WHO ARE TODAY’S STUDENTS?

Nationally, today’s students are more diverse than any previous generation of college students: in age, race, and income level. They’re more mobile and may not live on campus. Most participate in the workforce, either full-time or part-time. Work and family responsibilities beyond the classroom—whether that is on-campus or online—often compete with today’s students’ educational goals.

NATIONWIDE, TODAY’S STUDENTS ARE:¹

- 37% OLDER THAN 25
- 64% WORKING WHILE IN COLLEGE
- 24% PARENTING
- 13% LIVING ON CAMPUS
- 40% PART-TIME

IN ARIZONA...

Edmundo Saavedra, a regional sales director at CampusLogic, advocates for assisting first-generation college students and foster youth with accessing and completing postsecondary education.

Edmundo argues in Higher Learning Advocates’ Insights & Outlooks publication:

“Some states and institutions are starting to invest in strategies to better connect foster youth with the financial aid they need to succeed in higher education, though we need far more. Intervention must begin early, with high school counselors helping direct foster youth to the forms and applications they need. Colleges should organize outreach to high schools in their area, targeting foster youth and other at-risk students. Resources offered by colleges and state agencies should be easy to find, simple to understand, and bilingual. ...with better policies and emerging technologies, we can help foster youth confront one of the biggest hurdles in higher education: paying for it.”

¹ 101: Today’s Students
SNAPSHOT: How do Arizona’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how Arizona compares to the national higher education landscape, look to the data below detailing trends in enrollment, federal student aid, tuition and fees, earnings, and attainment comparing national and state level data.

ENROLLMENT

Arizona’s total student enrollment is 599,037.

57%

Arizona students attend full-time.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

About 62% of Arizona’s college students and their families take out federal student loans,2 compared to 70% nationwide.3

Arizona Federal Student Aid Portfolio

- Direct Loan Subsidized: 25.9%
- Direct Loan Unsubsidized Undergraduate: 32.3%
- Direct Loan Unsubsidized Graduate: 2.8%
- Parent PLUS: 7.5%
- Grad PLUS: 5.2%
- Pell Grant: 2.8%
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): 0.9%
- Federal Work Study: 0.2%
- Perkins Loan: 0.1%


2Includes Direct Subsidized Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Parent PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Perkins Loan.

3https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/03/this-is-the-age-most-americans-pay-off-their-student-loans.html
SNAPSHOT: How do Arizona’s numbers stack up?

TUITION & FEES

Arizona’s institutions of higher education tuition & fees are above the national average at four-year institutions and below the national average at two-year institutions.

Source: College Board. Trends in College Pricing 2018. Figure 5 and 6. https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing

ATTAINMENT

In 2016-2017, above-average rates of Arizona students obtained certificates compared to the rest of the nation.

Note: Certificates only include less than one year and at least one year but less than 4 years.
SNAPSHOT: How do Arizona’s numbers stack up?

ATTAINMENT continued

As of February 2019, 52.6% of Arizona residents ages 25-64 have obtained a certificate or postsecondary degree.

NATIONALLY, 47.6% of Americans ages 25-64 have obtained a certificate or postsecondary degree.4

Arizona Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate or less</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no credential</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional Degree</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Percentage of Arizona Residents Ages 25-64 with at least an Associate’s Degree by Race

- **Hispanic**: 24% (Arizona), 20% (National Average)
- **White**: 47% (Arizona), 46% (National Average)
- **African-American**: 31% (Arizona), 34% (National Average)
- **American Indian**: 25% (Arizona), 18% (National Average)
- **Asian & Pacific Islander**: 63% (Arizona), 64% (National Average)


SNAPSHOT: How do Arizona’s numbers stack up?

EARNINGS AND EMPLOYMENT

Americans who earn a postsecondary degree or credential have higher earnings potential.

Source: Georgetown University Center for Education and Workforce. Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees. https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/certificates/

Arizona workers with higher levels of postsecondary attainment have more earning power than their peers with less than a bachelor’s degree. However, the median earnings of Arizona residents is below the national average.


The majority of jobs nationwide in 2020 will require education beyond high school.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO TODAY’S STUDENTS FACE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFFORDABILITY</th>
<th>PART-TIME VS.</th>
<th>COMPLETION</th>
<th>WORK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49% FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT</td>
<td>40% PART-TIME</td>
<td>38% OF STUDENTS with additional financial, work, and family obligations leave school in their first year</td>
<td>64% WORK WHILE IN COLLEGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31% AT OR BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LINE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARENTING

24%

EMERGENCY COSTS

Early data from the University Innovation Alliance (UIA), a coalition of eleven public research universities, shows that about 4,000 Pell-eligible college seniors, who are in good academic standing, are at risk of being dropped from their classes or not allowed to graduate because less than $1,000 is owed to their institutions.⁴

VETERAN-STATUS

4% UNDERGRADS ARE VETERANS

HOW CAN FEDERAL POLICY HELP SET TODAY’S STUDENTS UP FOR SUCCESS?

Outcomes are critical for today’s students—including completion, employment, equity, and value—to be gained from higher learning. Federal policy needs to catch up to the way that today’s students are learning and reward institutions and systems that deliver the strongest career and educational outcomes.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID should be redesigned with a focus on the needs of a wide range of students, especially those who work full- or part-time, are financially independent, or need to enroll in courses outside the traditional two-semester approach. Redesign approaches could include rethinking Pell eligibility for workforce programs, or simpler loan repayment to match today’s students’ needs.

DATA gathered through federal, state, and workforce data systems should cover the full spectrum of today’s students, not just first-time, full-time students. Today’s students, families, schools, and taxpayers need clear information to make informed choices about higher learning.

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⁴ https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/files/Completion%20Grants%20release%208_16_17%20FINAL.pdf
⁵ https://www.luminafoundation.org/todays-student-statistics