The total share of White students enrolled in higher education declined between 1995–96 and 2015–16, as the student body became more racially and ethnically diverse. While more students of color have gained access to postsecondary education, equity gaps in enrollment, persistence, completion, and employment and earnings remain. Overall, White students exhibit higher persistence and completion rates than students of color, in addition to lower unemployment rates and higher median annual earnings. This infographic highlights data from *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report* to provide an overview of the educational journeys of White students enrolled in postsecondary education.

www.equityinhighered.org
Whites represented 61.0% of the total U.S. population.

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

- Total U.S. population: 44.4%
- Whites: 49.2%

*2017
52% of all undergraduate students were White.

Undergraduate Enrollment by Gender

- All undergraduates: 43.5% male, 56.5% female
- White undergraduates: 45.0% male, 55.0% female

The majority of White undergraduates were women.

Undergraduate Enrollment Across Sectors

- All undergraduates: 31.2% Public Four-Year, 14.8% Private Nonprofit Four-Year, 45.9% Public Two-Year, 8.0% For-Profit
- White undergraduates: 33.6% Public Four-Year, 16.9% Private Nonprofit Four-Year, 43.3% Public Two-Year, 6.2% For-Profit

50.5% of White undergraduates were enrolled at public and private nonprofit four-year institutions, compared with 46.0% of undergraduates overall.

1. Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted.
56% of all graduate students were White.

Graduate Enrollment by Gender

6 in 10 White graduate students were women.

Graduate Enrollment Across Sectors

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

- White graduate students
  - Public Four-Year: 48.9%
  - Private Nonprofit Four-Year: 43.2%
  - For-Profit: 7.9%
White students earned 53.8% of all associate degrees and 59.9% of all bachelor's degrees.

White students earned
- 50.4% of all master's degrees
- 61.3% of all professional degrees
- 47.9% of all doctoral degrees

75% of White graduate students completed master's degrees, compared with 77.0% of all graduate students.
Paying for College

**FAFSA Completion Rate**

- All undergraduates: 70.3%
- White undergraduates: 68.0%

**Percent Who Borrowed**

- Associate Degree Recipients: 48.0% (White: 50.9%)
- Bachelor's Degree Recipients: 68.9% (White: 70.3%)
- Master's Degree Recipients: 56.4% (White: 57.3%)
- Professional Degree Recipients: 78.3% (White: 78.2%)
- Doctoral Degree Recipients: 47.7% (White: 55.7%)

**Average Amount Borrowed**

- Associate Degree Recipients: $18,501 (White: $17,794)
- Bachelor's Degree Recipients: $29,669 (White: $30,119)
- Master's Degree Recipients: $43,354 (White: $41,506)
- Professional Degree Recipients: $149,356 (White: $142,469)
- Doctoral Degree Recipients: $81,176 (White: $72,699)

29.7% of White undergraduate students were from families with an expected family contribution of $0, compared with 39.1% of undergraduate students overall.
White adults earned **MORE** than the national median for all adults across nearly all levels of educational attainment.

**Median Annual Earnings for Adults Ages 25 and Older**

- **High School Graduate or Equivalent**
  - All adults: $29,100
  - White adults: $30,912

- **Some College but No Degree**
  - All adults: $34,430
  - White adults: $36,100

- **Associate Degree**
  - All adults: $39,493
  - White adults: $40,552

- **Bachelor’s Degree**
  - All adults: $52,000
  - White adults: $53,670

- **Master’s Degree**
  - All adults: $64,809
  - White adults: $63,796

- **Professional Degree**
  - All adults: $95,000
  - White adults: $100,000

- **Doctoral Degree**
  - All adults: $84,049
  - White adults: $85,000

- **All Education Levels**
  - All adults: $37,094
  - White adults: $41,216

*2016*
Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education Spotlight

For more information visit

www.equityinhighered.org