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

Gardner Carrick, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the Manufacturing Institute at the National Association of Manufacturers, is an advocate for developing programs to encourage students to pursue careers in manufacturing that will equip them with the necessary skills to be successful.

“Earn-and-learn programs are one of the best ways to assist individuals in making a successful transition from postsecondary education to the workforce. Apprenticeships are one example of earn-and-learn programs that have been found to be hugely successful for companies and individuals. The most important policy reforms for apprenticeships are that they allow for flexibility in the design and implementation of the program so that companies can deliver a program that is effective and efficient for themselves and the individuals participating.”
SNAPSHOT: How do North Dakota’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how North Dakota 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

North Dakota’s total student enrollment is **54,161**

69% North Dakota students attend full-time.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

About **66%** of North Dakota’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 North Dakota’s numbers stack up?

TUITION & FEES

North Dakota’s institutions of higher education tuition & fees are below the national average at public four-year institutions.

ATTAINMENT

In 2016-2017, above-average rates of North Dakota 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 North Dakota’s numbers stack up?

ATTAINMENT continued

As of February 2019, 50.6% of North Dakota 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

North Dakota Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64

- High School Graduate or less: 2.0%
- Some college, no credential: 29.3%
- Certificate: 24.0%
- Associate Degree: 15.1%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 20.1%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 9.5%

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

- Hispanic: 24%, National Average: 24%
- White: 47%, North Dakota: 50%
- African-American: 31%, National Average: 33%
- American Indian: 25%, National Average: 32%
- Asian & Pacific Islander: 63%, National Average: 56%


SNAPSHOT: How do North Dakota’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/

North Dakota 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 North Dakota residents is below the national average for residents with a bachelor’s degree.


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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>31% At or Below Federal Poverty Line</td>
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### 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.

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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