ENROLLMENT/DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- The average college enrollment rate for female students age 18-24 was 44% in 2017. Male students of the same age had an enrollment rate of 37%.
- From 2000 to 2017, Black and Hispanic female students aged 18-24 saw the largest increase in enrollment rates. Black female enrollment for students aged 18-24 increased from 35% to 40%, while Hispanic female enrollment increased from 41% to 44%.
- In 2017, 72% of female high school completers enrolled immediately after graduation in two- or four-year colleges, compared to 61% of male high school completers.
- In 2016-17, women earned 57% of all bachelor’s degrees, 59% of all master’s degrees, and 53% of doctoral degrees conferred.
- Sixty-three percent of females who began seeking a bachelor’s degree at a four-year institution in fall 2011 completed that degree in six years, compared to 57% of male students.
- First-time, full-time undergraduate female students seeking bachelor’s degrees had higher six-year completion rates than their male counterparts at both public (62 vs. 57 percent) and private nonprofit institutions (69 vs. 63 percent). Male students had a higher six-year graduation rate at private for-profit institutions (22 vs. 20 percent).

GRANTS, LOANS & DEBT

- In the 2016 academic year, 62% of Pell Grant recipients were female.
  - In the 2015-16 academic year, the average Pell Grant amount for females was $3,700, an equivalent number to the average amount for males.
- In 2019, 61% of federal student loan recipients were women.
- In the United States, women hold nearly two-thirds of outstanding student loan debt, with more than $929 billion in total debt as of 2019.
  - Female completers of baccalaureate degrees in 2016 had an average of $21,619 in cumulative student loan debt, compared to male completers with an average debt of $18,880.
  - Female completers of associate degrees in 2016 had an average of $10,539 in cumulative student loan debt, compared to male completers with an average debt of $7,567.

SOURCES
“4.8 Million College Students are Raising Children.” Institute for Women’s Policy Research, November 2014.
"Women’s Student Debt Crisis in the United States.” The American Association of University Women, September 2017.

Updated March 2020