



# Postsecondary National Policy Institute

## Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs)<sup>1</sup>

### HISTORY

In 2008, Congress authorized a program to specifically offer financial support to PBIs. 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.

### 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.
  - PBIs 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.

### ENROLLMENT

- In fall 2022, PBIs enrolled 290,058 undergraduates and 23,440 graduate students (313,498 total).
  - 151,189 (48.2%) of the total enrollment at PBIs identified as Black or African American.
- Total fall enrollment at PBIs 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, down from 7.5% in 2012.

### FINANCIAL AID

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- According to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, [63.4%](#) of PBI students received 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.<sup>2</sup>
  - 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.
  - 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.

## EARNINGS AND WEALTH

- According to the Baccalaureate & Beyond Longitudinal Study, four years after receiving a bachelor's degree, Black PBI graduates who reported an income averaged a gross income of [\\$37,844](#) in 2019, higher than the national average for Black bachelor's degree graduates overall.<sup>3</sup>
  - 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.

---

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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