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

Ryan Craig, Managing Director of University Ventures

"Educating the vast number of students and workers seeking educational opportunity and upward mobility today will require significant innovation from the current cast of accredited institutions as well as faster and cheaper alternatives. America needs a thriving traditional system of colleges and universities that minimizes debt and maximizes workforce and civic potential. Achieving this goal means facing the crisis of graduate employability and rethinking our current system of accreditation."
SNAPSHOT: How do Georgia’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how Georgia 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

Georgia’s total student enrollment is 544,198.

63% Georgia students attend full-time.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

ABOUT

61% of Georgia’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

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


Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Federal Work Study

Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Perkins Loan

Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Direct Loan Unsubsidized Undergraduate

Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Direct Loan Subsidized

Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Direct Loan Unsubsidized Graduate

Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Parent PLUS

Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Grad PLUS

Source: Federal Student Aid Data Center. Pell Grant


SNAPSHOT: How do Georgia’s numbers stack up?

TUITION & FEES

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

Source: College Board. Trends in College Pricing 2018. Figure 5 and 6. https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing

ATTAINMENT

In 2016-2017, Georgia 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.

Average Tuition & Fees | 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Public Two-Year</th>
<th>Public Four-Year (In-state)</th>
<th>Public Four-Year (Out-of-state)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>$3,660</td>
<td>$10,230</td>
<td>$26,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>$3,810</td>
<td>$8,580</td>
<td>$25,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Degrees & Certificates Awarded | 2016-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bachelors</th>
<th>Associates</th>
<th>Certificates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNAPSHOT: How do Georgia’s numbers stack up?

**ATTAINMENT continued**

As of February 2019,

**49.6%**

of Georgia residents ages 25-64 have attained a certificate, associate’s degree, or bachelor’s degrees.

NATIONALLY,

**47.6%**

of Americans ages 25-64 have obtained a certificate or postsecondary degree.³

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**Georgia Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64**

- High School Graduate or less: 11.9%
- Some college, no credential: 38.8%
- Certificate: 20.3%
- Associate Degree: 8.4%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 9.0%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 11.6%


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>National Average</th>
<th>Georgia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian &amp; Pacific Islander</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNAPSHOT: How do Georgia’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/

Georgia 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 Georgia residents is 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. Full-time</th>
<th>Completion</th>
<th>Work Commitments</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>
<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.

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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)