With their open-access model and low tuition rates, community colleges are a gateway to opportunity. Nearly half of all undergraduates attend community college. That’s a diverse student population with a diverse array of needs. Whether a student’s goal is to transfer to a 4-year institution or to immediately join the workforce, community colleges can provide the preparation, training, and services that are needed for success.

**Flexibility.** More than half of community college students enroll part time. Many have jobs, families, and other obligations. Community colleges offer the flexibility to earn a degree or certificate at the right pace. Underprepared students can take developmental courses to prepare for college-level work. And at many community colleges, students can earn a degree entirely online.

**Location.** It’s no coincidence the first word in community college is community. These 2-year colleges allow students to stay in their communities while attending classes. Most community colleges also have forged partnerships with local industry to provide specialized training, building a pipeline from the classroom to the workforce.

**Variety.** From culinary arts to criminal justice, nursing to nuclear technology, community colleges offer a range of programs and classes to help students prepare for further education or to gain employment in an in-demand field.
NUMBER AND TYPE OF COLLEGES

- Public – 986
- Independent – 115
- Tribal – 31

Total number of community colleges: 1,132

HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT (FALL 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit²</td>
<td>7.7M</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>Part-time²</td>
<td>4.6M</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncredit³</td>
<td>5.0M</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>Full-time²</td>
<td>3.1M</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12.8M</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated change fall 2012 – fall 2013: -3.1%.⁴

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS (2011–2012)⁵

- Full-time student employed full time – 22%
- Full-time students employed part time – 40%
- Part-time students employed full time – 41%
- Part-time students employed part time – 32%

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID (2011–2012)⁵

- Any aid – 72%
- Federal aid – 62%
- Federal grants – 38%
- Federal loans – 19%
- State aid – 12%
- Institutional aid – 13%

% OF FEDERAL AID RECEIVED BY COMMUNITY COLLEGES (2012–2013)⁶

- Pell Grants – 33%
- Federal Work Study – 16%
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants – 21%

AVERAGE ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES (2013-2014)⁷

- Community colleges (public, in district) – $3,260
- 4-year colleges (public, in state) – $8,890

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED (2011–2012)⁸

- Associate degrees – 770,797
- Certificates – 436,037

REPRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS AMONG UNDERGRADUATES (FALL 2012)²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$9,135,894,867</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$15,972,223,577</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>$9,807,927,497</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$16,749,438,987</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$5,104,713,349</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$56,770,198,278</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources

¹ AACC membership database, January 2014.
² NCES (2014). IPEDS Fall 2012 Enrollment Survey [AACC analysis].
³ AACC membership database, 2014 [AACC analysis].
⁵ NCES. (2014). 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) [AACC analysis].
⁷ NCES. (2014). IPEDS Fall 2012 Finance Survey [AACC analysis].
⁸ NCES. (2014). IPEDS Fall 2012 Completion Survey [AACC analysis].