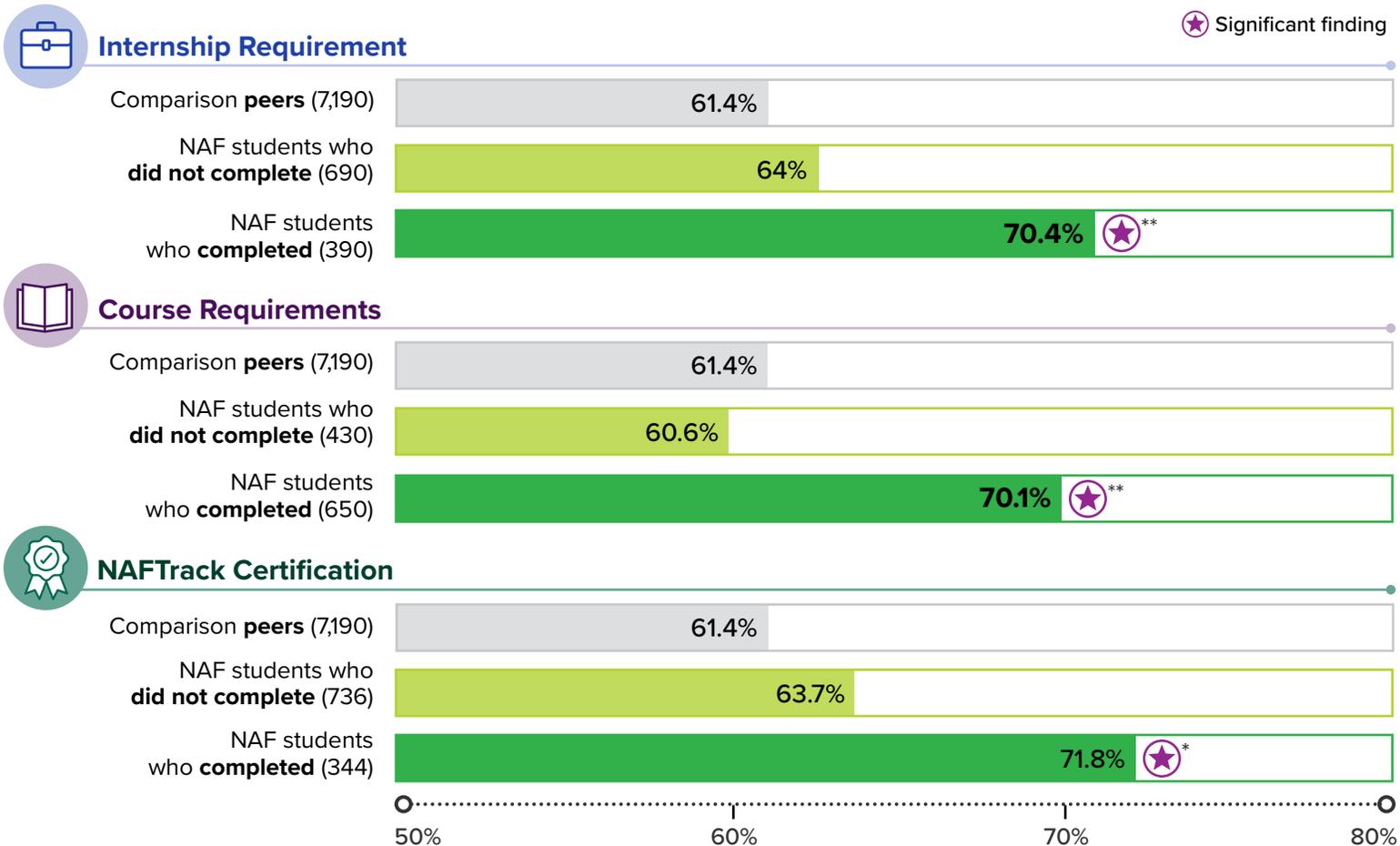
Of the **1,080** seniors in NAF academies in this district in 2019, **32% (344 students)** met both NAFTrack certification requirements.



NAF students who completed the internship and course requirements had significantly higher rates of college enrollment – 9-10 percentage points more – than similar peers.

% Enrolling in College within Two Years

★ Significant finding



**p<.05, *p=.056



AIR accessed data through a statewide longitudinal data system connecting K-12 records with college enrollment data to analyze student outcomes after high school. AIR used a quasi-experimental propensity score weighting design to study NAF students compared to their peers not in NAF academies in the same school district. **Comparison students were similar on gender; race/ethnicity; special education, bilingual, and economic status; as well as their ELA and math achievement scores before high school.**