



Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs)¹

HISTORY

In 2008, Congress formally recognized PBIs as an important subset of the U.S. higher education system when it authorized a program of support for these institutions. It defined PBIs as having: at least 1,000 undergraduate students; an undergraduate enrollment that is at least 50% low-income or first-generation; an undergraduate enrollment that is at least 50% degree-seeking; a low expenditure per full-time undergraduate student in comparison with other institutions offering similar instruction; and at least 40% of enrolled students identifying as Black Americans. To be eligible to receive a grant, a PBI must submit data that allows the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to designate it as such. Currently, there is no independent designation of PBIs. Only those institutions awarded grants or that apply to be recognized under the eligibility criteria are included on the [official PBI list](#).

FEDERAL FUNDING

- PBIs are federally funded under Title III, [Parts A and E](#), and [Title VII](#) of the HEA. Title VII funding for PBIs was last awarded in FY11.
 - Title III, Part A funding for FY23 was [\\$22.3M](#).
 - Title III, Part F funding for FY23 was [\\$12.7M](#).
 - Title VII funding for FY11 was [\\$2.5M](#) to improve STEM graduate education.

INSTITUTIONAL TYPE

- In 2022, there were 68 PBIs in 19 different states, with Georgia (16), Illinois (6), Mississippi (6), and South Carolina (6) having the most institutions.
 - While PBIs are in multiple regions of the country, their concentrations reflect the distribution of Black Americans in this country.
- Of the 68 PBIs, 11 were public four-year institutions, 44 were public two-year institutions, 12 were private non-profit four-year institutions, and 1 was a private non-profit two-year institution.

¹ Data are based on the author's calculations of IPEDS and FSA unless otherwise cited or specified. Only degree-granting and Title IV participating institutions are included. Code and data available upon request. Trend data represents information for the current cohort of institutions under the designation.

ENROLLMENT

- In fall 2022, PBIs enrolled 313,498 total students: 290,058 undergraduates and 23,440 graduate students.
 - 151,189 (48.2%) of the total enrollment at PBIs identified as Black or African American.
- Total fall enrollment at PBIs has declined from 405,643 in 2012 to 313,498 in 2022, a 22.7% decrease.
 - Non-PBIs declined at a lesser rate, dropping from 20.5 million in 2012 to 18.4 million in 2022, a 10% decrease.
- In 2022, 6.9% of all Black students in the U.S. were enrolled in PBIs.
 - This is down from 7.5% of all Black students enrolled in PBIs in 2012.

FINANCIAL AID

- According to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, [63.4%](#) of PBI students received some form of federal Title IV financial aid in the 2019-20 academic year, compared to 54.9% of all students.
 - [54.4%](#) of PBI students received a Pell grant, compared to 40.2% of all students.
 - [41.2%](#) of PBI students received a federal student loan, compared to 34.5% of all students.
- Among PBI students who received federal Title IV aid, the [average amount](#) received was \$8,458.
 - The average Pell grant amount for PBI students was \$3,916.
 - The average Federal student loan amount for PBI students was \$7,658.

COMPLETION/DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- At PBIs, 33.8% of students graduated within 150% time.²
 - In comparison, 63.5% of students at public four-year institutions, 30.2% of students at public two-year institutions, 68.4% of students at private non-profit institutions, and 50.8% of students at private for-profit institutions graduated within 150% time.
- At PBIs, 28.4% of Black students graduated within 150% time.
 - In comparison, 46.2% of Black students at public four-year institutions, 18.9% of Black students at public two-year institutions, 47.3% of Black students at private non-profit institutions, and 40.7% of Black students at private for-profit institutions graduated within 150% time.
- PBIs conferred 33,335 associate's degrees, 15,600 bachelor's degrees, and 8,605 graduate degrees in the 2021-22 academic year.
 - PBIs conferred 6,381 bachelor's degrees to Black graduates, representing 3.2% of all bachelor's degrees conferred to Black graduates in 2021-22.

² 150% time represents a six-year graduation rate for four-year institutions and a three-year graduation rate for two-year institutions for first-time, full-time students. Four-year institution counts only include bachelor's degree seeking cohorts.

EARNINGS AND WEALTH

- According to the Baccalaureate & Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B) four years after receiving a bachelor's degree, Black PBI graduates who reported having an income averaged a gross income of [\\$37,844](#) in 2019, slightly higher than the national average for Black bachelor's degree graduates overall.³
 - Black graduates earned an average of \$37,109 at public four-year institutions, \$36,042 at private non-profit institutions, and \$39,451 at private for-profit institutions.
- Wealth accumulation can be [measured](#) differently from income. Four years after graduating:
 - [11.8%](#) of Black PBI bachelor's degree recipients owned a home, compared to 9.7% of Black bachelor's degree recipients overall.
 - [60%](#) of Black PBI bachelor's degree recipients had a retirement account, compared to 64.2% of Black bachelor's degree recipients overall.

DATA SOURCES

[Baccalaureate & Beyond Longitudinal Study](#). National Center for Education Statistics, February 2024.

[Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#). National Center for Education Statistics. March 2024.

[National Postsecondary Student Aid Study](#). National Center for Education Statistics, February 2024.

[U.S. Department of Education Program Data](#). March 2024.

³ Earnings and wealth estimates only include Black graduates who received their bachelor's degree before age 29.