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.

IN LOUISIANA...
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of the Louisiana Commission of Higher Education and Higher Learning Advocates’ Board Member, is committed to attainment and equity in higher education. She advocates for diversity and inclusion in postsecondary education and supports policies focused on strong student outcomes.

"If higher education is to fulfill its mission of delivering opportunity and social mobility to all Americans, we need to craft a new policy agenda that puts student outcomes at the center."
SNAPSHOT: How do Louisiana’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how Louisiana 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

Louisiana’s total student enrollment is 249,973.

67%

Louisiana students attend full-time.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

About 63% of Louisiana’s college students and their families take out federal student loans,¹ compared to 70% nationwide.²

1 Includes Direct Subsidized Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Parent PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Perkins Loan.
2 https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/03/this-is-the-age-most-americans-pay-off-their-student-loans.html
SNAPSHOT: How do Louisiana’s numbers stack up?

TUITION & FEES

Louisiana’s institutions of higher education tuition & fees are above the national average at public two year institutions, but below the national average at four year institutions.

Source: College Board. Trends in College Pricing 2018. Figure 5 and 6. https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing
Source: College Board. Average Tuition and Fees and Room and Board in Current Dollars, 2017-18 and 2018-19.

ATTAINMENT

In 2016-2017, below-average rates of Louisiana students obtained postsecondary degrees compared to the rest of the nation, but Louisiana students obtained certificates at more than twice the national average.

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

**ATTAINMENT continued**

As of February 2019, about **44.2%** of Louisiana 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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![Pie chart showing Louisiana Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64](source)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Louisiana</th>
<th>National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian &amp; Pacific Islander</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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³ [http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/](http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/)
SNAPSHOT: How do Louisiana’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/

Louisiana 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 Louisiana residents are 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</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.

VETERAN-STATUS

4% OF UNDERGRADS ARE VETERANS but they face unique challenges, such as applying competencies learned in military service to civilian careers and academics.

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.

5 https://www.luminafoundation.org/todays-student-statistics