

BY THE NUMBERS

TODAY'S STUDENT

Too many Americans are failing to graduate college. Why? In part, because our assumptions about them are wrong. Most of us envision college students as 18- to 21-year-olds fresh out of high school. That's no longer the reality.

IDENTITY

37% of college students are 25 or older, and **46%** are first-generation college goers.



9%

of college students are first-generation immigrants.



42%

of college students are students of color.

RESPONSIBILITY

A majority of college students work — many full time — while supporting themselves through school.



49%

of college students are financially independent from their parents.



24%

of college students have children or other dependents.



64%

of college students work, and 40% of them work full time.



6%

of college students serve or have served in the U.S. armed forces.



57%

of students live independently — away from their parents or campus housing.

POVERTY

Homelessness, food insecurity, and poverty affect college students.



36%

of college students reported not knowing where their next meal was coming from.



31%

of college students come from families at or below the Federal Poverty Guideline. The majority of college students (53%) come from families at or below twice the poverty level.



9%

of college students reported being homeless within the past year.

DEBT

Most bachelor's degree holders leave college with loan debt.



68%

of bachelor's earners graduate with student loan debt, owing an average of \$30,100.



\$25k+

Average student loan debt among bachelor's holders: \$34k (black), \$30.1k (white), \$25,450 (Latino and Asian-American).



5x

Tuition has increased 503% more than inflation over the past 35 years.

SUCCESS

Economic background dramatically affects success in school and work, especially when race is factored in.



1.6x

Ninth-graders from high-income families are 1.6x more likely than students from low-income families to pursue an education beyond high school.



11%

of young adults from low-income families earn bachelor's degrees by age 24, compared with 58% from high-income families.



5x

Students from low-income households are 5x more likely to move out of poverty if they earn a college degree.



32%-45%

45% of black and American Indian students from low-income families delay starting college vs. 32% of similar white students.



45%-85%

Graduates with loan debt: 85% (black), 69% (white), 66% (Latino), 45% (Asian-American).



\$26.9k+

Average undergraduate student loan debt by institution type: \$26.9k (public), \$31,450 (nonprofit), \$39.9 (for-profit).