

PERCEPTION

REALITY

2 in 5 Americans believe states have increased their spending on higher education in the last 10 years.



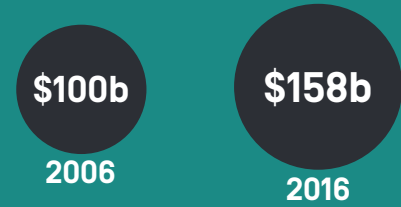
Overall, state funding decreased from \$91.6 billion in 2006 to \$90.5 billion in 2016. And per full-time equivalent, it fell from \$9,303 in 2006 to \$8,171 in 2016.¹



2 in 5 Americans believe the federal government increased their spending on higher education in the last 10 years.



Overall, federal funding increased from \$100.7 billion in 2005-6 to \$158.3 billion in 2015-16.²



7 in 10 Americans believe students pay the majority of costs involved in higher education.



Dependent students pay **51.1%** of costs at public four-year colleges, **74.5%** at private four-year colleges, and **32.8%** at two-year colleges.³



3 in 5 Americans believe government pays less than half of costs involved in higher education.



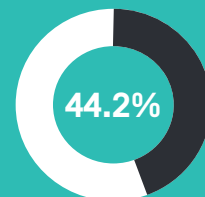
Government sources make up about **41.8%** of costs at public four-year colleges, **13.6%** at private four-year colleges, and **65.2%** at two-year colleges.⁴



3 in 8 Americans believe most financial aid goes to minority students.



Minority students receive **44.2%** of all financial aid.⁵



PERCEPTION

4 in 9 Americans believe most people who go to college finish with a degree.



4 in 7 Americans believe there are more students in two-year and technical programs than there are in four-year bachelor degree programs.



3 in 5 Americans believe the average college student is 20 years old.



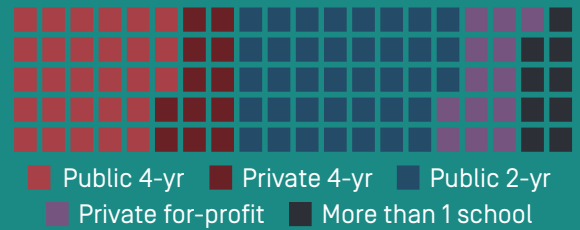
1 in 2 Americans believe most college students attend school full time.



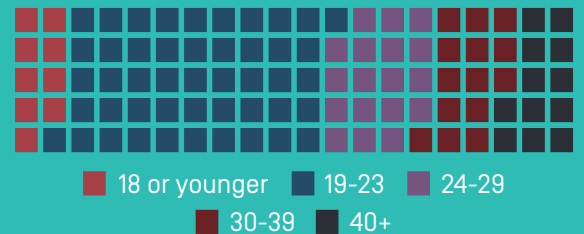
REALITY

Without better data, it's difficult to answer. We do know that **59%** of full-time, first-time students at four-year institutions completed a bachelor's or equivalent degree within six years, and that **32%** of full-time, first-time students at two-year institutions completed a credential within three years.⁶

40.1% of all students attend a four-year institution, and **38.1%** of all students attend a public two-year institution.⁷



The average college student is **26.4** years of age.⁸



50.5% of all students attend school exclusively full-time.⁹



Sources:

1. State Higher Education Finance: FY 2016 (Boulder, CO: State Higher Education Executive Officers, 2017) Amounts shown in 2016 dollars.
2. Trends in Student Aid 2016 (New York, NY: College Board, 2016).
3. Jason Delisle, Shifting Burdens: How Changes in Financial Aid Affected What Students and Families Paid for College from 1996 to 2012 (Washington, DC: New America, April 2016).
4. Ibid
5. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).
6. Scott A. Ginder, Janice E. Kelly-Reid, and Farrah B. Mann, Graduation Rates for Selected Cohorts, 2007-12; Student Financial Aid, Academic Year 2014-15; and Admissions in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2015 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, February 2017).
7. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).
8. Ibid
9. Ibid