

Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report

CHAPTER 2

**ENROLLMENT IN
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION**



Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report follows *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report* (2019) and *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2020 Supplement*. These reports and the accompanying website provide a data-informed foundation for those who are working to close persistent equity gaps and also offer a glimpse into the educational pathways of today’s college students and the educators who serve them. For more information, including downloadable figures and detailed data tables behind the figures presented in this report, please visit equityinhighered.org.

Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report was made possible through the generous support of the Mellon Foundation. The accompanying website was generously supported by the Mellon Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

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INTRODUCTION

Higher education is a key catalyst for social mobility that provides many individual and societal benefits. Median annual earnings are higher among college graduates than those with a high school diploma (U.S. Census Bureau 2019). College graduates also represent a larger share of workers when compared with those who have lower levels of education (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2023a). The unemployment rate for Americans with a bachelor's degree was 2.1 percent—about one-third of the 5.8 percent unemployment rate for those with less than a high school diploma, half of the 4.0 percent unemployment rate for high school graduates with no college education, and two-thirds of the 3.1 percent rate for those with some college or an associate degree (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2023b). College-educated individuals also tend to have better health outcomes (National Center for Health Statistics 2018, 2019) and greater civic engagement (U.S. Census Bureau 2020).

Undergraduate education has seen a demographic transformation in the past two decades as enrollment of students from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds has increased. The share of young adults who identified as Hispanic or Latino rose from 10.6 percent in 2002 to 21.2 percent in 2022, and the share of Hispanic or Latino high school graduates who then directly enrolled in college rose significantly over the same period. Moreover, unlike other groups, the share of undergraduates who were Hispanic or Latino nearly doubled between 2000 and 2020, increasing to more than 20 percent. In contrast, the share of undergraduates who were White fell from 65.9 percent in 1999–2000 to 47.6 percent 20 years later. While this change might be good news for the economic security of the Hispanic or Latino population, the enrollment rates of White and Asian young adults remain far above those of other racial and ethnic groups. Closing this gap is critical in order to promote equitable outcomes and social and economic mobility across groups.

The data presented in this chapter show differences in enrollment rates and institution types attended for members of different racial and ethnic groups by varying economic backgrounds. While 63.7 percent of all recent high school graduates enrolled in college, the enrollment rate ranged from 55.4 percent for Black or African American students to 86.0 percent for Asian students. Financial barriers contributed to these differences; about 40 percent of dependent Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino undergraduate students came from families in the lowest income quartile.

Divergent trends also manifested in the types of institutions students attended. Minority and lower income students were overrepresented at community colleges, for-profit institutions, and less selective universities. Over 75 percent of dependent students from the highest income quartile enrolled at public or private nonprofit four-year institutions, compared with fewer than 50 percent of those from the lowest income quartile. Such stratification exacerbates existing inequalities. Exposing gaps in postsecondary access and attainment is key to unmasking diversity and inclusion barriers that hinder social mobility. This chapter draws attention to some of those gaps by uncovering changes in undergraduate enrollment patterns across several key dimensions, including racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds; age; gender; geography; institutional sector; and institutional classification.

KEY FINDINGS

- The share of high school graduates who directly enrolled in college rose from 62.7 percent in 2000 to 68.8 percent in 2010, but this share had fallen back to 63.7 percent by 2020. The shares of those who directly enrolled grew most for Black or African American (56.4 percent to 66.1 percent) and Hispanic or Latino (48.6 percent to 62.3 percent) students between 2000 and 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, the largest decline was among Black or African American students (66.1 percent to 55.4 percent). Hispanic or Latino students were the only group for whom the share of those who directly enrolled rose more than 10 percentage points over the 20-year period from 2000 to 2020 (see figure 2.1).
- There was considerable variation among groups of students who were usually combined in racial and ethnic breakdowns. For example, among Hispanic or Latino students, 44.4 percent of South American high school graduates ages 18 to 24 enrolled in college in 2022, compared with 31.8 percent of Puerto Ricans in the same demographic. Among Asian students, the shares of those ages 18 to 24 enrolled in college in 2022 ranged from 71.9 percent of Asian Indian to 51.4 percent of Japanese adults (see figures 2.3 and 2.4).
- The most rapid growth in undergraduate enrollment between 1999–2000 and 2019–20 was among Hispanic or Latino students, who accounted for 11.3 percent of the total at the beginning of this 20-year period, 15.8 percent in 2011–12, and 20.5 percent in 2019–20 (see figure 2.5).
- Women accounted for more than half of the undergraduate enrollment among all groups except for international students. The largest gender gap was among Black or African American students; in 2019–20, 65.8 percent of Black or African American undergraduates were women (see table 2.1).
- American Indian or Alaska Native undergraduates were the oldest group, with only 45.8 percent who were ages 23 and younger, compared with 61.9 percent overall. Asian and international students were youngest, with 70.6 percent and 76.7 percent of students in the 15 to 23 age range (see figure 2.6).
- Black or African American students were the lowest-income group of dependent undergraduates, with 43.9 percent from families in the lowest income quartile among undergraduates. White students were the highest-income group, with 34.5 percent in the highest income quartile (see figure 2.9).
- Larger shares of Black or African American and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander undergraduates than those of other groups enrolled at for-profit institutions (12.1 percent and 13.7 percent, respectively, compared with 6.4 percent overall). However, such distribution varied within income groups. Larger shares of Asian and international undergraduates than those of other groups enrolled at public or private nonprofit four-year institutions (60.1 percent and 68.6 percent, respectively, compared with 51.1 percent overall) (see figure 2.11).
- Women enrolled at for-profit institutions at a higher rate than men (71 percent versus 58 percent, respectively), with the largest gender gap among Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students (20.0 percent of women versus about 7.0 percent of men) (see table 2.3).
- The share of Asian students who attended R1 doctoral universities (32.0 percent) was more than twice as high as the overall share at these institutions (15.7 percent). Only 8.3 percent of Black or African American students attended these institutions. These differences persisted within income groups (see figure 2.12 and tables 2.7 and 2.8).

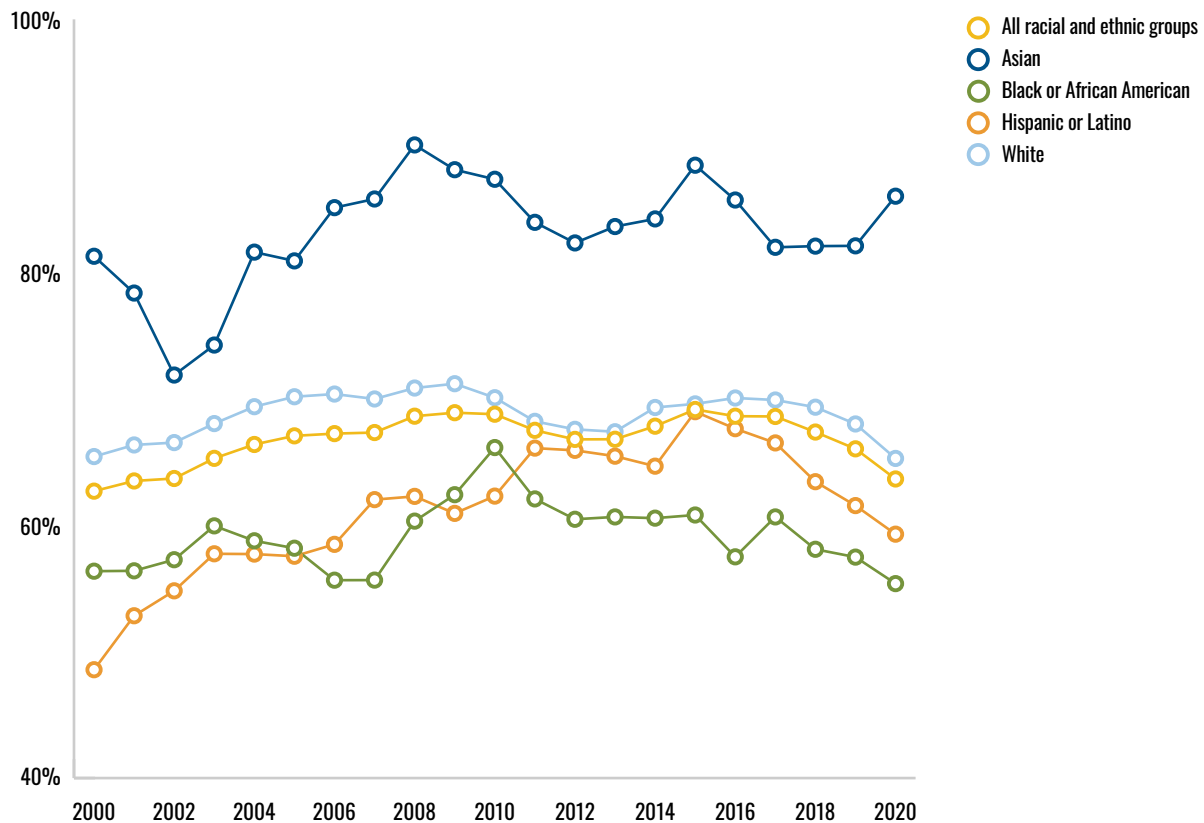
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The U.S. Census commonly measures college enrollment rates in two ways. The first is an immediate college enrollment rate—the percentage of recent high school graduates or equivalent ages 16 to 24 who enrolled in college by the October immediately following their high school completion. The second measures the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college who completed high school or a high school equivalency credential, regardless of how recently they completed high school. Both measures of college enrollment among young adults are presented in this section.

Immediate College Enrollment Rates: 2000 to 2020

In 2020, 63.7 percent of all recent high school graduates or equivalent ages 16 to 24 were enrolled in an undergraduate program of study. The shares of recent high school or equivalent graduates who were enrolled in college ranged from 55.4 percent of Black or African American to 86.0 percent of Asian students. The share of college students ages 16 to 24 increased from 62.7 percent in 2000 to 68.8 percent in 2010 but fell back to 63.7 percent over the following decade. The patterns differed among racial and ethnic groups, with the largest increase over the 20 years among Hispanic or Latino students and no increase among Black or African American and White students.

Figure 2.1: Immediate College Enrollment of Recent High School Graduates or Equivalent Ages 16 to 24, by Race and Ethnicity: 2000 to 2020



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2021*.

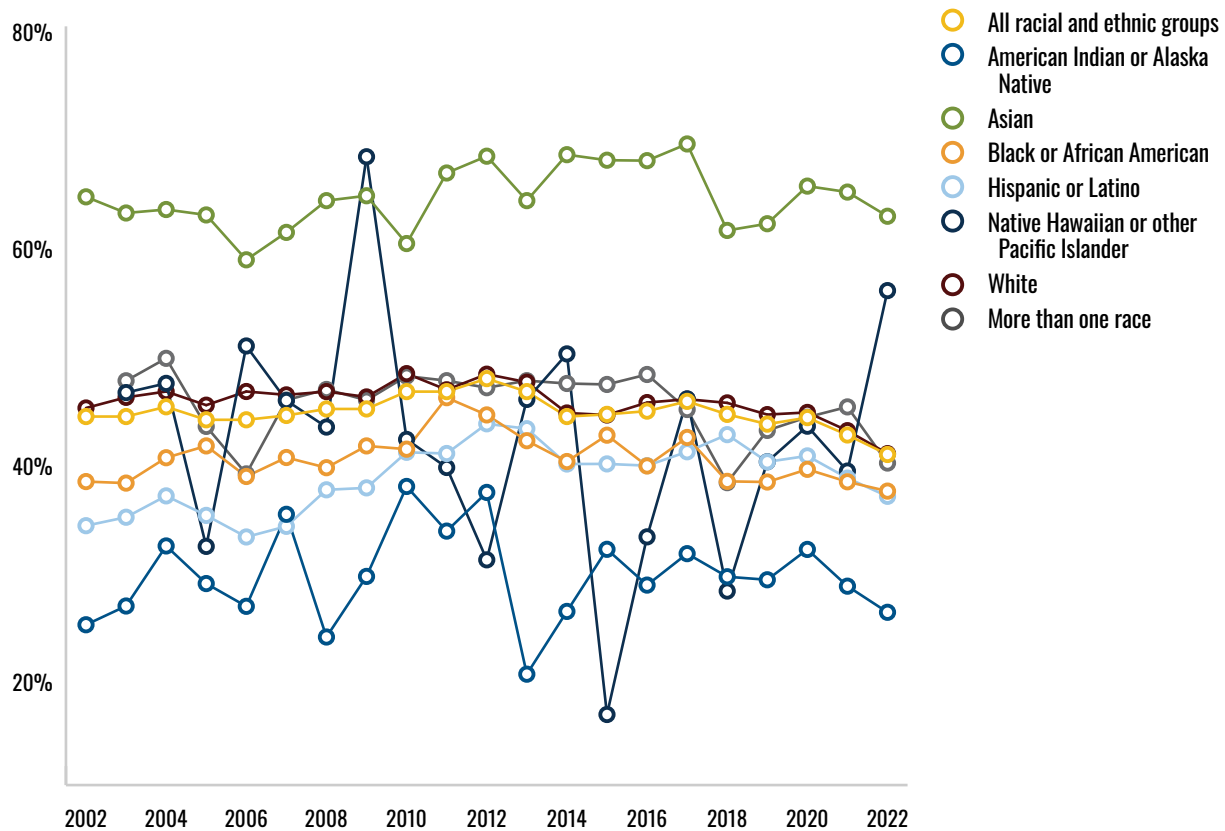
Notes: This figure uses a three-year moving average, which is a weighted average of the year indicated, the year immediately preceding, and the year immediately following. For the final year, a two-year moving average was used. Moving averages were used to produce more stable estimates. | All racial and ethnic groups includes persons of other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately. | Prior to 2003, Asian data included Pacific Islander graduates. | After 2002, White, Black or African American, and Asian data excluded persons of more than one race.

- While Hispanic or Latino recent high school graduates or equivalent experienced the largest increase in college enrollment from 48.6 percent in 2000 to 59.3 percent in 2020—a 10.7 percentage point increase—their enrollment rate reached its peak in 2015 at 69.0 percent and gradually declined each year thereafter until 2020.
- The share of young Black or African American high school graduates who were enrolled in college rose from 56.4 percent in 2010, but it declined 10.8 percentage points to 55.4 percent in 2020.

College Enrollment Rates of 18- to 24-Year-Olds

In 2022, 40.5 percent of high school graduates or equivalent ages 18 to 24 were enrolled in an undergraduate program of study. The shares ranged from 25.9 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native to 62.5 percent of Asian students. From 2002 to 2022, the shares enrolled in college increased for American Indian or Alaska Native and Hispanic or Latino students but decreased for Asian, Black or African American, and White students. Between 2003 and 2022, the share of college enrollment increased for Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander students, while it decreased for multiracial students.¹

Figure 2.2: Percentage of 18- to 24-Year-Olds Enrolled in College, by Race and Ethnicity: 2002 to 2022



Sources: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2002–22.

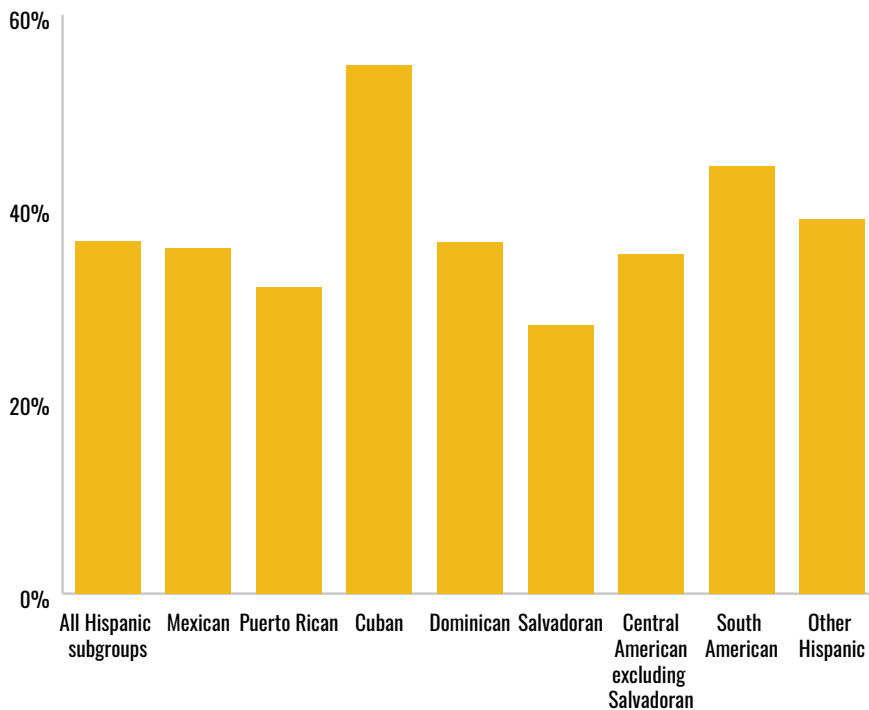
Notes: Prior to 2003, the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey did not include the racial and ethnic categories of more than one race and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. | Estimates may differ when compared with previous reports because of differences in the sample and analysis. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

- The share of young high school graduates who were enrolled in college rose from 44.0 percent in 2002 to 47.5 percent in 2012, but it fell to 40.5 percent by 2022. The college enrollment rate for American Indian or Alaska Native young adults increased from 24.8 percent in 2002 to a peak of 37.6 percent in 2010 before it declined again to 25.9 percent in 2022.

¹ Prior to 2003, the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey did not include the racial and ethnic categories of more than one race and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

- The share of Black or African American young adults who were enrolled in college increased between 38.0 percent in 2002 and 45.7 percent in 2011. This share declined over time; in 2022, 37.1 percent of Black or African American young adults were enrolled in college.
- The share of White young adults who were enrolled in college rose from 44.8 percent in 2002 to 47.9 percent in 2012, but it declined over the second decade to 40.6 percent in 2022.
- From 2003 to 2022, the college enrollment rate of multiracial young adults decreased from nearly half (47.3 percent) to two-fifths (39.7 percent).

Figure 2.3: Percentage of 18- to 24-Year-Olds Enrolled in College, by Hispanic Subgroups: 2022



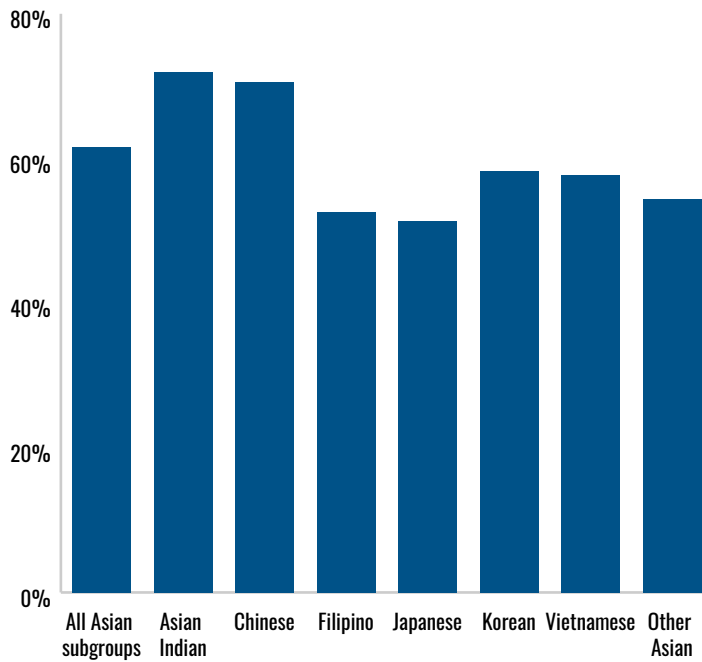
Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2022.

Notes: *Central American, excluding Salvadoran* includes respondents of Central American, Central American Indian, Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan, or Panamanian origin. | *South American* includes respondents who indicated that they were of Argentinian, Bolivian, Chilean, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, South American, South American Indian, Uruguayan, or Venezuelan origin. | *Other Hispanic* includes all CPS respondents who reported they were of "Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin" and who subsequently indicated that they belonged to one of 24 Hispanic-origin subgroups (e.g. Castilian) that fall outside of the other seven Hispanic origin groups listed in this figure. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

- In 2022, 36.6 percent of Hispanic or Latino young adults enrolled in college. Nearly two-thirds (62.4 percent) of Hispanic or Latino students were of Mexican origin. Those of Cuban (54.9 percent) and South American (44.4 percent) backgrounds enrolled at the highest rates.² Salvadoran students had the lowest enrollment rate, at 27.9 percent.

2 *South American* includes respondents who indicated that they were of Argentinian, Bolivian, Chilean, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, South American, South American Indian, Uruguayan, or Venezuelan origin.

Figure 2.4: Percentage of 18- to 24-Year-Olds Enrolled in College, by Asian Subgroups: 2022



Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2022.

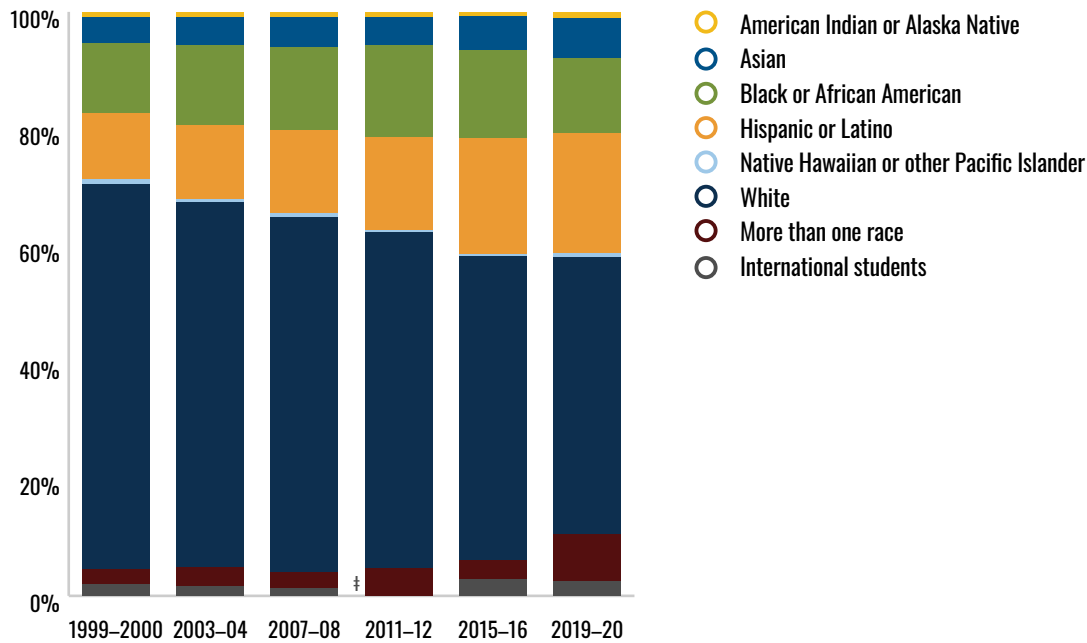
Notes: This figure includes all CPS respondents who indicated that they were Asian, inclusive of those who also reported as being of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. | Other Asian includes all CPS respondents who reported that they were Asian but who did not identify as a member of any of the six Asian origin groups listed in this figure.

- In 2022, 61.6 percent of Asian young adults were enrolled in college. Larger shares of students were from Asian Indian (71.9 percent) and Chinese (70.6 percent) backgrounds than those from other Asian subgroups were enrolled in college.

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT: 1999–2000 TO 2019–20

As the undergraduate student body became more diverse over time, the share of domestic White students as a proportion of total undergraduate enrollment declined from 65.9 percent in 1999–2000 to 47.6 percent in 2019–20. In 2019–20, 49.9 percent of all domestic undergraduate students identified as being a race or ethnicity other than White, compared with 32.2 percent in 1999–2000. Much of the growth in the student of color population can be attributed to the growth of Hispanic or Latino enrollment.

Figure 2.5: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Race and Ethnicity, Select Years: 1999–2000, 2003–04, 2007–08, 2011–12, 2015–16, and 2019–20



Sources: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020.
 Note: † Reporting standards not met.

- The representation of Hispanic or Latino undergraduates nearly doubled between 1999–2000 (11.3 percent) and 2019–20 (20.5 percent).
- The share of multiracial undergraduates also increased significantly, rising from 2.7 percent in 1999–2000 to 8.0 percent in 2019–20.
- The shares of American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander undergraduates remained relatively stable from 1999–2000 to 2019–20, with small changes from 0.9 percent to 1.0 percent and 0.7 percent to 0.6 percent, respectively.
- Enrollment of Black or African American undergraduates rose from 12.1 percent in 1999–2000 to 15.9 percent in 2011–12, and then fell to 12.8 percent in 2019–20.
- The share of international students increased from 1.9 percent in 1999–2000 to 2.5 percent in 2019–20.

Overall, women made up a larger share of undergraduate student enrollment in 2019–20 than that of men (57.7 percent and 41.0 percent, respectively). Among undergraduate students, 1.3 percent identified as genderqueer or gender nonconforming, or as having a different gender identity. The gender breakdown was similar in 1999–2000; the shares of women and men were then 56.3 percent and 43.7 percent, respectively. But the share of undergraduates who were women did rise measurably over this period among Asian and Hispanic or Latino students and those of more than one race. The only demographic group in which women did not outnumber men in 2019–20 was international students, among whom men were 52.2 percent and women were 47.1 percent.

Table 2.1: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Gender, by Race and Ethnicity: 1999–2000 and 2019–20

	Men	Women	Genderqueer, Gender Nonconforming, or a Different Gender Identity	Total	
1999–2000	All racial and ethnic groups	43.7%	56.3%	-	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	38.6%	61.4%	-	100%
	Asian	48.3%	51.7%	-	100%
	Black or African American	36.7%	63.3%	-	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	44.1%	55.9%	-	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	48.2%	51.8%	-	100%
	White	44.5%	55.5%	-	100%
	More than one race	48.8%	51.2%	-	100%
	International students	49.3%	50.7%	-	100%
2019–20	All racial and ethnic groups	41.0%	57.7%	1.3%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	35.9%	62.0%	2.1% †	100%
	Asian	44.1%	55.1%	0.7%	100%
	Black or African American	33.5%	65.8%	0.7%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	38.9%	60.0%	1.0%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	45.8%	54.0%	‡	100%
	White	43.0%	55.6%	1.4%	100%
	More than one race	40.7%	56.5%	2.8%	100%
	International students	52.2%	47.1%	0.7%	100%

Sources: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2000 and 2020.

Notes: Categories for students' self-selected gender identities were updated in the NPSAS:20 survey to include male; female; transgender, male-to-female; transgender, female-to-male; genderqueer or gender nonconforming; or a different gender identity. Students who identified as male or transgender, female-to-male were classified as *men*. Students who identified as female or transgender, male-to-female were classified as *women*. Students who identified as genderqueer or gender nonconforming, a different gender identity, or more than one gender identity were classified as *genderqueer*, *gender nonconforming*, or *a different identity* (except for students who selected multiple responses within the same gender binary, who were classified within that binary—e.g., students who selected both male and transgender, female-to-male, were classified as male). † Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. ‡ Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. † Reporting standards not met.

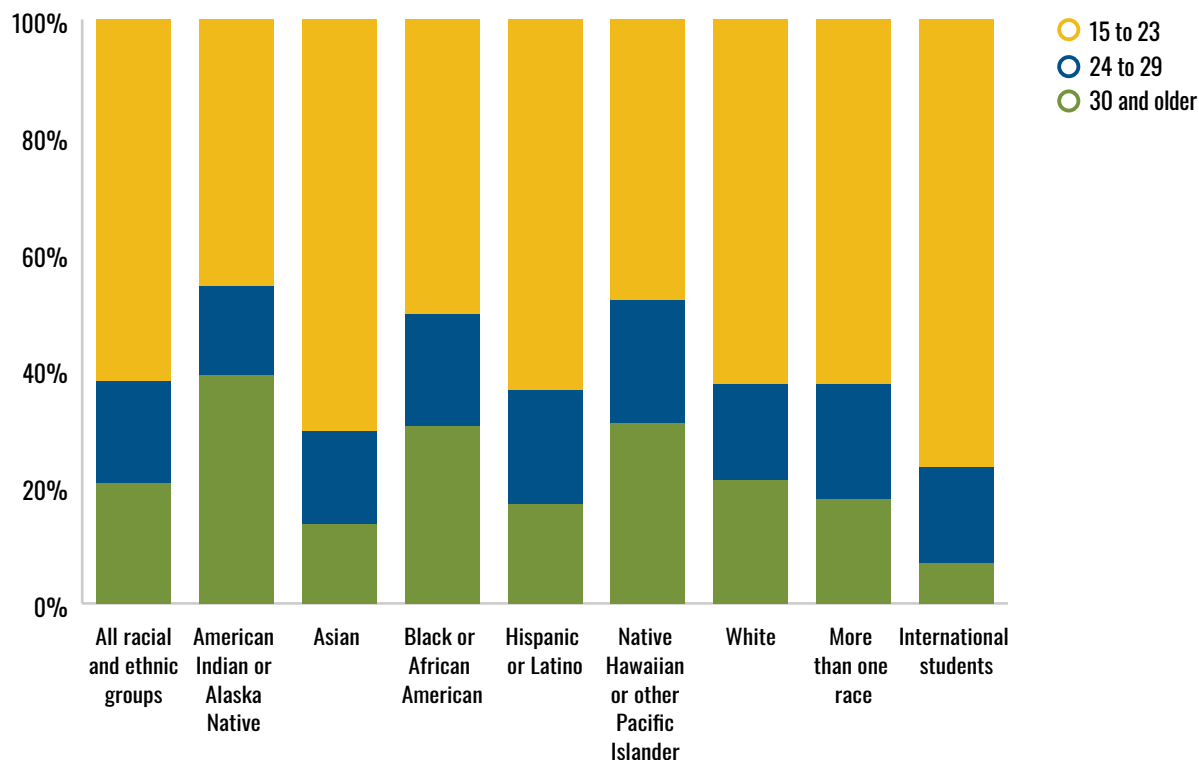
- In 2019–20, the largest gender gap was observed among Black or African American undergraduates. Women made up 65.8 percent of Black or African American undergraduates, compared with 33.5 percent who were men.
- The smallest gender gaps within domestic students were among Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander undergraduates (54.0 percent women and 45.8 percent men) and Asian students (55.1 percent women and 44.1 percent men).
- The American Indian or Alaska Native and Hispanic or Latino undergraduates also had substantial gender gaps in 2019–20, with women outnumbering men by 26.1 and 21.1 percentage points, respectively.

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT: 2019–20

Undergraduate Enrollment Across Ages

Over 60 percent of all undergraduate students enrolled in 2019–20 were young adults ages 15 to 23, with 17.5 percent ages 24 to 29 and 20.6 percent ages 30 and older.

Figure 2.6: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Ages, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



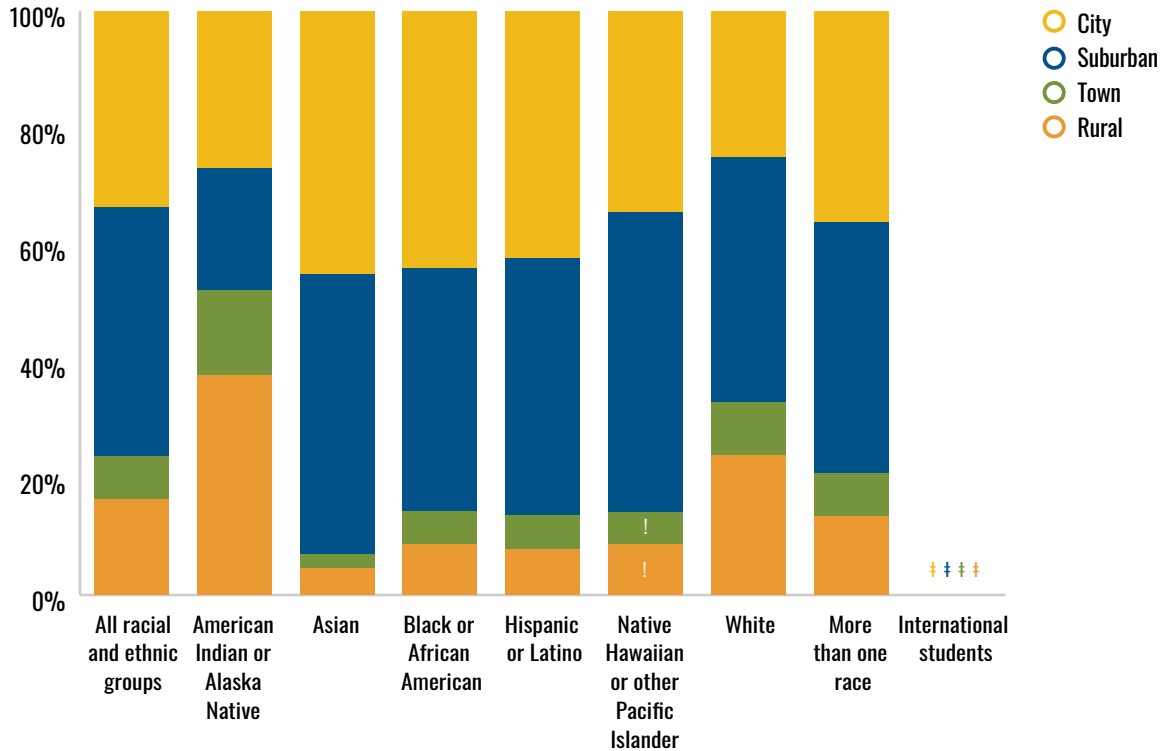
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.
 Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

- The shares of undergraduates who were ages 23 and younger ranged from 45.8 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native students to 70.6 percent of Asian students and 76.7 percent of international students.
- Overall, 20.6 percent of undergraduates were ages 30 and older. The shares in this age group ranged from 7.0 percent of international students and 3.6 percent of Asian students to 30.4 percent of Black or African American students, 30.8 percent of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander students, and 39.1 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native students.

Undergraduate Enrollment Across Urbanities

Greater than three in four undergraduates enrolled in 2019–20 had permanent residence in either urban (33.6 percent) or suburban areas (42.7 percent), as opposed to rural areas (16.4 percent) or towns (7.4 percent).

Figure 2.7: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Urbanities (Student Permanent Address), by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



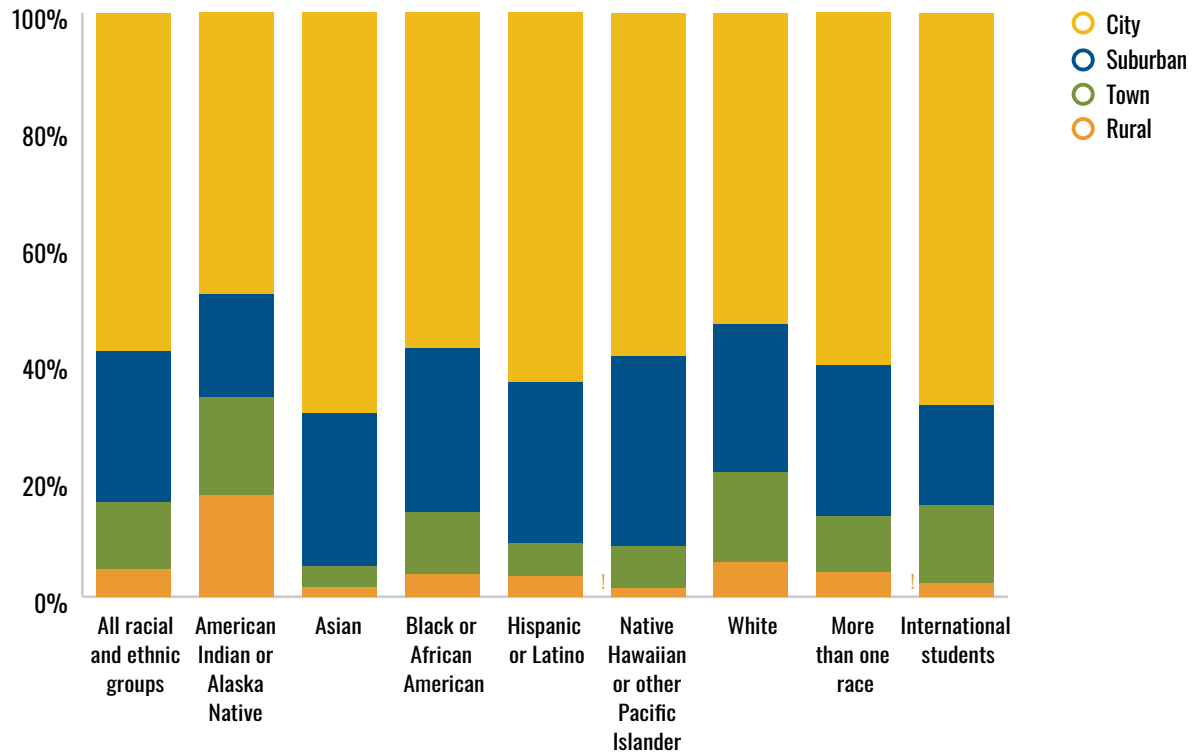
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: This figure includes respondents who had a permanent residence in the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | † Reporting standards not met.

- More than one in three American Indian or Alaska Native undergraduates lived in rural areas (37.6 percent).
- Over three-quarters of undergraduates from all racial and ethnic groups lived in urban or suburban areas versus rural areas or towns. The share was highest for Asian students, with over 90 percent living in urban or suburban areas.

In 2019–20, nearly three-fifths of all undergraduate students were enrolled at urban institutions (57.9 percent). When comparing by race and ethnicity, more than half of undergraduates from all racial and ethnic groups—except for American Indian or Alaska Native undergraduates (48.2 percent)—attended urban institutions. The highest share of undergraduates at urban institutions was that of Asian undergraduates (68.5 percent), followed by international students (67.3 percent).

Figure 2.8: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Institutional Urbanities, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



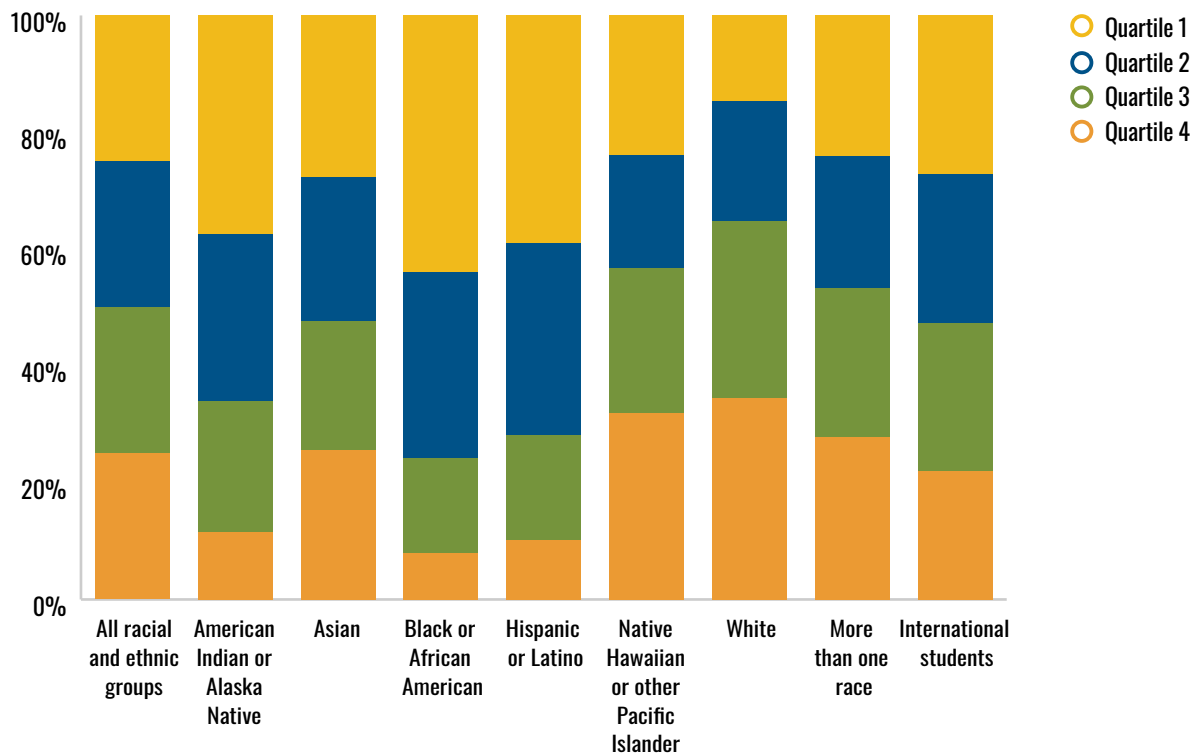
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

Undergraduate Enrollment Across Incomes

A larger share of dependent Black or African American undergraduate students (43.9 percent) than that of any other group came from families in the lowest income quartile.³ More than a quarter of Hispanic or Latino (39.0 percent), American Indian or Alaska Native (37.5 percent), Asian (27.7 percent) and international (27.3 percent) undergraduate students came from families in the lowest income quartile. In contrast, 34.5 percent of White, 31.9 percent of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (31.9 percent), and 27.8 percent of multiracial undergraduate students came from families in the highest income quartile.

Figure 2.9: Undergraduate Enrollment of Dependent Students Across Incomes, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Income quartiles for dependent students reflect income of the student's parents or guardians. | The approximate income ranges for the income quartiles of dependent students' parents or guardians are: 1) less than \$27,900; 2) \$27,901 to \$63,000; 3) \$63,001 to \$113,500; 4) more than \$113,500. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

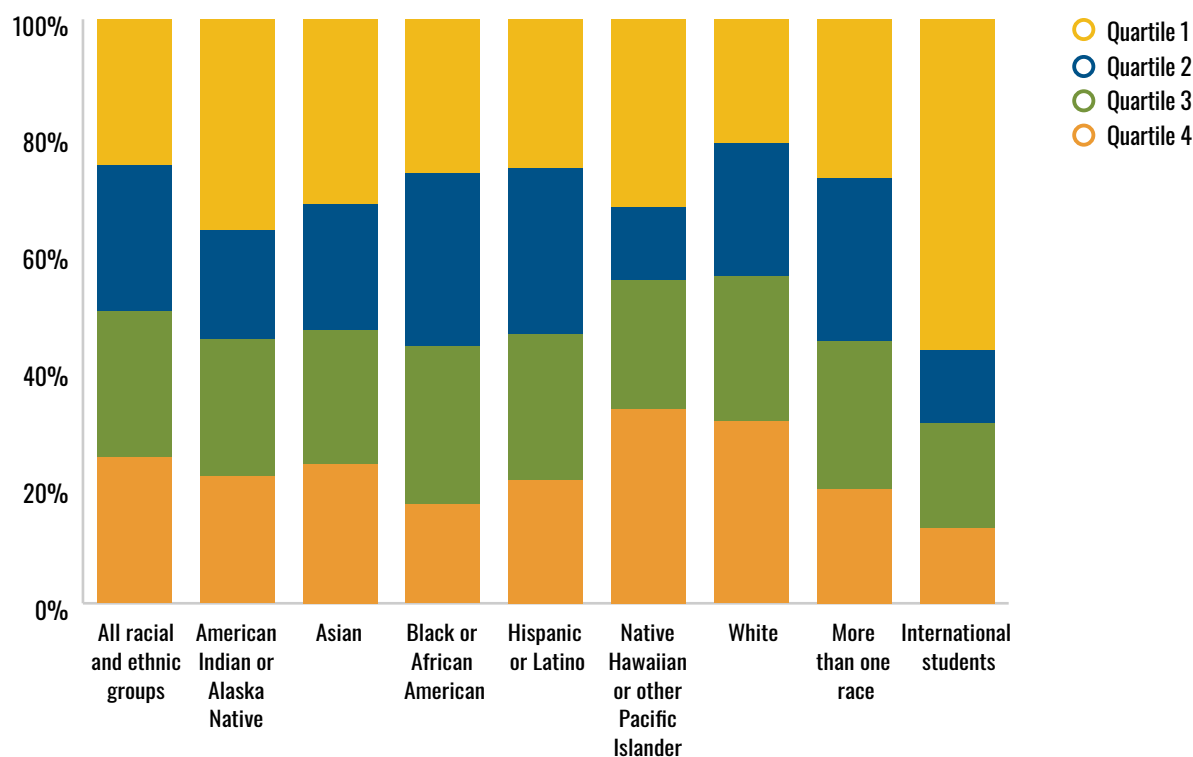
- Slightly more than one-third of White dependent undergraduates came from families in the top income quartile (34.5 percent), the most of any racial or ethnic group.
- Among dependent undergraduates, 75.7 percent of Black or African American and 71.8 percent of Hispanic or Latino students came from families in the lowest two income quartiles—the highest combined share of any racial or ethnic group.
- Only 7.9 percent of Black or African American dependent undergraduates came from families in the top income quartile—the smallest share across all racial and ethnic groups.

3 The National Postsecondary Student Aid Study's (NPSAS) *dependent* category comprises students “under 24 years of age who are unmarried, do not have dependents, are not veterans or on active military duty, are not orphans or wards of the court, are not homeless or at risk of homelessness, and have not been deemed independent by a financial aid officer” (Radwin et al. 2018).

Independent undergraduate students made up 43.4 percent of total enrollment in 2019–20; 56.6 percent were dependent undergraduate students. International and Asian undergraduates had the lowest enrollment rates among independent students (32.7 and 33.0 percent, respectively). In contrast, 55.0 percent of Black or African American, 63.0 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native, and 60.0 percent of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander students were independent students.

Over half of independent students who were Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, multiracial, or international came from families in the lowest two income quartiles. In contrast, more than half of independent White and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander undergraduates came from families in the top two income quartiles. Over half of independent international students (56.8 percent) came from families in the lowest income quartile.

Figure 2.10: Undergraduate Enrollment of Independent Students Across Incomes, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Income quartiles for independent students reflect the student's own income; if they were married, their spouse's income was also included. | For independent students, the approximate income ranges for the quartiles are: 1) less than \$7,200; 2) \$7,201 to \$20,200; 3) \$20,201 to \$43,000; and 4) more than \$43,000. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

- About one-third of both White and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander independent undergraduates came from families in the top income quartile.
- The majority of independent international students (56.8 percent) came from families in the lowest income quartile.

Undergraduate Enrollment Across Financial Security Levels

A larger share of independent undergraduates (27.3 percent) than that of dependent undergraduates (18.4 percent) reported they certainly could not obtain \$2,000 from any available source within the next month.⁴ Dependent undergraduates showed higher financial security, with 57.6 percent who stated they probably or certainly could procure \$2,000 if needed.

Table 2.2: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Financial Security Levels, by Dependency Status and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

		Student's level of confidence in coming up with \$2,000, from any available source, within the next month.				Total
		Certainly could come up with the \$2,000	Probably could come up with the \$2,000	Probably could not come up with the \$2,000	Certainly could not come up with the \$2,000	
Dependent Students	All dependent students	27.5%	30.1%	23.9%	18.4%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	19.0%	27.9%	34.2%	18.9%	100%
	Asian	28.9%	31.9%	22.7%	16.5%	100%
	Black or African American	13.4%	25.6%	30.9%	30.1%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	15.8%	28.7%	29.7%	25.8%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	25.4%	14.7%	28.5%	31.4%	100%
	White	35.4%	31.2%	20.3%	13.1%	100%
	More than one race	24.3%	32.5%	24.2%	19.1%	100%
	International students	34.0%	29.9%	20.5%	15.6%	100%
Independent Students	All independent students	26.6%	24.2%	21.9%	27.3%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	16.8%	25.7%	30.1%	27.5%	100%
	Asian	31.7%	25.4%	20.3%	22.6%	100%
	Black or African American	15.5%	20.8%	24.9%	38.9%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	20.4%	24.1%	25.3%	30.2%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	24.2%	16.0%	20.1%	39.7%	100%
	White	33.2%	25.2%	19.3%	22.3%	100%
	More than one race	25.1%	25.0%	21.7%	28.2%	100%
	International students	29.0%	26.8%	22.6%	21.5%	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

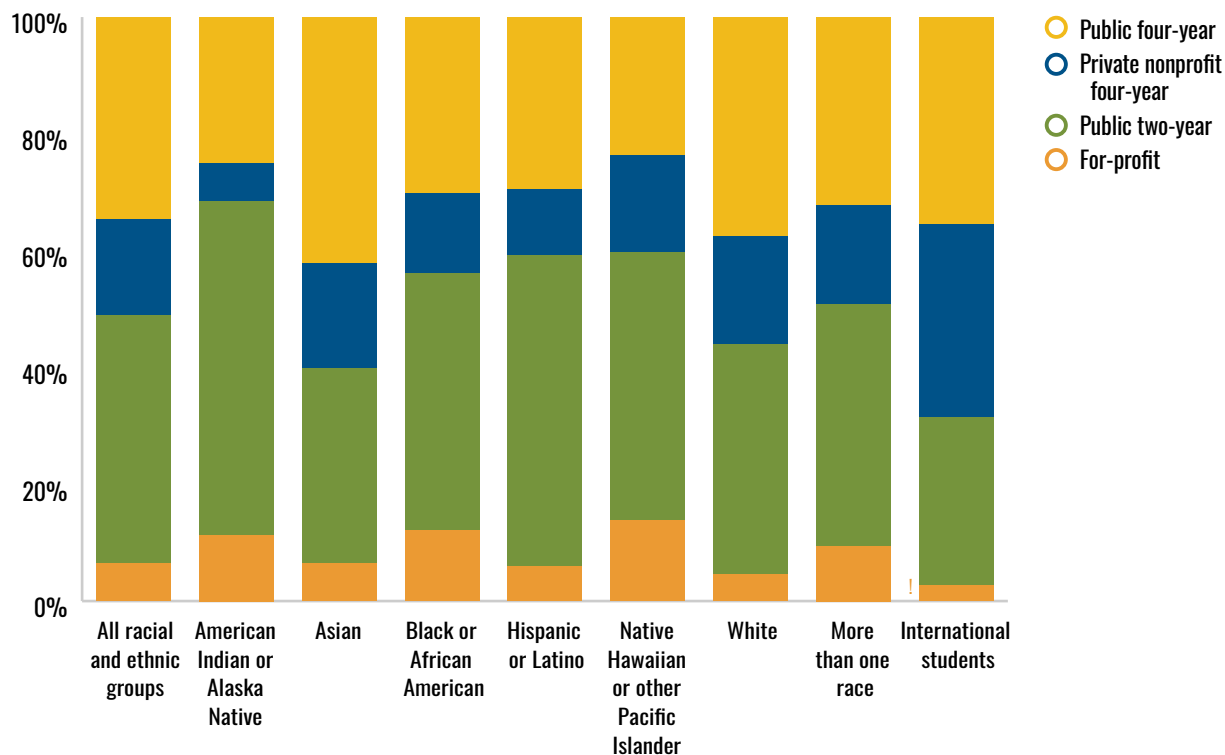
- Over one-third (35.4 percent) of dependent White undergraduates indicated they could certainly garner \$2,000 in an emergency—the largest share across all racial and ethnic groups.
- For dependent undergraduates, more than three in 10 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (31.4 percent) and Black or African American (30.1 percent) students said they certainly could not amass \$2,000 in urgent funds; this exceeded the 18.4 percent average across all dependent students.
- For independent undergraduates, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (39.7 percent) and Black or African American (38.9 percent) students were also the largest shares who responded that they certainly could not accumulate \$2,000 if needed urgently.

⁴ The 2020 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:20) defined financial security as “the student’s level of confidence in coming up with \$2,000, from any available source, within the next month” (NCES 2024).

Undergraduate Enrollment Across Institutional Sectors

In 2019–20, 42.5 percent of undergraduate students were enrolled at public two-year institutions. Over half of Asian (60.1 percent), White (56.0 percent), and international (68.6 percent) undergraduates were enrolled at public or private nonprofit four-year institutions.

Figure 2.11: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect undergraduate enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, public two-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

- The largest shares of undergraduates enrolled at public two-year institutions were American Indian or Alaska Native (57.2 percent), Hispanic or Latino (53.3 percent), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (46.0 percent).
- The highest undergraduate enrollment rates at for-profit institutions were among Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (13.7 percent), Black or African American (12.1 percent), and American Indian or Alaska Native (11.3 percent) students.

Gender

The shares of men who were enrolled in public four-year institutions were higher than that of women across all racial and ethnic groups—except for American Indian or Alaska Native undergraduates, among whom 26.9 percent were women and 22.0 percent were men. Some differences in undergraduate enrollment across institutional sectors by gender emerged.

Table 2.3: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Sectors, by Gender and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

		Public Four-Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	Public Two-Year	For-Profit	Total
Men	Men total	37.3%	16.3%	41.8%	4.5%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	22.0%	8.8% !	56.2%	13.0% !	100%
	Asian	45.7%	15.7%	34.5%	4.1%	100%
	Black or African American	33.2%	14.8%	43.7%	8.3%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	29.5%	11.2%	54.9%	4.4%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	37.7%	17.3% !	38.5%	6.5% !!	100%
	White	40.3%	17.7%	38.7%	3.3%	100%
	More than one race	37.1%	16.7%	38.9%	7.2%	100%
	International students	36.4%	33.4%	26.8%	3.4% !!	100%
Women	Women total	32.7%	16.4%	43.0%	7.8%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	26.9%	5.3% !	58.5%	9.2% !	100%
	Asian	39.3%	19.9%	32.4%	8.4%	100%
	Black or African American	28.5%	13.3%	44.0%	14.2%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	29.4%	11.3%	52.3%	7.0%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	11.5%	16.2% !	52.3%	20.0%	100%
	White	35.6%	18.7%	40.0%	5.7%	100%
	More than one race	28.5%	16.9%	43.3%	11.3%	100%
	International students	34.1%	32.6%	31.4%	1.8% !!	100%
Genderqueer, Gender Nonconforming, or a Different Gender Identity	Genderqueer, gender nonconforming, or a different gender identity total	35.3%	21.0%	40.7%	3.0%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	35.0%	18.8% !	43.9%	2.2% !!	100%
	Black or African American	31.2%	15.2% !	52.2%	1.3% !	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	32.7%	14.5%	50.4%	2.4% !!	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	35.6%	24.3%	37.7%	2.4% !!	100%
	More than one race	37.9%	20.3% !	38.8%	3.0% !!	100%
	International students	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect undergraduate enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, public two-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- The shares of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander women who enrolled at public two-year (52.3 percent) and for-profit institutions (20.0 percent) were higher than that of men (38.5 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively).
- Asian women enrolled at for-profit institutions at twice the rate of Asian men—8.4 percent versus 4.1 percent.
- When considering enrollment at private nonprofit four-year institutions, a higher percentage of White undergraduates who identified as genderqueer, gender nonconforming, or a different gender identity did so (24.3 percent), compared with White men (17.7 percent) and White women (18.7 percent).
- Across nearly all racial and ethnic groups except for American Indian or Alaska Native students, larger shares of undergraduate women enrolled at for-profit institutions when compared with those of undergraduate men.

Age

Among all groups, a larger share of undergraduates ages 15 to 23 (61.3 percent) than that of older students were enrolled at public and private nonprofit four-year institutions. More than half of all students 24 to 29 years old (51.5 percent) and students ages 30 and older (54.4 percent) were enrolled at public two-year institutions. A larger share of students ages 30 and older (15.1 percent) than that of younger students were enrolled at for-profit institutions.

Table 2.4: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Sectors, by Age and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

		Public Four-Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	Public Two-Year	For-Profit	Total
15 to 23	15 to 23 total	41.9%	19.3%	36.2%	2.6%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	30.9%	7.8%	54.8%	6.5% !	100%
	Asian	48.4%	22.4%	26.2%	2.9% !	100%
	Black or African American	40.8%	15.5%	39.6%	4.1%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	33.7%	12.5%	50.3%	3.5%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	36.3%	17.2%	41.6%	4.8% !!	100%
	White	45.6%	21.5%	31.4%	1.5%	100%
	More than one race	39.0%	20.8%	36.2%	4.0%	100%
	International students	38.2%	35.4%	24.5%	1.9% !	100%
24 to 29	24 to 29 total	27.8%	10.5%	51.5%	10.2%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	16.0% !	12.9% !!	49.1%	22.0% !!	100%
	Asian	33.3%	7.4% !	47.3%	12.0% !	100%
	Black or African American	23.7%	8.9%	49.5%	17.9%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	26.3%	7.2%	58.9%	7.6%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	13.3% !!	8.7% !!	59.9%	18.1% !!	100%
	White	30.0%	12.2%	49.7%	8.1%	100%
	More than one race	24.5%	10.5%	50.9%	14.0%	100%
	International students	28.9%	27.9%	38.8%	4.4% !!	100%
30 and Older	30 and older total	18.0%	12.5%	54.4%	15.1%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	21.6%	2.5% !!	63.0%	12.9%	100%
	Asian	18.6%	6.8% !	56.1%	18.5%	100%
	Black or African American	15.6%	13.8%	48.1%	22.4%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	16.9%	11.5%	58.4%	13.3%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	9.6% !	21.0% !	43.9%	25.5%	100%
	White	19.4%	13.4%	55.8%	11.4%	100%
	More than one race	16.9%	10.2%	49.5%	23.4%	100%
	International students	21.5% !	18.7% !!	53.5%	6.3% !!	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect undergraduate enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, public two-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate.

Income: Dependent Students

Dependent undergraduate enrollment across institutional sectors differed depending on students' family income levels. The shares of dependent students who were enrolled at both public two-year and for-profit institutions were lower at higher income levels. The shares of dependent students who were enrolled at public or private nonprofit four-year institutions increased with family income, ranging from 51.8 percent of those in the lowest income quartile to 77.7 percent of those in the highest income quartile. The share of dependent students who were enrolled at public two-year institutions decreased by half between the lowest and highest income quartiles (from 44.2 percent to 21.3 percent), while for-profit enrollment decreased from 4.1 percent to 1.0 percent across the same income range.

Table 2.5: Undergraduate Enrollment of Dependent Students Across Sectors, by Income and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

		Public Four-Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	Public Two-Year	For-Profit	Total
Income Quartile 1	All racial and ethnic groups	36.4%	15.3%	44.2%	4.1%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	24.4% !	5.9% !!	55.3%	14.4% !!	100%
	Asian	49.0%	16.1%	32.2%	2.7%	100%
	Black or African American	38.7%	14.4%	42.6%	4.3%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	31.3%	12.3%	51.7%	4.8%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	25.2% !	7.5% !!	61.0%	6.4% !!	100%
	White	39.3%	15.9%	42.3%	2.5%	100%
	More than one race	32.5%	20.7%	38.7%	8.2% !	100%
International students	29.1%	35.2%	35.2%	0.5% !!	100%	
Income Quartile 2	All racial and ethnic groups	41.8%	16.8%	39.0%	2.4%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	50.2%	13.9% !!	30.5%	5.4% !!	100%
	Asian	48.1%	19.2%	29.5%	3.3% !	100%
	Black or African American	43.8%	16.4%	37.3%	2.4%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	35.4%	11.4%	50.7%	2.5%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	24.6% !	16.1% !!	57.4%	1.9% !!	100%
	White	45.0%	18.8%	34.4%	1.8%	100%
	More than one race	37.0%	18.1%	41.1%	3.8% !	100%
International students	40.1%	33.3%	22.6%	4.0% !!	100%	
Income Quartile 3	All racial and ethnic groups	44.6%	20.0%	34.3%	1.1%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	27.1% !	9.6% !!	62.8%	†	100%
	Asian	49.6%	23.4%	24.7%	2.3% !	100%
	Black or African American	48.6%	16.9%	33.3%	1.2% !	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	37.2%	12.9%	48.5%	1.4%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	42.0%	11.9% !	45.5%	0.5% !!	100%
	White	46.2%	21.2%	31.8%	0.8% !	100%
	More than one race	40.9%	18.4%	39.0%	1.7%	100%
International students	44.3%	36.7%	18.4%	0.7% !!	100%	

		Public Four-Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	Public Two-Year	For-Profit	Total
Income Quartile 4	All racial and ethnic groups	50.0%	27.7%	21.3%	1.0%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	100%
	Asian	49.2%	34.7%	13.1%	3.0% !!	100%
	Black or African American	52.8%	24.0%	22.3%	0.8% !!	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	47.1%	21.4%	30.3%	1.1%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	100%
	White	50.9%	27.1%	21.5%	0.4%	100%
	More than one race	47.1%	29.9%	21.0%	2.0% !	100%
	International students	43.1%	41.7%	11.6%	3.6% !!	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect undergraduate enrollment of dependent students at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, public two-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Income quartiles for dependent students reflects income of the student's parents or guardians. | The approximate income ranges for the income quartiles of dependent students' parents or guardians are: 1) less than \$27,900; 2) \$27,901 to \$63,000; 3) \$63,001 to 113,500; 4) more than \$113,500. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- At all income levels, the shares of Asian and international students who were attending public or private nonprofit four-year institutions were higher than the shares of those who were attending public two-year institutions.
- Overall, while larger shares of Black or African American (12.1 percent) and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (13.7 percent) students were enrolled at for-profit institutions when compared with those of other groups (see table 2.13), this was not the case within income groups. The overall patterns appeared to be associated with lower incomes, rather than differences among racial and ethnic groups with similar incomes. For instance, enrollment at for-profit institutions for students in the first income quartile was higher among American Indian or Alaska Native (14.4 percent) and multiracial (8.2 percent) students.

Income: Independent Students

Enrollment rates of independent undergraduates across institutional sectors were relatively similar across income quartiles in 2019–20. More than half of independent undergraduates from all income quartiles were enrolled at public two-year institutions, ranging from 50.5 percent in the lowest income quartile to 56.6 percent in the second-highest income quartile. Private nonprofit four-year institutions saw a small increase in the share of independent undergraduates as income level rose. The enrollment rate fluctuated from 10.8 percent in the lowest income quartile to 9.3 percent in the second income quartile, 10.8 percent in the third income quartile, and 15.4 percent in the top income quartile. In contrast, public four-year institutions saw a decrease in the share of independent undergraduates as income level rose, ranging from 26.9 percent in the lowest income quartile to 19.5 percent in the top income quartile.

Table 2.6: Undergraduate Enrollment of Independent Students Across Sectors, by Income and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

		Public Four-Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	Public Two-Year	For-Profit	Total
Income Quartile 1	All racial and ethnic groups	26.9%	10.8%	50.5%	11.7%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	13.8% !	3.4% !!	66.8%	15.9% !!	100%
	Asian	36.4%	6.9%	47.5%	9.1% !	100%
	Black or African American	23.0%	8.7%	48.0%	20.4%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	24.9%	9.0%	55.4%	10.7%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	4.5% !!	11.0% !!	59.3%	25.2% !	100%
	White	30.1%	12.0%	49.0%	8.9%	100%
	More than one race	23.0%	9.4%	53.4%	14.2%	100%
	International students	27.0%	28.2%	40.5%	4.2% !	100%
Income Quartile 2	All racial and ethnic groups	25.0%	9.3%	52.4%	13.3%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	33.2%	‡	49.6%	17.2% !	100%
	Asian	25.2%	8.6% !	51.3%	14.9%	100%
	Black or African American	19.1%	10.1%	50.9%	19.9%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	25.1%	6.3%	59.3%	9.2%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	100%
	White	27.6%	10.8%	50.5%	11.1%	100%
	More than one race	23.2%	8.3%	47.9%	20.6%	100%
	International students	35.7%	19.5% !	42.9%	1.8% !!	100%
Income Quartile 3	All racial and ethnic groups	21.0%	10.8%	56.6%	11.7%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	19.2% !	0.8% !!	64.6%	15.3%	100%
	Asian	26.5%	6.5% !	51.9%	15.1% !	100%
	Black or African American	18.1%	14.4%	48.9%	18.5%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	16.8%	8.4%	64.8%	10.0%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	18.9% !	6.9% !!	62.5%	11.7% !!	100%
	White	23.2%	11.3%	56.7%	8.8%	100%
	More than one race	20.4%	8.3%	55.7%	15.6% !	100%
	International students	27.3%	25.4%	43.0%	4.3% !!	100%
Income Quartile 4	All racial and ethnic groups	19.5%	15.4%	53.1%	12.0%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	21.2% !	16.6% !	56.4%	5.8% !!	100%
	Asian	19.9%	6.3% !	55.7%	18.1%	100%
	Black or African American	15.6%	14.7%	48.3%	21.4%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	17.6%	12.7%	60.0%	9.7%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	9.2% !!	32.4% !	27.0% !	31.4% !	100%
	White	20.4%	16.7%	53.2%	9.6%	100%
	More than one race	22.0%	15.0% !	45.5%	17.5%	100%
	International students	31.5% !	22.2% !	43.8%	2.6% !!	100%

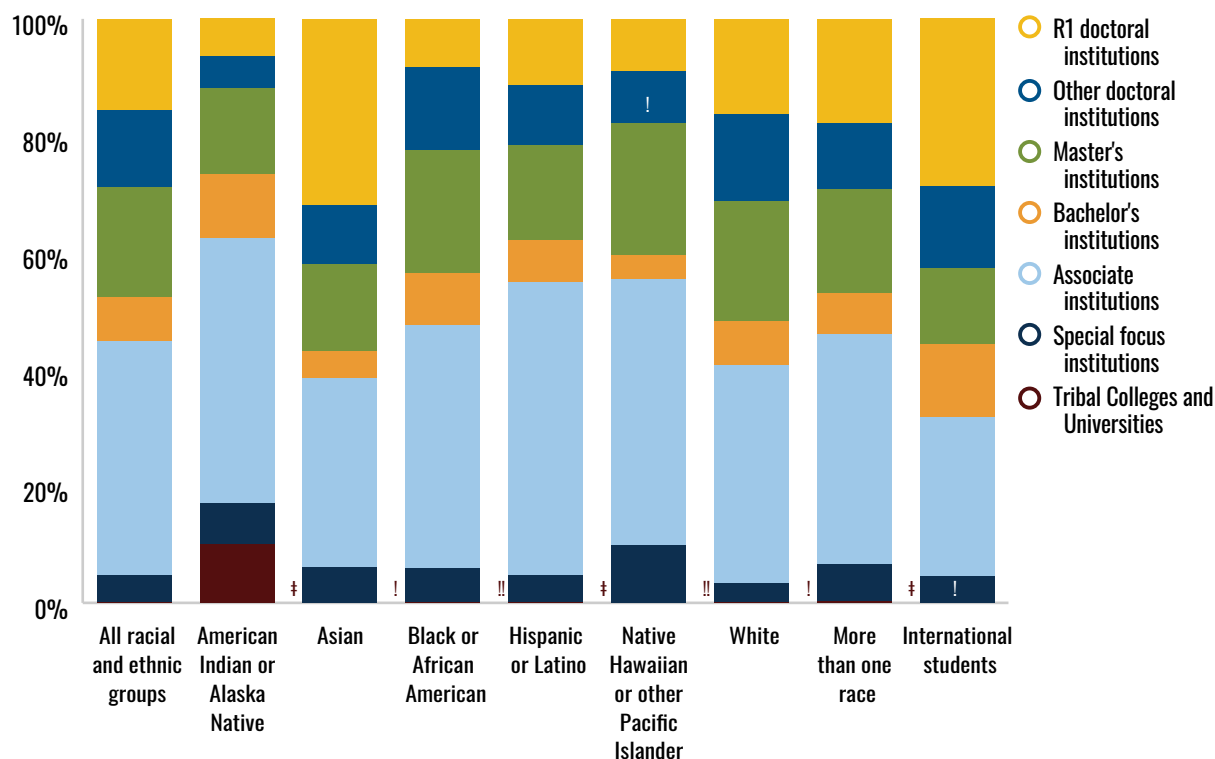
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect undergraduate enrollment of independent students at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, public two-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Income quartiles for independent students reflect the student's own income; if they were married, their spouse's income was also included. | For independent students, the approximate income ranges for the income quartiles are: 1) less than \$7,200; 2) \$7,201 to \$20,200; 3) \$20,201 to \$43,000; and 4) more than \$43,000. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

Undergraduate Enrollment Across Carnegie Classifications

Across all Carnegie Classifications, associate institutions enrolled 40.2 percent of undergraduates from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. For most racial and ethnic groups, enrollment was concentrated at these institutions. Over four in 10 Hispanic or Latino (50.1 percent), American Indian or Alaska Native (45.4 percent), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (45.4 percent), and Black or African American (41.7 percent) students attended associate institutions. The exception was international students, among whom only 27.2 percent were enrolled at associate institutions and the largest share (28.6 percent) were enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions.

Figure 2.12: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Carnegie Classifications, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect undergraduate enrollment at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

Income: Dependent Students

Table 2.7: Undergraduate Enrollment of Dependent Students Across Carnegie Classifications, by Income and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

		R1 Doctoral Institutions	Other Doctoral Institutions	Master's Institutions	Bachelor's Institutions	Associate Institutions	Special Focus Institutions	Tribal Colleges and Universities	Total
Income Quartile 1	All racial and ethnic groups	16.2%	12.4%	17.3%	9.0%	41.4%	3.5%	0.1% !	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	13.5% !!	7.6% !!	9.9% !!	11.3% !	40.9%	7.2% !!	9.5% !	100%
	Asian	39.4%	7.8%	14.4%	5.0%	30.6%	2.8% !	‡	100%
	Black or African American	10.9%	14.4%	19.5%	12.0%	39.9%	3.2%	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	11.2%	10.4%	16.8%	9.3%	47.9%	4.3%	‡	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	5.5% !!	11.2% !!	5.0% !	64.8%	6.3% !!	‡	100%
	White	16.9%	14.3%	18.5%	7.4%	40.2%	2.7%	‡	100%
	More than one race	16.2%	15.6%	18.4%	9.4%	36.6%	3.5%	0.2% !!	100%
	International students	24.7%	13.2%	9.0%	14.9%	34.3%	3.9% !	‡	100%
Income Quartile 2	All racial and ethnic groups	17.3%	15.1%	19.2%	8.3%	37.0%	3.1%	0.1% !	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	23.2% !	6.2% !!	11.6% !!	24.7%	29.3%	1.6% !!	3.3% !!	100%
	Asian	32.2%	12.2%	17.6%	5.0%	28.9%	4.2%	‡	100%
	Black or African American	12.2%	17.5%	19.9%	12.4%	34.5%	3.5%	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	13.6%	11.8%	16.4%	7.2%	48.0%	3.0%	‡	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	19.1% !!	9.9% !!	2.3% !!	55.7%	‡	‡	100%
	White	17.0%	18.1%	21.7%	7.9%	32.7%	2.4%	0.1% !!	100%
	More than one race	18.8%	11.6%	17.4%	8.9%	39.0%	4.3% !	‡	100%
	International students	32.1%	11.1%	17.7%	11.1%	22.6%	5.4% !!	‡	100%
Income Quartile 3	All racial and ethnic groups	21.9%	15.5%	19.7%	8.4%	32.3%	2.1%	0.0% !!	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	8.3% !!	5.5% !	16.4% !	19.5% !!	43.6%	‡	2.6% !!	100%
	Asian	44.2%	11.5%	13.4%	4.0%	23.8%	3.1% !	‡	100%
	Black or African American	16.9%	21.2%	18.2%	9.3%	32.9%	1.4%	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	16.6%	12.2%	16.2%	6.6%	46.4%	2.0%	‡	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	8.1% !!	‡	38.4%	‡	45.5%	‡	‡	100%
	White	20.2%	17.2%	21.8%	9.3%	29.6%	1.9%	‡	100%
	More than one race	23.2%	11.5%	18.0%	6.1%	38.0%	2.9%	‡	100%
	International students	39.6%	10.7%	17.7%	13.0%	15.8%	3.1% !	‡	100%
Income Quartile 4	All racial and ethnic groups	35.1%	16.9%	17.8%	8.0%	20.1%	2.1%	‡	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	54.6%	12.9%	11.0%	5.2%	12.7%	3.5% !	‡	100%
	Black or African American	24.4%	21.6%	17.7%	13.1%	21.6%	1.6% !	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	34.8%	12.5%	15.6%	6.6%	28.4%	2.2%	‡	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	32.3%	17.9%	19.6%	8.5%	20.1%	1.6%	‡	100%
	More than one race	40.3%	12.9%	15.7%	7.3%	20.6%	3.2% !	‡	100%
	International students	44.7%	21.7%	8.8%	6.9%	11.1%	6.7% !	‡	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect undergraduate enrollment of dependent students at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Income quartiles for dependent students reflects income of the student's parents or guardians. | The approximate income ranges for the income quartiles of dependent students' parents or guardians are: 1) less than \$27,900; 2) \$27,901 to \$63,000; 3) \$63,001 to 113,500; 4) more than \$113,500. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- The undergraduate enrollment distribution of dependent and independent students across Carnegie Classifications and income quartiles provides nuanced insights. For dependent undergraduates in the top income quartile, R1 doctoral institutions enrolled the largest share from all racial and ethnic groups (35.1 percent). Enrollment at associate institutions was highest for lower income quartiles; this ranged from 20.1 percent in the fourth income quartile to 41.4 percent in the first income quartile. The enrollment percentage of all racial and ethnic groups for both R1 doctoral and other doctoral institutions was highest for undergraduate dependent students from higher income backgrounds. R1 doctoral institutions enrolled 16.2 percent of undergraduates in the first income quartile and 35.1 percent in the fourth income quartile. At R1 doctoral institutions, dependent White, Hispanic or Latino, and multiracial undergraduates in the top income quartile had almost twice the enrollment rates of those from other income quartiles.
- Enrollment rates at master's and bachelor's institutions were relatively similar across dependent undergraduates from all racial and ethnic groups and income levels.

Income: Independent Students

Associate institutions also had a larger enrollment share among independent undergraduates (47.6 percent) than among dependent students (41.4 percent). Enrollment at these institutions ranged from 47.6 percent in the first income quartile to 53.2 percent in the third income quartile. Furthermore, when comparing the enrollment rates of independent undergraduates at R1 doctoral institutions by income, the enrollment shift toward R1 doctoral institutions by independent undergraduates with higher income was less pronounced; it decreased from 8.5 percent in the first income quartile to just 4.3 percent in the fourth income quartile for independent undergraduates.

Table 2.8: Undergraduate Enrollment of Independent Students Across Carnegie Classifications, by Income and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

	R1 Doctoral Institutions	Other Doctoral Institutions	Master's Institutions	Bachelor's Institutions	Associate Institutions	Special Focus Institutions	Tribal Colleges and Universities	Total
Income Quartile 1	All racial and ethnic groups	8.5%	11.2%	18.5%	7.0%	47.6%	6.8%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	15.9% !!	6.6% !	45.9%	7.0% !!	100%
	Asian	12.9%	11.6%	16.4%	2.6% !	46.1%	10.5% !	100%
	Black or African American	5.1%	10.1%	23.8%	7.5%	46.1%	7.4%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	7.4%	8.0%	16.7%	6.6%	53.3%	8.0%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	20.2% !	‡	55.8%	18.9% !	100%
	White	9.1%	13.6%	18.7%	8.2%	45.7%	4.6%	100%
	More than one race	9.2%	12.1% !	14.8%	3.5%	51.2%	8.7%	100%
	International students	17.1%	11.7%	15.9%	12.7%	37.7%	5.0% !	100%
Income Quartile 2	All racial and ethnic groups	6.7%	11.7%	18.0%	6.3%	49.7%	7.6%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	6.2% !!	11.5%	16.0% !!	46.3%	8.9% !	100%
	Asian	10.1%	3.5% !	16.1%	4.7% !	50.9%	14.8% !	100%
	Black or African American	3.6%	11.4%	19.3%	6.0%	49.2%	10.5%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	6.7%	9.2%	15.4%	7.1%	55.4%	6.3%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	6.7%	14.2%	20.2%	5.6%	47.9%	5.4%	100%
	More than one race	9.2%	12.3% !	15.1% !	7.4% !	44.2%	11.6%	100%
	International students	22.4% !	13.1% !!	12.2% !	7.3% !!	41.3%	3.7% !!	100%

		R1 Doctoral Institutions	Other Doctoral Institutions	Master's Institutions	Bachelor's Institutions	Associate Institutions	Special Focus Institutions	Tribal Colleges and Universities	Total
Income Quartile 3	All racial and ethnic groups	5.8%	9.4%	19.5%	5.6%	53.2%	6.1%	0.3%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	15.2% !	3.6% !!	45.7%	16.0% !	17.9%	100%
	Asian	9.0% !	7.1% !	21.1%	2.5% !	50.0%	10.3% !	‡	100%
	Black or African American	4.0%	13.2%	24.5%	5.9%	46.0%	6.3%	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	5.2%	6.7%	14.7%	8.0%	58.8%	6.5%	‡	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	20.3% !	‡	4.7% !!	2.4% !!	61.3%	9.4% !!	‡	100%
	White	5.6%	10.4%	20.2%	4.5%	54.7%	4.6%	‡	100%
	More than one race	8.5%	4.1% !	20.7%	5.2% !!	51.7%	9.0%	0.8% !!	100%
	International students	12.0% !	13.5% !!	5.8% !!	23.1%	41.5%	4.0% !!	‡	100%
Income Quartile 4	All racial and ethnic groups	4.3%	10.3%	21.3%	6.2%	50.5%	7.3%	0.0% !!	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	10.9% !	22.3% !	7.3% !!	55.5%	2.4% !!	1.1% !!	100%
	Asian	7.9% !	7.1% !	14.8%	5.5% !	54.1%	10.7% !	‡	100%
	Black or African American	3.0%	13.2%	22.2%	6.2%	45.7%	9.7%	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	4.7%	9.3%	17.4%	3.8%	57.8%	6.9%	‡	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	43.0% !	11.0% !!	26.9% !	18.5% !	‡	100%
	White	4.3%	10.5%	22.2%	6.5%	50.3%	6.1%	‡	100%
	More than one race	3.9% !	7.0% !	25.3%	8.6%	43.0%	11.9%	‡	100%
	International students	10.0%	27.6% !	8.6% !	12.3% !	38.9%	2.6% !!	‡	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect undergraduate enrollment of independent students at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Income quartiles for independent students reflect the student's own income; if they were married, their spouse's income was also included. | For independent students, the approximate income ranges the income quartiles are: 1) less than \$7,200; 2) \$7,201 to \$20,200; 3) \$20,201 to \$43,000; and 4) more than \$43,000. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- Independent Asian undergraduates across income quartiles showed substantial enrollment at master's and associate institutions.
- Hispanic or Latino students in the second and fourth income quartiles had the largest shares of enrollment at associate institutions.
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander students in the first and third income quartiles had the largest shares of enrollment at associate institutions.

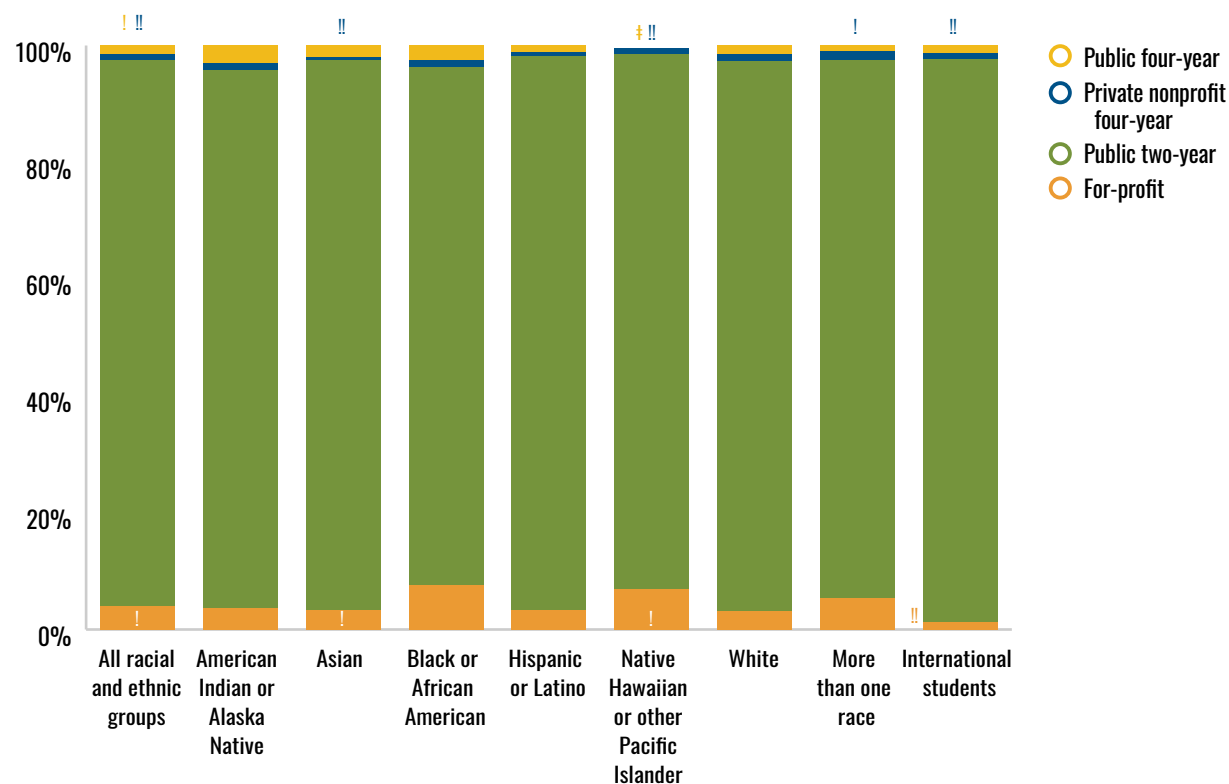
UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT, BY PROGRAM TYPE

Associate Degree–Seeking Students

Institutional Sector

The majority of students enrolled in associate degree programs attended public two-year institutions (93.4 percent), followed by for-profit (4.0 percent), public four-year (1.5 percent), and private nonprofit four-year (1.1 percent) institutions.

Figure 2.13: Enrollment of Associate Degree–Seeking Students Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



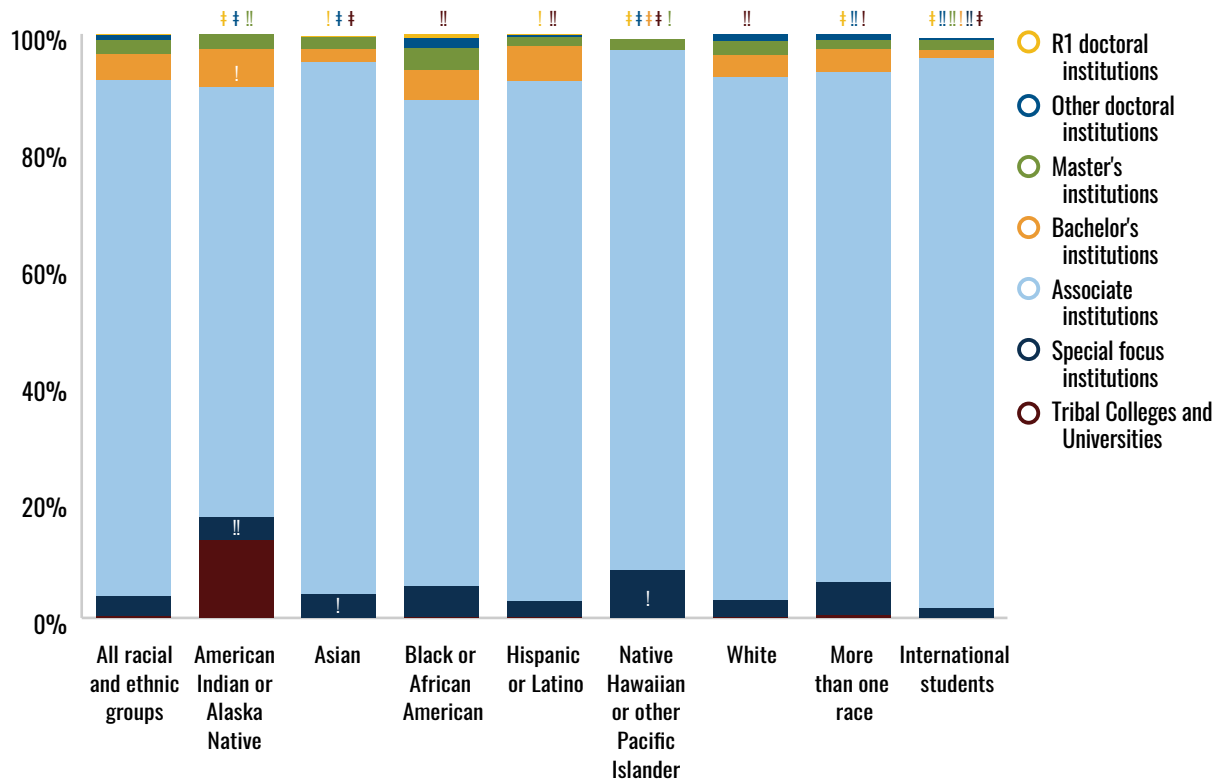
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect associate degree–seeking student enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, public two-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | † Reporting standards not met.

Carnegie Classification

For students seeking associate degrees, 88.4 percent attended associate institutions. The remainder enrolled primarily at bachelor's (4.4 percent), special focus (3.6 percent), and master's (2.3 percent) institutions. This pattern was consistent across most racial and ethnic groups except American Indian or Alaska Native undergraduates—13.3 percent of associate degree-seeking students from this group attended Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

Figure 2.14: Enrollment of Associate Degree-Seeking Students Across Carnegie Classifications, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



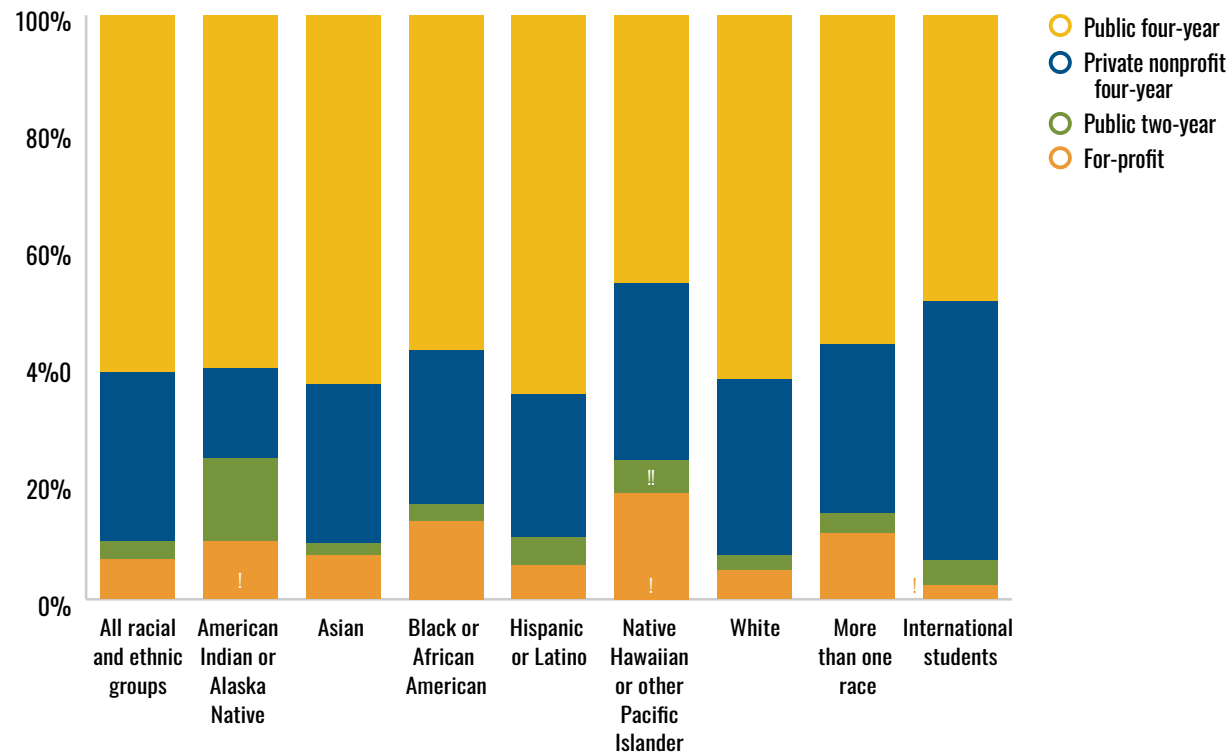
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect associate degree-seeking student enrollment at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | + Reporting standards not met.

Bachelor's Degree-Seeking Students

Institutional Sector

Figure 2.15: Enrollment of Bachelor's Degree-Seeking Students Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



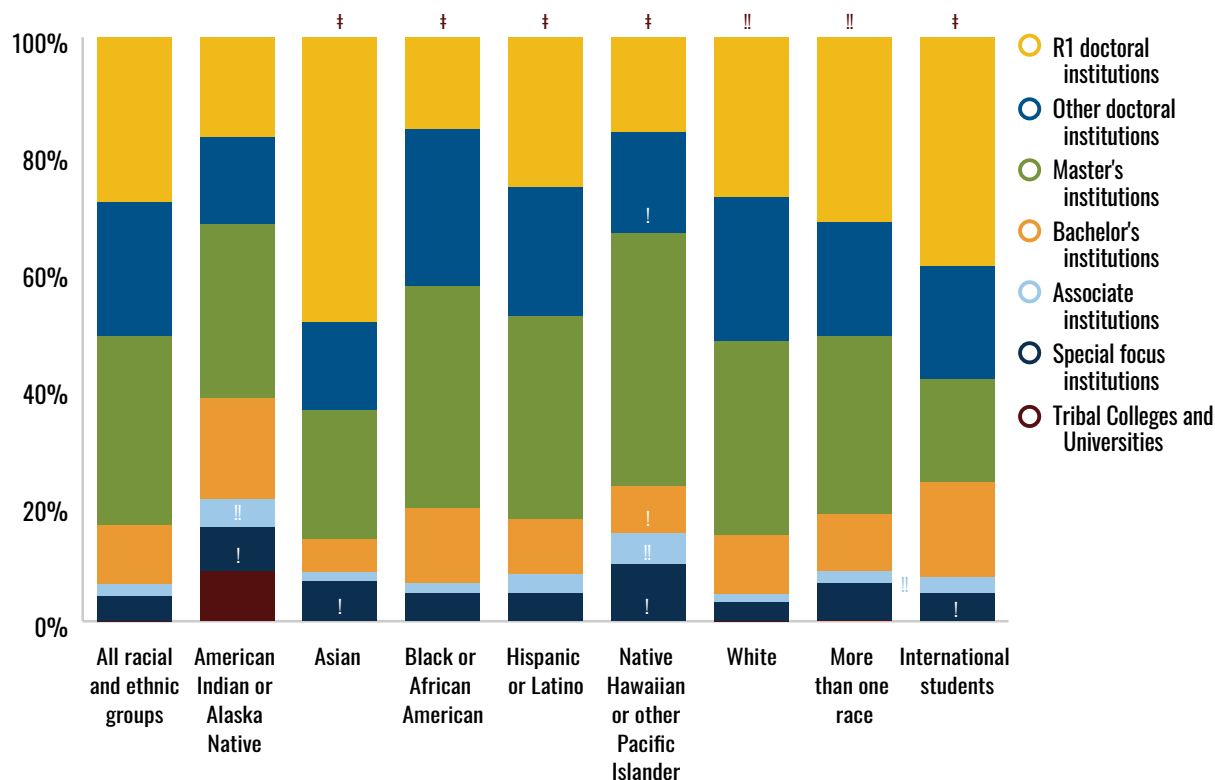
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect bachelor's degree-seeking student enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, public two-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate.

- Among students seeking bachelor's degrees, 61.2 percent of all racial and ethnic groups enrolled at public four-year institutions. Over half of Hispanic or Latino (64.9 percent), Asian (63.2 percent), White (62.3 percent), American Indian or Alaska Native (60.6 percent), Black or African American (57.5 percent), and multiracial (56.3 percent) students attended public four-year institutions. Enrollment rates at these institutions were slightly lower for international (48.9 percent) and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (45.9 percent) undergraduates. Among international students seeking a bachelor's degree, the highest enrollment share was at private nonprofit four-year institutions (44.5 percent).
- American Indian or Alaska Native students seeking a bachelor's degree had the highest enrollment percentage (14.3 percent) among all racial and ethnic groups at public two-year institutions.
- Substantial shares of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (18.2 percent), Black or African American (13.4 percent), multiracial (11.3 percent), and American Indian or Alaska Native (9.9 percent) undergraduates pursuing bachelor's degrees enrolled at for-profit institutions.

Carnegie Classification

Figure 2.16: Enrollment of Bachelor's Degree–Seeking Students Across Carnegie Classifications, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect bachelor's degree–seeking student enrollment at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | † Reporting standards not met.

- Across all racial and ethnic groups, the largest share of bachelor's degree–seeking students enrolled at master's institutions (32.4 percent), followed by R1 doctoral universities (28.2 percent). Master's institutions also represented the highest enrollment percentage for Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (43.3 percent), Black or African American (38.0 percent), Hispanic or Latino (34.9 percent), and White (33.2 percent) bachelor's degree–seeking students. International and Asian bachelor's degree–seeking students were heavily concentrated at R1 doctoral universities (39.2 percent and 48.9 percent, respectively).
- About one-fourth of Black or African American (26.9 percent) and White (24.7 percent) bachelor's degree–seeking students attended other doctoral institutions.
- American Indian or Alaska Native bachelor's degree–seeking students enrolled at TCUs at a rate of 8.6 percent—the highest percentage among all racial and ethnic groups.

Subbaccalaureate and Postbaccalaureate Certificate–Seeking Students

Institutional Sector: Subbaccalaureate Certificate–Seeking Students

Just 4.9 percent of subbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students enrolled at public and private nonprofit four-year institutions. The majority attended public two-year institutions (71.3 percent). For-profit institutions captured 23.8 percent of enrollment—including more than half of American Indian or Alaska Native subbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students (53.8 percent) and 39.5 percent of Black or African American students.

- International students who were seeking subbaccalaureate certificates demonstrated a higher enrollment percentage at private nonprofit four-year institutions (15.7 percent) when compared with the enrollment percentages of all other groups.
- Large shares of Black or African American students who were seeking subbaccalaureate certificates enrolled at public two-year (57.6 percent) and for-profit (39.5 percent) institutions.
- Special focus institutions were another major provider for subbaccalaureate certificate-seeking students and enrolled 16.8 percent of the overall student population, with notable shares of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (39.1 percent) and international (29.3 percent) students.
- Bachelor's institutions enrolled 13.7 percent of international and 12.2 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native subbaccalaureate certificate-seeking students.

Institutional Sector: Postbaccalaureate Certificate-Seeking Students

By contrast, 90.5 percent of postbaccalaureate certificate-seeking students enrolled at public and private nonprofit four-year institutions. Hispanic or Latino (61.3 percent), White (61.1 percent), and Black or African American (54.0 percent) postbaccalaureate certificate-seeking students had the highest shares enrolled at public four-year institutions.

Table 2.9: Enrollment of Subbaccalaureate and Postbaccalaureate Certificate-Seeking Students Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

		Public Four-Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	Public Two-Year	For-Profit	Total
Subbaccalaureate Certificates	All racial and ethnic groups	3.2%	1.7%	71.3%	23.8%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	45.2% !	53.8%	100%
	Asian	2.7% !	‡	81.8%	15.5% !	100%
	Black or African American	2.4% !	0.5% !!	57.6%	39.5%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	3.2% !	1.3% !!	62.0%	33.5%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	3.7%	2.1%	80.3%	13.9%	100%
	More than one race	‡	2.2% !!	73.6%	21.7%	100%
	International students	1.5% !!	15.7% !!	57.8% !	25.0% !!	100%
Postbaccalaureate Certificates	All racial and ethnic groups	57.1%	33.4%	-	9.5%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	-	‡	‡
	Asian	38.0% !	42.6% !	-	19.4% !!	100%
	Black or African American	54.0%	27.0%	-	18.9%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	61.3%	28.4%	-	10.3% !	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	-	‡	‡
	White	61.1%	33.2%	-	5.6%	100%
	More than one race	‡	‡	-	‡	‡
	International students	18.7% !!	79.5%	-	1.8% !!	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect subbaccalaureate and postbaccalaureate certificate-seeking student enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, public two-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- Among postbaccalaureate certificate-seeking international students, 79.5 percent attended private nonprofit four-year institutions. Their public four-year institution enrollment rate was just 18.7 percent—the lowest overall.
- The enrollment rate for Black or African American postbaccalaureate certificate-seeking students at for-profit institutions was 18.9 percent, which was almost double the rate for all racial and ethnic groups combined.

Carnegie Classification: Subbaccalaureate and Postbaccalaureate Certificate–Seeking Students

Associate institutions enrolled the largest share of subbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students from all racial and ethnic groups (73.5 percent). Associate institutions enrolled nearly four-fifths of Asian (80.1 percent), White (78.4 percent), and multiracial (76.7 percent) subbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students. In contrast, the distribution of postbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students varied even more by institution type. Master’s institutions enrolled over one-third (36.2 percent) of postbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students, compared with just 3.0 percent of subbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students. R1 doctoral and other doctoral institutions accounted for 20.0 percent and 29.3 percent of postbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students, respectively. A large share of Black or African American postbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students (43.5 percent) enrolled at other doctoral institutions.

Table 2.10: Enrollment of Subbaccalaureate and Postbaccalaureate Certificate–Seeking Students Across Carnegie Classifications, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20

	R1 Doctoral Institutions	Other Doctoral Institutions	Master’s Institutions	Bachelor’s Institutions	Associate Institutions	Special Focus Institutions	Tribal Colleges and Universities	Total	
Subbaccalaureate Certificates	All racial and ethnic groups	0.8% !	1.5%	3.0%	4.3%	73.5%	16.8%	0.1% !!	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	12.2% !!	44.6% !	21.5% !!	‡	100%
	Asian	1.3% !!	‡	1.3% !!	5.0% !!	80.1%	12.3% !	‡	100%
	Black or African American	0.4% !!	1.9% !	4.7% !	3.5%	67.9%	21.4%	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	1.1% !!	1.6% !!	1.7% !	2.1% !	68.3%	25.2%	‡	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	3.2% !!	57.7%	39.1% !	‡	100%
	White	0.8% !	1.9% !	2.6%	4.9% !	78.4%	11.3%	‡	100%
	More than one race	‡	‡	2.7% !!	3.5% !!	76.7%	15.5% !	1.0% !!	100%
	International students	‡	0.7% !!	‡	13.7% !!	55.3% !	29.3% !!	‡	100%
Postbaccalaureate Certificates	All racial and ethnic groups	20.0%	29.3%	36.2%	5.4%	1.4% !	7.7%	‡	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	7.7% !!	18.5% !!	38.0% !	15.2% !!	4.4% !!	16.3% !!	‡	100%
	Black or African American	13.1% !	43.5%	33.2%	1.7% !	1.5% !!	7.0% !	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	16.5% !	18.1% !	44.1%	8.7% !!	1.9% !!	10.6% !	‡	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	20.8%	30.1%	36.3%	5.5%	1.2% !	6.0%	‡	100%
	More than one race	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	International students	38.3% !	15.5% !!	23.9% !!	0.6% !!	‡	21.6% !!	‡	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect subbaccalaureate and postbaccalaureate certificate–seeking student enrollment at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- Over one-third (38.3 percent) of international postbaccalaureate certificate–seeking students were enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions.
- Asian students pursuing postbaccalaureate certificates had the highest enrollment rates at bachelor’s (15.2 percent) and special focus (16.3 percent) institutions.

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