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.


Updated January 2022