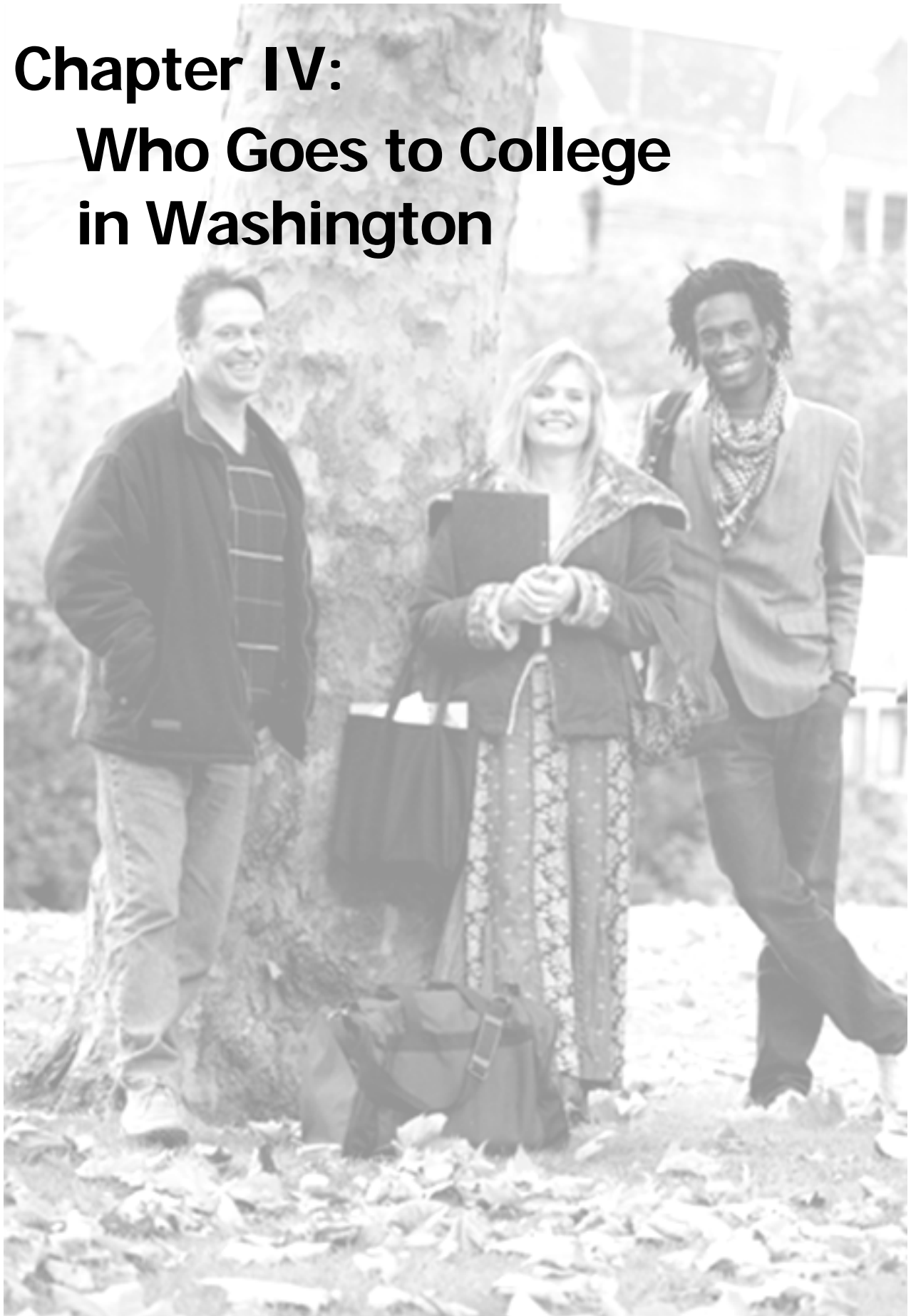


Chapter IV: Who Goes to College in Washington



Chapter IV: Who Goes to College in Washington?

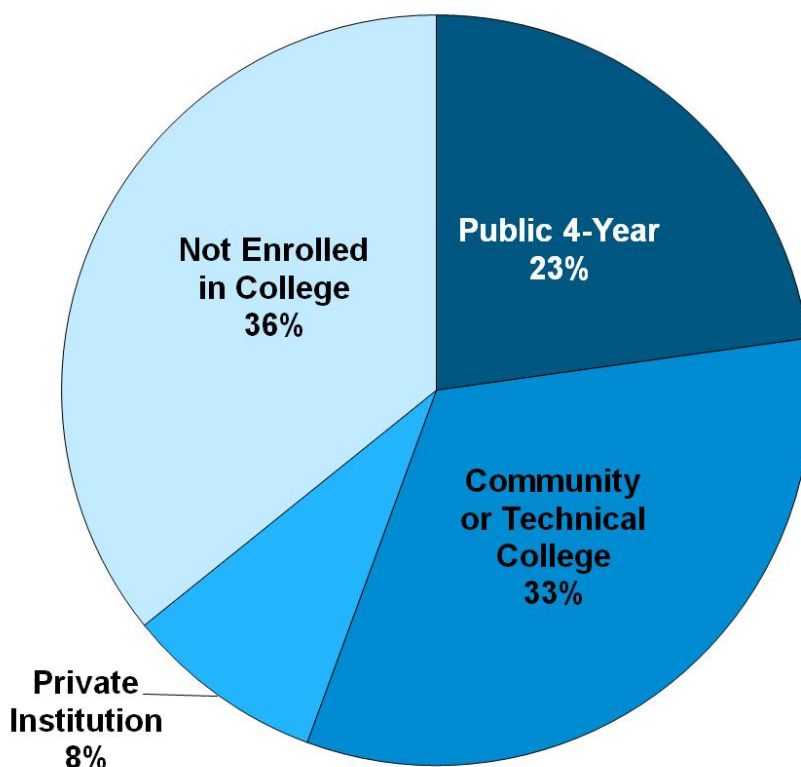
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College-going behavior after high school

The traditional path to a postsecondary education—high school immediately followed by two to four years at a college or trade school—is not the typical journey for many college students today. Increasingly, college experiences occur throughout one’s adult life. By choice or necessity, some go to work full-time immediately after high school and defer college. Others work and attend college part-time. Many return to college later in life for career retraining or to update job skills.

The Washington State Education Research & Data Center looked at education-related activities of Washington’s Class of 2009 high school graduates in their first year after graduation. Of the 63,386 high school graduates, 40,708 (64.2 percent) enrolled in postsecondary education. The remaining 36 percent presumably were working or decided not to attend college for other reasons. According to the study, female graduates were more likely to enroll in college the first year after high school graduation (67.6 percent) than male graduates (60.6 percent).

**Student Activity One Year After High School Graduation
from Washington Public High Schools, Class of 2009**



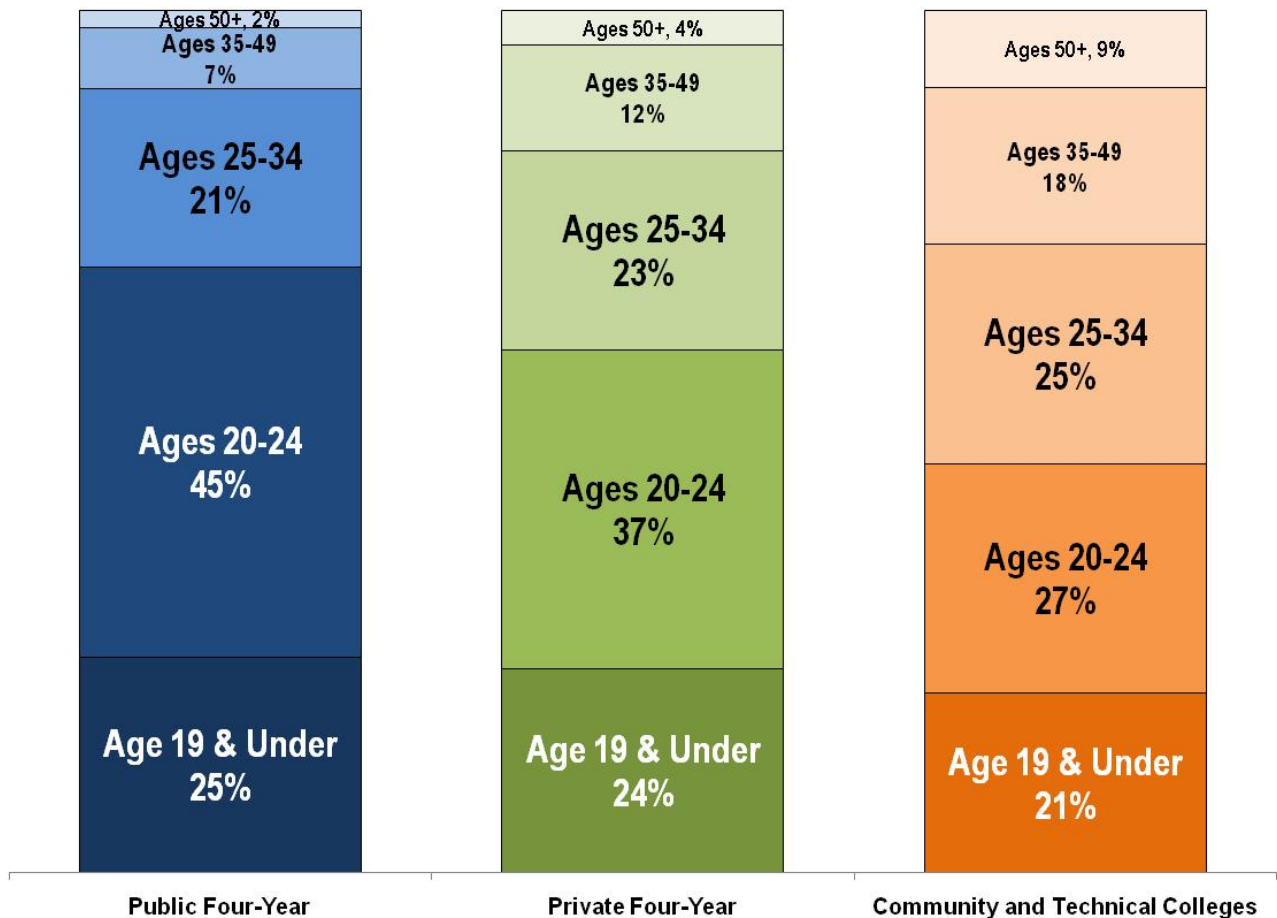
Note: Students for whom no enrollment or employment data exists are not included.

Source: Education Research & Data Center (ERDC), "Participation in Post-secondary Education, Washington State High School Graduates, 2008-09," December 2010.

Students at baccalaureate institutions more likely to be in their early 20s

Students attending four-year public and private institutions tend to be in the age categories most commonly associated with college students (ages 18-24). The community and technical colleges, on the other hand, serve a greater percentage of older students.

Student Age Distribution as a Percentage of Total Headcount Enrollment by Sector, Fall 2009



Note: Students for whom no age data exists are not included.

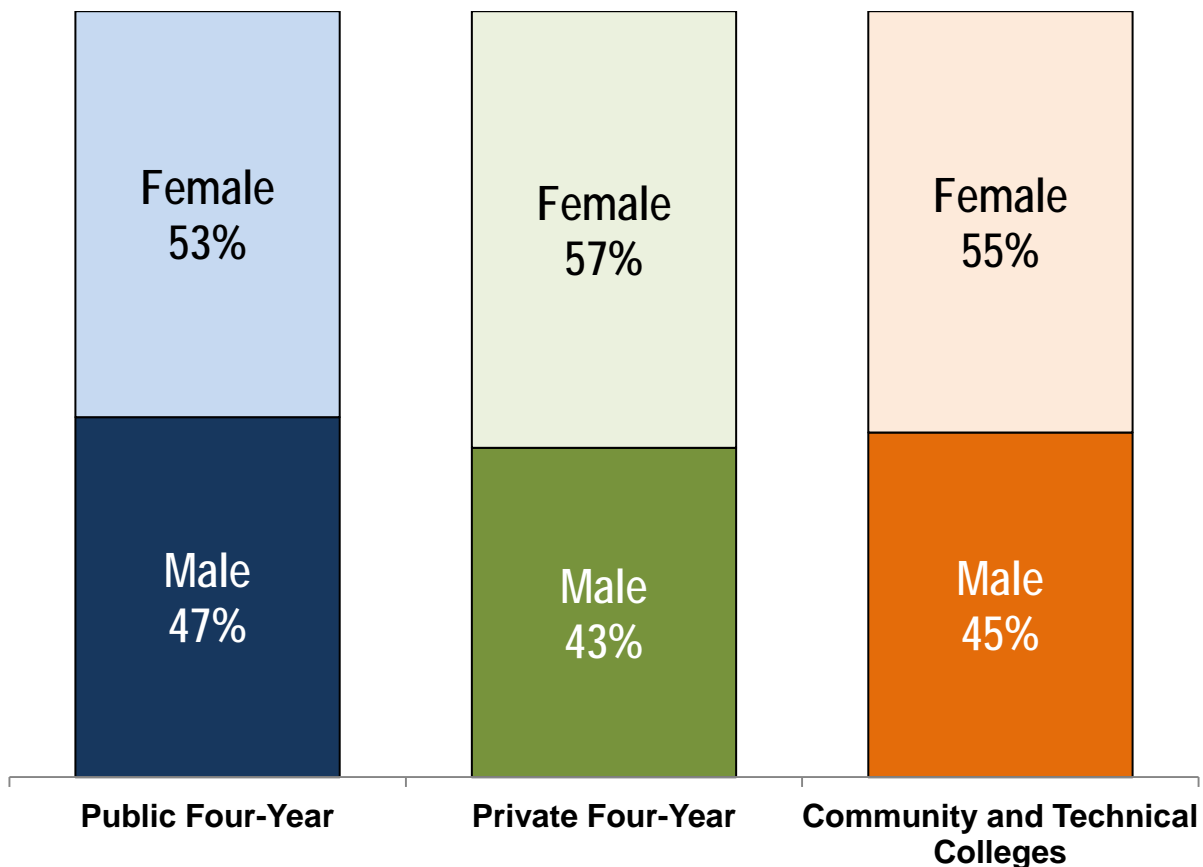
Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics, fall 2009.

More than half of college students at two- and four-year institutions are female

In 2010, females continued to outnumber males on Washington college campuses— although the percentage of women enrolled at community and technical colleges continued a slight decline from the previous two years. Female enrollments at most institutions have consistently outpaced male enrollments at most Washington institutions since at least 1996.

While females outnumber males in overall numbers on college campuses, they trail in pursuit of degrees in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. In 2009-10, just 32 percent of all STEM postsecondary degree awards in Washington’s public and private institutions went to female students.¹ That represented a slight downward trend from two years earlier.

Student Gender Distribution as a Percentage of Total Headcount Enrollment by Sector, Fall 2010



Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics, fall 2010.

¹ HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics, 2009-10.

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More students leave the state for their college educations than come here

Washington is a net exporter of high school graduates to colleges and universities in other states. More students leave the state to attend college than come here for the same purpose.²

Most of the 1,235 students who represented Washington's net student loss in 2008 attended private colleges and universities in other states. High school graduates entering and leaving the state to attend public colleges and universities were roughly even.

High school graduates who were eligible for federal student aid (Pell Grant) in 2008, left Washington to attend private colleges and universities at a much higher rate than Pell-eligible students who migrated to Washington to attend private institutions.

Washington's net out-migration of high school graduates further complicates the state's efforts to expand degree production among its own population in order to meet projected demand for college-educated workers in the future.

Migration of Recent High School Graduates by Institution Type, Fall 2008

Sector	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net In-Migration
Public Two-Year	260	273	-13
Public Four-Year	2,743	2,642	+ 100
Private Two-Year	0	118	- 118
Private Four-Year	2,914	4,118	-1,204
All Sectors	5,917	7,152	-1,235

Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity Analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Fall 2008 Enrollment Survey.

² Spaulding, Randy. "The Impact of Interstate Migration on Human Capital Development in Washington," HECB, September 2010. Available at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/research/documents/2010migrationReport-final.pdf>.

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State's growing diversity reflected on Washington campuses

Washington is growing more diverse. The share of the state population that includes people of color and Hispanics grew from 20.6 percent of the state population in 2000, to 25.2 percent in 2010.³

The mix of students on Washington's college campuses also has undergone a transformation. In 1999, 76 percent of students attending the state's public four-year institutions were white. By 2010, fewer than 68 percent were white. At the state's independent four-year institutions, 77 percent of students were white in 1999. By 2010, 72 percent were white. At the state's community and technical colleges, more than 79 percent were white in 1999, compared to about 69 percent in 2010.

Hispanics, Washington's fastest-growing minority group, accounted for nearly 4 percent of students at public four-year institutions in 1999, compared to 6.8 percent in 2010. The next fastest-growing group, Asians and Pacific Islanders, accounted for nearly 11.5 percent of the student population in 1999; it was nearly 13 percent in 2010.

Student Race/Ethnicity Distribution as a Percentage of Total Headcount Enrollment by Sector, Fall 2010

Race/Ethnicity	Headcount Enrollment			Percentage Within Sector		
	Public Four-Year	Private Four-Year	Community & Technical Colleges	Public Four-Year	Private Four-Year	Community & Technical Colleges
Fall 1999						
Black	2,188	1,335	7,498	2.6%	3.5%	4.6%
Native American	1,581	521	3,415	1.9%	1.4%	2.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9,657	3,088	11,631	11.5%	8.2%	7.2%
Hispanic	3,163	1,488	7,670	3.8%	3.9%	4.7%
White	63,633	29,072	128,780	75.7%	77.0%	79.2%
Nonresident Alien	3,866	2,232	3,619	4.6%	5.9%	2.2%
TOTAL	84,088	37,736	162,613	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Fall 2010						
Black	3,617	2,153	10,167	3.3%	4.7%	5.5%
Native American	1,553	664	3,107	1.4%	1.4%	1.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	14,040	3,471	13,145	12.8%	7.5%	7.0%
Hispanic	7,480	3,349	16,643	6.8%	7.3%	8.9%
White	74,298	33,300	128,835	67.9%	72.1%	69.1%
2 or More (see note)	2,310	1,530	8,360	2.1%	3.3%	4.5%
Nonresident Alien	6,154	1,711	6,253	5.6%	3.7%	3.4%
TOTAL	109,452	46,178	186,510	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: Beginning in Fall 2008, "Two or More Races" became an optional reporting category. This category was not widely used by public 4-year and private 4-year institutions and is not included in this table.

Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics, fall 2010.

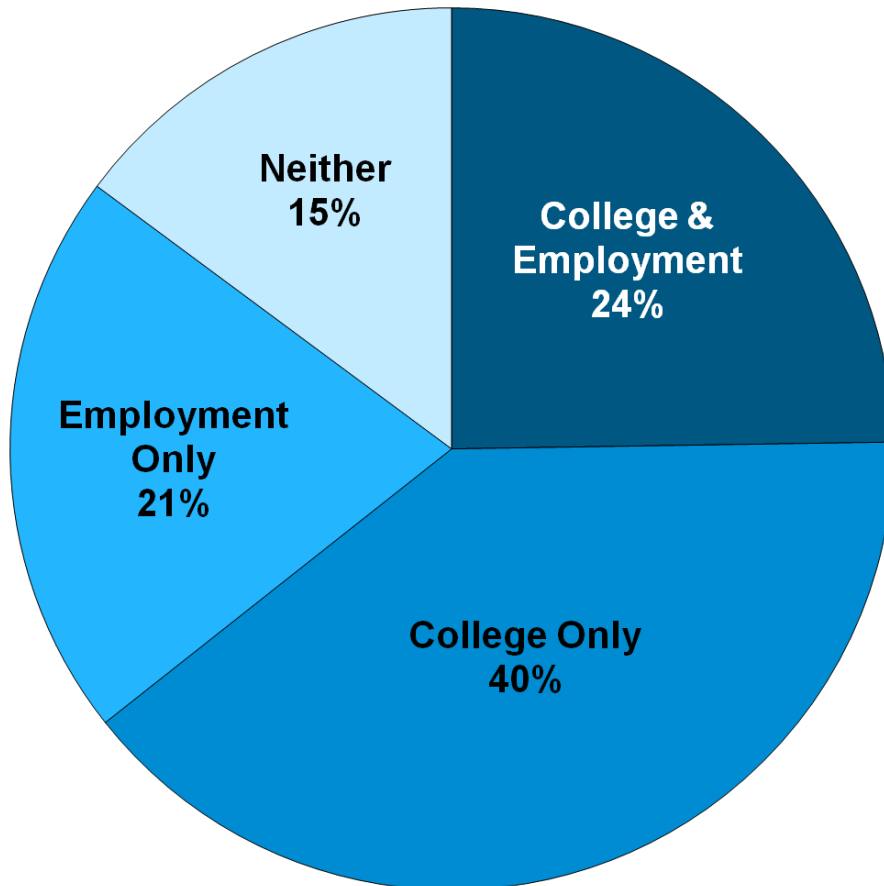
³OFM, "Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000 and 2010." <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/race/10estimates/executivesummary10.pdf>.

Juggling study and work is a reality for many Washington students

Many students face the challenge of balancing college work with the demands of a job or family. Some work intermittently or full-time to earn money to help pay tuition and cover living expenses, or to gain valuable work experience in a chosen field. Others work at career jobs full-time while taking college classes to update job skills in specific areas.

On average, about 65 percent of 17 and 18-year olds in Washington enroll in college after high school graduation. Of these, more than half also worked while enrolled in college.

Efforts by Washington 17- and 18-Year-Olds after High School Graduation



Source: HECB staff analysis of data from American Community Survey, 2005-09.

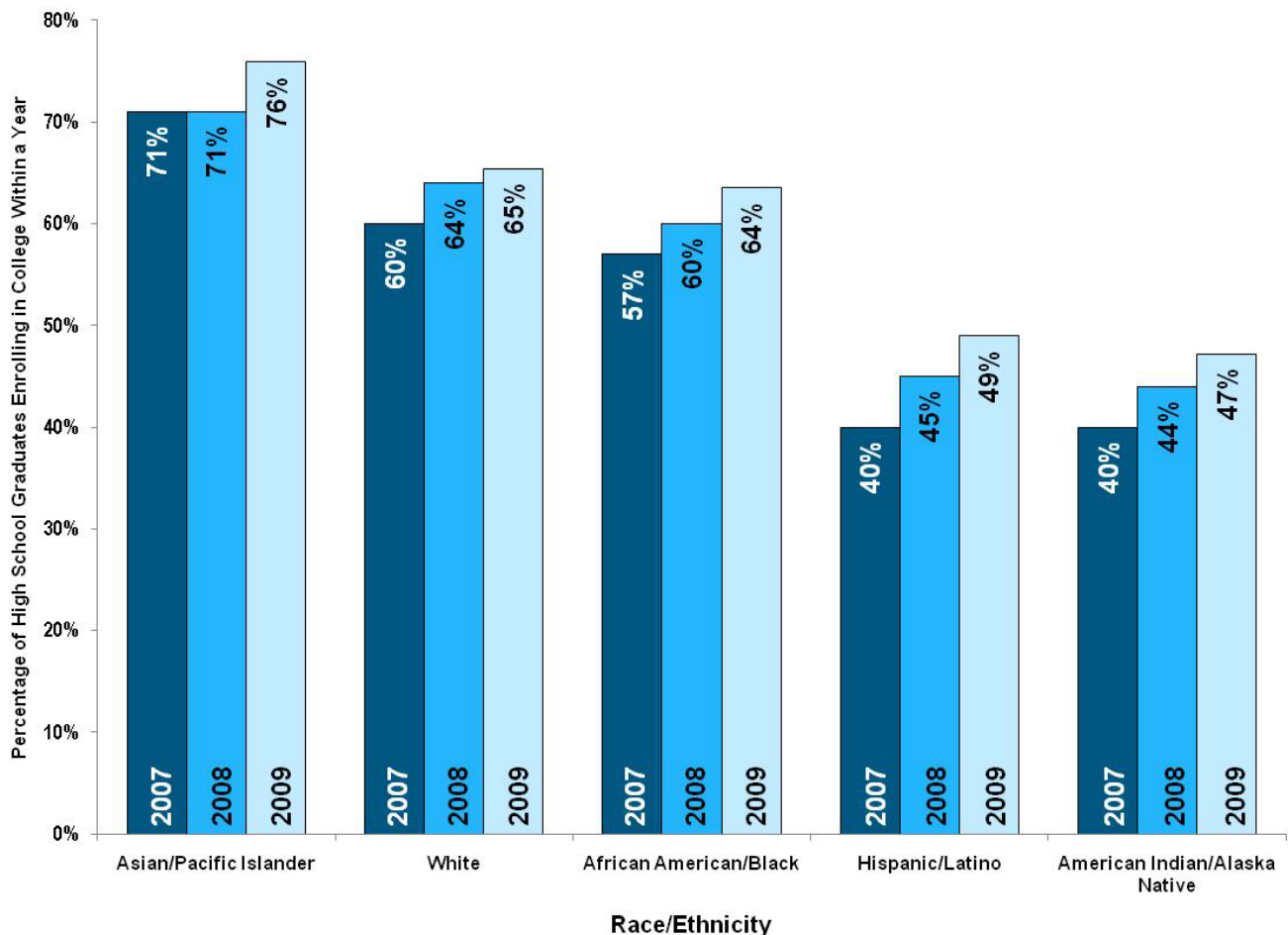
College participation rates vary among racial and ethnic groups

While more minority students are enrolling at Washington colleges and universities, the level of participation by different ethnic groups varies and does not always correspond to their overall growth rate in the state population.

Asians and Pacific Islanders are the state's second fastest-growing minority group, but they lead all racial and ethnic categories in rates of college participation. Hispanics, the fastest-growing racial and ethnic category, trail Asian and Pacific Islanders, whites, and African Americans in college participation.

To meet the state's long-term goals for increased production of college degrees, more members of minority groups will need to be encouraged to pursue college degrees and certificates.

Percentage of High School Graduates Enrolling in College within a Year, by Race/Ethnicity, 2007-2009



Sources: WSU Social and Economic Services Research Center for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State College Enrollment Study (2007, 2008), Education Research & Data Center (ERDC), 2009.

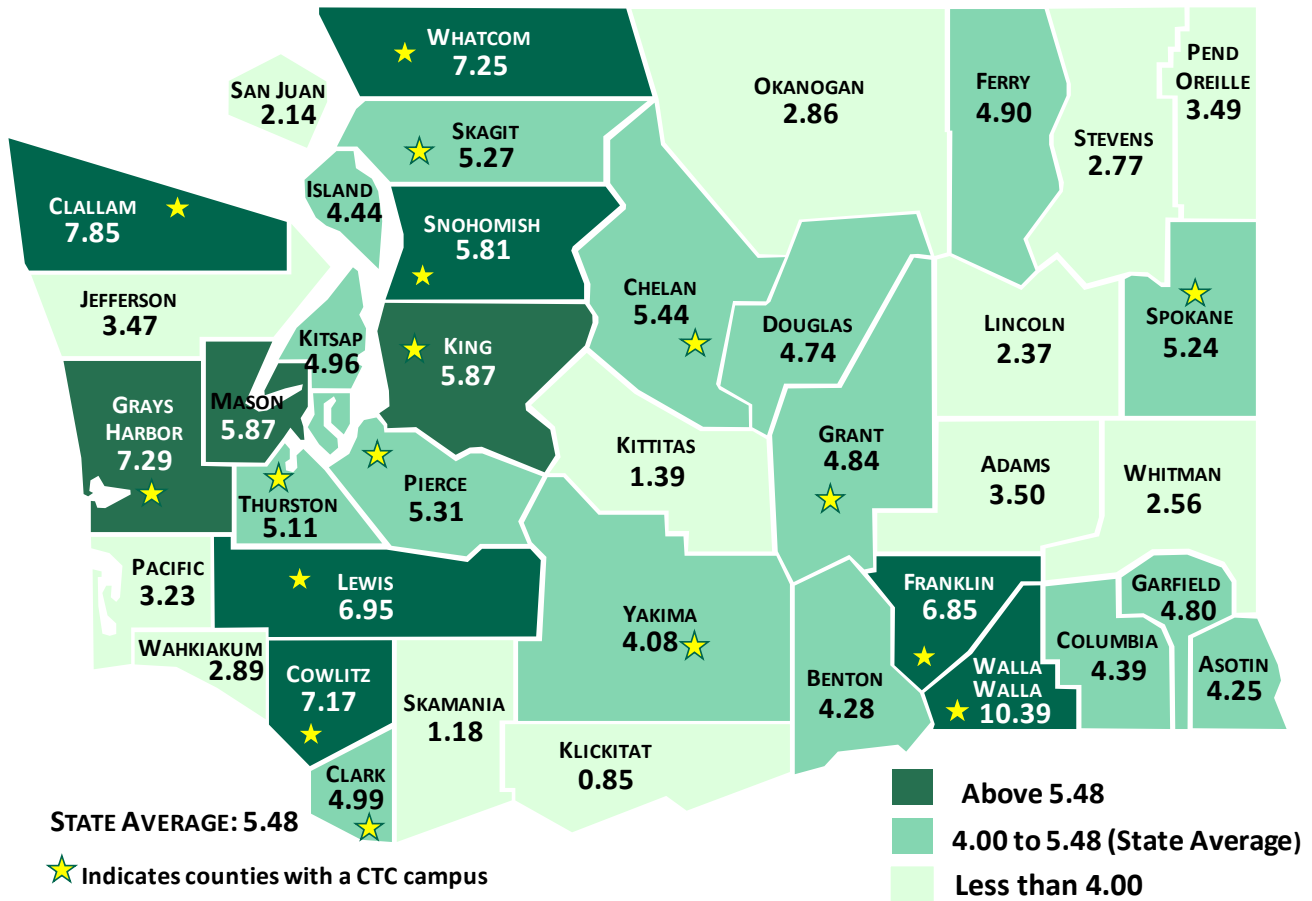
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Proximity to college increases odds of enrollment

Having a college in one's hometown or a nearby community makes it easier to attend college. Data confirm that Washington residents who live in counties where community or technical colleges are located attend CTCs in greater numbers than people who live in counties that do not host CTCs.

The map below shows CTC participation rates as a percentage of the county resident population age 17-64. The impact that proximity and ease-of-access have on college participation rates highlights the importance of improving college access, especially for people whose incomes or other circumstances make it difficult to travel long distances to attend college.

**Community College Participation Rates by County
Percentage of Population Aged 17-64, Fall 2010**



Sources: HECB staff analysis of data from State Board for Community and Technical College's Management Information System Reports, fall 2010; Office of Financial Management's county population estimates, fall 2010.

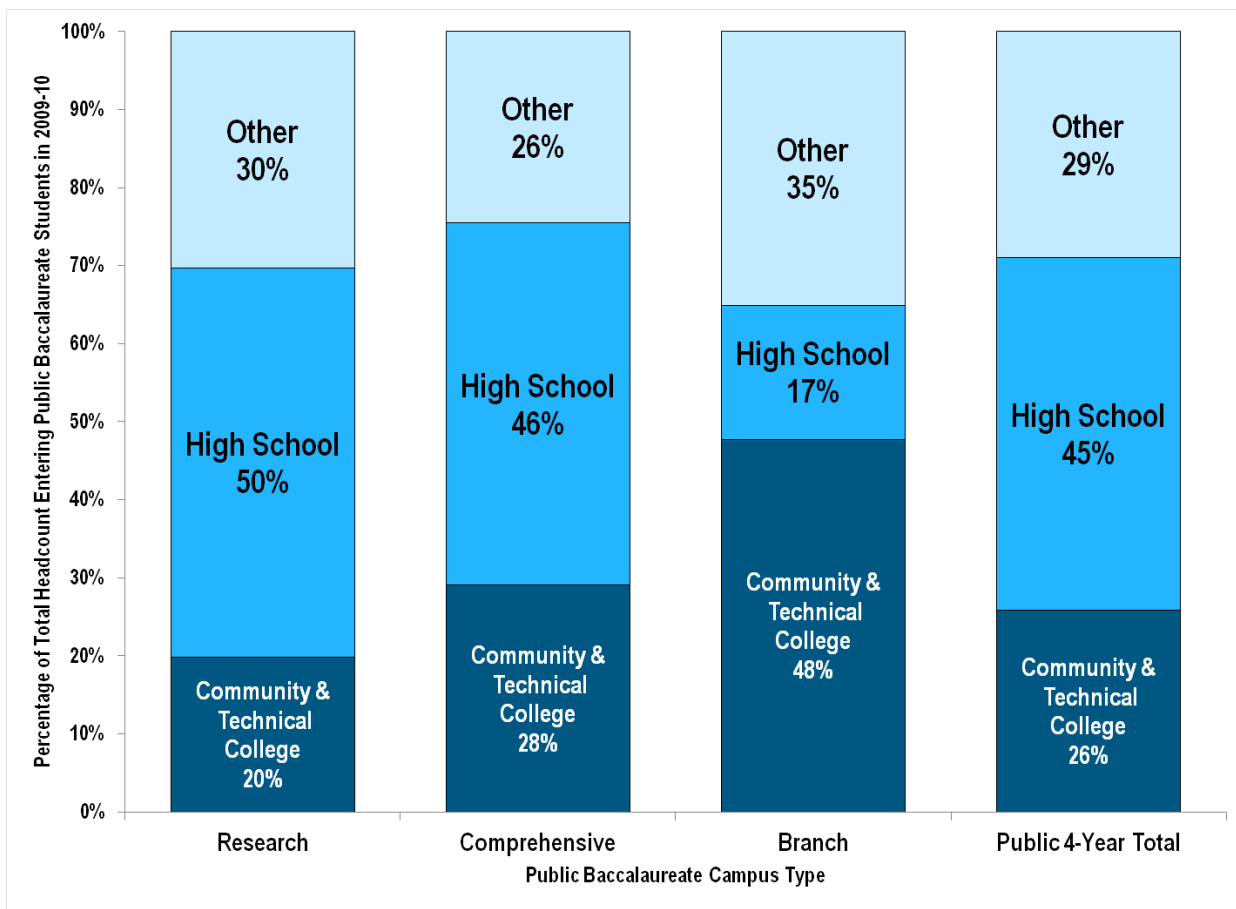
Students travel a variety of pathways to reach baccalaureate institutions

Students arrive at the state’s public baccalaureate institutions with a variety of educational backgrounds. Some come straight from high school, while others transfer from community and technical colleges or from other baccalaureate institutions.

The chart below shows that the educational backgrounds of the student populations within each institutional type vary considerably. More than half the entering students at the research and comprehensive institutions enrolled directly from high school, while less than a quarter of those enrolling at branch campuses entered directly from high school.

Branch campuses, which began admitting freshmen in 2006, have a higher percentage of students with varied educational backgrounds, including transfers from other four-year institutions in Washington or out-of-state.

Students Entering Public Baccalaureate Institutions as a Percentage of Headcount Total, by Source and Campus Type, 2009-10 Academic Year



Notes: Students with Running Start credits are included in "High School." "Other" includes transfers from Washington four-year institutions, transfers from out-of-state, and unknown.

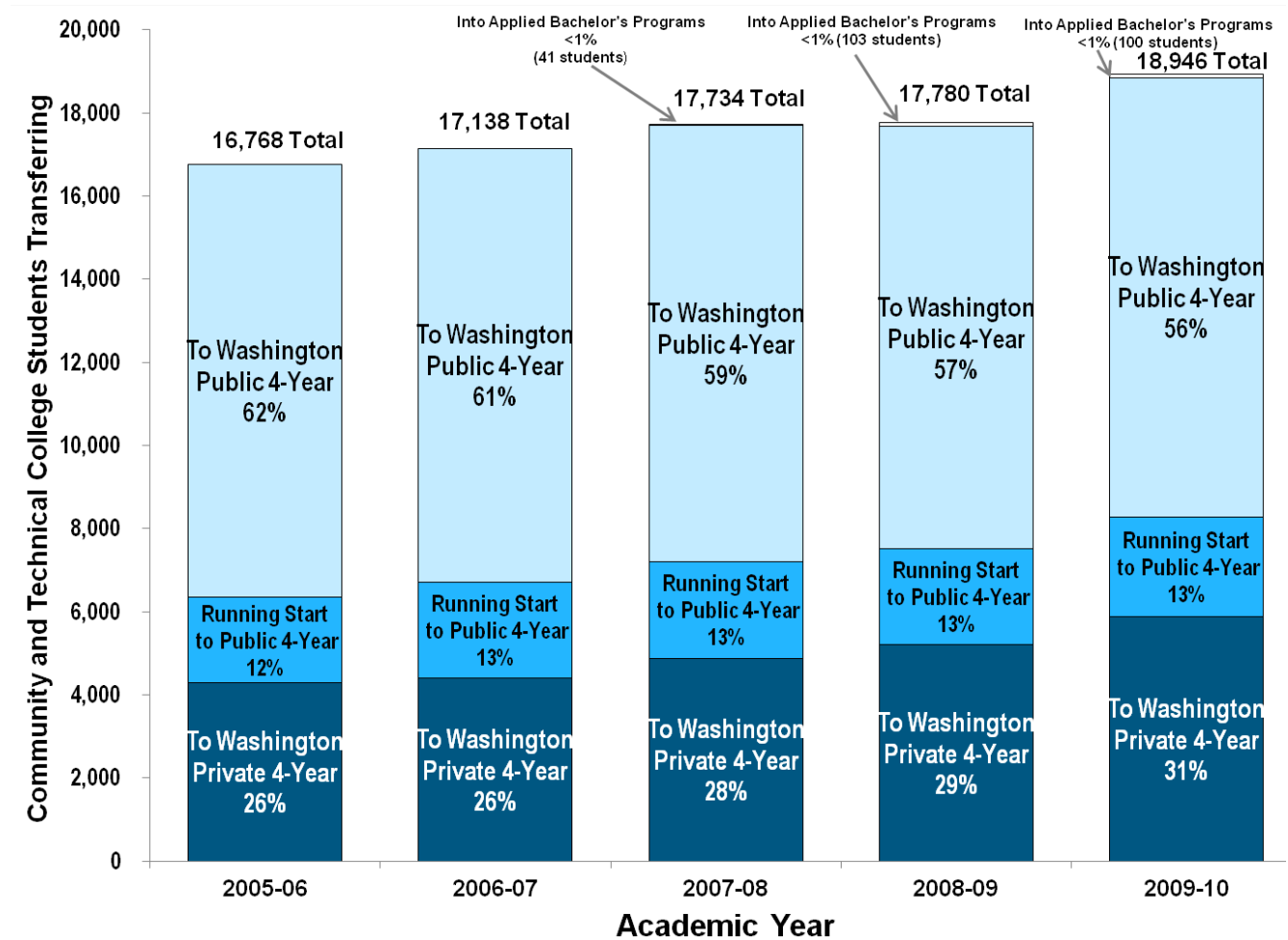
Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Office of Financial Management, Higher Education Enrollment Report, Table 7, 2009-10.

Many baccalaureate students begin college at two-year institutions

The number of community and technical college students who transfer to public or private baccalaureate institutions has grown at a modest pace in recent years. In 2009-10, nearly 19,000 Washington community and technical college students transferred to four-year institutions in the state. Another 3,000 students transferred to out-of-state institutions.

Not all transfer students have degrees and not all students with two-year degrees transfer. Of those who transferred to a Washington college or university, nearly 70 percent enrolled at public four-year institutions; this includes about 2,400 Running Start students. In addition, about 5,900 students transferred to independent four-year institutions in Washington or to Portland State University.

Transfer Students from Community and Technical Colleges, by Destination 2005-06 to 2009-10



Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Academic Year Report, 2009-10.