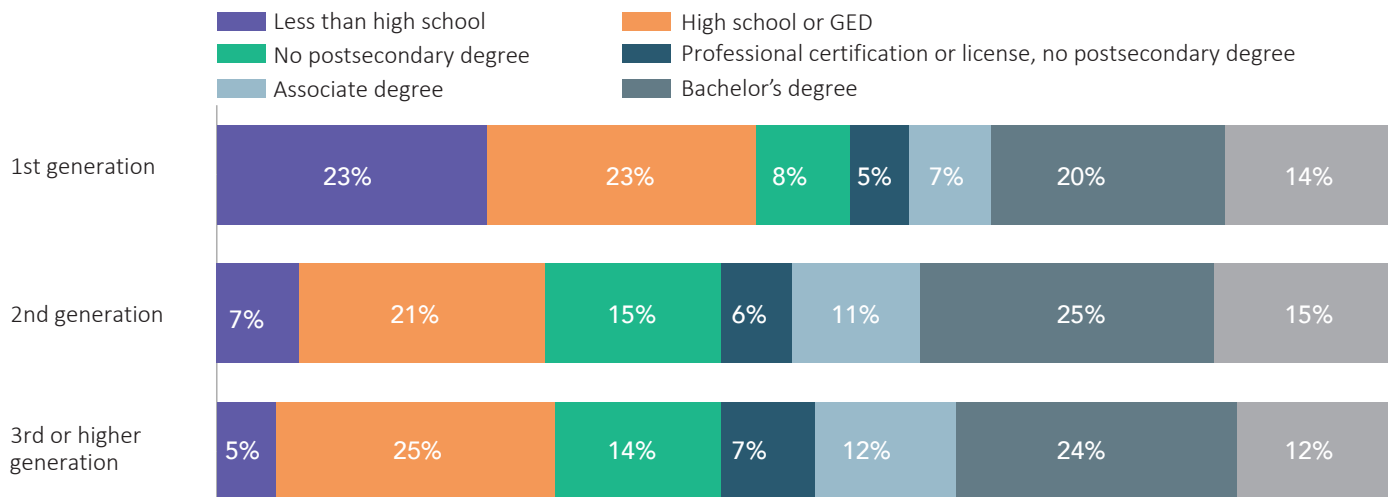


Immigrants and credentialing

Community colleges can tap into the first and second generation of immigrants, which can potentially increase their college completion.

Credential attainment of adults ages 25 to 64 by immigrant generation, 2017



Source: Migration Policy Institute, “Credentials for the Future: Mapping the Potential for Immigrant-Origin in the United States,” March 2019.

Data definition in this report: First-generation immigrants are people with no U.S. citizenship at birth. Immigrants include naturalized U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents (or green-card holders), refugees and other humanitarian immigrants, persons on certain temporary visas and unauthorized immigrants. Second generation comprises people born in the United States to one or more immigrant parents. Third/higher generation of immigrants are adults born in the United States with only U.S.-born parents.



About 65 percent of occupations in the U.S. will require a postsecondary degree by 2025. However, the number of high school graduates entering college will not be able to fill the workforce needs. One population that can help address this shortage are immigrants. A recent report from the Migration Policy Institute highlights educational attainment differences based on generational immigration status. First-generation immigrant adults ages 24 to 64 are less likely to have postsecondary education or workforce credentials (46 percent) compared to other generations of immigrants. Nationally, about 78.1 million adults do not hold a postsecondary degree or other credentials as of 2017. Of those, 17.2 million are first-generation immigrants and 6.6 million are second-generation. Community colleges are well-placed to serve this population to address the need for a credentialed competitive 21st-century workforce.

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