

# Undergraduate Student Parents

This summary profiles undergraduate college students with dependent children across the United States who were enrolled in the 2019–20 academic year.



**18%**  
of undergraduate students are parents  
**3.14 million**

## Dependent Children

- 45%** of student parents have one child
- 55%** have two or more children
- 49%** have at least one child under age 6

## Gender



54% of nonparenting students are female, 45% are male, and 1% have another gender identity

## Age



78% of nonparenting students are under age 25, 11% are 25–29, 6% are 30–39, and 4% are 40 or older

## Race and Ethnicity



49% of nonparenting students are white, 11% are Black, 21% are Latine, 9% are Asian, 1% are American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (NHPPI), and 8% are multiple races or ethnicities

## Enrollment



79% of nonparenting students are enrolled full time and 21% are enrolled part time

## Institutions



40% of nonparenting students are enrolled in a community or technical college, 37% in a public baccalaureate institution, 18% in a private nonprofit, and 5% in a private for-profit institution

## Social

**Married: 48%**

7% of nonparenting students are married

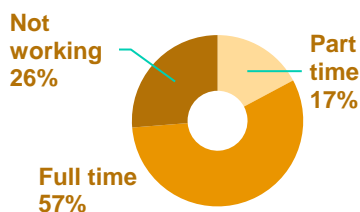
**First-gen: 48%**

27% of nonparenting students are first-generation college students

**Veteran: 9%**

2% of nonparenting students are veterans

## Employment and Economic Well-Being While Enrolled



27% of nonparenting students are not working, 36% are working part time, and 37% are working full time



**28%**

could not come up with \$500 in the next month

16% of nonparenting students could not come up with \$500



**7%**

were recently homeless

8% of nonparenting students were recently homeless



**29%**

are food insecure

21% of nonparenting students are food insecure



**30%**

participate in SNAP

9% of nonparenting students participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

For more information and to pull similar statistics, explore the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2020 Undergraduate Students in the National Center for Education Statistics' DataLab tool at <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab>.

**Note:** Data collection was interrupted by COVID-19 shutdowns, so parenting students might be underrepresented in this data source. Dependent children may be up to age 25. Enrollment intensity represents fall enrollment among those enrolled in the fall term. College types are recategorized using a detailed sector variable. Values may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

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