What follows is an example of the data Public Agenda presented to adult prospective college students in focus groups that were conducted as part of a larger research study.

Findings from this study have been published in Public Agenda’s 2013 research report, “Is College Worth It For Me? How Adults Without Degrees Think About Going (Back) to School”

This research was supported by The Kresge Foundation

Note: This particular presentation was used in a focus group in the Detroit area and refers at times to local schools around Detroit.
Some facts about US colleges and students
What do Americans get out of their degrees?
Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment

Unemployment rate in 2012 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Median Weekly Earnings in 2012 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>1,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>471</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All workers: 6.8%

All workers: $815

Who goes to college and what types of schools do they go to?
How old are undergraduate college students in America?

- Under 18: 4%
- 18-24: 62%
- 25-39: 24%
- 40 and over: 10%
- Over 25: 39%

What percentage of undergraduates in America are full-time or part-time?

- Part-time: 37%
- Full-time: 63%

What percentage of undergraduate students go to 4-year schools, 2-year schools, and less-than-two-year schools?

What percentage of undergraduate students go to public schools, private not-for-profit schools and for-profit schools?

- Public: 76%
- Private not-for-profit: 15%
- Private for-profit: 9%

How much does it all cost?
What's the average amount people end up paying at different types of schools (out-of-pocket or with loans)?

*Nationally and at select Detroit schools*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), academic year 2010-2011 data.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public, 4-year (nationally)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland University</td>
<td>$11,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan-Dearborn</td>
<td>$14,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,918</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private not-for-profit, 4-year (nationally)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Detroit Mercy</td>
<td>$19,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madonna University</td>
<td>$20,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$13,892</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For-profit, 4-year (nationally)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Phoenix-Metro Detroit Campus</td>
<td>$22,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITT Technical Institute-Troy</td>
<td>$22,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$21,418</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public, 2-year (nationally)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoolcraft College</td>
<td>$6,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Ford Community College</td>
<td>$4,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,402</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For-profit, 2-year (nationally)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorsey Business Schools-Roseville</td>
<td>$19,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everest Institute-Southfield</td>
<td>$22,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,462</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About how much do students who graduate with a bachelor’s borrow for school?

- **Public 4-year**: $20,800
- **Private not-for-profit 4-year**: $28,900
- **For-profit 4-year**: $36,800

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2008/09 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:08/09).
How many students default on their federal loans within three years of beginning repayment?

- At all schools: 13%
- Public not-for-profit schools: 11%
- Private not-for-profit schools: 8%
- Private for-profit schools: 23%

How many people graduate?
Six years after starting school, where are American college students?

- Earned a degree or certificate (50%)
- Have not earned a degree, but still enrolled at a school (15%)
- Dropped out (36%)

Six years after starting, how many students have dropped out of different types of schools?

- **For-profit 4-year**: 55%
- **For-profit 2-year**: 51%
- **Public 2-year**: 46%
- **For-profit less-than-2-year**: 37%
- **Public or Private not-for-profit 4-year**: 21%

Are older or younger students more likely to drop out?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Dropout Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 or younger</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–23</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24–29</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 or older</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many students graduate at different types of schools?

Only first-time, full-time students; 4-year schools only include students seeking Bachelor’s degrees; students who transfer are not counted as graduates

(Within six years)

Public, 4-year (nationally)
University of Michigan-Dearborn
57%
Wayne State University
49%
26%

Private not-for-profit, 4-year (nationally)
University of Detroit Mercy
65%
Madonna University
57%
42%

For-profit, 4-year (nationally)
ITT Technical Institute-Troy
42%
University of Phoenix-Metro Detroit Campus
11%

(Within 3 years)

Public, 2-year (nationally)
Schoolcraft College
20%
Henry Ford Community College
20%
9%

For-profit, 2-year (nationally)
Dorsey Business Schools-Roseville
62%
Everest Institute-Southfield
52%
67%