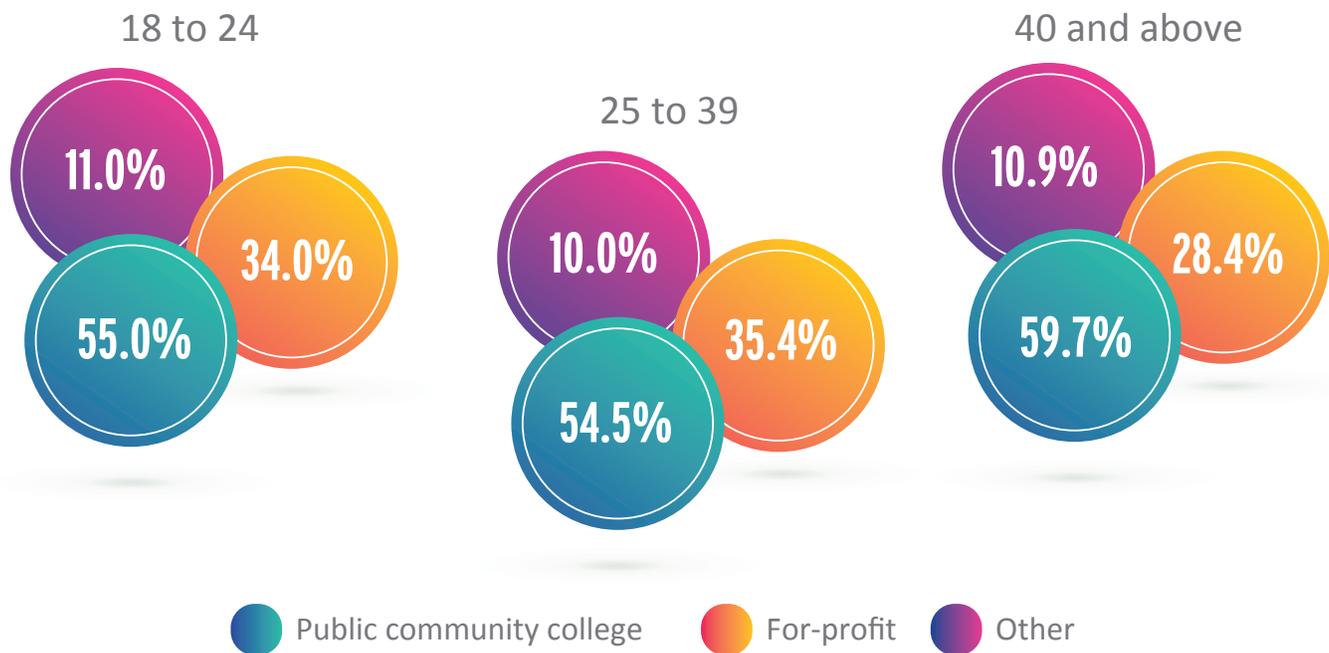


## For certificates, it's community colleges

*Older students are more likely to earn certificates at community colleges than traditional-age students.*

### Distribution of less-than-two-year certificate earners by age and institution type, 2016-17



**Source:** AACC analysis of Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2016-17 Completions Data File, U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, August 2018.



Well over half of students who earned a certificate in the 2016-17 academic year received their credential from a public community college, according to federal data. Roughly one-third of certificate earners received their credential from a for-profit college, with students ages 25 to 39 more likely than those in other age groups to have earned their certificate from a for-profit college. Students ages 40 and above were more likely to have earned their certificate at a community college than students 18 to 39. While only 1.5 percent of students who earned a certificate were under 18, 79 percent of them earned their certificate from a community college. Slightly more than one in 10 certificate earners received their credential from another type of postsecondary institution.

For more information, contact Kent Phillippe, associate vice president for research and student success at the American Association of Community Colleges, at (202) 416-4505 or [kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu), or Rahel Tekle, AACC research associate, at (202) 416-4508 or [rtekle@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:rtekle@aacc.nche.edu).