

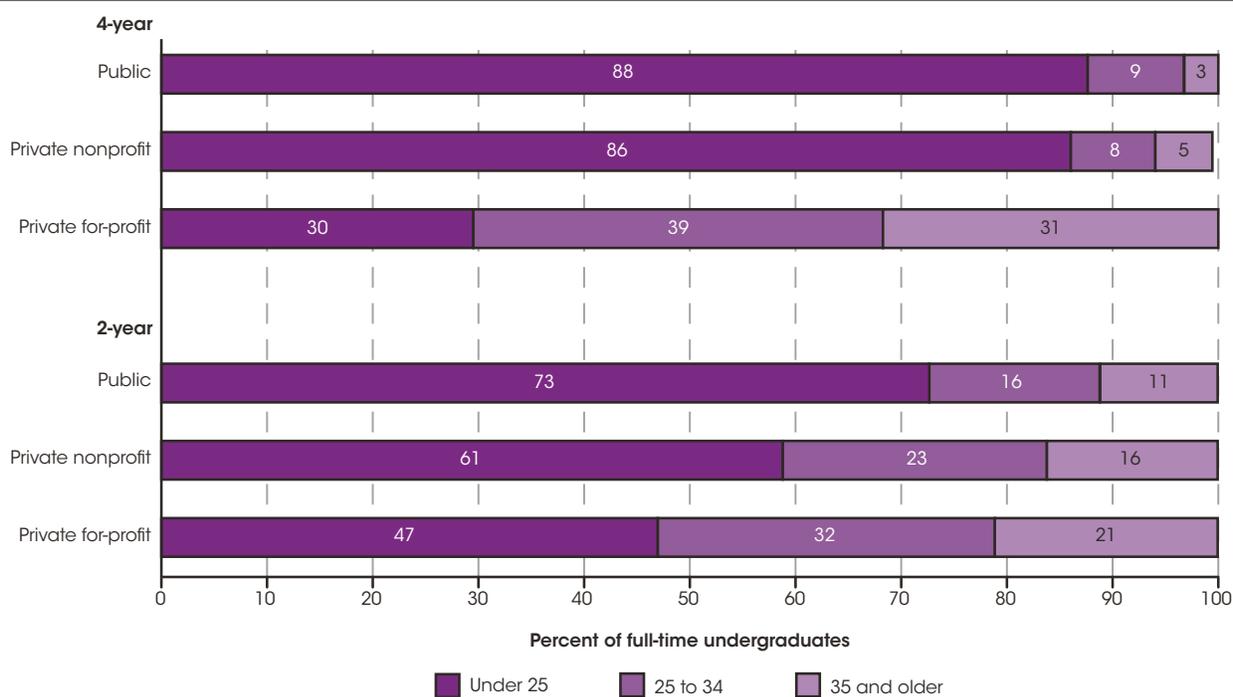
Characteristics of Postsecondary Students

Some 10.5 million undergraduate students attended 4-year institutions in fall 2013, while 7.0 million attended 2-year institutions. At 4-year institutions in fall 2013, some 77 percent of undergraduate students attended full time, compared with 41 percent at 2-year institutions.

In fall 2013, there were 17.5 million undergraduate students and 2.9 million postbaccalaureate (graduate) students attending degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the United States. Undergraduate students can attend 4-year institutions that primarily award bachelor's or higher degrees, or they can attend 2-year institutions that award associate's degrees and certificates and offer courses that may be creditable toward a bachelor's degree to be earned at a 4-year institution.

Some 10.5 million undergraduate students (60 percent of the total) attended 4-year institutions, while 7.0 million (40 percent of the total) attended 2-year institutions. Of the undergraduate students at 4-year institutions, 8.1 million, or 77 percent, attended full time. Of the undergraduate students at 2-year institutions, 2.8 million (41 percent) were full-time students and 4.1 million (59 percent) were part-time students.

Figure 1. Percentage distribution of full-time undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by institutional level and control and student age: Fall 2013



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 exclusion of "age unknown" students.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2014, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2014*, table 303.50.

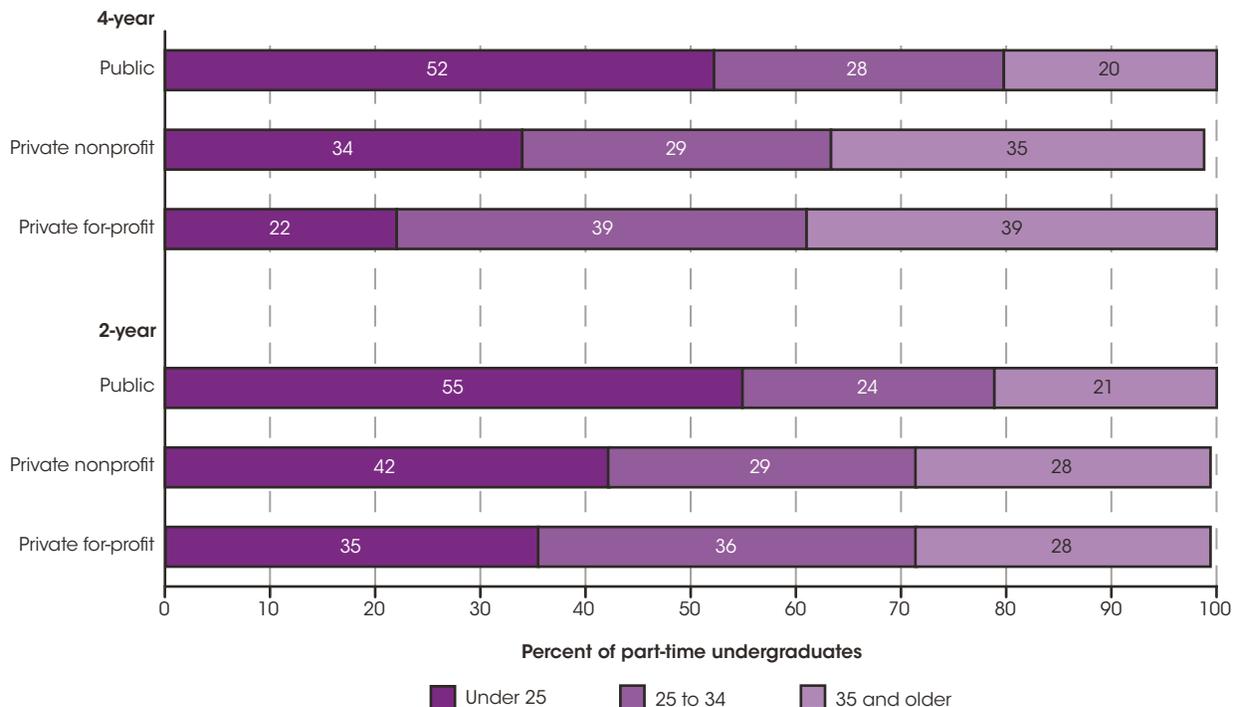
In 2013, a higher percentage of full-time undergraduate students at public and private nonprofit 4-year institutions were young adults (i.e., under the age of 25) than at comparable 2-year institutions. At public and private nonprofit 4-year institutions, most of the full-time

undergraduates (88 and 86 percent, respectively) were young adults. At private for-profit 4-year institutions, however, just 30 percent of full-time students were young adults (39 percent were ages 25–34, and 31 percent were age 35 and older).

Of full-time undergraduate students enrolled at 2-year institutions in 2013, young adults accounted for 73 percent at public institutions, 61 percent at private nonprofit institutions, and 47 percent at private for-profit institutions. At public institutions, 16 percent of full-time

students were ages 25–34, and 11 percent were age 35 and older; at private nonprofit institutions, 23 percent were ages 25–34, and 16 percent were age 35 and older; and at private for-profit institutions, 32 percent were ages 25–34, and 21 percent were age 35 and older.

Figure 2. Percentage distribution of part-time undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by institutional level and control and student age: Fall 2013



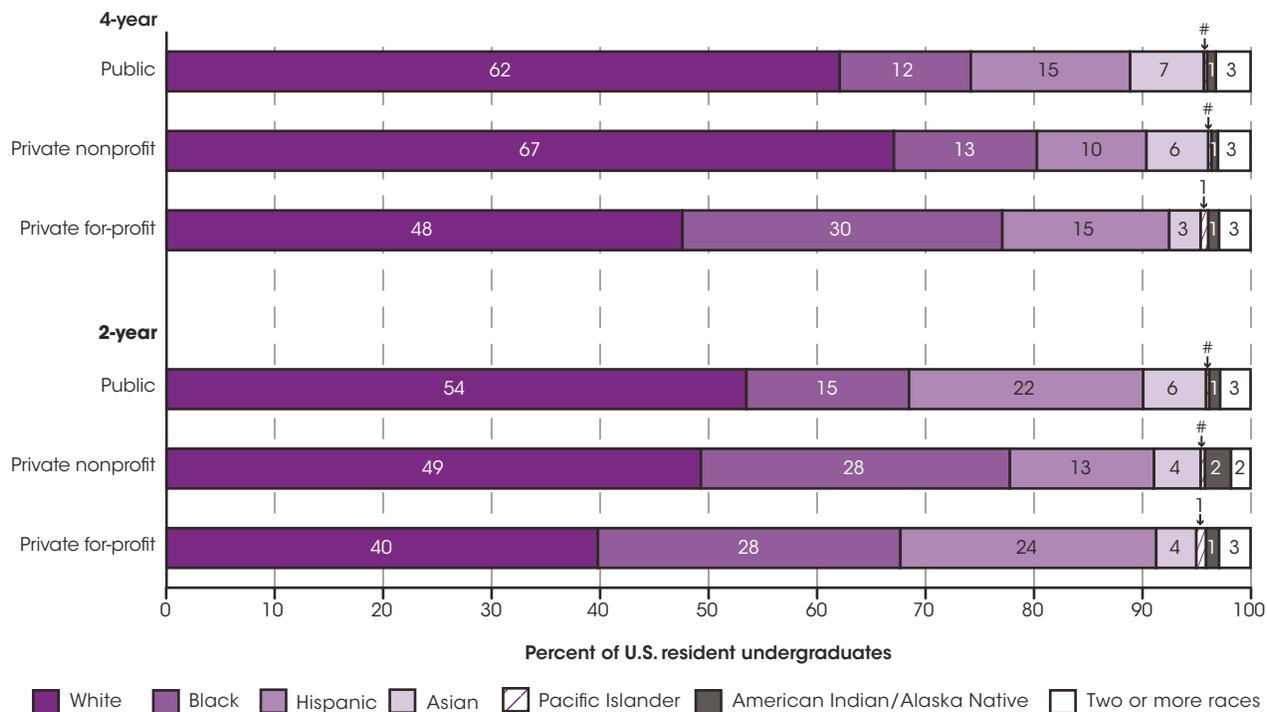
NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and the exclusion of "age unknown" students.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2014, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2014*, table 303.50.

In contrast to the pattern among full-time students, a lower percentage of part-time undergraduates at public and private nonprofit 4-year institutions were young adults than at comparable 2-year institutions. Young adults made up 52 percent of part-time undergraduates at 4-year public institutions, 34 percent at private nonprofit institutions, and 22 percent at private for-profit institutions. Those ages 25–34 and those age 35 and older accounted for less than half of the part-time enrollment at public 4-year institutions (28 and 20 percent, respectively), nearly two-thirds of the part-time enrollment at private nonprofit 4-year institutions (29 and 35 percent, respectively), and

over three-quarters of the part-time enrollment at private for-profit 4-year institutions (39 percent each).

Of part-time students enrolled at public 2-year institutions in 2013, some 55 percent were young adults, 24 percent were ages 25–34, and 21 percent were age 35 and older. At private nonprofit 2-year institutions, 42 percent of part-time students were young adults, 29 percent were age 25–34, and 28 percent were age 35 and older. At private for-profit 2-year institutions, 35 percent of part-time students were young adults, 36 percent were ages 25–34, and 28 percent were age 35 and older.

Figure 3. Percentage distribution of U.S. resident undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by institutional level and control and student race/ethnicity: Fall 2013



Rounds to zero.

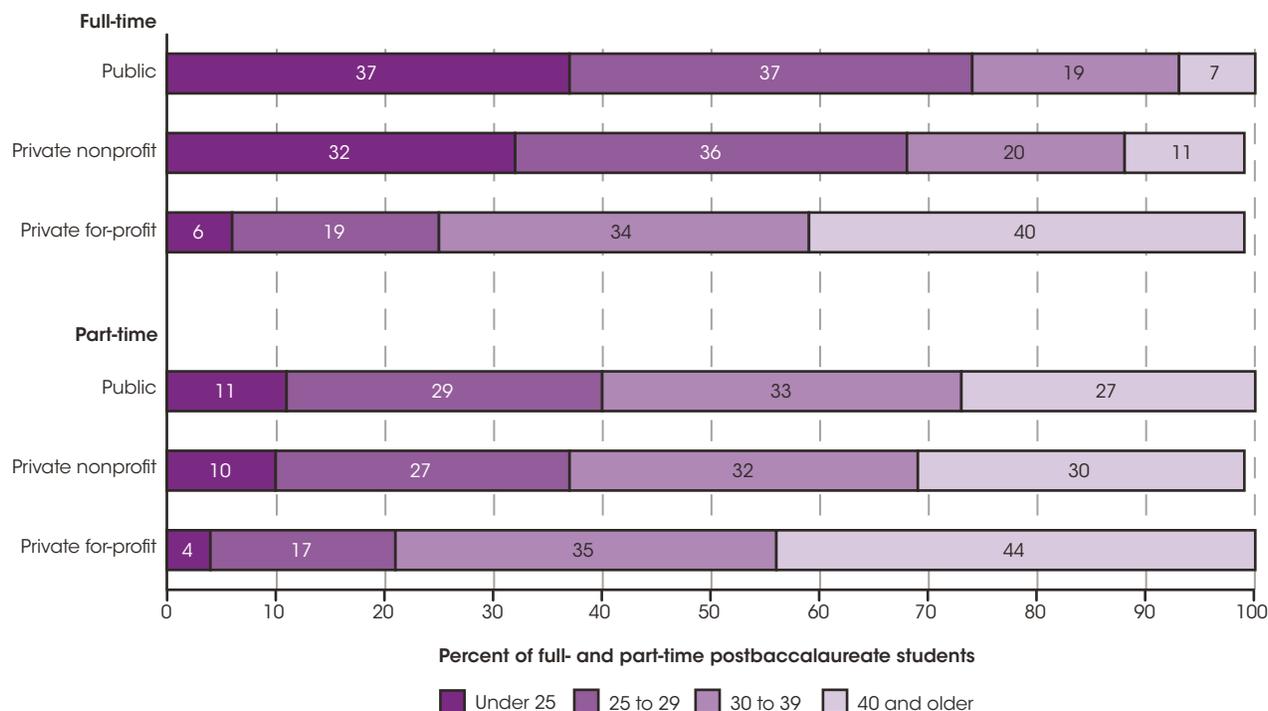
NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2014, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2014*, table 306.50.

Attendance patterns for undergraduate students at both institutional levels differed by race/ethnicity. Sixty-seven percent of all undergraduate students (full-time and part-time) at private nonprofit 4-year institutions in 2013 were White, which was higher than the percentage of White students at either public 4-year institutions (62 percent) or private for-profit 4-year institutions (48 percent). A higher percentage of the students at private for-profit 4-year institutions were Black (30 percent) than at public 4-year institutions (12 percent) and private nonprofit 4-year institutions (13 percent). A higher percentage of the students at public and private for-profit 4-year institutions were Hispanic (15 percent each) than at private nonprofit 4-year institutions (10 percent). For Asian undergraduate students at 4-year institutions in 2013, the highest percentage attended public institutions (7 percent).

The percentages of both White and Asian undergraduate students at public 2-year institutions (54 and 6 percent, respectively) were higher than the percentages at private nonprofit 2-year institutions (49 and 4 percent, respectively) and at private for-profit 2-year institutions (40 and 4 percent, respectively). In contrast, the percentages of students at private nonprofit and private for-profit 2-year institutions who were Black (28 percent each) were higher than the percentage at public 2-year institutions (15 percent). The percentage of students at private for-profit 2-year institutions who were Hispanic (24 percent) was higher than the percentages at public 2-year institutions (22 percent) and at private nonprofit 2-year institutions (13 percent).

Figure 4. Percentage distribution of full-time and part-time postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by institutional control and student age: Fall 2013

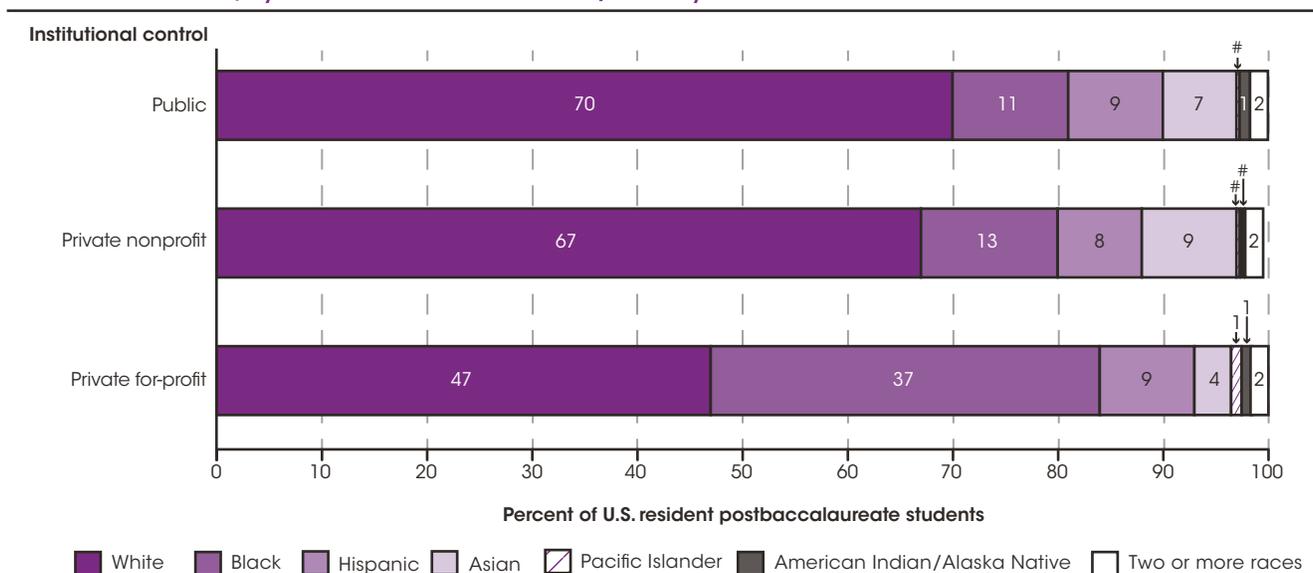


NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and the exclusion of "age unknown" students.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2014, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2014*, table 303.50.

In 2013, some 48 percent of graduate students attended public institutions, 42 percent attended private nonprofit institutions, and 10 percent attended private for-profit institutions. In 2013, the majority of full-time graduate students at public institutions were young adults (37 percent) and adults age 25–29 (37 percent); the same was true at private nonprofit institutions (32 percent were young adults and 36 percent were adults age 25–29).

In contrast, full-time students at private for-profit institutions were older: 34 percent were age 30–39 and 40 percent were 40 and older. Among part-time graduate students, adults age 30 and older comprised 79 percent of the students at private for-profit institutions, 62 percent at private nonprofit institutions, and 60 percent at public institutions.

Figure 5. Percentage distribution of U.S. resident postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by institutional control and race/ethnicity of student: Fall 2013



Rounds to zero.

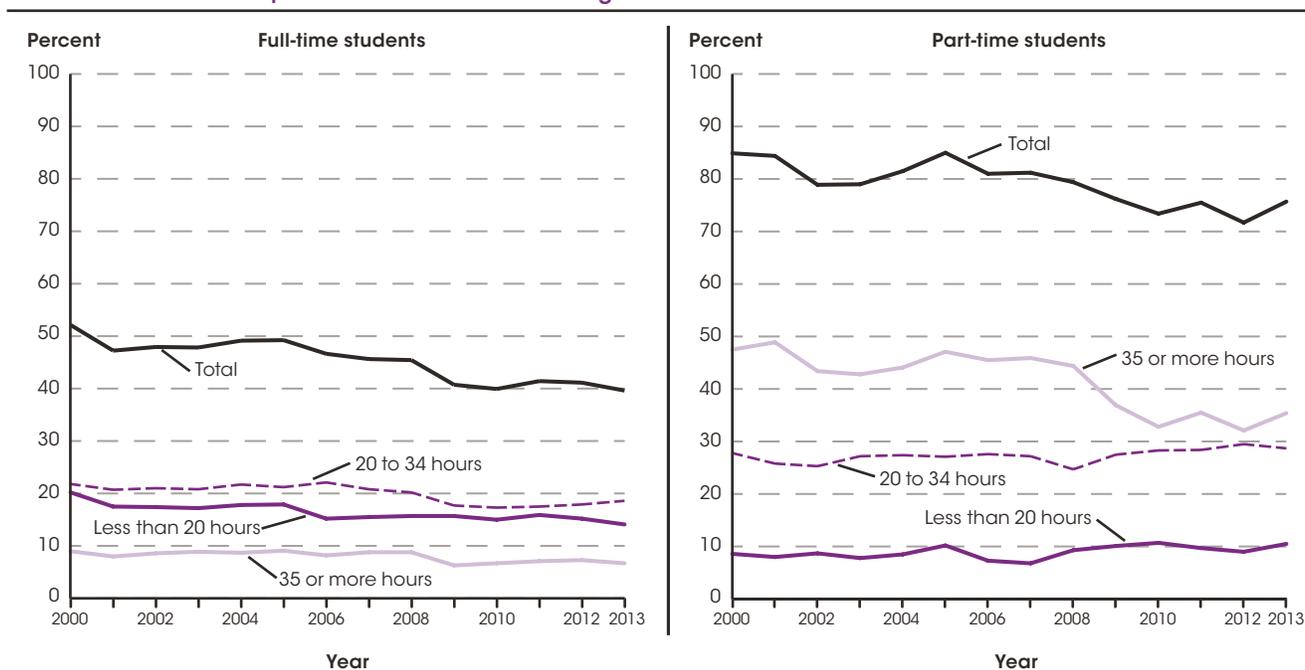
NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2014, Enrollment component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2014*, table 306.50.

Attendance patterns for graduate students also differed by race/ethnicity. At public institutions in 2013, some 70 percent of graduate students were White, compared with 67 percent at private nonprofit institutions and 47 percent at private for-profit institutions. Thirty-seven percent of graduate students at private for-profit institutions were Black, compared with 13 percent at

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

Figure 6. Percentage of 16- to 24-year-old college students who were employed, by attendance status and hours worked per week: October 2000 through October 2013



NOTE: Students were classified as full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of undergraduate 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 2013. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2014*, table 503.20.

Based on the Current Population Survey, about 40 percent of full-time college students 16 to 24 years old and 76 percent of part-time college students 16 to 24 years old were employed in October 2013. The percentage of students who worked 35 or more hours per week declined from 9 percent in 2000 to 7 percent in 2013 for full-time students and from 47 to 35 percent for part-time students. The percentage of full-time students who worked 20 to 34 hours per week declined from 22 percent in 2000

19 percent in 2013, while the percentage of part-time students who worked 20 to 34 hours a week did not measurably change over the same time period. The percentage of full-time students who worked less than 20 hours per week declined from 20 percent in 2000 to 14 percent in 2013, while the percentage of part-time students who worked less than 20 hours a week did not change measurably between 2000 (9 percent) and 2013 (11 percent).

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2014*, tables 303.50, 303.60, 306.50, and 503.20

Related Indicators: Undergraduate Enrollment (indicator 14), Postbaccalaureate Enrollment (indicator 15), Community Colleges [*The Condition of Education 2008 Special Analysis*]

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