



Career Education in Colorado

The role of for-profit colleges in
postsecondary education



COLORADO FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE FACTS 2024

47,591



Students enrolled full or part-time at private for-profit colleges



51%

Completion rate at 2-year colleges

71%

Completion rate at <2-year colleges



18:1

Student-Faculty Ratio

19%

Black

9%

Hispanic



68%

Women



32%

Men



59%
Pell Grant
Recipients



4.2K Associate's
4.1K Bachelor's
7.7K Certificates
awarded

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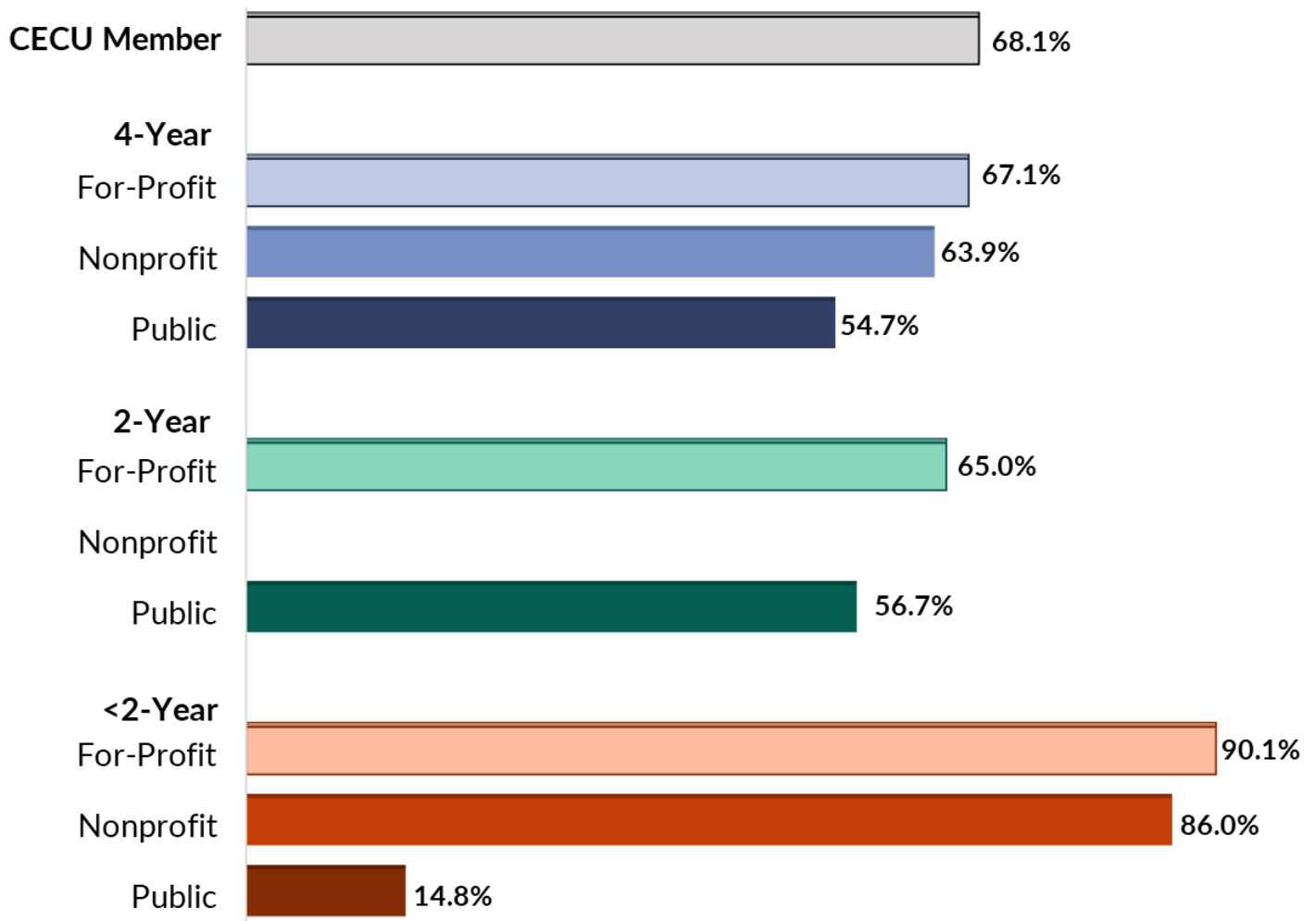
DIVERSE POPULATIONS SERVED

Diverse Populations Served: Female

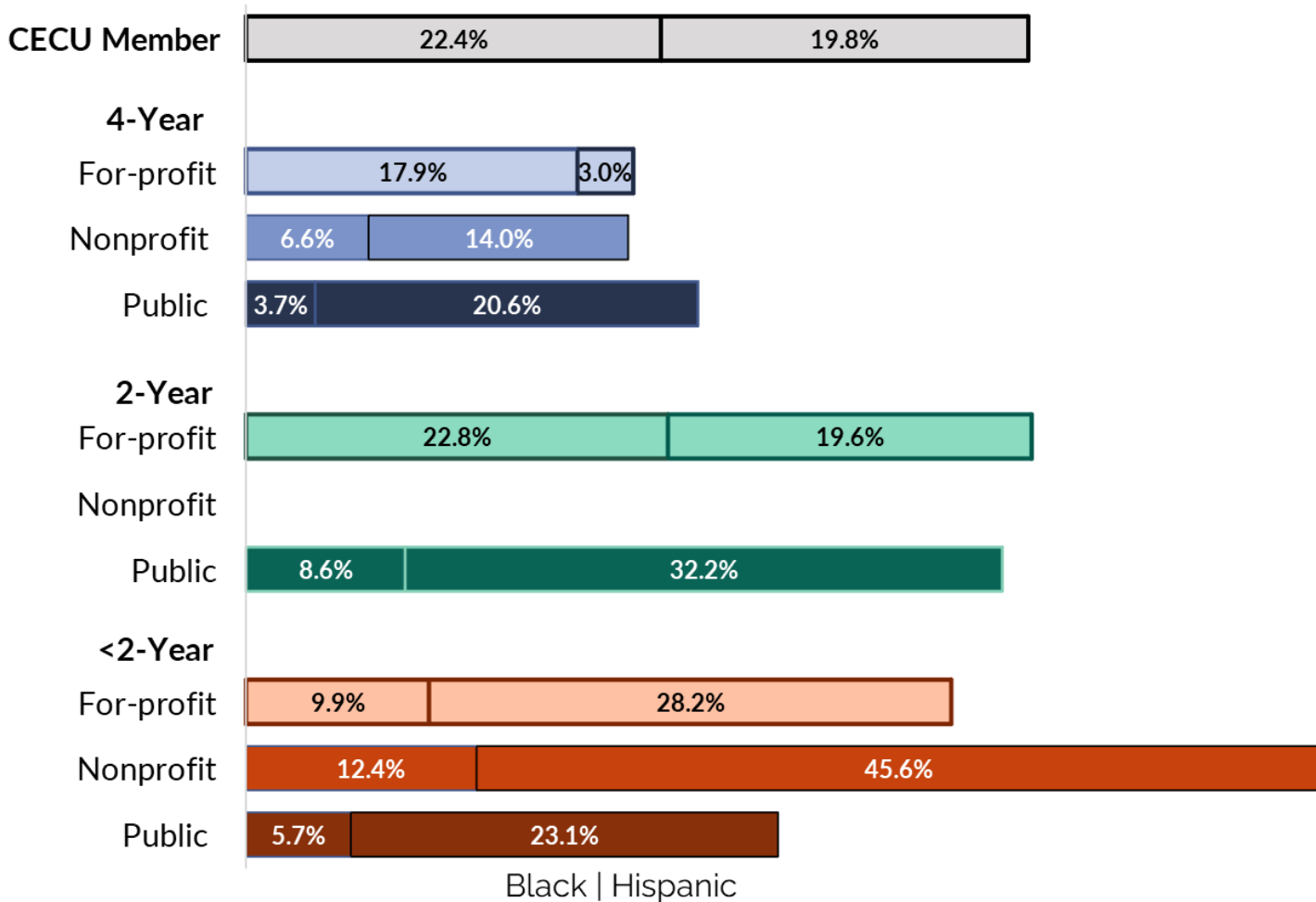


First, we look at the percentage of women enrolled at for-profit colleges in Colorado in the 2022-23 school year. For-profit colleges lead the way at each institutional level with 67% female enrollment at four-year institutions, 65% at two-year institutions, and 90% at less-than-two-year institutions.

Across all institutional levels, CECU member schools boasted an average enrollment of approximately 68% women.



Diverse Populations Served: Students of Color



Additionally, for-profit colleges conferring primarily two-year and less-than-two-year degrees showed the highest enrollment of students that are Black and Hispanic with 42% and 38% Black and Hispanic enrollment respectively.

At CECU member schools in Colorado, 42% of enrolled students were Black or Hispanic.

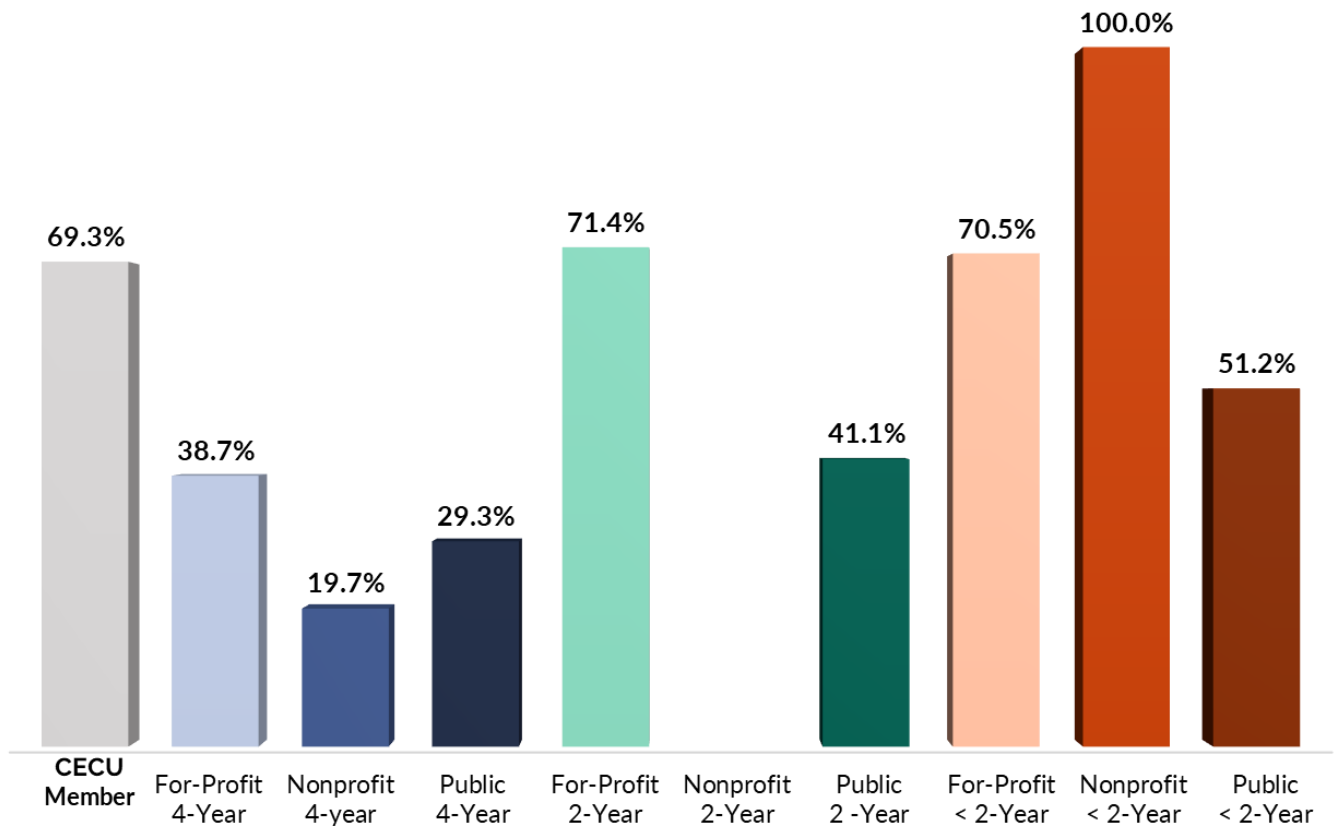


Diverse Populations Served: Low-Income

Low Income

Other areas of underserved populations accommodated by for-profit colleges in Colorado include low-income students. For-profit colleges served the highest percentages of low-income students in the 2022-23 school year at four-year colleges (39%) and two-year colleges (71%).

CECU member schools in Colorado enrolled 69% low income students across all institutional levels.



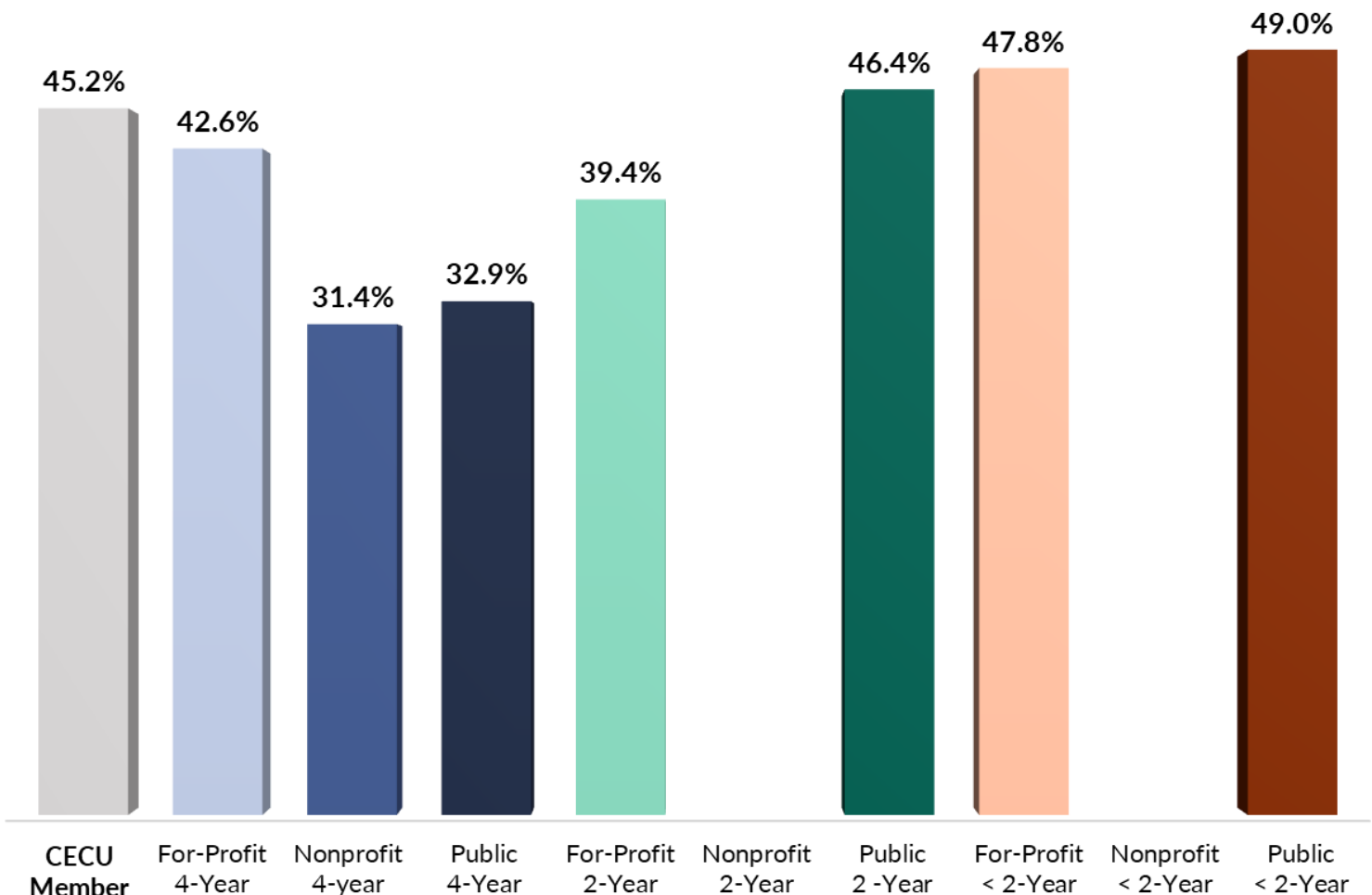
Source: College Scorecard, 2023
Data for private, nonprofit two-year institutions are not available

Diverse Populations Served: First-Generation

For-profit colleges also served a large share of first-generation students in the 2022-23 school year, leading the way in first-generation enrollment at schools conferring primarily four-year degrees (43%). For-profit college enrollment of first-generation students at less-than-two-year institutions was nearly equal to that of public less-than-two year institutions.

**1st
Gen**

CECU member schools alone had a student population with 45% first-generation students.



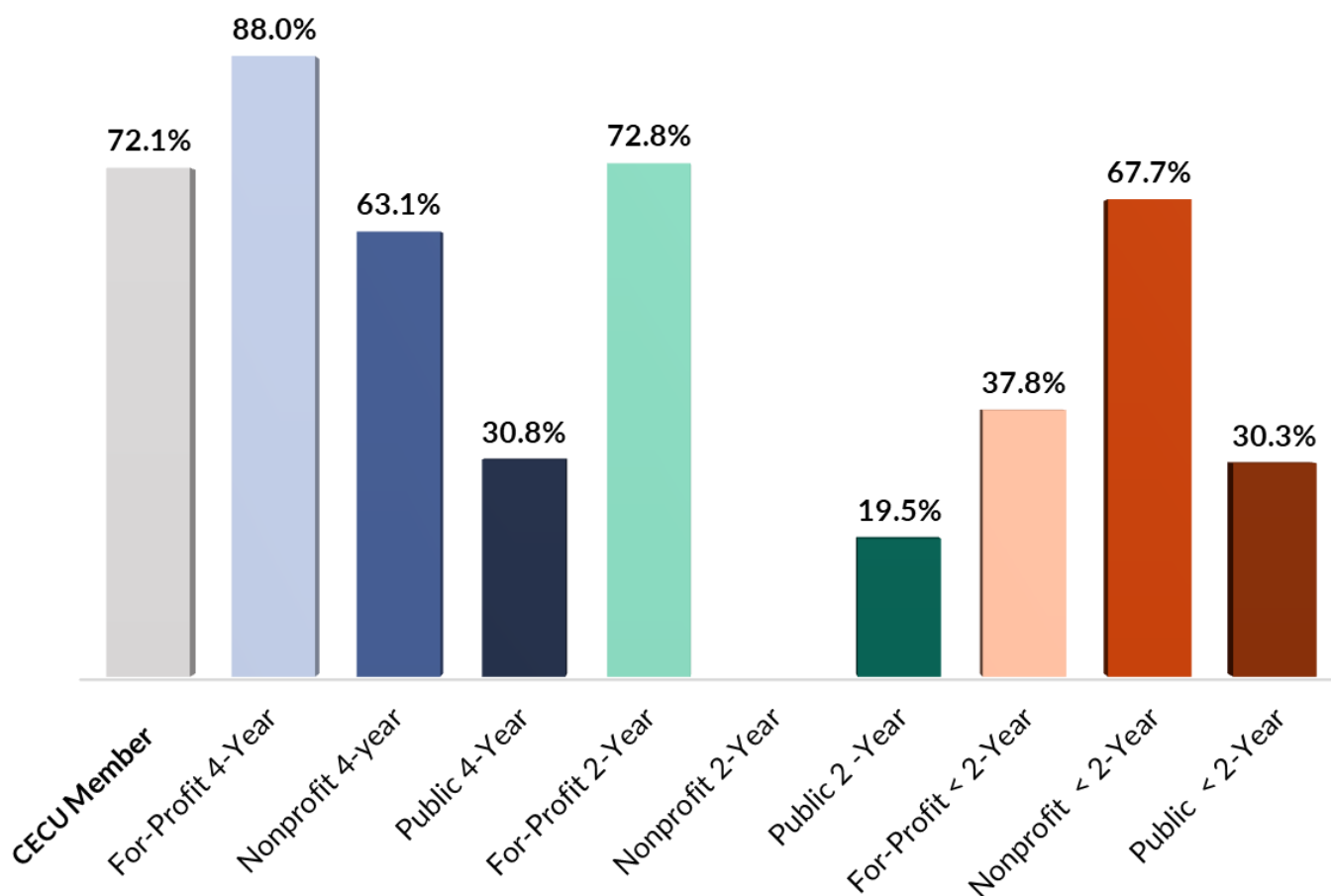
Source: College Scorecard, 2023
Data for private, nonprofit two-year and less-than-two-year institutions are not available

Diverse Populations Served: Adult Learners

Adults aged 25+ are another key population served by for-profit colleges in Colorado as schools in this sector aim to adapt to the needs of older, more experienced learners that may have competing priorities as they've gotten older.

25+

For-profit colleges conferring primarily four-year and two-year degrees lead the way in enrollment of adult learners in the 2022-23 school year with 88% and 73% of enrolled students aged 25 years or older, respectively.



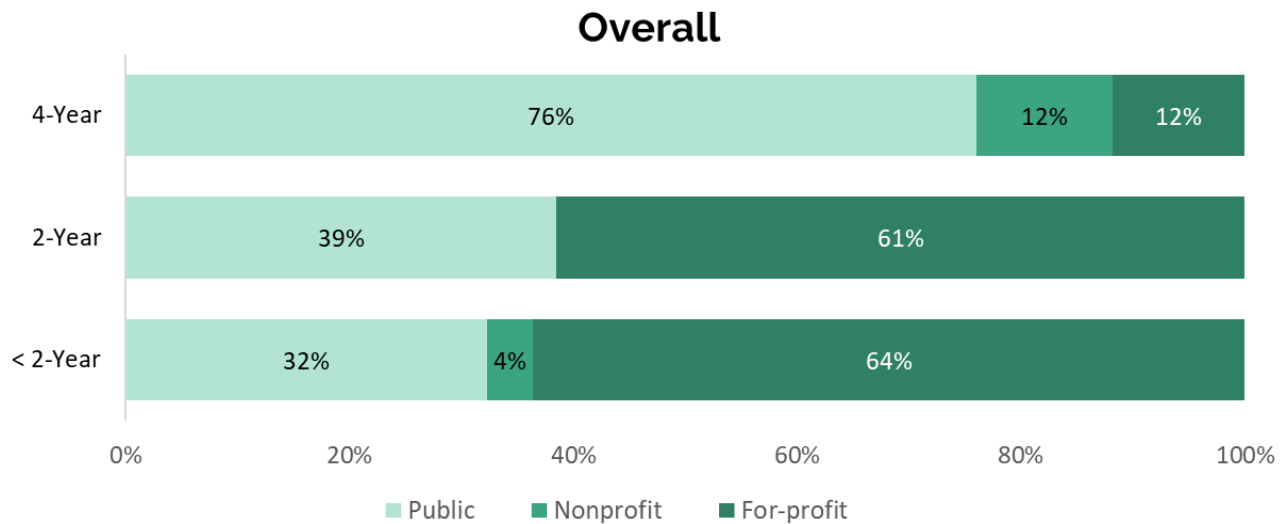
Source: College Scorecard, 2023
Data for private, nonprofit two-year institutions are not available

STUDENT OUTCOMES AND PREPARATION FOR THE WORKFORCE

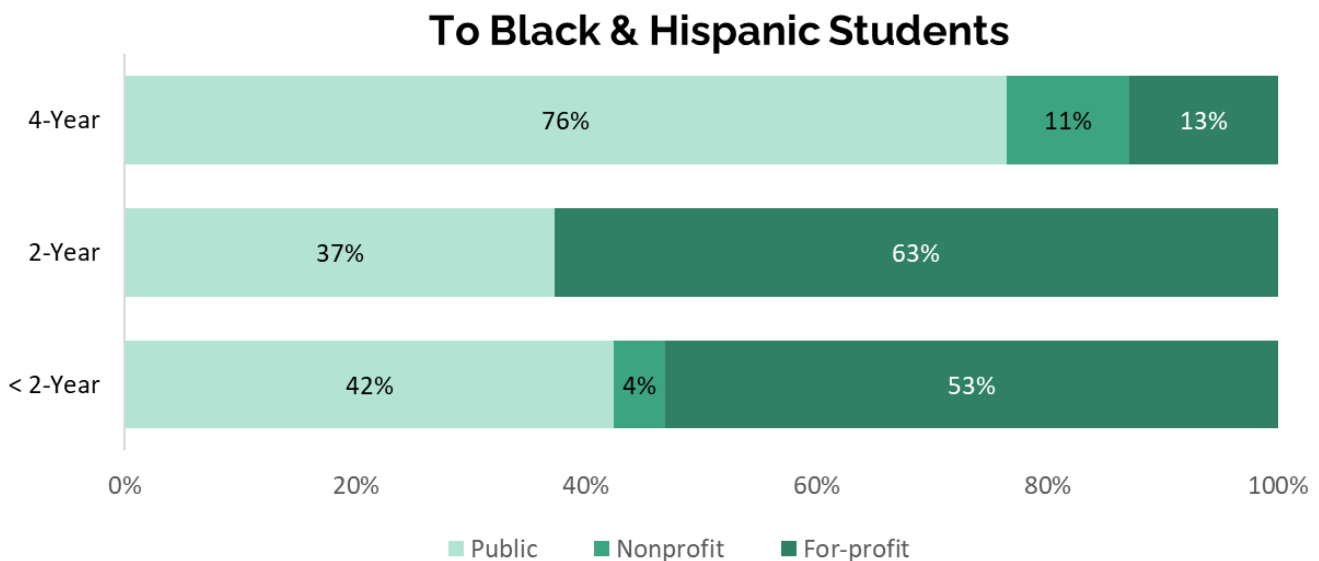
Degrees Awarded in Colorado

Academic year 2021–22

For-profit colleges conferred the majority of two-year and less-than-two-year degrees/certificates across all sectors in the 2021–22 school year. They also conferred 12% of four-year degrees/certificates.



Among Black and Hispanic students, for-profit colleges conferred the majority of two-year and less-than-two-year degrees/certificates. They also accounted for 13% of four-year degrees/certificates conferred to Black and Hispanic students.



Types of Degrees/ Certificates Awarded in Colorado

By control of institution, 2021-22 academic year

Profession	Public	Private, nonprofit	For-profit	Total	For-profit percentage
Culinary Arts/Chef Training	49	0	2422	2471	98.0%
Massage Therapy/Therapeutic Massage	17	0	219	236	92.8%
Aesthetician/Esthetician and Skin Care Specialist	112	0	730	842	86.7%
Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General	344	0	934	1278	73.1%
Dental Assisting/Assistant	92	0	233	325	71.7%
Electrician	32	0	64	96	66.7%
Nail Technician/Specialist and Manicurist	46	0	83	129	64.3%
Medical/Clinical Assistant	458	64	840	1362	61.7%
Barbering/Barber	85	0	77	162	47.5%
HVACR Maintenance Technology/Technician (HAC, HACR, HVAC, HVACR)	110	0	58	168	34.5%
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	2173	390	823	3386	24.3%
Welding Technology/Welder	1229	0	387	1616	23.9%
Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician	1262	0	314	1576	19.9%
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training	175	0	40	215	18.6%

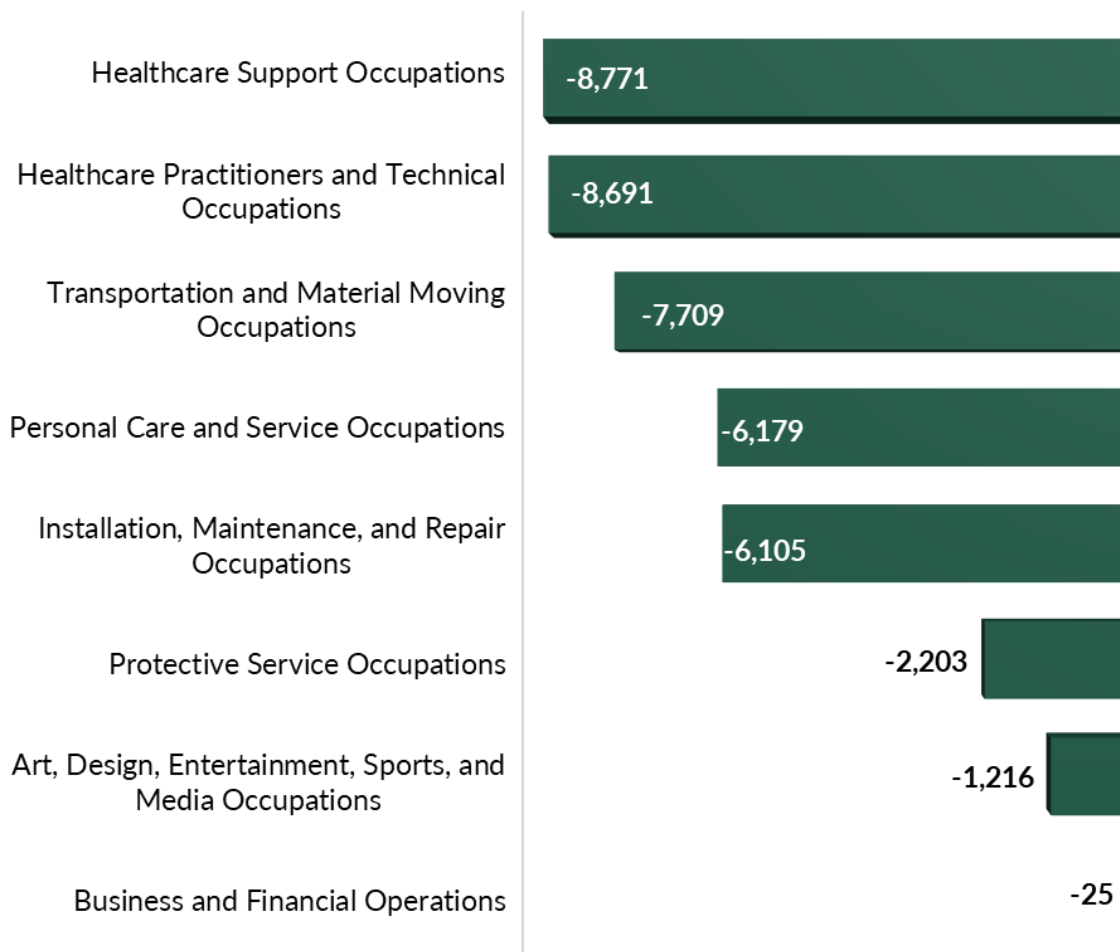
For-profit colleges contribute significantly to the workforce, conferring over 70% of degrees/certificates in the following fields:

- Culinary Arts/Chef Training
- Massage Therapy/Therapeutic Massage
- Aesthetician/Esthetician and Skin Care Specialist
- Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General
- Dental Assisting/Assistant

*Source: IPEDS, 2024
Data for private, nonprofit two-year colleges are not available*

In-Demand Career Training in the US: Non-Degree

Projected Shortage of Workers by Group



The degrees/certificates conferred by for-profit colleges in Colorado align very well with the estimated annual nationwide worker shortages in occupations requiring some college or a postsecondary nondegree award. Healthcare is by far the occupation most in need of workers. For-profit colleges in Colorado confer a large percentage of degrees/certificates in the following healthcare-related fields:

- Dental assisting/assistant (72%)
- Medical/clinical assistants (62%)
- Registered nursing/registered nurse (24%).
- Licensed practical/vocational nurse training (19%)

Notes

- The data presented in this report includes only Title IV accredited institutions.
- Data for “CECU Member” includes all institutions listed in the member data file provided by CECU, cross-referenced with IPEDS and College Scorecard data by OPEID.