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 OHIO...

Stephanie Shaw, Executive Director, Eastern Ohio Education Partnership and Higher Learning Advocates’ Champions Network member, advocates for using business acumen to drive change in education.

“...My family, educators and mentors always made me understand that college signified much more than walking across that graduation stage and accepting a piece of paper: it meant greater financial, personal and social mobility."

STEPHANIE SHAW’S POLICY POWER PLAYS:

• Assign federal funding for essential items for students’ day-to-day college experience, including food, transportation, books, and housing.

• Ensure universities and professors are familiar with state high school standards to help students transition from high school to college.

• Standardize and stabilize state “report cards” using educator input so that there is a continuum for teachers to follow to prepare students for college.
SNAPSHOT: How do Ohio’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how Ohio 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**

Ohio’s total student enrollment is **664,381**

64% Ohio students attend full-time.

**FEDERAL STUDENT AID**

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

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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 Ohio’s numbers stack up?

TUITION & FEES

Ohio’s institutions of higher education tuition & fees are relatively on par with 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, Ohio students obtained postsecondary degrees or credentials relatively on par 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 Ohio’s numbers stack up?

**ATTAINMENT continued**

As of February 2019,

44.6%

of Ohio 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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Ohio Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64

- High School Graduate or less: 10.9%
- Some college, no credential: 39.6%
- Certificate: 18.8%
- Associate Degree: 9.9%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 15.7%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 5.0%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>National Average</th>
<th>Ohio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian &amp; Pacific Islander</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


SNAPSHOT: How do Ohio’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/

Ohio 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 Ohio residents is below the national average for some levels of educational attainment.


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 FEDERAL POVERTY LINE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</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.

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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