WHO ARE PART-TIME STUDENTS?

Part-time students are enrolled at an institution of higher education for less than 12 credit hours in a single semester.

FALL 2017

Almost 40% enrolled part-time

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE OF PART-TIME STUDENTS

- 24+ are older than 24
- 18-24: 34%

RACE/ETHNICITY OF PART-TIME STUDENTS

- White: 54%
- Black: 15%
- Hispanic: 22%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 6%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 1%
- Two or More Races: 3%


2 Ibid.

FIRST-GENERATION AND LOW-INCOME

52% of students who were enrolled part-time for at least one term that are low-income and first-generation.

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

44% of independent students are part-time.

43% of independent student parents are part-time.

21% of independent students live off campus and not with their parents.

TYPE OF INSTITUTION

In fall 2017, percent of undergraduate students that attended part-time:

- two-year institutions 63%
- four-year institutions 25%

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Average amount of federal financial aid awarded to part-time or part-year undergraduate students:

- federal grant aid $3,860
- federal student loans $6,700

Percent of part-time students that received some form of federal student aid 48%

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7 Ibid.
Persistence rates among part-time students who entered college in fall 2017:

- Regardless of the type of institution: 58%
- Public four-year institutions: 65%
- Public two-year institutions: 56%

In fall 2017, the percent of part-time students who returned to the same institution:

- Regardless of the type of institution: 46%
- Public four-year institutions: 50%
- Public two-year institution: 45%

Completion rates for part-time, non-first time and part-time, first-time students who completed their credential within eight years at public four-year institutions:

- Non-first time students: 42%
- First-time students: 22%

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12 Ibid.


EMPLOYMENT

Percent of undergraduate part-time students that are employed:

81%

Percent of undergraduate part-time students that work 35 or more hours per week:

46%

Percentage of undergraduate part-time students employed, by type of institution:

- Two-year institutions 78%
- Four-year institutions 83%

Percentage of undergraduate part-time students employed by race/ethnicity:

- 80% White
- 81% Black
- 80% Hispanic
- 80% Asian

What can policymakers do to better serve part-time students? Check out our policy brief Policies Impacting Today’s Part-Time Students: Boosting College Access and Completion for All to learn more.


For more information about Higher Learning Advocates please contact Emily Bouck West, Deputy Executive Director, at ebouckwest@higherlearningadvocates.org