



# Postsecondary National Policy Institute

## MEN OF COLOR IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In 2019, only 36% of African-American students, 41% of Latino students, 38% of Native American students, 46% of Asian American/Pacific Islander students were men. The enrollment and graduation rates of men of color in higher education [lag behind](#) not only those of white male students but those of women of color.

### ENROLLMENT

- Men of color represented 17.5% of all postsecondary enrollment and 43.9% of all male student enrollment in 2019.
  - Black men represent 4.6% of all postsecondary enrollment, Latino men 7.9%, Asian/Pacific Islander men 3.2%, and American Indian/Alaska Native men 0.3%.
- Since 2000, fewer men of color than women of color have been [enrolling](#) in undergraduate programs.
  - In the fall of 2016, 38% of undergraduate black students were male; 42% of Hispanic black students were male; 47% of Asian students were male; 45% of Pacific Islander students were male; and 40% of American Indian/Alaska Native students were male.
- Community colleges serve as the primary pathway into public institutions of higher education for male students of color.
  - 62% of male students [enrolled](#) in the 2015-16 academic year attended a community college at some point in their college going career.
  - Black men, Latino men, Native American men, and Pacific Islander men [attended](#) community colleges at higher rates than males overall.
  - Only Asian American and white men were less likely than males overall to [attend](#) a community college.

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- Across racial/ethnic groups, male students [earned](#) a smaller share of undergraduate degrees and certificates than female students in 2015–2016.
  - 34% of African-American male students [completed](#) bachelor's degrees within six years, compared to 44% of African-American females.
  - 50% of Latino male students [completed](#) bachelor's degrees within six years, compared to 58% of Latino females.
  - 35% of American Indian/Alaska Native male students [completed](#) bachelor's degrees within six years, compared to 42% of American Indian/Alaska Native females.
  - 70% of Asian American male students [completed](#) bachelor's degrees within six years, compared to 77% of Asian American females.
  - 50% of Pacific Islander male students [completed](#) bachelor's degrees within six years, compared to 53% of Pacific Islander females.

## SOURCES

["The Condition of Education."](#) U.S. Department of Education, May 2020.

["National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2016 Undergraduates."](#) National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. Accessed January 2020.

["Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report."](#) American Council on Education, 2019.

["Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups 2018."](#) U.S. Department of Education, February 2019.

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