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

Andy MacCracken, Co-Founder & Executive Director of National Campus Leadership Council, advocates for including student voices when unlocking innovation in higher education.

“ As the country searches for innovative solutions to challenges facing higher education around equity, safety, student well-being and success, perhaps the most innovative solution does not require an expensive white paper and a crack team of consultants. It’s something much easier and far less costly: listening to the students.”
SNAPSHOT: How do Vermont’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how Vermont 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

Vermont’s total student enrollment is **43,938**

73% of Vermont students attend full-time.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

About 67% of Vermont’s college students and their families take out federal student loans,¹ compared to 70% nationwide.²

**Vermont’s Fall Student Enrollment, 2017**

- Full-time: 27.4%
- Part-time: 72.6%

**Vermont Federal Student Aid Portfolio**

- Direct Loan Subsidized: 3.9%
- Direct Loan Unsubsidized Undergraduate: 23.7%
- Direct Loan Unsubsidized Graduate: 7.8%
- Parent PLUS: 8.9%
- Grad PLUS: 16.7%
- Pell Grant: 25.4%
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): 5.2%
- Federal Work Study: 6.1%
- Perkins Loan: 2.4%

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

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Integrated Postsecondary Data System (IPEDS), Enrollment by Student Level survey, Fall 2017 preliminary data. Includes undergraduate and graduate fall enrollment.


SNAPSHOT: How do Vermont’s numbers stack up?

TUITION & FEES

Vermont’s institutions of higher education tuition & fees are above the national average.

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, above-average rates of Vermont students obtained bachelor’s degrees compared to the rest of the nation, but Vermont students obtained associate’s degrees and certificates below the national average.


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

ATTAINMENT continued

As of February 2019,

49.7%

of Vermont 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

Vermont Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64

- High School Graduate or less: 15.1%
- Some college, no credential: 23.7%
- Certificate: 35.2%
- Associate Degree: 8.9%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 15.0%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 2.0%


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>National Average</th>
<th>Vermont</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian &amp; Pacific Islander</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


SNAPSHOT: How do Vermont’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/

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


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


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National Average Earnings of U.S. Workers By Educational Attainment

- High School Graduate: $29,202
- Certificate: $34,946
- Associate: $42,088
- Bachelors: $54,300

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment for Vermont Residents Aged 25 and Over

- Less than high school graduate: $20,924
- High school graduate (includes equivalency): $23,146
- Some college or associate’s degree: $28,672
- Bachelor’s degree: $33,927

Percentage of Jobs that will Require Postsecondary Education by 2020

- National Average: 65%
- Vermont: 65%
### 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><strong>49%</strong></td>
<td><strong>40%</strong></td>
<td><strong>38%</strong></td>
<td><strong>64%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financially Independent</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>of students</td>
<td>Work while in college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>31%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At or Below Federal Poverty Line</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARENTING</th>
<th>EMERGENCY COSTS</th>
<th>VETERAN-STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>24%</strong></td>
<td>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</td>
<td><strong>4%</strong> of undergrads are veterans but they face unique challenges, such as applying competencies learned in military service to civilian careers and academics.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WHAT CHALLENGES DO TODAY’S STUDENTS FACE?</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **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