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:

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

IN FLORIDA...

Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice President of the Florida Chamber Foundation and member of Higher Learning Advocates’ Champions Network, advocates for connecting education and training systems with business priorities.

“...When you think about how quickly the world of ‘work’ moves, we’ve got to think about education also providing that speed to re-tool, retrain and re-assign.”

TONY CARVAJAL’S POLICY POWER PLAYS:

- Create credentialing pathways between workforce, job-training, and educational institutions.
- Ensure students have “employability skills.”
- Equip postsecondary institutions to adapt more rapidly to immediate workforce needs.
SNAPSHOT: How do Florida’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how Florida 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

Florida’s total student enrollment is 1,123,266.

58%

Florida students attend full-time.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

About 57% of Florida's college students and their families take out federal student loans,¹ compared to 70% nationwide.²

¹Includes Direct Subsidized Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Parent PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Perkins Loan.
²https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/03/this-is-the-age-most-americans-pay-off-their-student-loans.html

Florida Federal Student Aid Portfolio

- Direct Loan Subsidized: 6.7%
- Direct Loan Unsubsidized Undergraduate: 1.4%
- Direct Loan Unsubsidized Graduate: 0.4%
- Parent PLUS: 24.8%
- Grad PLUS: 35.1%
- Pell Grant: 22.4%
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): 1.6%
- Federal Work Study: 2.3%
- Perkins Loan: 5.2%

SNAPSHOT: How do Florida’s numbers stack up?

TUITION & FEES

Florida’s institutions of higher education tuition & fees are below the national average.

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

ATTAINMENT

In 2016-2017, below-average rates of Florida students obtained bachelor’s degrees 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 Florida’s numbers stack up?

**ATTAINMENT continued**

As of February 2019, about **49.3%** of Florida 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.³

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**Florida Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64**

- High School Graduate or less: 10.1%
- Some college, no credential: 20.0%
- Certificate: 11.2%
- Associate Degree: 8.0%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 38.8%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 12.0%


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

- Hispanic: 24%
- White: 35%
- African-American: 47%
- American Indian: 45%
- Asian & Pacific Islander: 63%

**National Average**

- Hispanic: 25%
- White: 30%
- African-American: 31%
- American Indian: 34%
- Asian & Pacific Islander: 60%


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SNAPSHOT: How do Florida’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/

Florida 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 Florida 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</td>
<td>64% WORK WHILE IN COLLEGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31% AT OR BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LINE</td>
<td></td>
<td>leave school in their first year</td>
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</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

WORK 64% WORK WHILE IN COLLEGE

WHAT CHALLENGES DO TODAY’S STUDENTS FACE?
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.

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