

## State of Student Aid and Higher Education In Texas

The State of Student Aid and Higher Education in Texas publication is intended to be a reference document filled with current and timely statistics. The publication focuses on Texas, but often contains comparisons to the nation or other large states.



### Texas Education Pipeline

By 2050, it is projected that about

**47%** of 18 to 24-year-olds  
WILL BE HISPANICS.

Overall, **14%** of Texans  
lived in poverty,  
**26%** in the Rio Grande  
region, in 2019.

**45%** of Texas high  
school graduates  
enrolled in college immediately  
after high school in 2020.

Texas ranked **3<sup>rd</sup>**  
in the nation  
for high school graduation rates  
in 2018-19, tying 2 other states at 90%.

### Texas College Student Profile

**78% OF ALL  
FRESHMEN**  
attending Texas public higher education  
institutions in fall 2020 were enrolled  
at **community colleges**.

**46%** of Texas undergraduates  
enrolled in school  
part-time in fall 2020.

### Costs & Paying for College in Texas

Tuition and fees  
in Texas comprise **40%**  
of total costs at 4-year public universities  
in 2020-21; **23%** at community colleges.

Texas students benefited from over  
**\$842,000,000**  
in exemptions and waivers  
at public institutions in 2020.

The state of Texas spent approximately  
**\$560,000,000**  
on grant aid in 2019-20.

The average Pell grant in Texas covered  
**18%** of the average cost  
of attendance at  
public institutions.

Unmet need for **low-income  
Texas students** is over  
**\$10,000**  
at public universities per school year.

It takes **75** hours per week at **minimum  
wage to pay for 2 semesters** at a  
Texas university; **57** at community  
colleges.

## Debt

Student loan debt is the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest type of consumer debt in Texas**, behind mortgage and auto debt.

Less than a **1/3** of student loan borrowers surveyed in 2021 **were confident they will be able to pay off their debt.**

Nearly **1/2** of borrowers **who started college in 2003** and did not graduate **had defaulted by 2016.**

**African-American college graduates** were **MORE LIKELY** to borrow student loans and borrowed larger cumulative amounts compared to their peers.

Total outstanding student loan debt in Texas reached **\$125,000,000,000** in 2021.

**Borrowers who default** have **LESS STUDENT LOAN DEBT** than those **who do not default**, due largely to dropping out of college.

Only **34%** of community college students and **50%** of university students reported **fully paying off their credit card bill each month in 2021.**

**LESS THAN 1/3** of direct student aid to Texas community college students was in the form of loans, compared to **nearly half for Texas public university students.**

## Student Financial Wellness

Approximately **16%** of community college students surveyed **reported experiencing homelessness** in 2021.

More than **1/2** of students in a 2021 survey reported that they would **have trouble getting \$500 dollars** to meet an unexpected need.

Almost **1/4** of students surveyed **in fall 2021** reported they did not know how they **would pay for college the next semester.**

**Low-income Texas students are far LESS LIKELY** to obtain a Bachelor's degree compared to high-income students.

## College (Still) Pays Off

Over a lifetime, earnings by **bachelor degree recipients exceeds high school graduate earnings by \$1M**

**Unemployment rates DECREASE** as educational attainment rises.