

## Back to School: Post-Secondary Enrollment in PA, Fall 2016

HARRISBURG – As the end of August nears, students across the Commonwealth, the United States, and the world-at-large will be heading to (or back to) college. Many will be Pennsylvania-bound, and for good reason; the Keystone State has the fourth largest number of post-secondary institutions. This month’s brief uses 2016 Fall enrollment data from the National Center for Education Statistics to highlight Pennsylvania’s student population.

### Enrollment by Level of Degree, Full-Time Status, Gender

A total of 738,789 students were enrolled at post-secondary institutions<sup>1</sup> in Pennsylvania during the 2016 Fall semester of which a slight majority (55.5%) were women. Most enrolled students were full time, but over a quarter (28.4%) of all students were enrolled part-time. In addition to total enrollment, women constituted a greater percentage of part-time students (61.0%).

Over 60 percent of students were enrolled in undergraduate programs in Pennsylvania’s post-secondary institutions during Fall of 2016. Approximately three-quarters (74.7%) of undergraduate students were full-time compared to 58.5 percent of graduate students. Women made up a slightly higher percentage of graduate students (58.2%) than undergraduate students (54.9%).

Table 1 provides the full breakdown of the Fall 2016 enrolled student population of Pennsylvania. Full-time, undergraduate women accounted for the largest population of students enrolled at post-secondary institutions in Pennsylvania, followed closely by full-time, undergraduate men.

**Table 1.** Fall 2016 enrollment in Pennsylvania by degree level, full-time status, and gender.

Level	Status	Gender	Enrolled	% of Total
Undergraduate	Full-time	Men	208,630	28.2%
Undergraduate	Full-time	Women	237,331	32.1%
Undergraduate	Part-time	Men	60,469	8.2%
Undergraduate	Part-time	Women	90,416	12.2%
Graduate	Full-time	Men	37,904	5.1%
Graduate	Full-time	Women	45,141	6.1%
Graduate	Part-time	Men	21,404	2.9%
Graduate	Part-time	Women	37,494	5.1%

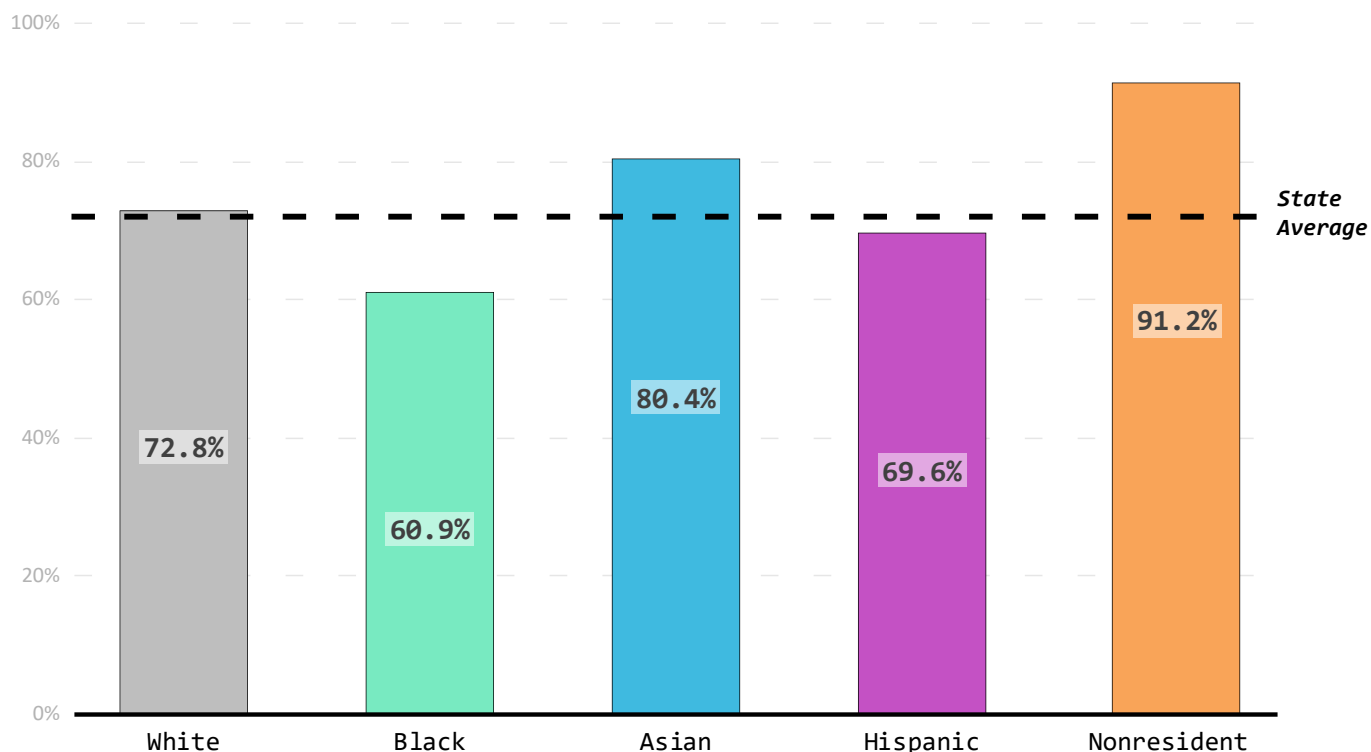
1. For this analysis, post-secondary institutions were limited to federal aid-receiving, degree-granting institutions.

Part-time, graduate men represented the smallest group of enrolled students in Fall 2016 at Pennsylvania's post-secondary institutions at 2.9 percent of all enrolled students. Full-time, graduate men and part-time graduate women were tied at 5.1 percent, followed closely by full-time, graduate women at 6.1 percent.

## Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

A majority of students enrolled in Pennsylvania's post-secondary institutions during Fall 2016 were White while 10.6 percent were Black or African American, 6.4 percent were Hispanic or Latino, 5.1 percent were Asian, and 5.6 percent were multiracial or some other race<sup>2</sup>. A further 5.3 percent of enrolled students did not have a known race and 6.2 were nonresidents<sup>3</sup>. Most of these groups had similar gender breakdowns with a higher percentage of females, except for enrolled nonresidents, of whom many were male (56.8%).

**Figure 1** visualizes the percentage of the Fall 2016 student population enrolled full-time by race. Nonresident students had a higher-than-average proportion of students enrolled full-time (91.2%), as

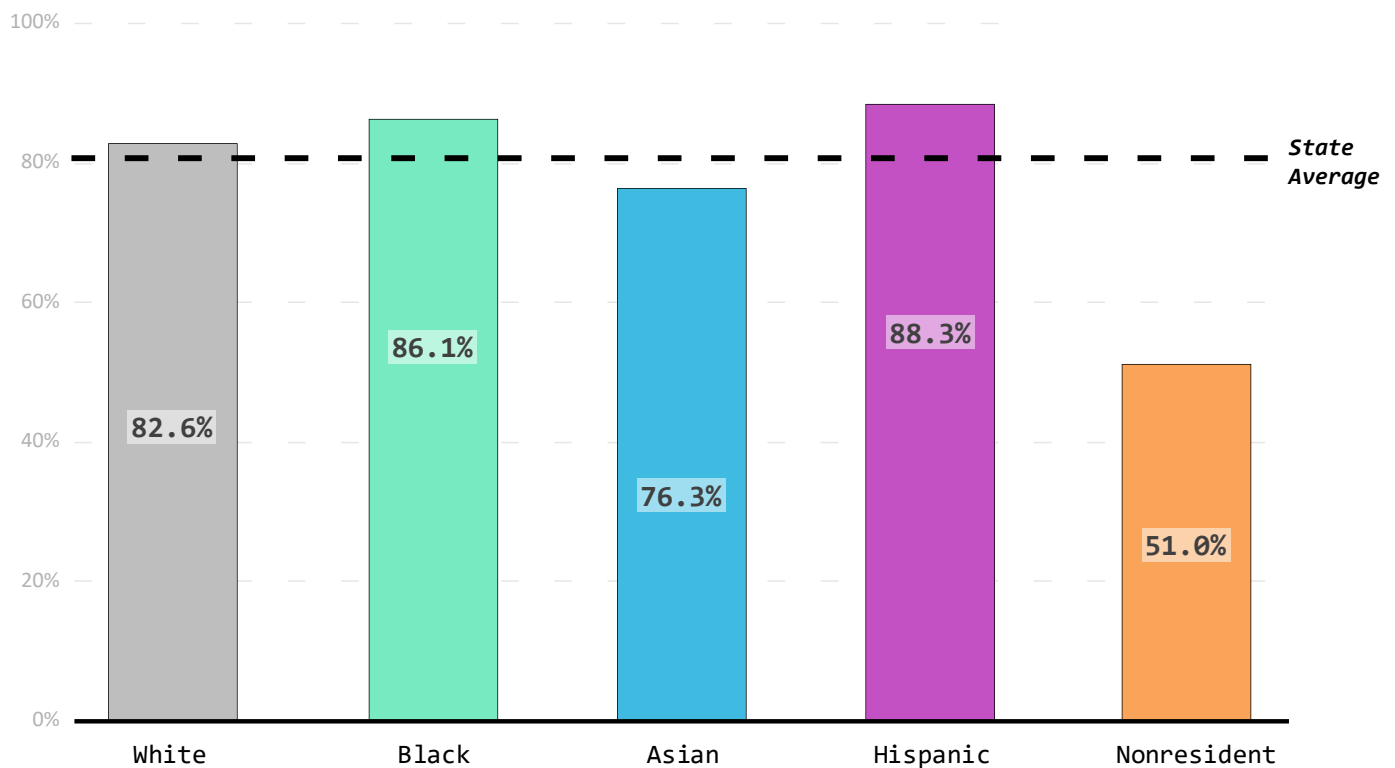


**Figure 1.** Fall 2016 full-time enrollment as a percentage of total enrollment by race.

2. "Some other race" includes American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.
3. Nonresident students were not identified by race.

did Asian students (80.4%). Black or African American (60.9%) and Hispanic or Latino (69.6%) had lower rates of full-time enrollment than the statewide average.

**Figure 2** shows the percentage of the Fall 2016 student population enrolled in undergraduate programs by race. Most exceed the state average, save for the Asian (76.3%) and Nonresident (51.0%) groups. Nonresidents were split almost evenly between undergraduate and graduate programs.



**Figure 2.** Fall 2016 undergraduate enrollment as a percentage of total enrollment by race.

**Table 2** provides the full breakdown of the Fall 2016 enrolled student population of Pennsylvania for each race. Part-time, undergraduate women were more represented in the Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino student populations when compared to other racial groups. Full-time, graduate men and women were more represented in the Asian and nonresident student populations, comparatively.

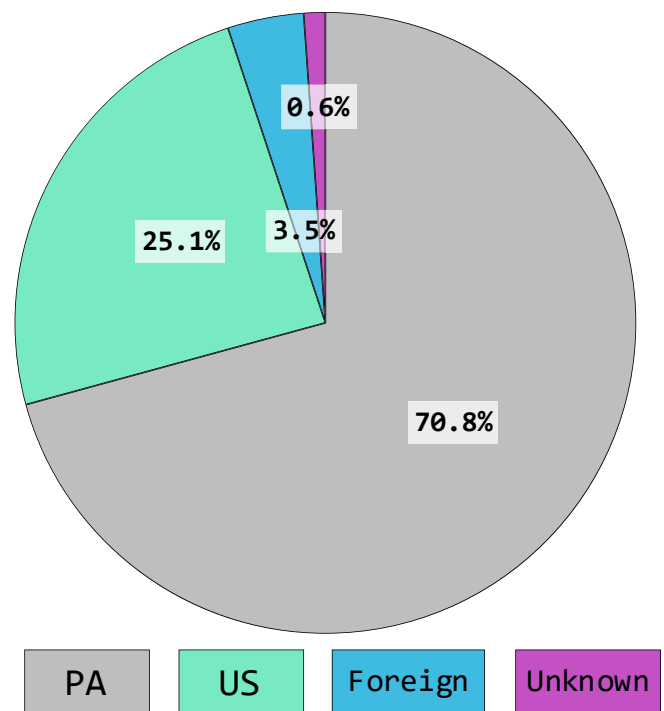
**Table 2.** Fall 2016 enrollment by degree level, full-time status, and gender for racial/ethnic group.

Level	Status	Gender	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	Nonres.
Undergraduate	Full-time	Men	30.0%	23.6%	29.3%	27.4%	27.4%
Undergraduate	Full-time	Women	33.8%	31.0%	33.6%	35.4%	20.4%
Undergraduate	Part-time	Men	7.6%	10.5%	6.0%	8.9%	1.5%
Undergraduate	Part-time	Women	11.2%	21.0%	7.3%	16.6%	1.7%
Graduate	Full-time	Men	3.8%	2.2%	8.0%	2.9%	24.9%
Graduate	Full-time	Women	5.2%	4.2%	9.5%	3.9%	18.6%
Graduate	Part-time	Men	3.0%	2.2%	2.6%	1.7%	3.0%
Graduate	Part-time	Women	5.4%	5.3%	3.6%	3.2%	2.6%

### First-Time Undergraduates and Origin

There was a total of 125,671 undergraduate students enrolled for the first time in Fall 2016, 17.0 percent of the total Fall enrollment. **Figure 3** shows the distribution of first-time undergraduate students by their geographic origin.

Most first-time undergraduates enrolled in Pennsylvania for Fall 2016 were from Pennsylvania (70.8%). Another quarter were from a state or territory of the United States (25.1%). Approximately 3.5 percent of the state's enrolled student population came from foreign countries, while 0.6 percent had unknown origins.



**Figure 3.** Fall 2016 first-time enrolled undergraduate students by geographic origin.

**Source:** National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Fall 2016 Enrollment Data obtained via IPEDS.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at **717.948.6336** or online at **pasdc.hbg.psu.edu**.