



# Data Matters:

## How Students Perceive Community Colleges

AACC STAFF  
JULY 10, 2015

**2-year institutions offer strong value for students who want to save money.**

The following infographic is by Cengage Learning, which surveyed students across the country to understand their views of community college and to learn more about their experiences.

More than 4,250 students participated in the Spring 2015 Student Engagement Insights survey, which yielded data for the infographic section titled "Cengage Learning Student Research." Of those students, 64 percent have attended or currently attend a community college.

Five thousand students with diverse backgrounds were polled in a Cengage-Work Institute survey. Data in the infographic's "Today's Student" section reflect those results.



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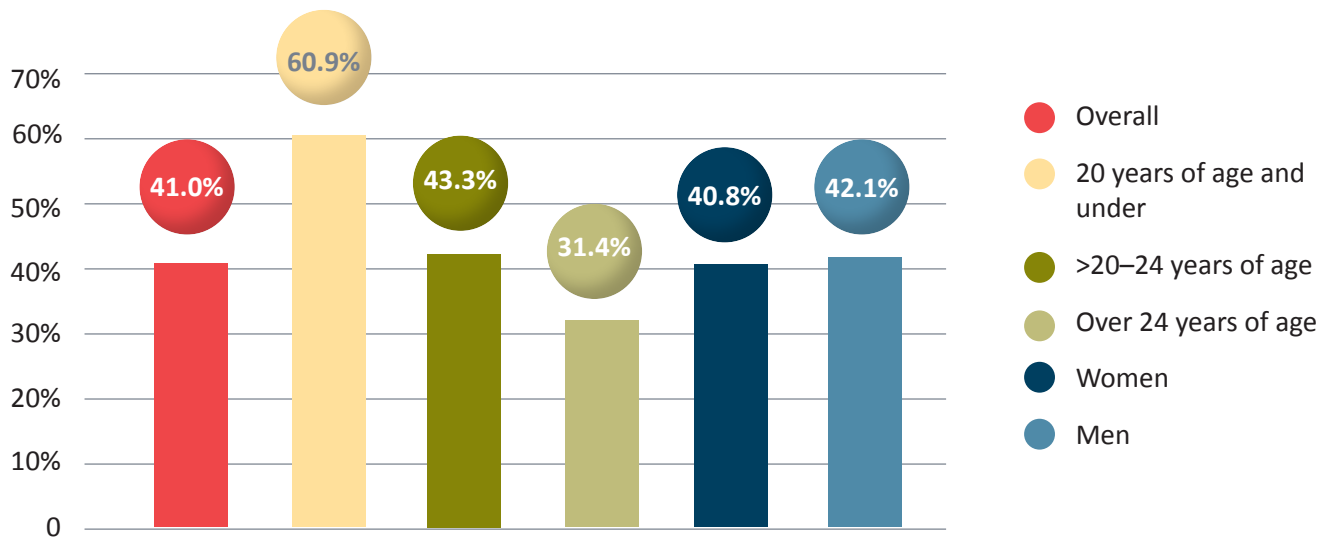


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## Completion pathways

*Most traditional-age college students whose first credential is an associate degree later earn a baccalaureate.*

### Students earning an associate degree as a first credential who subsequently earned a bachelor's degree



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, "Snapshot Report Degree Pathways," Spring 2015.  
[Data limitation](#)



About 41 percent of college students who earned an associate degree in 2008-09 as their first credential subsequently earned a bachelor's degree within six years. Sixty percent of those students completed their baccalaureate within three years of earning an associate degree. When comparing data by age groups, students age 20 or younger had the highest attainment (61 percent), followed by the age group 20 to 24, where 43 percent earned a bachelor's degree within six years. Certificates also are a stepping stone for further degree attainment. Of students who earned a certificate as their first credential, 26 percent attained an associate or bachelor's degree within six years of their certificate completion in 2008-09. Students 24 or younger had higher degree attainment, around 30 percent.

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