The number of Black\textsuperscript{1} students accessing and completing postsecondary credentials increased between 1995–96 and 2015–16. In 2015–16, Black students accounted for a larger share of high school completers, undergraduate and graduate enrollment, and graduate school completers than 20 years prior. However, these gains are often overshadowed by outcomes and high debt burdens that reflect the consequences of systematic and structural barriers that restrain the opportunities of many Black students, families, and the nation at large. This infographic highlights data from Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report to provide an overview of the educational journeys of Black students enrolled in postsecondary education.

\textsuperscript{1} The terms Black and African American are used interchangeably.
African Americans represented 12.3% of the total U.S. population.

**Attainment of Associate Degree or Higher**
*(Adults Ages 25 and Older)*

- **Total U.S. population**: 44.4%
- **African Americans**: 34.6%

*2017*
15.2% of all undergraduate students were Black.

More than 6 in 10 Black undergraduates were women.

15.7% of Black undergraduates were enrolled at for-profit institutions, nearly double the share of undergraduates overall.

1. Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted.
13.5% of all graduate students were Black.

**Graduate Enrollment by Gender**

- All graduate students:
  - Male: 40.7%
  - Female: 59.3%
- Black graduate students:
  - Male: 29.8%
  - Female: 70.2%

**Graduate Enrollment Across Sectors**

- All graduate students:
  - Public Four-Year: 46.7%
  - Private Nonprofit Four-Year: 43.0%
  - For-Profit: 10.3%
- Black graduate students:
  - Public Four-Year: 33.1%
  - Private Nonprofit Four-Year: 42.6%
  - For-Profit: 24.3%

Nearly one-quarter of Black graduate students were enrolled in a for-profit institution, compared with 10.3% of graduate students overall.
Black Students

Undergraduate Completion

Undergraduate Completions by Award Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Certificates</th>
<th>Associate Degrees</th>
<th>Bachelor's Degrees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All undergraduates</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black undergraduates</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black students earned 12.7% of all associate degrees and 9.4% of all bachelor's degrees.

Graduate Completion

Black students earned:
- 10.3% of all master's degrees
- 6.5% of all professional degrees
- 7.6% of all doctoral degrees

81.1% of Black graduate students completed master's degrees, compared with 77.0% of all graduate students.
Paying for College

FAFSA Completion Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All undergraduates</th>
<th>Black undergraduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

58.3% of Black undergraduate students were from families with an expected family contribution of $0, compared with 39.1% of undergraduate students overall.

Percent Who Borrowed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>All students</th>
<th>Black students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's Degree</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's Degree</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Degree</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Across all degree types, Black students were more likely to borrow and borrowed more than both undergraduate and graduate students overall.

Average Amount Borrowed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>Associate Degree Recipients</th>
<th>Bachelor's Degree Recipients</th>
<th>Master's Degree Recipients</th>
<th>Professional Degree Recipients</th>
<th>Doctoral Degree Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$18,501</td>
<td>$22,303</td>
<td>$43,354</td>
<td>$149,356</td>
<td>$81,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$29,669</td>
<td>$34,010</td>
<td>$51,699</td>
<td>$204,754!</td>
<td>$109,148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interpret with caution. Ratio of standard error to estimate is >30% but <50%.

*2015–16
Across all levels of educational attainment, Black adults earned LESS than the national median for all adults.
Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education Spotlight

For more information visit

www.equityinhighered.org