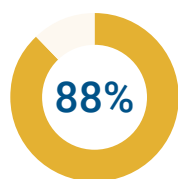


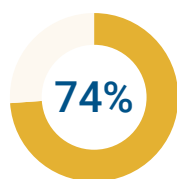
# Student-Parents in the U.S. Higher Education System

Over 3.1 million undergraduate students in the U.S. higher education system are student-parents.\* With the generous support of Imaginable Futures, the American Council on Education (ACE) is spotlighting student-parents to emphasize the need to better understand and support this growing student population.

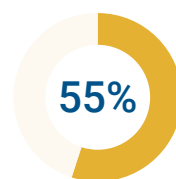
## Student-Parent Demographics



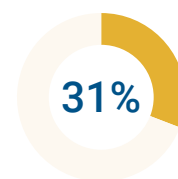
Ages 25 years and older



Women



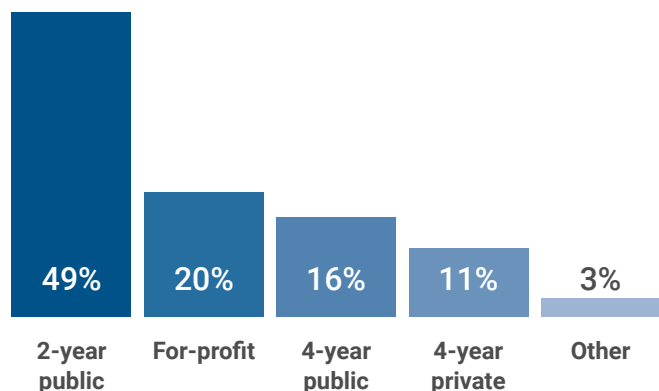
People of color\*\*



Living at or below the poverty line

## Educational Trajectories and Pathways

Nearly **one-half** of student-parents attended two-year public institutions.



Note: Total may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.



Approximately **44 percent** of student-parents were enrolled in entirely online or virtual postsecondary education programs.



Nearly **three in five** student-parents worked full time while enrolled in higher education.



Approximately **one in three** student-parents were enrolled in majors or programs related to health care.

\*The term student-parents denotes respondents who indicated that they have dependent children.

\*\*The term people of color denotes respondents who identified as a racial and ethnic category other than White.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2019–20 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2020 Undergraduate Students Dataset (Washington, DC: Institute of Education, U.S. Department of Education). Analysis by Alyssa Stefanese Yates, postdoctoral associate, Education Futures Lab, ACE.