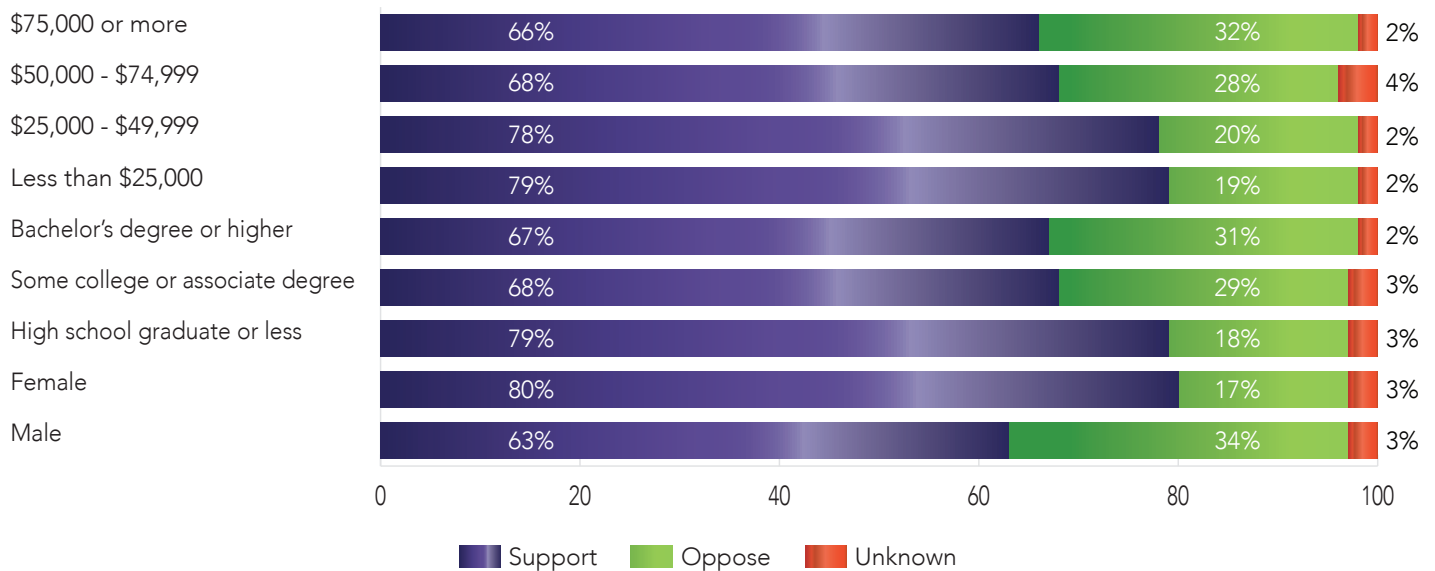


Supporting free tuition

Nearly three-fourths of American adults support free college tuition for those who qualify for it.

Percent of adults by selected demographics who support or oppose free tuition at public colleges and universities



Source: American Public Media Research Lab and The Hechinger Report, “What Americans Think About College Value and Free Access,” March 2019.



A recent national survey shows that 72 percent of American adults support free college tuition for those who qualify. In the same survey, about 58 percent felt that the current cost of a college degree is worth the investment. The results vary by gender, socioeconomic status and political affiliation, with women supporting free tuition more, as well as individuals younger than age 45 and those with household income less than \$50,000. Support was also above average among black non-Hispanic adults (85 percent), Hispanic/Latino adults (83 percent) and individuals with a minority child in the household (82 percent). The strongest opposition to free tuition came from individuals who identified as Republican (50 percent), individuals over age 65 (38 percent), males (34 percent) and individuals from households earning more than \$75,000. The report noted that respondents who indicated that college is not worth the cost were concerned that “people graduate often without specific job skills and with large amounts of debt.” Studies show that by 2020 about 65 percent of jobs in the United States will require some postsecondary credentials.

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, or Rahel Tekle, AACC research associate, at 202-416-4508 or rtekle@aacc.nche.edu.