

The New Momentum to Make College Civic Learning Universal

Presented by

Civic Learning for an Engaged Democracy and
Endeavor Foundation



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John Lane

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Equity Initiatives, SHEEO

Charles Ansell

Vice President for Research, Policy and Advocacy, Complete College America

Catherine Copeland

Director, American Democracy Project, AASCU

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez

Chancellor, City University of New York

Jeff Rosen

Vice President of Accreditation Relations and Director of the Open Pathway
Higher Learning Commission

Janna Vice

Senior Fellow for Policy Development and Director, Kentucky Graduate
Profile Academy, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

The Interplay between Student Success, Civic Engagement, and Economic Mobility

**COMPLETE
COLLEGE
AMERICA**

Charles Ansell

Vice President for Research, Policy and
Advocacy, Complete College America

There is a surge in public critique over value of higher education

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

◆ WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE | U.S.

Americans Are Losing Faith in College Education, WSJ-NORC Poll Finds

Confidence in value of a degree plummeted among women and senior citizens during pandemic

By [Douglas Belkin](#) [Follow](#)

March 31, 2023 5:30 am ET

2

Is College Still Worth It? The New Calculus of Falling Returns

[William R. Emmons](#), [Ana H. Kent](#), and [Lowell R. Ricketts](#)

3

FORBES > LEADERSHIP > EDUCATION

Is A College Degree Worth It In 2023?

[Vinay Bhaskara](#) Contributor ⓘ

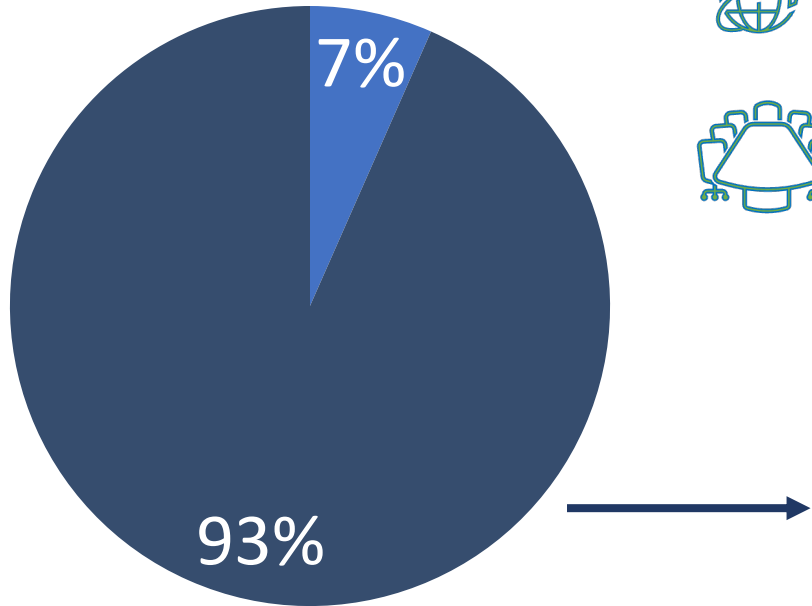
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Americans Are Losing Faith in the Value of College. Whose Fault Is That?

For most people, the new economics of higher ed make going to college a risky bet.

Frustration is rooted in real problems

Selective institutions



Other colleges and universities

Admissions to the most selective institutions perpetuates inequality



Preference for children of alumni



Costly non-academic experiences heavily weighted in admissions decisions



Leadership positions are disproportionately held by graduates from these colleges

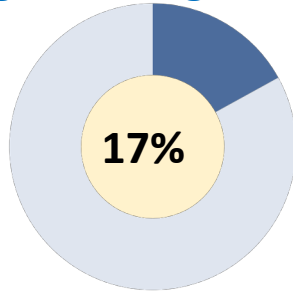
91% of all undergraduate students

92% of all BILPOC students

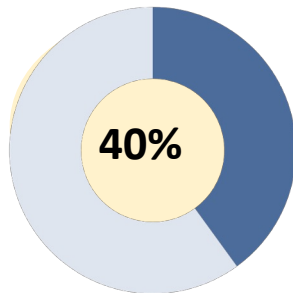
93% of all Pell-awarded students

United States College Completion Snapshot

Percent of public two-year students graduating in two years

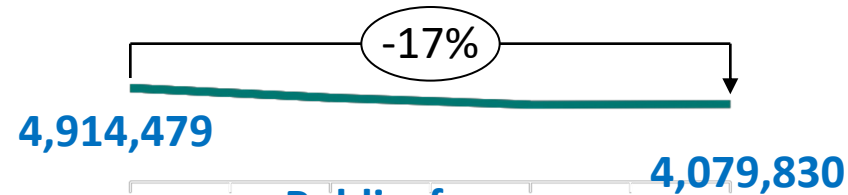


Percent of public four-year students graduating in four years



Enrollment trend,
Spring 2020 – Spring 2023

Public, two-year



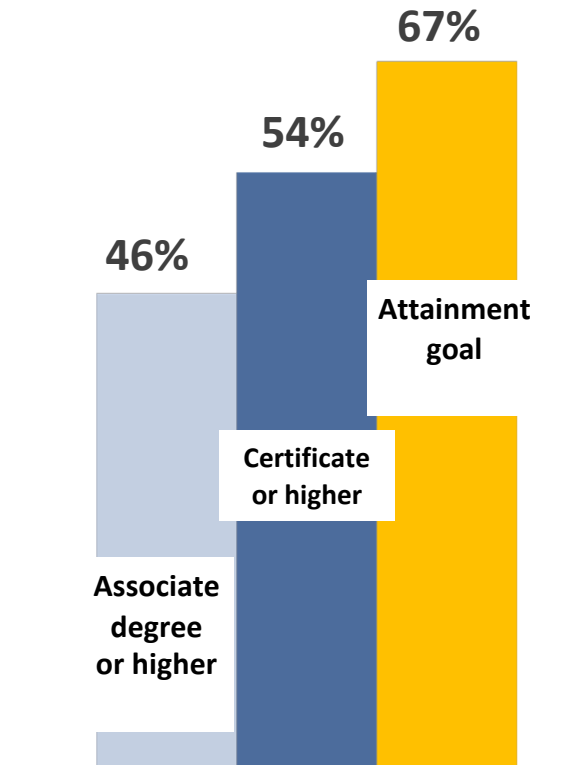
Public, four-year



Number of U.S. residents with
some college but no credential

40,432,112

Postsecondary Attainment



There is high overlap between credits attempted and earned and demographic attainment gaps

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

79% of Asian students attend college part time at some point during their college experience



OF THESE STUDENTS



79% of Black students attend college part time at some point during their college experience



OF THESE STUDENTS



83% of Latinx students attend college part time at some point during their college experience



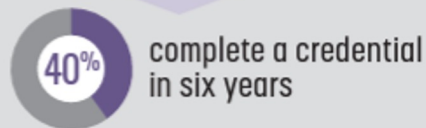
OF THESE STUDENTS



69% of White students attend college part time at some point during their college experience



OF THESE STUDENTS



PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

42% of Asian students attend college part time at some point during their college experience



OF THESE STUDENTS



56% of Black students attend college part time at some point during their college experience



OF THESE STUDENTS



44% of Latinx students attend college part time at some point during their college experience



OF THESE STUDENTS



42% of White students attend college part time at some point during their college experience



OF THESE STUDENTS



College has meaningful effect on a variety of personal outcomes

Out of 52 economic and noneconomic outcomes tested in a recent Lumina-Gallup study — such as higher income, greater job satisfaction, higher voting rates and greater volunteerism — educational attainment has a **meaningful statistical relationship with 50 of them.**



Voting

Medium positive effect on voter participation



Cognitive Ability

Large positive effect on numeracy, literacy & problem solving



Employment Fit

Medium positive effect on employment in jobs that match interests and talents



Health & Wellbeing

Medium positive predictor of health status & mental wellbeing



Volunteering

Medium positive effect on volunteering and charitable donations

Civic engagement and workforce readiness go hand in hand

Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement Skills

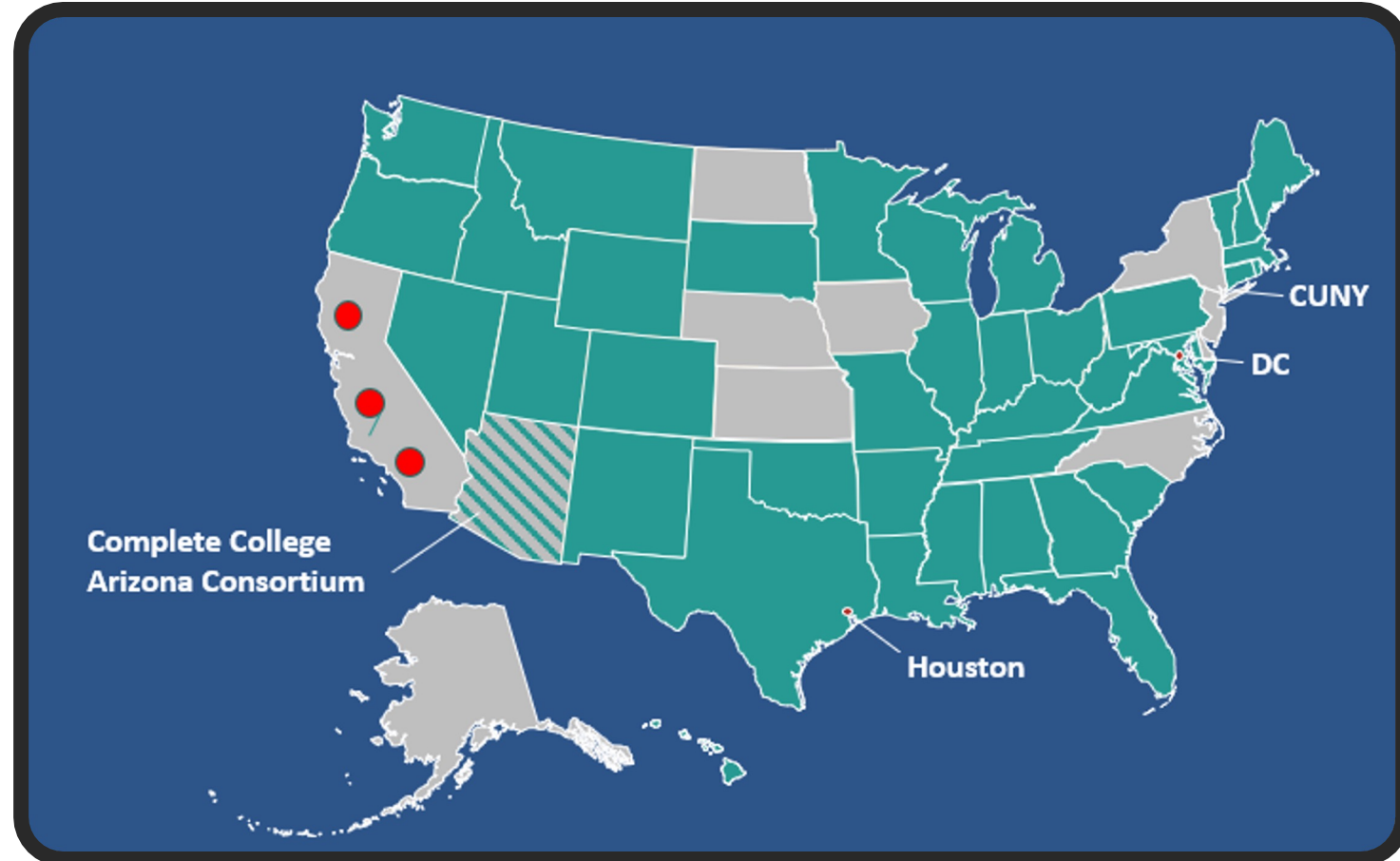
- Critical inquiry, analysis, reasoning
- Gathering and evaluating evidence
- Communication (multi-media and multiple languages)
- Bridge building and deliberation
- Collaborative decision making
- Seeking multiple perspectives

McKinsey “Future of Work” Foundational Skills

- Cognitive:
 - Critical Thinking
 - Planning and ways of working
 - Communication
 - Mental Flexibility
- Interpersonal:
 - Mobilizing systems
 - Developing relationships
 - Teamwork effectiveness
- Self Leadership
- Digital

College Completion is Bipartisan

- On-time grad rates need to grow, faster
- The student debt crisis is a college completion crisis
- Career outcomes depend on educational attainment
- We want to be an engine of equity, prosperity, and hope
- We need something different, something **better** – to restore the promise of higher education



The authors found thirteen studies encompassing college completion and retention outcomes

More likely to graduate

Earned more credits

More likely to re-enroll

Involves collaborative / participatory pedagogies

Students practice collaborative and mutual learning

The Effects of Community-Based and Civic Engagement in Higher Education

**WHAT WE KNOW AND
QUESTIONS THAT REMAIN**

AAC&U



[Higher education should] bring to all the people of the Nation....Education for a fuller realization of democracy in every phase of living

-Truman Commission report *Higher Education for American Democracy*



CCA Pillars and Strategies

PURPOSE	STRUCTURE	MOMENTUM	SUPPORT
<p>Aligning the college experience to each student's goals for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First-Year Experience• Career Exploration• Academic & Career Alignment• Adult Learner Engagement	<p>Building course road maps that make the path to a degree or valued workplace credential clear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math Pathways• Meta Majors• Academic Maps & Milestones• Smart Schedules• Stackable Certificates & Credentials	<p>Designing multiple avenues for students to get started, earn credits faster, and stay on track to graduate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Credit for Competency• Multiple Measures• Corequisite Support• Dual Enrollment• 15 to Finish/Stay on Track	<p>Addressing student needs and removing barriers to academic success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active Academic Support• Proactive Advising• 360° Coaching• Student Basic Needs Support

End the false choice between emphasizing CLDE outcomes and workforce outcomes because...

- The strength of the connection between civic learning and democratic engagement and the perceived value of higher education will partly determine the number of graduates from economically valuable college programs.
- CLDE-related outcomes have high overlap with skills employers want
- Civic learning and democracy engagement practices inside and outside the classroom improve the likelihood of graduation in programs of economic value