

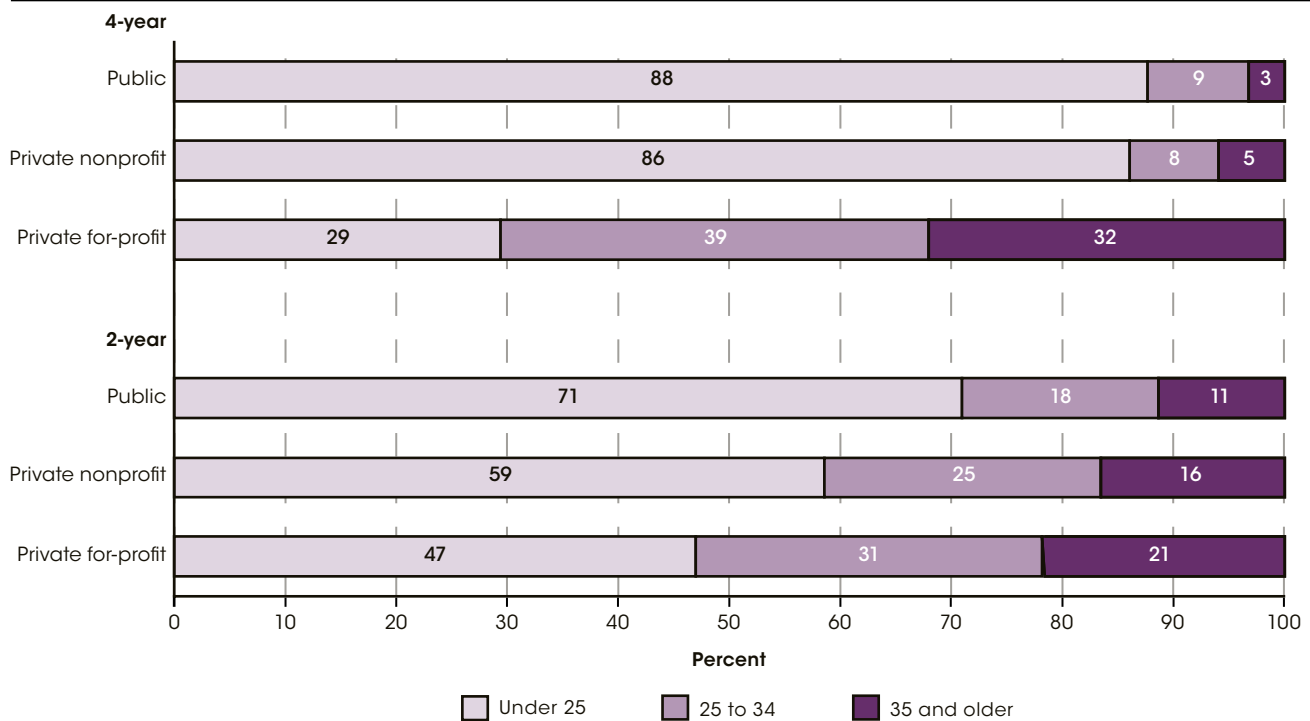
Characteristics of Postsecondary Students

Some 10.6 million undergraduate students attended 4-year institutions in 2011, while 7.5 million attended 2-year institutions. At 4-year institutions in 2011, some 78 percent of undergraduate students attended full time, compared with 42 percent of undergraduate students at 2-year institutions.

In fall 2011, there were 18.1 million undergraduate students and 2.9 million postbaccalaureate students attending degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the United States. Undergraduate students can attend either 4-year institutions that can award a bachelor's or higher degree or 2-year institutions that can award associate's degrees but may also award certificates in 2-year and less than 2-year programs. Some 10.6

million undergraduate students (58 percent of the total) attended 4-year institutions in fall 2011, while 7.5 million (42 percent of the total) attended 2-year institutions. Of undergraduate students at 4-year institutions that year, 8.2 million, or 78 percent, attended full time. Of undergraduate students at 2-year institutions that year, 3.2 million (42 percent) were full-time students and 4.3 million (58 percent) were part-time students.

Figure 1. Percentage distribution of full-time undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by institutional level and control and student age: Fall 2011



NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and the absence of "age unknown" students.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2012, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 226.

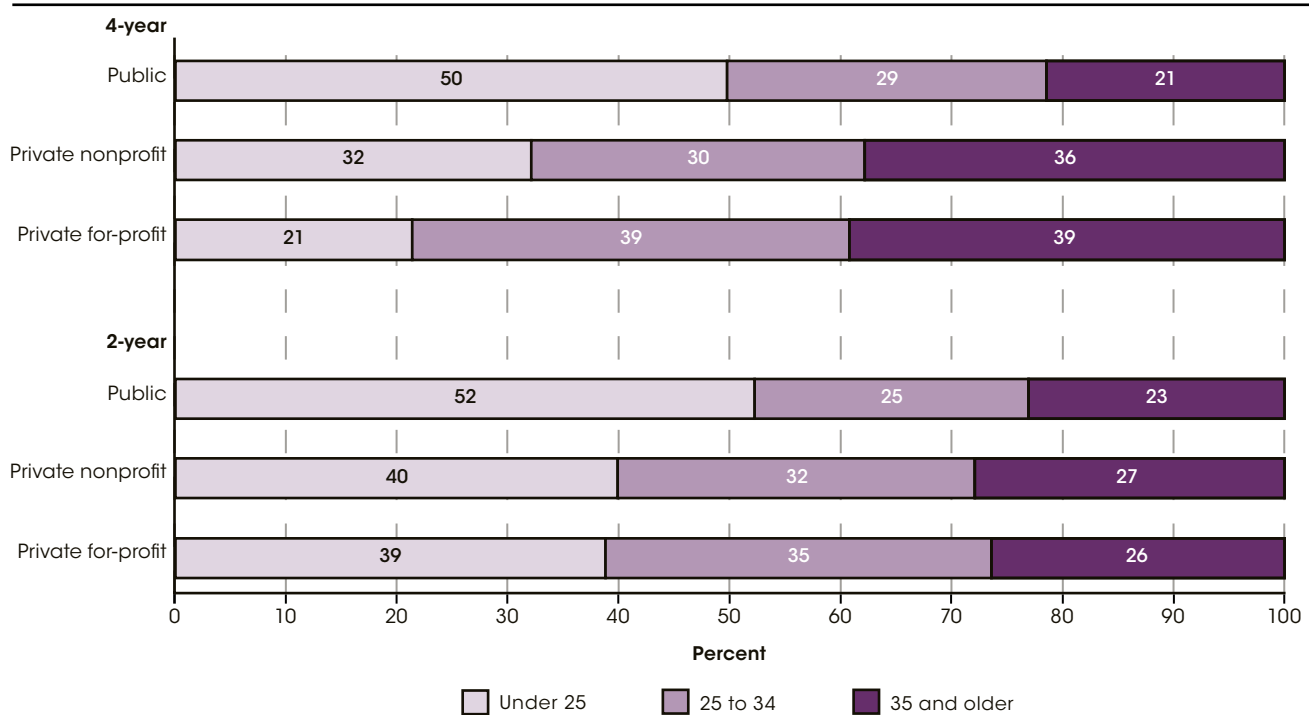
At public and private nonprofit 4-year institutions in 2011, most of the full-time students (88 percent and 86 percent, respectively) were young adults under the age of 25. However, at private for-profit 4-year institutions in 2011 just 29 percent of full-time students were young adults; 39 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 32 percent were age 35 and older.

Of full-time students at 2-year institutions in 2011, young adults accounted for 71 percent of enrollment at

public institutions, 59 percent of enrollment at private nonprofit institutions, and 47 percent of enrollment at private for-profit institutions. Regarding the remaining age groups of full-time students in 2011, at public 2-year institutions some 18 percent were between 25 and 34 years old, and 11 percent were 35 and older; at private nonprofit institutions 25 percent were between 25 and 34, and 16 percent were 35 and older; and at private for-profit institutions 31 percent were between 25 and 34, and 21 percent were 35 and older.

For more information, see the Reader's Guide and the Guide to Sources.

Figure 2. Percentage distribution of part-time undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by institutional level and control and student age: Fall 2011

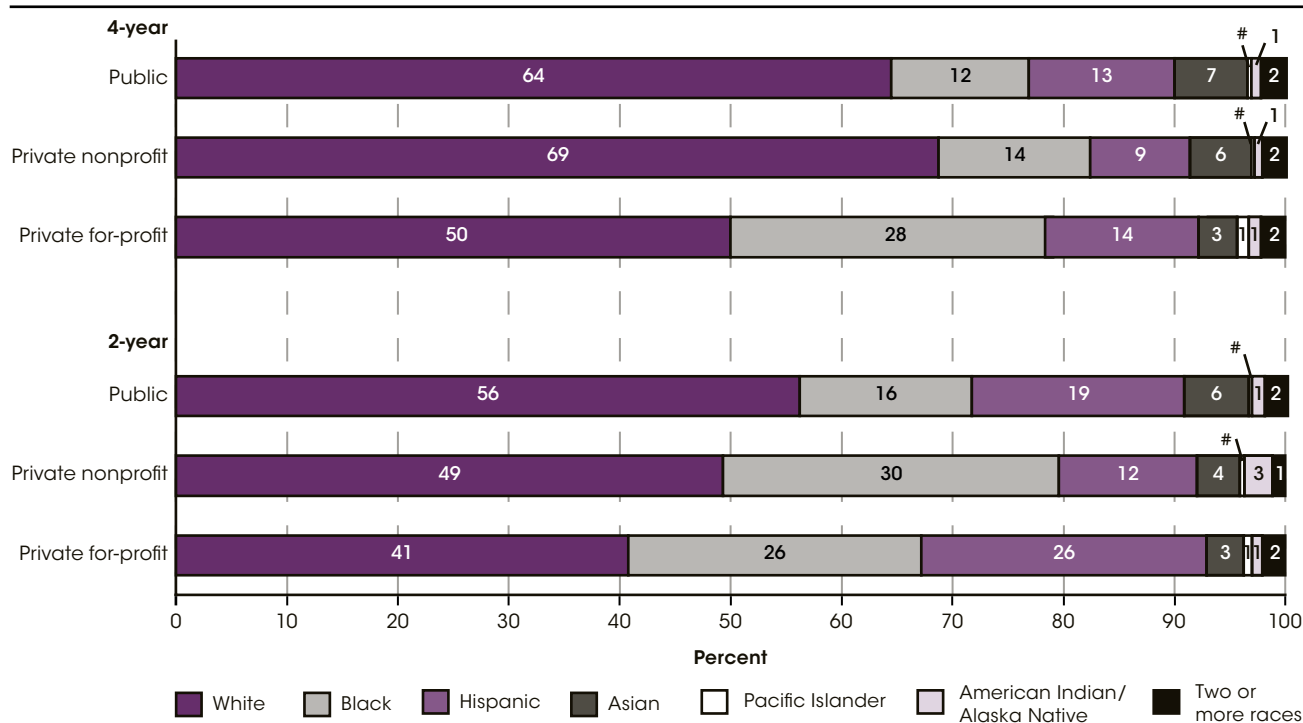


NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and the absence of "age unknown" students.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2012, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 226.

Of undergraduate students enrolled part time in 4-year institutions in 2011, young adults made up 50 percent of the enrollment at public institutions, 32 percent of the enrollment at private nonprofit institutions, and 21 percent of the enrollment at private for-profit institutions. Thus, students ages 25–34 and 35 and older accounted for the other half of the part-time enrollment at public 4-year institutions (29 percent and 21 percent, respectively), two-thirds of the part-time enrollment at private nonprofit 4-year institutions (30 percent and 36 percent, respectively), and over three-quarters of the part-time enrollment at private for-profit 4-year institutions (39 percent each).

In 2011, some 52 percent of part-time students at public 2-year institutions were young adults, while 25 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 23 percent were 35 and older. At private nonprofit 2-year institutions, some 40 percent of part-time students were young adults, 32 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 27 percent were 35 and older. At private for-profit 2-year institutions, 39 percent of part-time students were young adults, 35 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 26 percent were age 35 and older.

Figure 3. Percentage distribution of total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by institutional level and control and race/ethnicity of student: Fall 2011



Rounds to zero.
 NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2012, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 268.

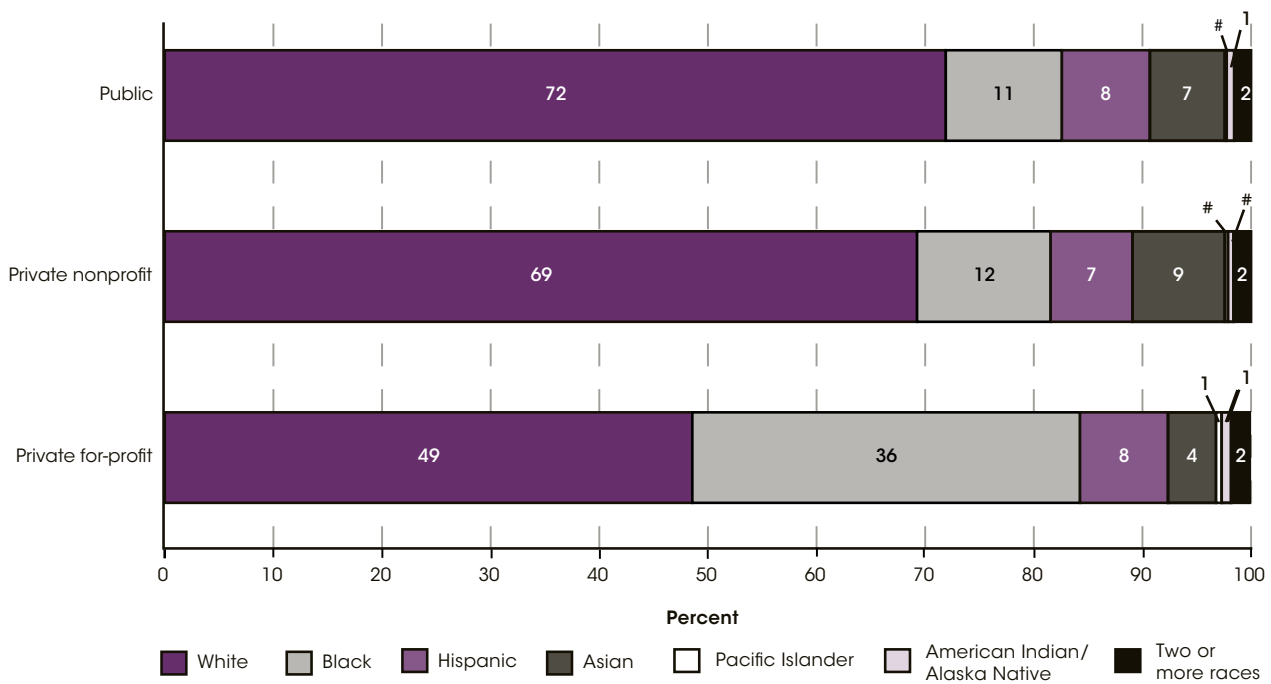
Sixty-nine percent of all undergraduate students (full-time and part-time) at private nonprofit 4-year institutions in 2011 were White, which was higher than the percentage of White students at either public or private for-profit 4-year institutions. For Asian undergraduate students at 4-year institutions that year, the highest percentage was at public institutions (7 percent). Higher percentages of Black (28 percent) and Hispanic (14 percent) undergraduates attended private for-profit 4-year institutions than public (12 percent and 13 percent,

respectively) and private nonprofit (14 and 9 percent, respectively) 4-year institutions.

At 2-year institutions in 2011, the highest percentages of White and Asian undergraduate students were at public institutions, at 56 percent and 6 percent, respectively, and the highest percentage of Black students was at private nonprofit institutions, at 30 percent. The highest percentage of Hispanic students at 2-year institutions in 2011 was at private for-profit institutions, at 26 percent.

For more information, see the Reader's Guide and the Guide to Sources.

Figure 4. Percentage distribution of total postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by institutional control and race/ethnicity of student: Fall 2011

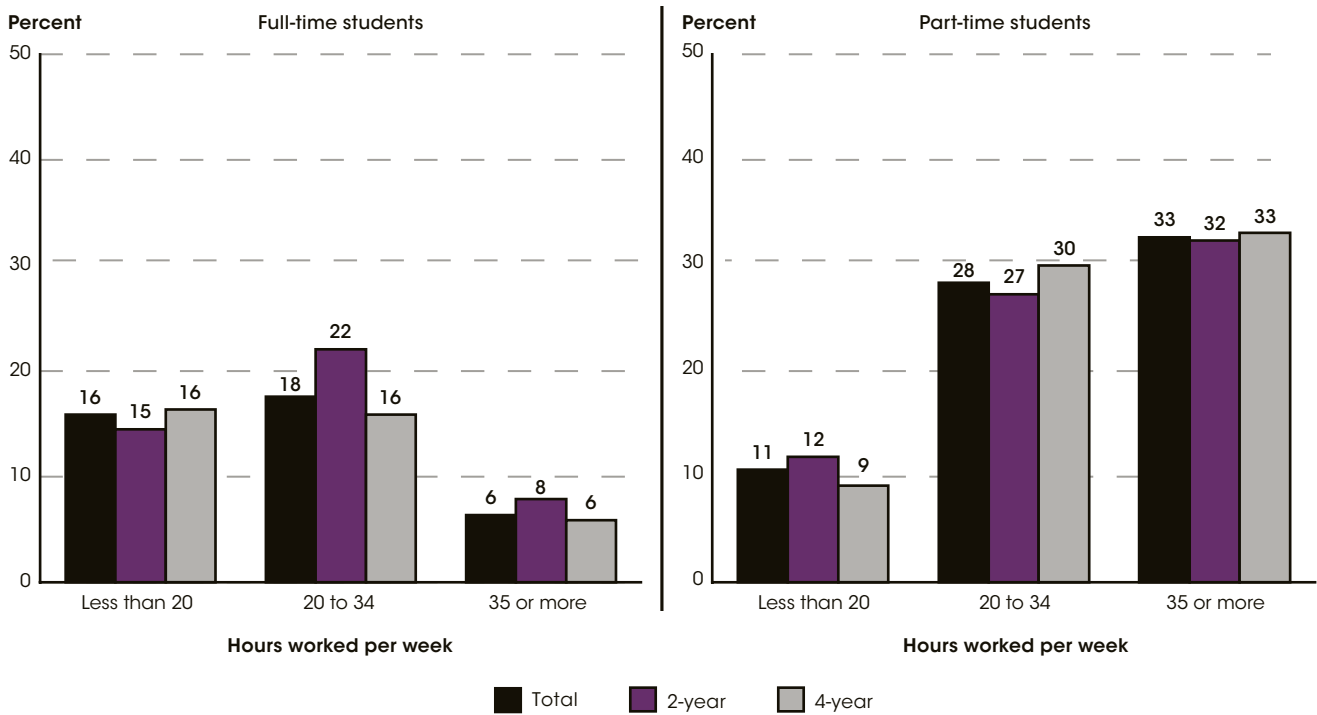


Rounds to zero.
 NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2012, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 268.

In 2011, some 48 percent of postbaccalaureate (graduate) students attended public institutions, 41 percent attended private nonprofit institutions, and 10 percent attended private for-profit institutions. There were differences in attendance patterns by race/ethnicity, however. At public institutions in 2011, some 72 percent of graduate students were White, compared with 69 percent at private nonprofit institutions and 49 percent at private for-profit institutions. Thirty-six percent of graduate students at private for-profit institutions were Black, compared with

12 percent of students at private nonprofit institutions and 11 percent of students at public institutions. Hispanics accounted for 8 percent of graduate enrollment at public and private for-profit institutions and 7 percent of graduate enrollment at private nonprofit institutions, while Asians accounted for 9 percent of graduate enrollment at private nonprofit institutions, 7 percent of graduate enrollment at public institutions, and 4 percent of graduate enrollment at private for-profit institutions.

Figure 5. Percentage of undergraduate college students 16 to 24 years old who were employed, by attendance status, hours worked per week, and institutional level: October 2011

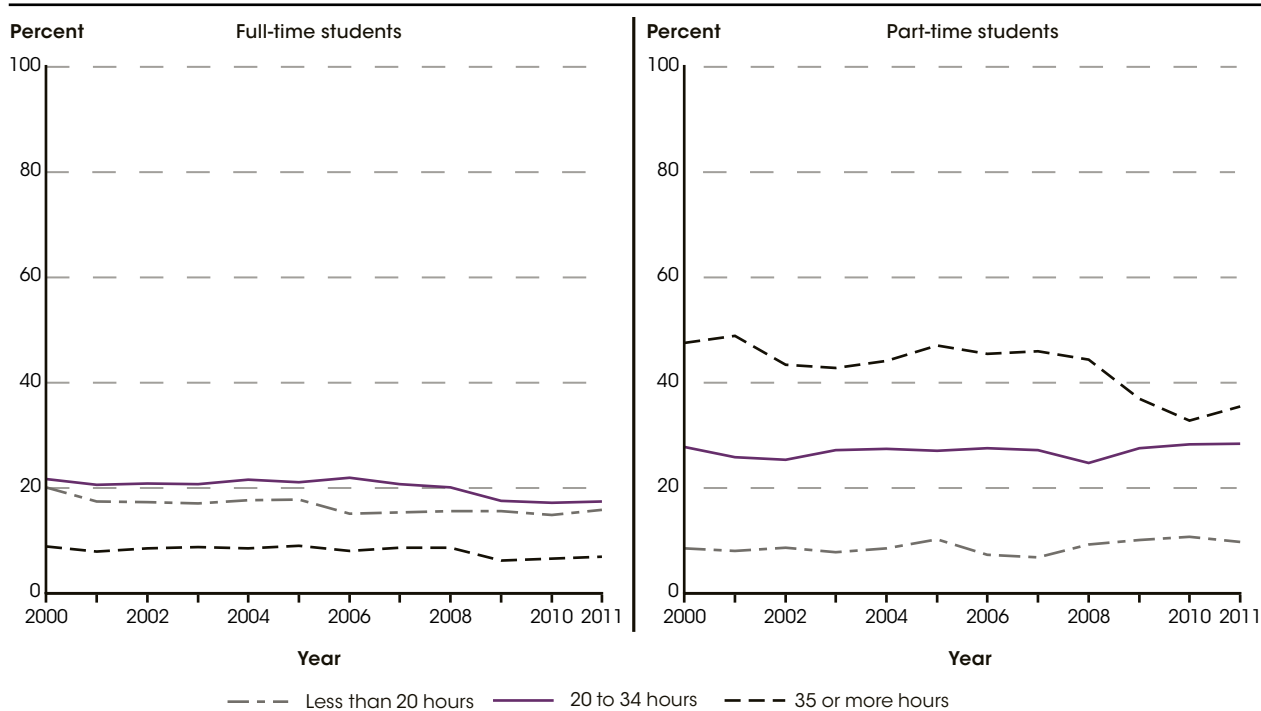


NOTE: Students were classified as full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes (or at least 9 hours of graduate classes) during an average school week and as part time if they were taking fewer hours.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 2011. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 443.

According to the Current Population Survey (CPS), in 2011 about 41 percent of full-time undergraduate students and 74 percent of part-time undergraduate students ages 16 to 24 years old worked in addition to being enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Of full-time undergraduate students, 16 percent of college students who were employed reported working less than 20 hours per week,

18 percent reported working 20 to 34 hours per week, and 6 percent reported working 35 hours or more per week. By comparison, 11 percent of part-time undergraduate students who were employed reported working less than 20 hours per week while they attended school, another 28 percent reported working 20 to 34 hours per week, and 33 percent reported working 35 or more hours per week.

Figure 6. Percentage of college students 16 to 24 years old who were employed, by attendance status and hours worked per week: October 2000 through October 2011



NOTE: Students were classified as full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes (or at least 9 hours of graduate classes) during an average school week and as part time if they were taking fewer hours.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2000 through October 2011. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 442.

In general, smaller percentages of all postsecondary students ages 16 to 24 years old were working in 2011 than had been working a decade prior. For full-time students, the decline in the percentage of all students who worked was from 52 percent in 2000 to 41 percent in 2011. For part-time students, the decline was from 85 percent to 75 percent. Further, for full-time students who were employed, the percentage of all students who worked less than 20 hours per week decreased from 20 percent in 2000 to 16 percent in 2011. Those full-time students who were working 20 to 34 hours per week

decreased from 22 percent to 17 percent, and those who were working 35 or more hours per week decreased from 9 percent to 7 percent over the same period.

Meanwhile, nearly half (47 percent) of all part-time students worked 35 hours or more per week in 2000, while in 2011 just 35 percent did. The percentages of part-time students who worked less than 20 hours per week or between 20 and 34 hours per week did not change measurably between 2000 and 2011.

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, tables 226, 228, 268, 442, 443

Glossary: Degree-granting institutions, Full-time enrollment, Part-time enrollment, Postbaccalaureate enrollment, Private for-profit institution, Private nonprofit institution, Public school or institution, Undergraduate students