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

Dr. Jose Luis Cruz, Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost of The City University of New York and member of Higher Learning Advocates’ Champions Network, advocates for expanding opportunity and accelerating opportunities for today’s students.

"The higher education sector is diverse and a federal accountability system must be tailored to consider differences in institutional missions, student demographics, program objectives, and governance structures."

DR. JOSE LUIS CRUZ’S POLICY POWER PLAYS:

- Ensure equity is a lens through which impact is measured and resources are allocated.
- Define and reward institutions that promote upward mobility and strong outcomes for all students, particularly low-income, first generation and underrepresented students.
- Implement innovative ways to attract and retain students."
SNAPSHOT: How do New York’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how New York 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

New York’s total student enrollment is 1,281,887

71% New York students attend full-time.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

About 59% of New York’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
SNAPSHOT: How do New York’s numbers stack up?

TUITION & FEES

New York’s institutions of higher education tuition & fees are below the national average at public four-year institutions, but above average at public 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 New York students obtained postsecondary 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 New York’s numbers stack up?

ATTAINMENT continued

As of February 2019, 49.7% of New York 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

New York Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64

- High School Graduate or less: 16.0%
- Some college, no credential: 36.4%
- Certificate: 22.2%
- Associate Degree: 9.5%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 13.8%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 2.0%


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

- Hispanic: 24% (National Average: 27%)
- White: 47% (National Average: 56%)
- African-American: 31% (National Average: 34%)
- American Indian: 25% (National Average: 35%)
- Asian & Pacific Islander: 63% (National Average: 56%)


³http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/report/2019/#state/NY
SNAPSHOT: How do New York’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/

New York 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 New York residents is above the national average for most levels of educational attainment except for residents that did not graduate from high school.


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

WHAT CHALLENGES DO TODAY’S STUDENTS FACE?

### AFFORDABILITY

- **49%** Financially Independent
- **31%** At or Below Federal Poverty Line

### PART-TIME VS.

- **40%** Part-Time

### COMPLETION

- **38%** of Students with additional financial, work, and family obligations leave school in their first year.

### WORK

- **64%** Work While in College

### 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

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](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](https://www.luminafoundation.org/todays-student-statistics)