

## METHODOLOGY

The college attainment data used throughout this report was gathered from publicly available data. First, all figures highlighted in this brief are reported for the Fall 2022 academic term, as that served as the last Fall term prior to the Court's decision on race-based admission policies. Second, we restrict our student population to include all full-time and part-time undergraduate students enrolled as reported by each institution. The following metrics: (1) percent of undergraduate enrollment 18-24, and 25-64; (2) full-time first-time undergraduate federal award type (federal student loans, federal Pell grants, federal and local aid of other kind); (3) total number of undergraduates enrolled in each state; (4) and the number of institutions and types of institutions were gleaned from IPEDS. [IPEDS](#) utilizes self-reported survey data from each IHE and serves as the premier source for data on IHEs. Indeed,

IPEDS gathers information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires that institutions that participate in federal student aid programs report data on enrollments, program completions, graduation rates, faculty and staff, finances, institutional prices, and student financial aid ([IPEDS](#)).

Next, data for the first-year persistence, and retention rates, and the six-year completion rates were gathered from the [National Student Clearinghouse](#). The first-year persistence rate measures the percentage of students who re-enroll in college at any institution in their second year, and the retention rate measures the percentage of students who enroll at the same institution in their second year. The first-year persistence and retention rates are reported each year from 2013-2022. The six-year completion rates - disaggregated by race and ethnicity - "[track] the enrollment and completion outcomes for the fall [2016] cohort of beginning college students through June [2022]. The six-year completion rates gathered from the National Student Clearinghouse are only reported for Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White non-Hispanic students.

Figures for the racial and ethnic demographic makeup of the undergraduate student population are gathered from [NCES' Digest Table 306.60](#), and the overall cost of attendance, per sector, inclusive of room and board, and the average tuition and fees for four-year public and private nonprofit universities were derived from NCES' [Digest Table 330.20](#).

The national and state median earnings by educational attainment were derived from the U.S. Census Bureau, and each state higher education attainment goal and their progress towards that goal was derived from the Lumina Foundation.