

101: PART-TIME STUDENTS



WHO ARE PART-TIME STUDENTS?

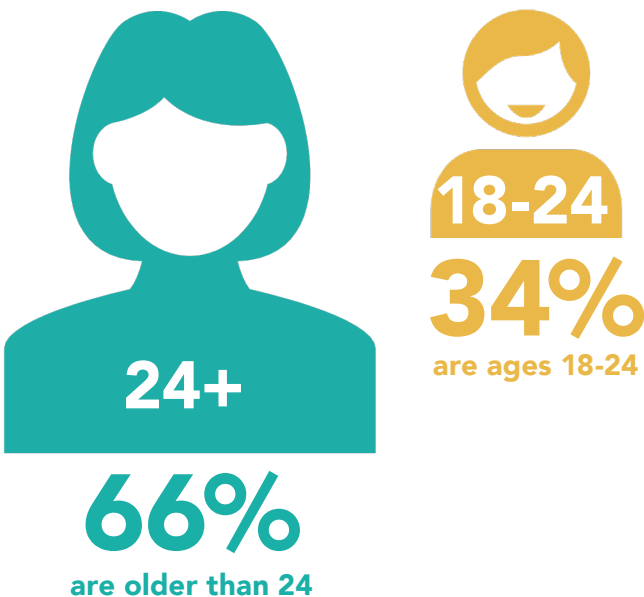
Part-time students are enrolled at an institution of higher education for less than 12 credit hours in a single semester.

FALL 2017

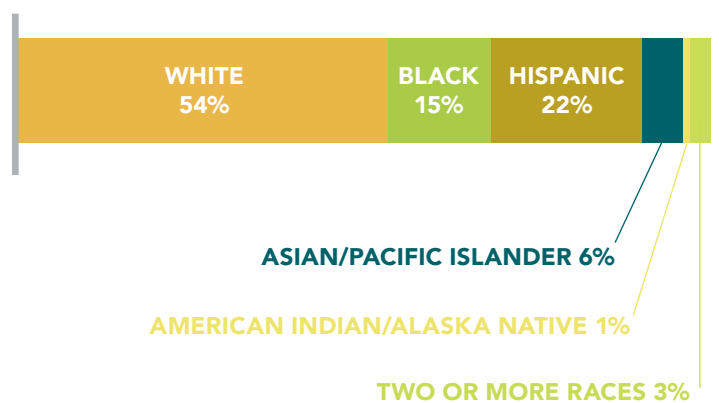


DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE OF PART-TIME STUDENTS²



RACE/ETHNICITY OF PART-TIME STUDENTS³



¹ U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. Total fall enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by attendance status, sex, and age: Selected years, 1970 through 2028. March 2019. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d18/tables/dt18_303.40.asp?current=y

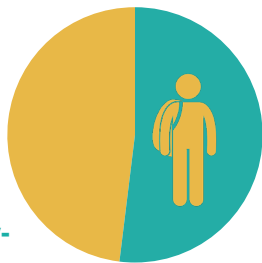
² Ibid.

³ U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. Total fall enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by level of enrollment, sex, attendance status, and race/ethnicity of student: Selected years, 1976 through 2017. October 2018. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d18/tables/dt18_306.10.asp?current=y

FIRST-GENERATION AND LOW-INCOME⁴

52%

of students who were enrolled part-time for at least one term that are low-income and first-generation.



VETERANS⁵

32%

of student veterans enrolled part-time.



INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

44%

of independent students are part-time.⁶



43%

of independent student parents are part-time.⁷



21%

of independent students live off campus and not with their parents.⁸



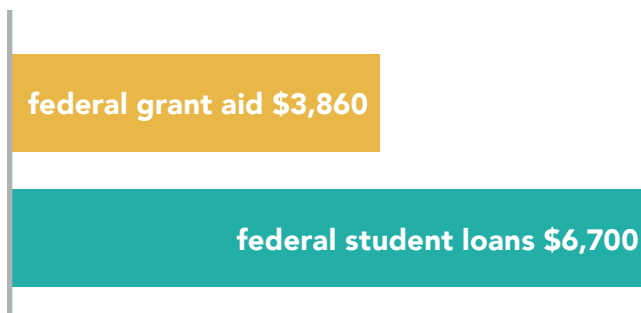
TYPE OF INSTITUTION⁹

In fall 2017, percent of undergraduate students that attended part-time:



FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID¹⁰

Average amount of federal financial aid awarded to part-time or part-year undergraduate students:



Percent of part-time students that received some form of federal student aid

48%

⁴ Reframing the Question of Equity: Understanding the Growing Importance of Success for Community Colleges' Part-Time Students. 2018. Education Advisory Board. <https://www.eab.com/-/media/EAB/Technology/Student-Success-Navigate/36143-AACC-Whitep>

⁵ Military-Connected Undergraduates. American Council on Education. November 2015. <https://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/Military-Connected-Undergraduate>

⁶ Lindsey Reichlin Cruse, Eleanor Eckerson, Barbara Gault. Understanding the New College Majority: The Demographic and Financial Characteristics of Independent Students and their Postsecondary Outcomes. Institute for Women's Policy Research. 2018. <https://iwpr.org/publications/independent-students-new-college>

⁷ Ibid.

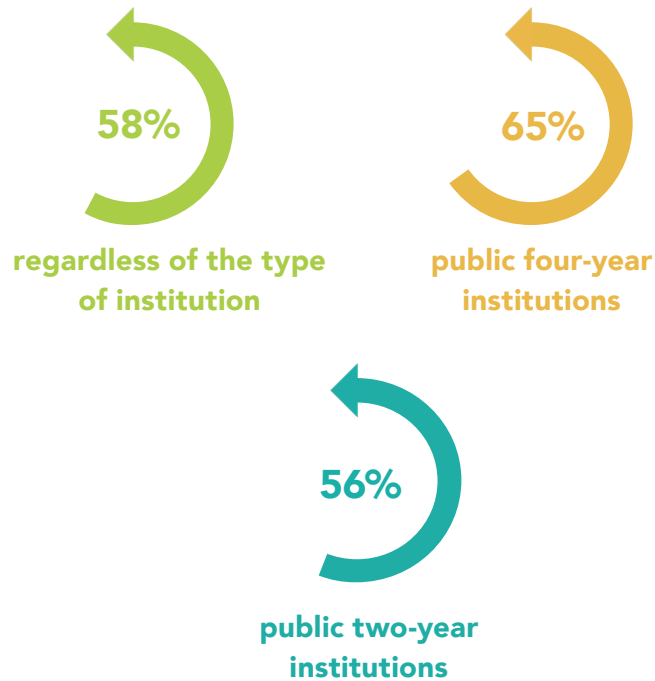
⁸ Blagg, Kristin and Victoria Rosenbloom. Who Lives Off-Campus?: An Analysis of Living Expenses among Off-Campus Undergraduates. The Urban Institute. October 2017. <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/94016/who-lives-off-campus.pdf>

⁹ U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. Characteristics of Postsecondary Students. May 2019. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_csb.asp

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011-12 and 2015-16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12 and NPSAS:16). July 2018. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/dt17_331.50.asp

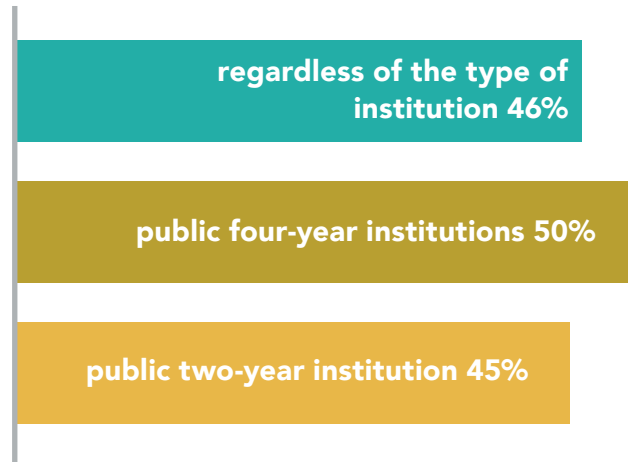
PERSISTENCE¹¹

Persistence rates among part-time students who entered college in fall 2017:



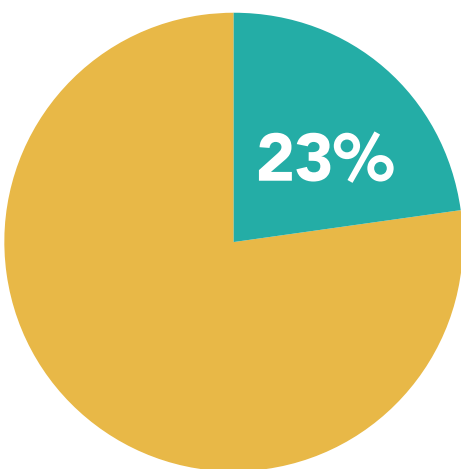
RETENTION¹²

In fall 2017, the percent of part-time students who returned to the same institution:

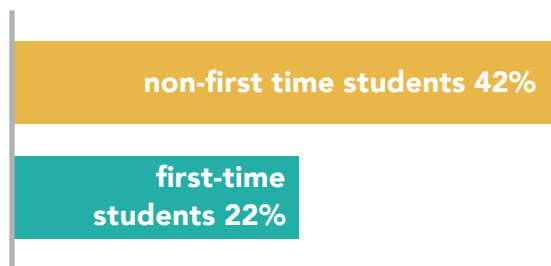


COMPLETION

Percent of exclusively part-time students who completed their credential within eight years, regardless of type of institution:¹³



Completion rates for part-time, non-first time and part-time, first-time students who completed their credential within eight years at public four-year institutions:¹⁴



¹¹ Persistence & Retention – 2019. National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. July 2019. Figure 1. <https://nscresearchcenter.org/snapshotreport35-first-year-persistence-and-retention/>

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Completing College – National – 2016 – Eight Year Outcomes Supplement. National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. February 2019. Figure 3. <https://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport12-supplement/>

¹⁴ Campbell, Colleen and Marcelli Bombardieri. New Data Highlight How Higher Education Is Failing Part-Time Students. Center for American Progress. October 2017. Figure 2. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-postsecondary/news/2017/10/18/440997/new-data-highlight-higher-education-failing-part-time-students/>

EMPLOYMENT¹⁵

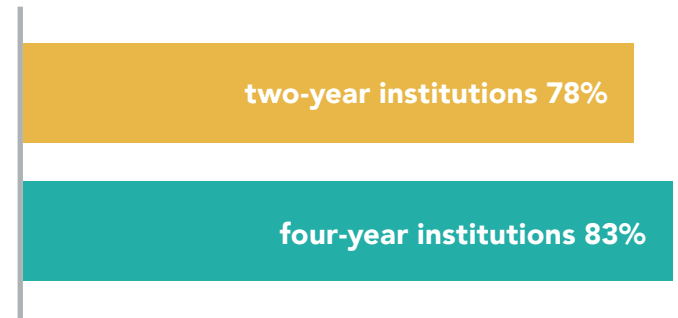
Percent of undergraduate part-time students that are employed:



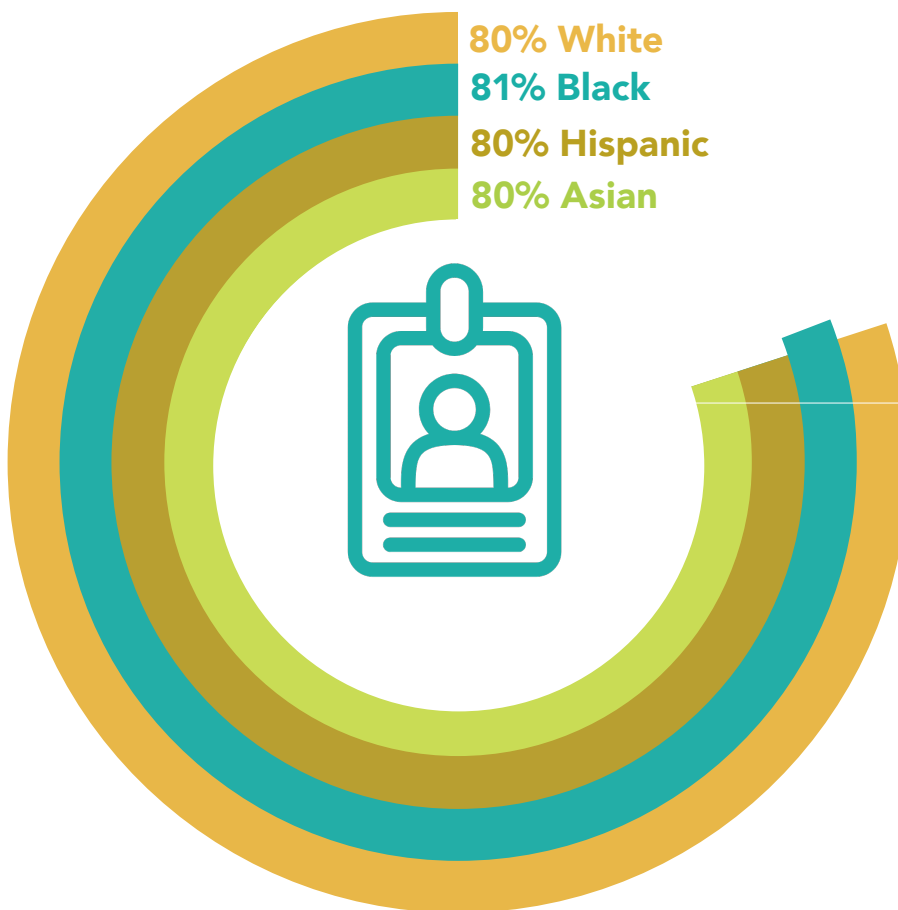
Percent of undergraduate part-time students that work 35 or more hours per week:



Percentage of undergraduate part-time students employed, by type of institution:



Percentage of undergraduate part-time students employed by race/ethnicity:



What can policymakers do to better serve part-time students? Check out our policy brief Policies Impacting Today's Part-Time Students: Boosting College Access and Completion for All¹⁶ to learn more.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. College Student Employment. 2019. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/pdf/coe_ssa.pdf

¹⁶ Policies Impacting Today's Part-time Students: Boosting College Access and Completion For All." Higher Learning Advocates. February 2020. <https://higherlearningadvocates.org/resource/issue-briefs/policies-impacting-todays-part-time-students/>

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