

# RECENT RESEARCH & NEWS | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Legend:** ▲ Guided Pathways   ▲ Industry Partnerships   ◆ Support for Learners   ● Workforce Development   ● Access & Success   ○ Innovation

## Biggest College Regrets

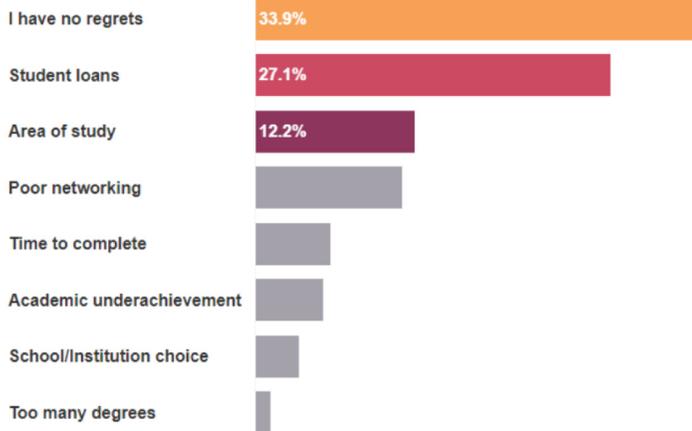
● ● *Payscale.com*

“Once it’s all said and done, once you’ve walked across the stage with diploma in hand and set out on the path you’ve chosen, is it odd to feel some type of regret about your schooling? As it turns out, no”. While the largest group of respondents have no complaint, approximately two-thirds do express a regret (as shown in table). The costs of a degree, the years of commitment, and the repercussions that academic choices can have on earnings potential leave many regretting their educational choices. This analysis examines college regrets by generation, major group, degree level and school type.

### What are college graduates' most common regrets about their education?

I want to see the data for...

All Respondents



## Community College Career Education: Scaling a New Approach

▲ ● ○ *Lumina Foundation*

This report from the Lumina Foundation discusses how changes in workforce needs, changes in curriculum, and changes in students themselves all play important roles in community college education. These interacting forces are driving community colleges to review all programs. Transfer programs, occupational education, and developmental education all need to adapt to changing demand and new competition. A group of community college leaders discussed these issues at a conference in Indianapolis. Much of the discussion focused on reshaping core curriculum and competing with emerging rivals (in the form of employer-provided job training, coding boot camps, etc.) Questions about state and federal policies keeping up with the innovation on college campuses was another key topic the group touched-on.

## Community College Enrollment Crisis?

● ◆ *American Association of Community Colleges*

“Since a peak enrollment in 2010, the total community college enrollment has decreased each fall, declining by more than 1 million students nationally (14.4%) between 2010 and 2017.” The AACC studied 17 years of national data and found several key trends. These include shifts in age group, ethnic group, full-time/part-time status, and regional trends. The correlation of enrollment to unemployment rate, as shown in this chart, is also highlighted.

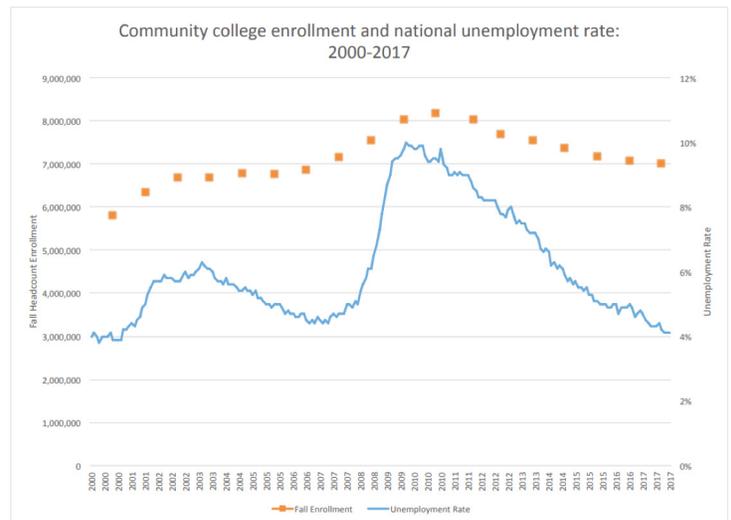


Figure 2

## Online Education Start-Up, Backed by Research University Credit Colleges with the Resources They Need

● ○ *Inside Higher Ed*

A company called *Outlier* has received the backing of the University of Pittsburgh to offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). This is certainly not the first start-up to attempt this, but the backing of a “brand-name” university and promises of high-quality, interactive content have resulted in many people watching the company. If successful, it may reduce community college enrollments as *Outlier* is marketing its product to would-be community college students and others seeking to transfer into selective universities.

## Arizona Regents Make Discounted DACA Tuition Rate Available to More Students

◆● Tucson.com

The Arizona Board of Regents voted in late August to expand access to a tuition rate paid by immigrants who are living in the country illegally but graduated from Arizona high schools. The previous regulations allowed only for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients to receive the special tuition rate. The three state public universities have allowed DACA students to pay tuition that's 50% higher than in-state students but lower than out-of-state and international students. The policy to offer undocumented students a 150% tuition rate over in-state rate began in the fall 2015 semester and continues, effective immediately, to the expanded student-base.

## Boosting California College Graduations is Governor Panel's First Task

▲ ● EdSource

California officials led by Governor Gavin Newsom are investigating falling graduation rates. One topic for the council will be the possible sharing of facilities among the education systems. Some experts "suggest that university-level courses or programs can be offered at more conveniently located community colleges, making it easier for people to juggle school, family and jobs." "The university and community college systems in the state operate in silos," said Newsom in a statement. "To develop best practices and help our students reach their full potential, we need to work together across institutions. I look forward to working with our state's higher education leaders to set bold statewide goals and partnering together to achieve them."

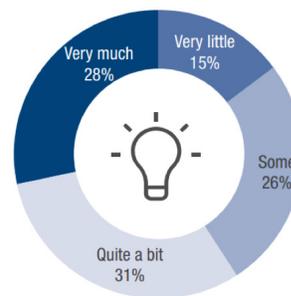
## CCSSE Survey Item Spotlight

▲◆ Center for Community College Student Engagement

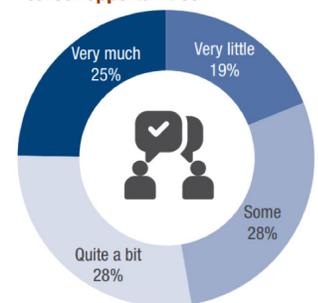
The Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCSSE) conducted a survey of their 2018 Cohort population. Highlighted in Item 11 here and in this PDF are two survey items which ask students about developing clearer career goals and gaining information about career opportunities. CCSSE states that "work in guided pathways tells us of the importance of students' starting with the end in mind".

Item 11: How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?\*

### 11h. Developing clearer career goals



### 11i. Gaining information about career opportunities



\* Based on CCSSE 2018 Cohort Data

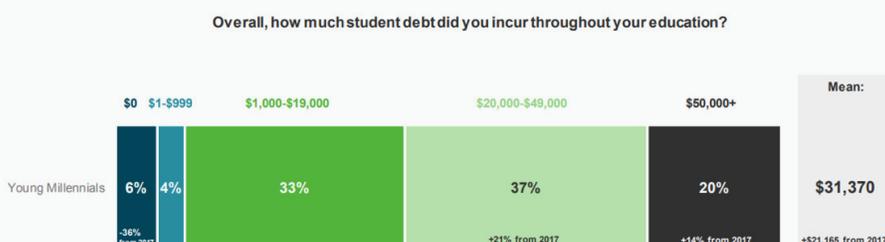
## No, Half of Young Americans Don't Believe College Is Unnecessary

◆● Inside Higher Ed

The New York Post recently featured a story with the headline, 'Half of Young Americans Say College Is No Longer Necessary'. This Inside Higher-Ed article examines the results of the survey to discover that "No Longer Necessary" refers to the fact that half of young Americans say their degree is not directly relevant to their job.

The original article was based on a Harris survey of more than 3,000 Americans. A further dive into the data reveals most of the concerns were financial. Among the findings are:

One in five millennials have over \$50K in debt, that's up from 14% two years ago



- One in five "young" millennials have over \$50K in debt (as shown in this image)
- 46% are paying for their education with student loans
- 1/3 of millennials expect to still be paying for their student debt into their 40's
- About 3/4 chose (or would choose) a less expensive college to avoid debt
- Only 5% said their advice would be "Don't go to college."

## Even Some College Tends to Pay Off

▲ ● *Inside Higher Ed*

This article examines a comparison study using a cohort of high school students. One group took no college-level courses, and the other took some college credits but did not obtain a degree or certificate. Both groups were tracked 15 years later to compare their salary gains. The main conclusion was that those students that took some credits managed to achieve significantly higher mean earnings. This was true especially for students of color, women, and low income students. Because of these findings, researchers concluded that those students without degree completion are not wasting their time.

Table 2 provides the percentage of employed and mean earnings by educational attainment. Note that students with 1-12 credits had a higher mean earning than those with no college credits and higher than those students taking additional credits, 13-60 and more than 61 credits.

Credits Earned/Degree Type	% Employed	Mean Earnings
No college credits	35.2%	\$37,675
1-12 Credits	50.5%	\$43,732
13-60 Credits	54.6%	\$40,315
61+ Credits	58.3%	\$41,576
Occupational Skills Award	64.7%	\$34,627
Short certificate	67.2%	\$40,768
Long certificate	75.1%	\$43,945
Academic associates	64.8%	\$42,061
Applied associates	75.4%	\$55,049
Bachelors of applied tech	71.8%	\$47,266
Bachelors (BA/BS)	64.8%	\$64,727
Graduate	70.9%	\$74,421

Table 2. Percent employed and mean earnings by educational attainment.

## The Growing Partisan Divide in Views of Higher Education

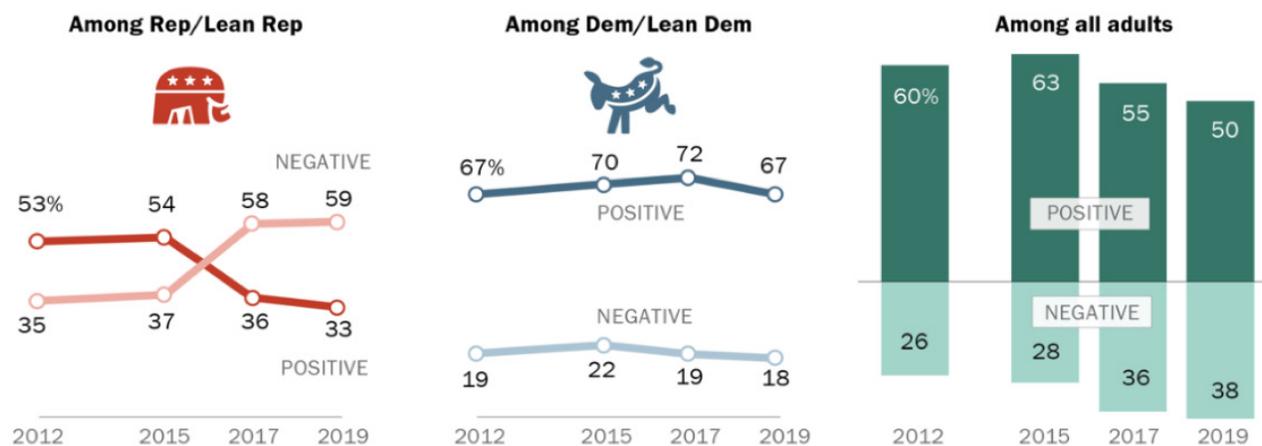
▲ ● *Pew Research Center*

This Pew study examines views about higher education in the U.S. and reveals a complex set of attitudes that are increasingly linked to partisanship. The share of Americans saying colleges and universities have a negative effect has increased by 12% since 2012. The change has come almost entirely from Republicans and Independents. "From 2015 to 2019, the share saying colleges have a negative effect on the country went from 37% to 59% among this group (shown below). Over that same period, the views of Democrats and independents who lean Democratic have remained largely stable and overwhelmingly positive."

Republicans and Democrats differ over what's ailing higher education: "79% of Republicans say professors bringing their political and social views into the classroom is a major reason why the higher education system is headed in the wrong direction, while only 17% of Democrats say the same. And three-quarters of Republicans (vs. 31% of Democrats) point to too much concern about protecting students from views they might find offensive as a major reason for their views." Both groups indicate high tuition costs are a major problem. Further, most Americans say a college education is important – if not essential – in helping a young person succeed today.

### Increase in the share of Americans saying colleges have a negative effect on the U.S. is driven by Republicans' changing views

% saying colleges and universities have a positive/negative effect on the way things are going in the country



## Report: Underrepresented High School Students Engage More with Institutions through Social Media

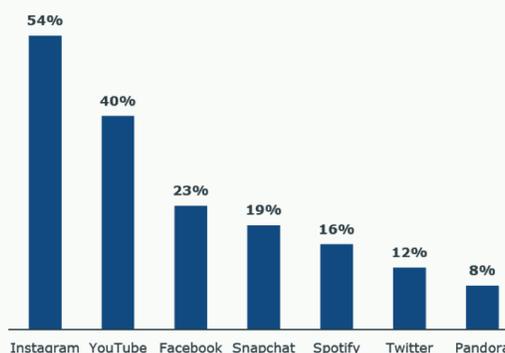
### ○●Diverse Education

“Social media is transforming the college admissions and recruitment process, especially for underrepresented students. According to a new EAB report, nearly 30% of students have used a school’s social media site as a gateway to that school’s website.” First generation students are 60% more likely to discover a college by social media compared to their peers. In addition, students from lower-income households and students of color spend more time online than higher-income and White students, the report states.

The study discovered Instagram is a rising performer (shown here), with Instagram stories being much more effective than feed ads.

“Have you seen online/digital ads for any college/university on social media or services during your college search?”

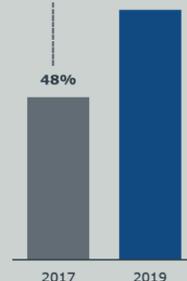
Percentage of Survey Respondents by Social Network



### A Strong Upward Trend

Share of Students Who Had Seen Any Digital Ads for Colleges or Universities

+54% → 74%



## ‘Nudging’ Looked Like It Could Help Solve Key Problems in Higher Ed...Now That’s Not So Clear.

### ◆○ The Chronicle of Higher Education

‘Nudging’ is the technique of giving small interventions (such as text and email reminders) to aid with student success. A handful of high-profile experiments found evidence that it could work. More recent studies found nudges to have no impact, particularly at a broad scale. However, a previously existing relationship can impact the effectiveness of nudging. It is posited that for reminder-style nudges, the context is really important -- who is doing the nudging. The article concludes that nudging is a supplement, not a replacement, for other forms of student services and it is important who is doing the nudging.

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