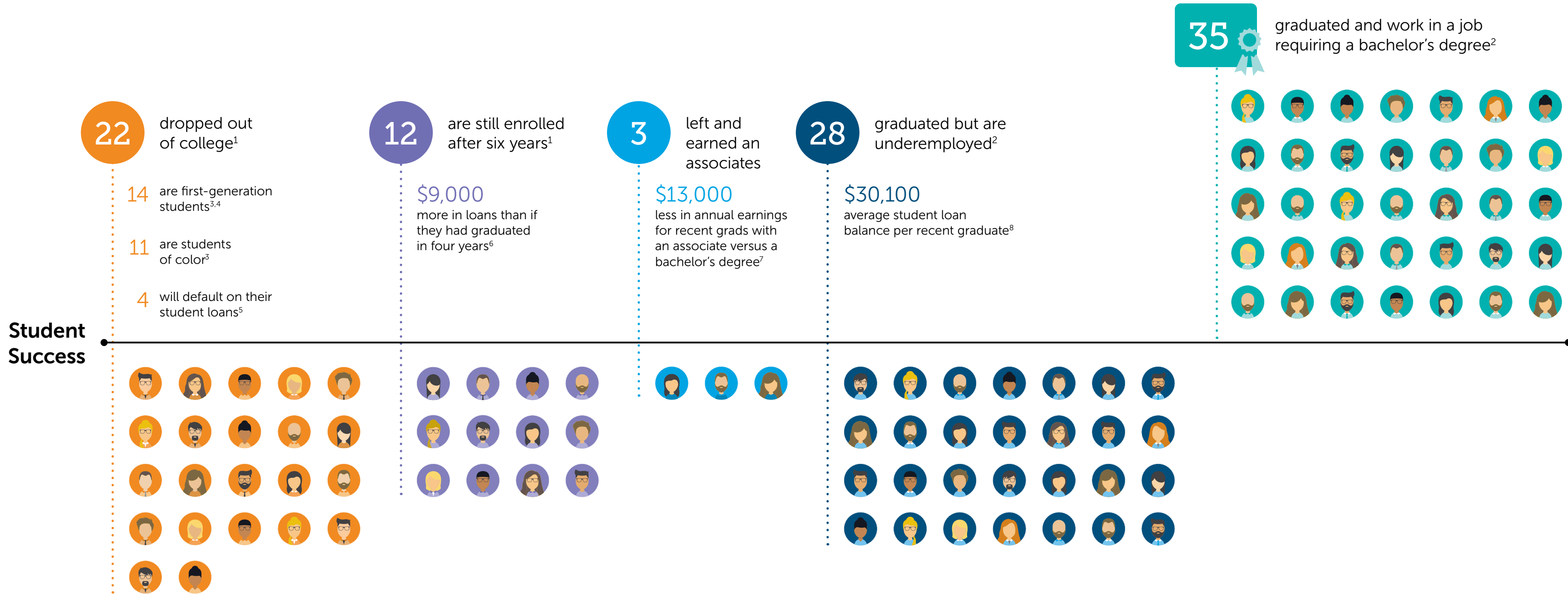


# What happens to 100 Students who start a bachelor's degree?

## Just 35 will get a "return on education"

Colleges and universities face seemingly constant scrutiny from external stakeholders questioning the value of a postsecondary education. Is this criticism warranted? The lack of centralized, longitudinal, industry-wide records makes it frustratingly difficult to understand what really happens to our students. In response, researchers at EAB have pulled together disparate national data sets to assemble a comprehensive picture of student outcomes. Given the nature of the data, this analysis should be interpreted as "directionally correct" rather as a precise measurement. Any institution that strives to elevate any of the numbers on this page can rightly be said to be working to improve their "return on education."



Our New Student Success Mandate

Graduate more students...

...in less time and at lower cost...

...with better post-grad outcomes...

...to ensure a positive return on education



1. NSC data includes outcomes for transfers and thus does not match the federal graduation rate. Source: Shapiro D. et al., "Completing College: A National View of Student Attainment Rates – Fall 2010 Cohort (Signature Report No. 12)," National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (2016).  
 2. "Underemployed" is defined as the percentage of college graduates aged 22-27 who are not working in a job requiring a bachelor's degree. Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, "The Labor Market for Recent College Graduates," <https://www.newyorkfed.org/research/college-labor-market/index.html>.  
 3. Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, "Digest of Educational Statistics: 2015," Tables 306.50 and 326.40.  
 4. "First-generation" is defined as a student whose parents had some or no college. Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, "Six-Year Attainment, Persistence, Transfer, Retention, and Withdrawal Rates of Students Who Began Postsecondary Education in 2003-04," (NCES 2011-152) Table 1.1-C.

5. Source: Nguyen M., "Degreeless in Debt: What Happens to Borrowers Who Drop Out" American Institutes for Research (2012).  
 6. This is an approximation based on data from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Source: <http://www.utsa.edu/moneymatters/cost/graduating.html>.  
 7. Based on the median annual earnings of all full-time, year-round workers ages 25-34. Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, "Digest of Educational Statistics: 2016," Table 502.30.  
 8. Includes federal and non-federal loans taken by students who graduated from public and non-profit private institutions. Source: Institute for College Access and Success, "Student Debt and the Class of 2015," (October 2016).

Learn more about how your institution can improve its return on education  
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