



Equity in Enrollment and Completion of Community College Baccalaureate Degree Programs

CCB DATA
POINTS
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Graduates with community college baccalaureate (CCB) degrees are more racially and ethnically diverse than graduates of all postsecondary institutions nationwide, based on data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). However, the demographics of CCB students and CCB graduates vary by state and student population.

A frequent promise of community college baccalaureate (CCB) degrees is that they enroll a more diverse student body than colleges and universities have historically reached. Numerous studies show greater racial and ethnic diversity among CCB graduates, including a recent [study](#) on CCB programs in California. However, our analysis of student demographics shows considerable variation by state. For example, [research](#) conducted in Washington finds CCB students are racially and ethnically similar to the state's community and technical college population but slightly more diverse than these students in other ways. For example, 7 percent of CCB students are veterans compared to 4 percent of students in workforce and career technical education (CTE) programs. Also, 23 percent of CCB students have dependents, compared to 14 percent of the state's transfer students.

Studies in [Washington](#), [Texas](#), and [Florida](#) reveal CCB students are older than other students in community colleges or university undergraduates. [Research](#) conducted on the demographics of students attending community and technical colleges and public regional universities in Washington shows CCB students are slightly more racially and ethnically diverse than students enrolled in public regional universities. Comparing Washington students in similar programs of study, 63 percent of university students pursuing bachelor's degrees are White compared to 57 percent of CCB students who identify as White.

Recent [research](#) on CCB programs at 15 colleges in California found that 30 percent of all students enrolled in the first five CCB cohorts identified as Latine. This percentage is notably smaller than the overall Latine student population of the 15 community colleges studied, at 46 percent. The Latine population is also higher across all California community colleges, at 45 percent. Similar to this finding, [research](#) on CCB degree programs in Florida shows Latine students are underrepresented in CCBs compared to their percentage in the general population of the state.

[Texas](#) has produced less research on students in CCB programs than California, Florida, and Washington, but new findings are promising. In Texas, CCB degree programs enroll a highly diverse population; the majority of CCB students are Latine, female, and have Pell grants, used to identify low-income students. In addition, 44 percent of these students are over 30 years old, which is older than traditional college age (Table 1).

Table 1: Student Demographics in Texas CCB Programs

Demographic Characteristics	2020	2021
Latine	79%	78%
Over age 30	44%	44%
Female	62%	64%
Received Pell Grant	81%	79%

In all [24 CCB-authorizing states](#), CCB students who go on to graduate are more racially and ethnically diverse than the general population of bachelor's degree graduates. The Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA) national inventory of CCB-granting colleges used IPEDS data to compare all CCB graduates at community colleges conferring bachelor's degrees with all bachelor's graduates in the U.S. (Table 2). They found higher completion rates for Black and Hispanic CCB

graduates than all bachelor's degree graduates reported by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).¹

Table 2: Race/Ethnicity of 2021-22 CCB Graduates and Graduates of All Bachelor's Programs Nationwide

Student Group	CCB Graduates	All Bachelor's Degree Graduates
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	0%
Asian	4%	9%
Black/African American	13%	10%
Hispanic/Latine	24%	17%
Native Hawaiian/Other PI	0%	0%
White	50%	61%
2 or more races	3%	4%
Unknown/Other	4%	0%
All Graduates	100%	100%

Source: [NCES Fast Facts: Degrees Conferred by Race/Ethnicity and Sex](#)

This brief provides new information about CCB graduate demographics, enrollment, and completion. Because Latine students factor prominently into CCB enrollment and completion data, readers may want to see two additional briefs in the [CCBA Data Points series](#): *Data Points #7* on Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and *Data Points #8* on Latine graduates.

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