

# 101

## THE HIGHER ED POLL OF TEXAS POLL 2019



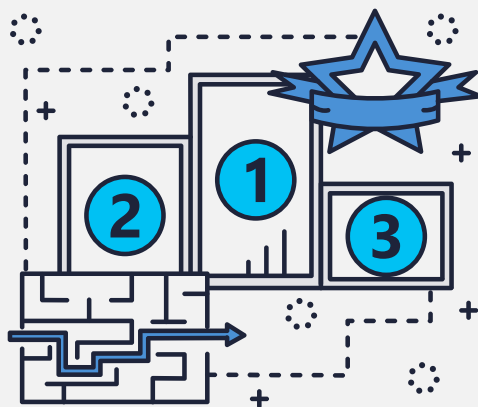
*Texans continue to consider the cost of higher education an obstacle to obtaining a degree, and worry about student loan debt as both a personal and a policy problem.*

**Among those without a college degree, financial concerns top obstacles for not completing a college degree. The number one obstacle cited was the cost of a degree (75%), followed by job or work responsibilities (66%) and taking on student loan debt (65%).**

Both Texans with and without student loan debt see student debt as a major problem. Overall, 79% of Texans view the problem of student loan debt for people in the United States as a major problem, including 77% of those who currently hold no student loan debt themselves.



*Despite concerns about cost, Texans with degrees say that the cost was worth it in both economic and personal terms.*



65% of those with associate's degrees, 77% of those with college degrees, and 72% of those with graduate degrees say that the money they or their family has paid for their education has or will pay off.

A majority of Texans with associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degrees say that the value most college graduates get back over their lifetime is equal in value or worth more than what they paid for attending college.

**A majority of Texans also continue to agree that having a degree or certificate beyond high school is somewhat or very important (93%), and that those degrees are a source of pride for most people (93%); lead to a higher income (87%) and a better quality of life (83%); increases the respect one receives from others (81%); and are essential for getting a good job (78%).**

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Most Texans don't think the state spends enough on higher education, and a large majority think it's important for the state to continue providing aid to students with financial need.



# 51%

A majority (51%) of Texas adults say that Texas state government spends 'too little' on college education, while only 7% say that they spend too much.

# 48%

48% say the state doesn't provide enough financial aid for college students.



# 84%

84% say it is very important, for the State of Texas to continue providing state-funded financial aid for college students who demonstrate financial need.



# 93%

More than 90% of Texans agree that it is essential to have an educated workforce if Texas' economy is going to compete with other states.

Texans continue to seek out more post-secondary education in various parts of the state's higher education system.

# 36%

More than a third of Texas adults (36%) say that they've explored enrolling in an educational program in the last five years, with 60% of those being over the age of 30.

# 60%

Among Texans who don't view their job as a career, 60% say that they need more education and training; but even among those who do see their job as a career, 26% still say that they need more education or training.

# 28%

28% of Texans say that they will enroll in an educational or training program in the next five years, with more than half of those being over the age of 30 (57%).



# 35%

Among those who say that they will seek out more education in the next five years, 35% say that they would do so at a 4-year public college or university, while 29% say that they would do so at a community college.



Among those who say that they need more education and training to get the job or career that they want, roughly equal shares say they would do so at a community college (33%) as say they would enroll at a 4-year public college or university (35%), with 18% saying they would get more education at another type of institution.