

Photo credit: Southwestern Community College

Nearly half of all undergraduates in the United States attend community colleges, and with good reason. These open-access institutions serve a diverse student population with diverse needs. From recent high school graduates to adult learners, the affordability and flexibility offered by community colleges can help put any person's educational and career goals within reach.

A national look at community colleges and the students they serve

Innovation at Work

Innovation occurs every day at America's community colleges. Stronger educational pathways are being put in place to ensure the seamless transition from K–12 to community college, to 4-year institutions and beyond. Developmental education is being redesigned to more efficiently help those who aren't college ready. New teaching methodologies and increased use of technology are allowing faculty to meet students where they are. Partnerships with industry are better preparing students for the 21st-century workforce. Students of all backgrounds are finding success at community colleges.



Photo credit: Queensborough Community College

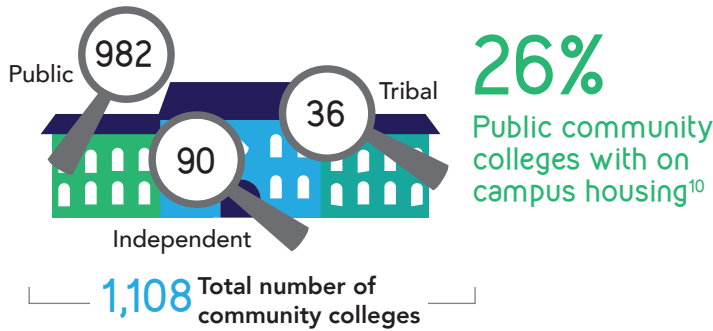
A Focus on Success

Student Success, ASAP – The Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) through the City University of New York (CUNY) is designed to help motivated students earn their associate degree as quickly as possible, with a goal of graduating at least 50% of students within 3 years or less. Students aren't only given academic assistance; the program also removes social and financial barriers faced by many community college students. ASAP students receive MetroCards, reduced textbook costs, tuition waivers, and special registration options that allows students to choose classes that fit their busy schedules. All this and a dedicated ASAP advisor create a clearer path to success.



Success Starts Early – In Maine, early college enrollment is soaring. The Maine Community College System implemented Early College for ME (ECforME) in 2003. It's a dual-enrollment program targeting low-income, first-generation, and rural high school students. Success is in the numbers. Completion and retention rates are well above the national average. Since its start, ECforME has served more than 8,000 students. About a third have gone on to enroll in a Maine community college, and those students receive scholarships.

Number and Type of Colleges¹



Headcount Enrollment (Fall 2014)²

Program Type	#	%	Attendance	#	%
Credit	7.3M	60%	Part-time	4.5M	62%
Noncredit ³	5.0M	40%	Full-time	2.8M	38%
TOTAL	12.3M	100%	TOTAL	7.3M	100%

Estimated change from Fall 2014–Fall 2015: -2.4%.⁴

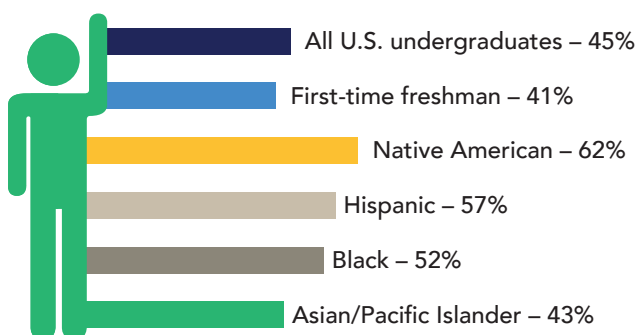
Demographics of Students Enrolled for Credit

Ethnicity ²	%	Age ⁵	%	Gender ²
White	49%	Average	28	
Hispanic	22%	Median	24	
Black	14%	≤21	37%	
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%	22-39	49%	
Native American	1%	40+	14%	
Two or more races	3%			
Other/Unknown	4%			
Nonresident Alien	1%			

Other Student Demographics⁵

First generation to attend college – 36%
Single parents – 17%
Non-U.S. citizens – 7%
Veterans – 4%
Students with disabilities – 12%

Representation of Community College Students Among Undergraduates (Fall 2014)²

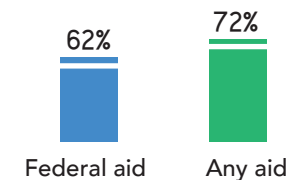


Employment Status (2011–2012)⁵

Full-time students employed full time – 22%
Full-time students employed part time – 40%
Part-time students employed full time – 41%
Part-time students employed part time – 32%

Student Financial Aid (2011–2012)⁵

% of students applying



% of students receiving

Any aid – 58%
Federal grants – 38%
Federal loans – 19%
State aid – 12%
Institutional aid – 13%

% of Federal Aid Received by Community Colleges (2013–2014)⁶

Pell Grants – 36%
Federal Work Study – 18%
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants – 23%

Average Annual Tuition and Fees (2015–2016)⁷

Community Colleges (public, in district) – \$3,430
4-year colleges (public, in state) – \$9,410

Degrees and Certificates Awarded (2013–2014)⁸



Bachelor's degrees awarded by 88 public and 58 independent colleges^{1,8}

Community College Revenues by Source (2013–14)⁹

Sources	Revenue	%
Tuition	\$17,242,025,437	29.5%
Federal	\$8,264,032,954	14.1%
State	\$17,442,989,183	29.8%
Local	\$10,568,296,830	18.1%
Other	\$4,929,830,599	8.4%
TOTAL	\$58,447,175,003	100.0%

Source

¹ AACC membership database, January 2016.

² NCES. (2015). IPEDS Fall 2014 Enrollment Survey [AACC analysis].

³ AACC membership database, 2016 [AACC analysis].

⁴ National Student Clearinghouse. (2015). Term Enrollment Estimates Fall 2015.

⁵ NCES. (2015). 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) [AACC analysis].

⁶ College Board. (2015). Trends in Student Aid: 2015.

⁷ College Board. (2015). Trends in College Pricing: 2015.

⁸ NCES. (2015). IPEDS 2013–2014 Completion Survey [AACC analysis].

⁹ NCES (2015). IPEDS 2013–14 Finance Survey Files [AACC analysis].

¹⁰ NCES. (2015). IPEDS 2014 Institutional Characteristics Survey File [AACC analysis].