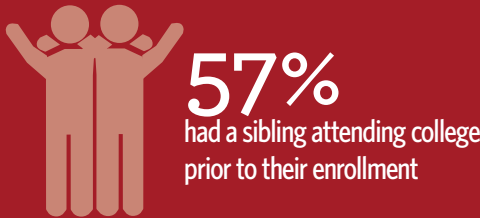
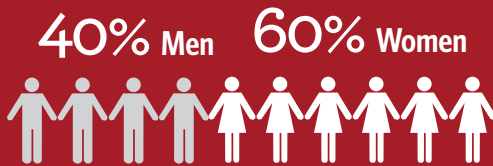


# Higher Ed Spotlight

## American Indians and Alaska Natives in Undergraduate Education

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) undergraduates are a diverse group in many ways, including the number of tribes they represent—566 federally recognized tribes across 35 states. National data help us understand degree aspirations and enrollment and financial aid trends that get lost in generalizations of the understudied AI/AN population that represents almost one percent of the national college student body.

### Demographic Characteristics



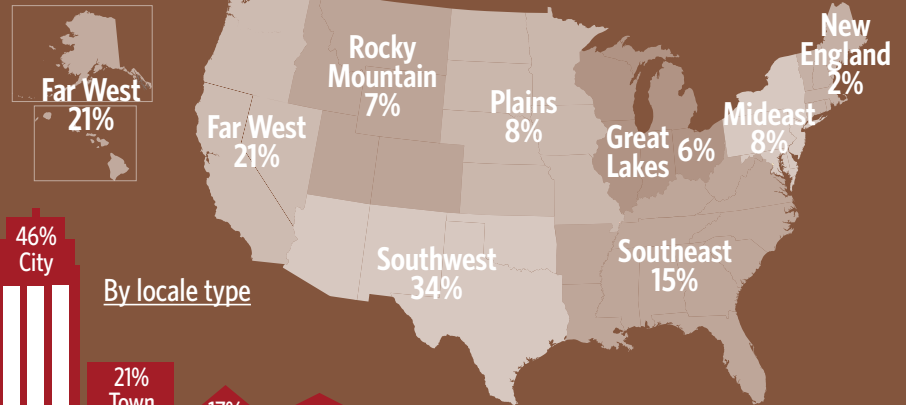
On average, at the start of their postsecondary education AI/ANs are

**23** years old

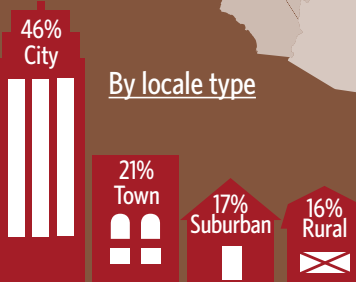


### Location of Institutions Attended

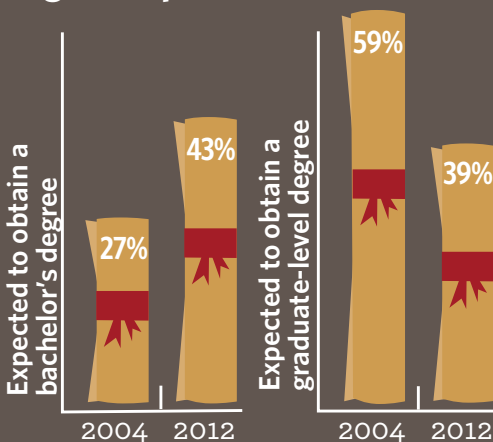
By region



By locale type



### Degree Aspirations



### Enrollment Trends

AI/AN students in 2012:

Enrollment

**208,838**



**17%** attended an out-of-state college or university, up from 7% in 2003-04



**21%** enrolled in for-profit institutions, a 16.4% increase since 2004



**33%** attended a public institution, a decrease of 6.5% since 2004

46% AI/AN students are first-generation and low-income, an

**82%**

increase since 2004

From 2004 to 2012, there has been an increase of

**17%**

in AI/AN full-time enrollment

### Financial Aid Trends

**\$4,334**

the average award of need-based grant aid received by AI/AN students

**87%**

applied for financial aid, an increase of 10% since 2004

**63%**

are financially independent compared with the general student population at 51%

**57%**

have ever received any type of loan during their undergraduate years

Note: Percentages have been rounded.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2003-04, 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:04 and NPSAS:12).

Analysis by Christine Nelson, Graduate Research Associate  
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