

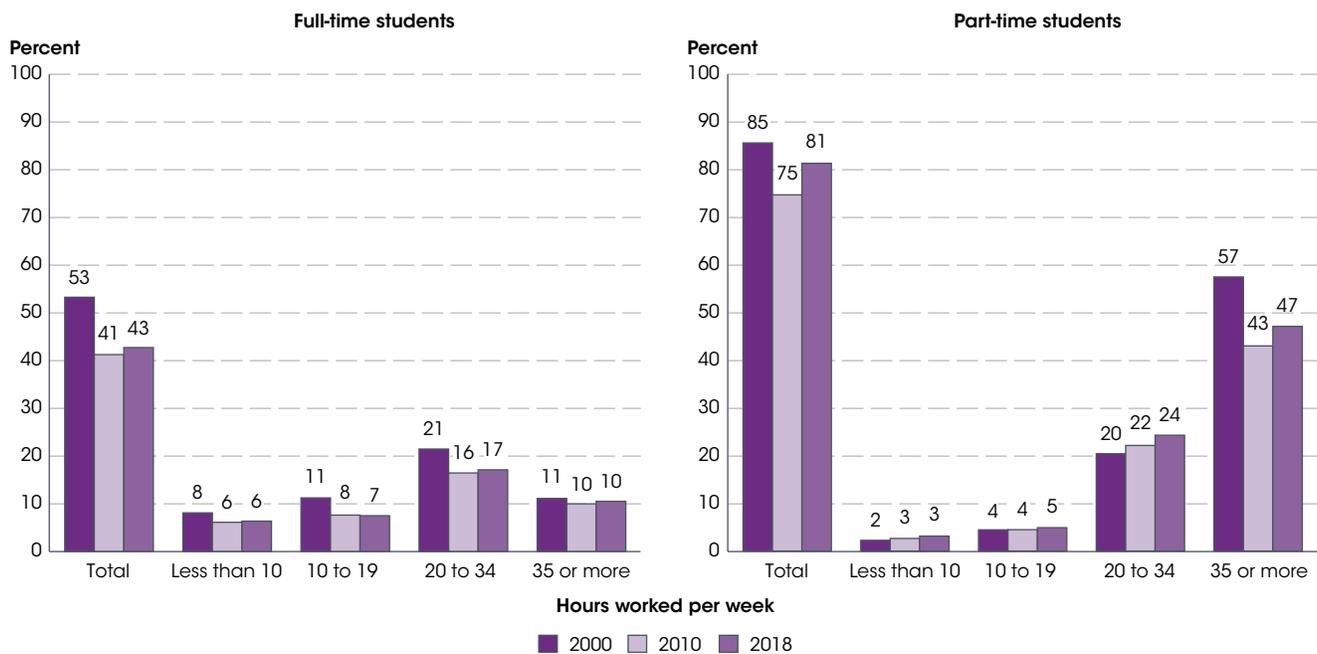
College Student Employment

The percentage of full-time undergraduate students who were employed was lower in 2018 (43 percent) than in 2000 (53 percent). Similarly, the percentage of part-time undergraduates who were employed was lower in 2018 (81 percent) than in 2000 (85 percent).

Many undergraduate students ages 16 to 64 are employed at the same time they are enrolled in school. In 2018, the percentage of undergraduate students who were employed was higher among part-time students (81 percent) than among full-time students (43 percent).¹ Being employed can help a student pay for classes and

other living expenses; it can also be associated, either positively or negatively, with a student's academic performance.^{2,3} Thus, it is important to examine employment patterns among undergraduate students and how these patterns vary by student characteristics.

Figure 1. Percentage of undergraduate students who were employed, by attendance status and hours worked per week: 2000, 2010, and 2018

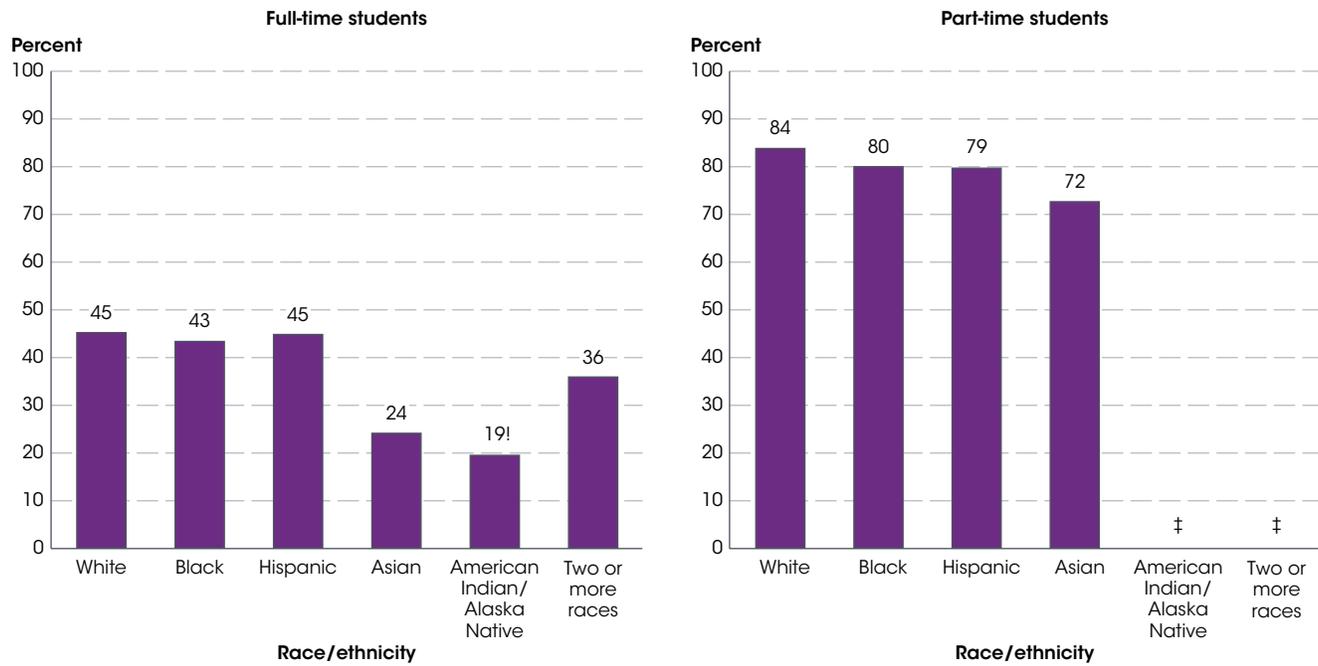


NOTE: Students were classified as full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes during an average school week and as part time if they were taking fewer hours. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population, which excludes persons in the military and persons living in institutions (e.g., prisons or nursing facilities). Detail may not sum to totals because the percentages of hours worked per week exclude those who were employed but not at work during the survey week. Includes students ages 16 through 64. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 2000, 2010, and 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 503.40.

The percentage of full-time undergraduate students who were employed in 2018 (43 percent) was lower than in 2000 (53 percent) but was not measurably different from the percentage in 2010. Similarly, among those enrolled part time, the percentage of undergraduates who were employed in 2018 (81 percent) was lower than in 2000 (85 percent). However, in 2018, the percentage of part-time undergraduates who were employed was higher than in 2010 (75 percent).

In 2018, some 6 percent of full-time undergraduates were employed less than 10 hours per week, 7 percent were employed 10 to 19 hours per week, 17 percent were employed 20 to 34 hours per week, and 10 percent were employed 35 hours or more per week. There was no measurable difference between 2018 and 2000 in

the percentages of full-time undergraduates employed 35 hours or more per week, but the percentages for all other categories of hours worked per week were lower in 2018 than in 2000 for full-time undergraduates who were employed. Among undergraduates enrolled part time in 2018, 3 percent were employed less than 10 hours per week, 5 percent were employed 10 to 19 hours per week, 24 percent were employed 20 to 34 hours per week, and 47 percent were employed 35 hours or more per week. The percentage of part-time undergraduates who were employed 20 to 34 hours per week was higher in 2018 than in 2000 (24 vs. 20 percent), but the percentage of part-time undergraduates who were employed 35 hours or more per week was lower in 2018 than in 2000 (47 vs. 57 percent).

Figure 2. Percentage of undergraduate students who were employed, by attendance status and race/ethnicity: 2018

! Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Either there are too few cases for a reliable estimate or the coefficient of variation (CV) is 50 percent or greater.

NOTE: Students were classified as full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes during an average school week and as part time if they were taking fewer hours. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Reporting standards for Pacific Islanders were not met; therefore, data for this group is not shown in the figure. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population, which excludes persons in the military and persons living in institutions (e.g., prisons or nursing facilities). Includes students ages 16 through 64. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data.

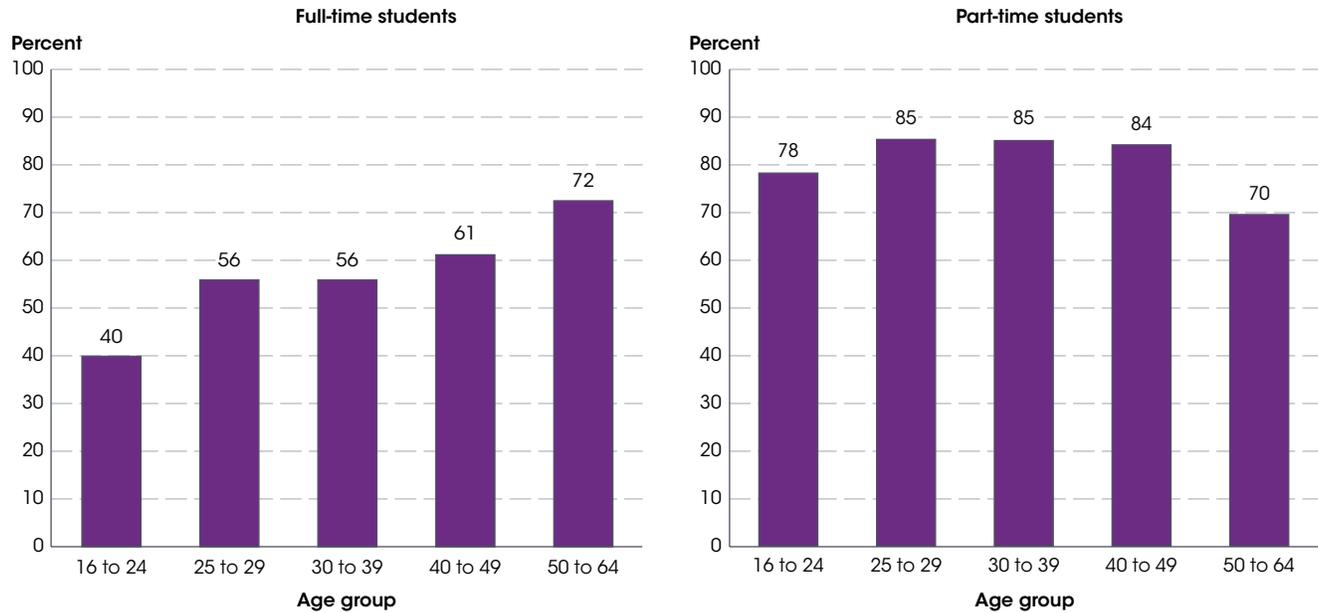
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 503.40.

In 2018, the percentage of full-time undergraduates who were employed was lower among Asian students (24 percent) than among students who were Black (43 percent), Hispanic (45 percent), and White (45 percent). The percentage of part-time undergraduate students who were employed was not measurably different among racial/ethnic groups.

Among undergraduates enrolled full time in 2018, there was no measurable difference between the percentages of female and male students who were employed (44 and

41 percent, respectively). Similarly, among undergraduates enrolled part time, there was also no measurable difference between the percentages of male and female students who were employed (82 and 81 percent, respectively).

In 2018, the percentage of full-time undergraduates who were employed was higher at 2-year institutions (46 percent) than at 4-year institutions (41 percent). The percentages of employed part-time undergraduates at 2-year and 4-year institutions in 2018 were not measurably different from each other.

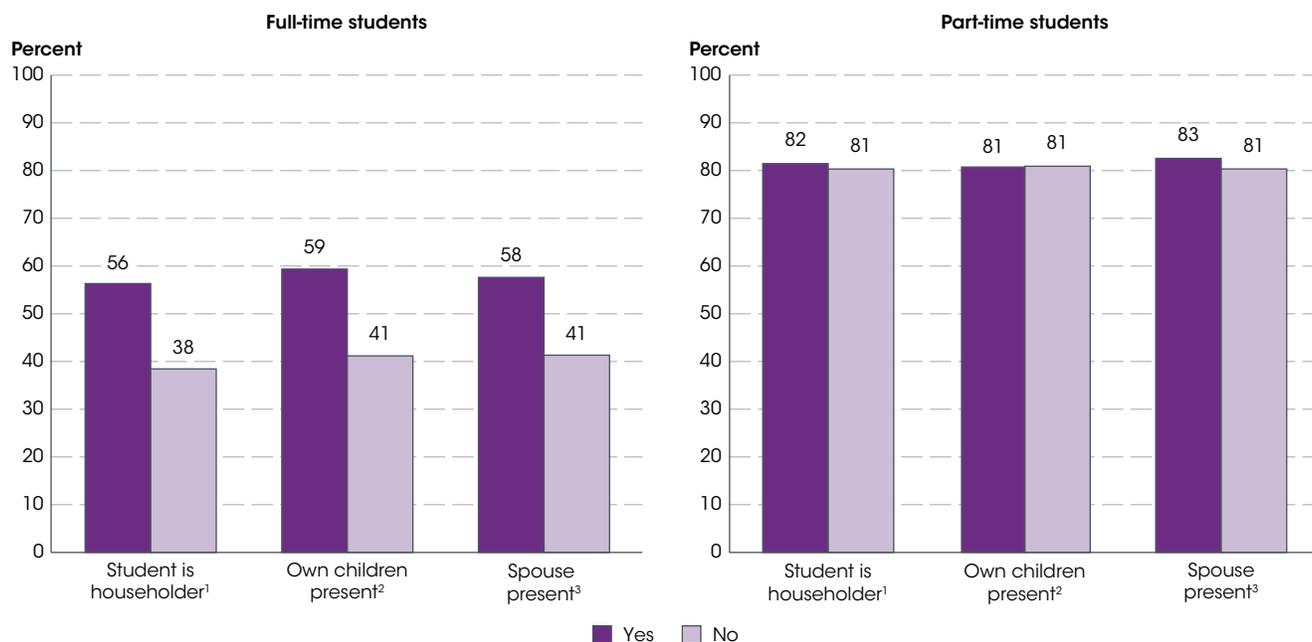
Figure 3. Percentage of undergraduate students who were employed, by attendance status and age group: 2018

NOTE: Students were classified as full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes during an average school week and as part time if they were taking fewer hours. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population, which excludes persons in the military and persons living in institutions (e.g., prisons or nursing facilities). Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 503.40.

In 2018, the percentage of full-time undergraduates who were employed was lower for those ages 16 to 24 (40 percent) than for those ages 25 to 29 (56 percent), ages 30 to 39 (56 percent), ages 40 to 49 (61 percent), and ages 50 to 64 (72 percent). Among undergraduates enrolled

part time, the percentage who were employed was higher for those ages 25 to 29 and ages 30 to 39 (85 percent each) than for those ages 16 to 24 (78 percent) and ages 50 to 64 (70 percent).

Figure 4. Percentage of undergraduate students who were employed, by attendance status and selected student characteristics: 2018

¹ Householders are persons in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. Never-married students living away from home in college dormitories are not considered householders.

² Own children are never-married sons and daughters of the student who are under 18, including stepchildren and adopted children.

³ Students with no spouse present are all students who did not live with a spouse, including students who are single, divorced, separated, or widowed.

NOTE: Students were classified as full time if they were taking at least 12 hours of classes during an average school week and as part time if they were taking fewer hours. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population, which excludes persons in the military and persons living in institutions (e.g., prisons or nursing facilities). Includes students ages 16 through 64. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 503.40.

In addition, the percentage of undergraduates who were employed varied by the characteristics of the households in which they lived. For example, among full-time undergraduates in 2018, a higher percentage of householders than of nonhouseholders were employed (56 vs. 38 percent).⁴ The percentage of full-time undergraduates who were employed was higher for those who lived with one or more of their own children (59 percent) than for those who lived with no

children (41 percent).⁵ Also, the percentage of full-time undergraduates who were employed was higher for those who lived with a spouse (58 percent) than for those who did not live with a spouse (41 percent). Among undergraduates enrolled part time, the percentages of those who were employed did not measurably differ either by householder status, the presence of own children, or the presence of a spouse.

Endnotes:

¹ Students ages 16 to 64 were classified as employed if they worked during any part of the survey week as paid employees. Those who were employed but not at work during the survey week were also included.

² Dundes, L., and Marx, J. (2006). Balancing Work and Academics in College: Why Do Students Working 10 to 19 Hours per Week Excel? *Journal of College Student Retention*, 8(1): 107–120. Retrieved January 6, 2020, from <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.2190/7UCU-8F9M-94QG-5W/WQ>.

³ Pike, G.R., Kuh, G.D., and Massa-McKinley, R.C. (2008). First-Year Students' Employment, Engagement, and Academic Achievement: Untangling the Relationship Between Work

and Grades. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, 45(4): 560–582. Retrieved January 6, 2020, from <https://naspa.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.2202/1949-6605.2011#.W4an6c5KhhF>.

⁴ Householders are persons in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. Never-married students living away from home in college dormitories are not considered householders.

⁵ Own children are never-married sons and daughters of the student who are under 18, including stepchildren and adopted children.

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 503.40

Related indicators and resources: [Characteristics of Postsecondary Students](#)

Glossary: College; Employment status; Full-time enrollment; Household; Part-time enrollment; Postsecondary institutions (basic classification by level); Racial/ethnic group; Undergraduate students