What happens to

100 Students

who start a bachelor's degree?

In 2018, we used a representative 100 students to illustrate how colleges and universities across the country were delivering on the promises of higher education. Five years later, what has changed? Explore this infographic to find out.

View a full list of sources here: eab.com/100students

In the last five years, we've made notable progress in reducing time to degree and enhancing job placement for bachelor's degree graduates. However, the number of students dropping out of college has grown alarmingly, and many of the students leaving our institutions are first-generation or come from historically excluded groups. Addressing systemic barriers these students face and providing comprehensive, holistic support are key to closing these equity gaps to ensure every student can fully access the lifelong benefits of a college degree.

What happens to 100 students who start a bachelor's degree?



Dropped out of college¹

- of those students are Black or Hispanic
- drop out due to poor mental health2
- will fall behind on their student loan payments³

2023 29 Students

2018 22 Students





Are still enrolled six years later¹

will finish their degree in their 7th or 8th years1

2023 9 Students

2018 12 Students 25%



3

Leave and earn an associate's degree¹

They'll go on to earn

\$16,600 less

annually without the bachelor's degree they set out to get⁴

2023 **3 Students**

2018 3 Students No Change



Will be working a job that doesn't require a bachelor's degree by the age of 275

On average, they'll owe over

30k in loans

44% of graduates say that the benefits of their education didn't exceed the cost3

2023 22 Students

2018 28 Students 27%

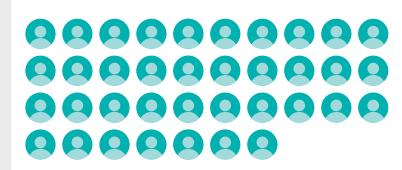


Will graduate and end up working in a job requiring their degrees

As these students graduate with a bachelor's degree and apply their knowledge to their careers, they exemplify the fulfillment of higher education's promises

2023 **37 Students**

2018 **35 Students**





Our representative 100 students have chosen to start a bachelor's degree. But the number of students opting out is growing...

The enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-olds is 38 percent, down from 41 percent in 2010.7

There are 710,000 fewer students in college now than there were five years ago8. Many blame this falloff on COVID-19; however, the college enrollment rate has been steadily declining since 2018. Widespread skepticism about the value of a degree, impatience with the time it takes to get one, and worry that costs have finally exceeded many people's ability or willingness to pay have led many to opt out of higher education.

