



Career Education in Illinois

The role of for-profit colleges in
postsecondary education



FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE FACTS 2024

70,964



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



55%
Completion rate at 2-year colleges

63%
Completion rate at <2-year colleges



15:1
Student-Faculty
Ratio

26%

Black

19%

Hispanic



76%
Women



24%
Men



64%
Pell Grant
Recipients



3.4K Associate's
9K Bachelor's
12.7K Certificates
awarded

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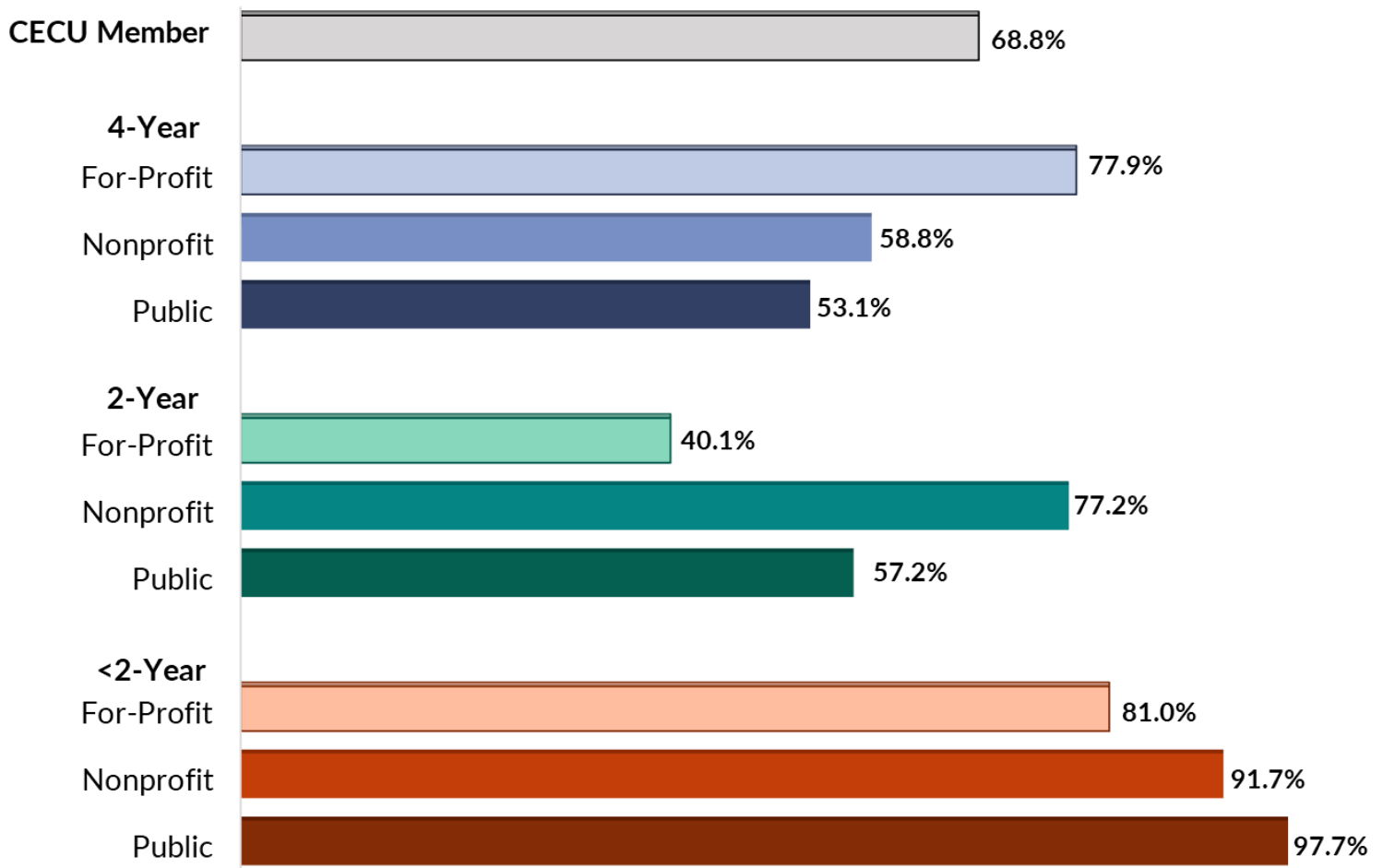
DIVERSE POPULATIONS SERVED

Diverse Populations Served: Female

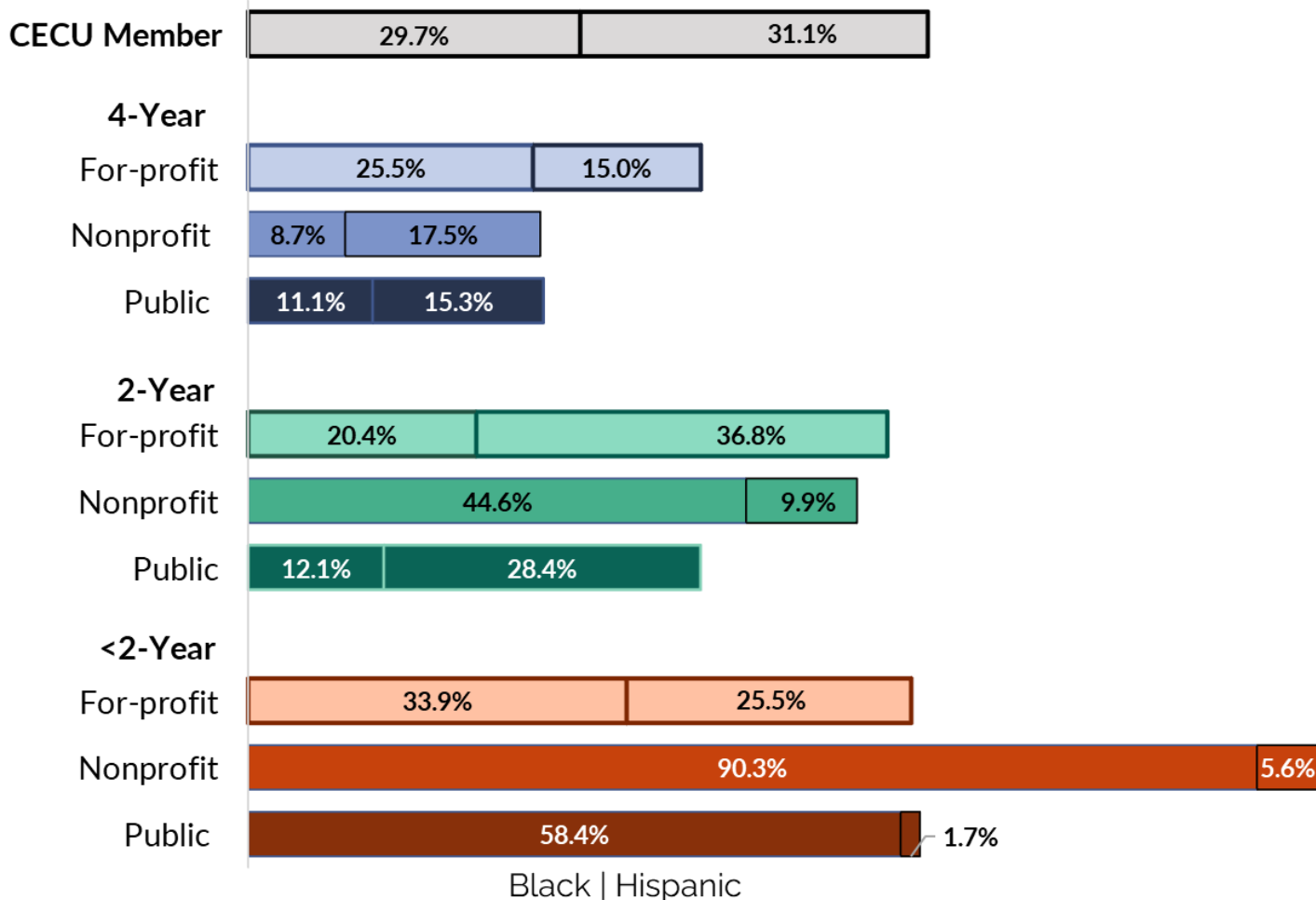


First, we look at the percentage of women enrolled at for-profit colleges in Illinois in the 2022-23 school year. For-profit colleges conferring primarily four-year degrees lead the way at their institutional level at 78% female enrollment.

Across all institutional levels, CECU members boasted an average enrollment of approximately 69% women.



Diverse Populations Served: Students of Color



Additionally, all levels of for-profit colleges, as well as CECU members, served a large percentage of Black and Hispanic students in the 2022-23 school year.

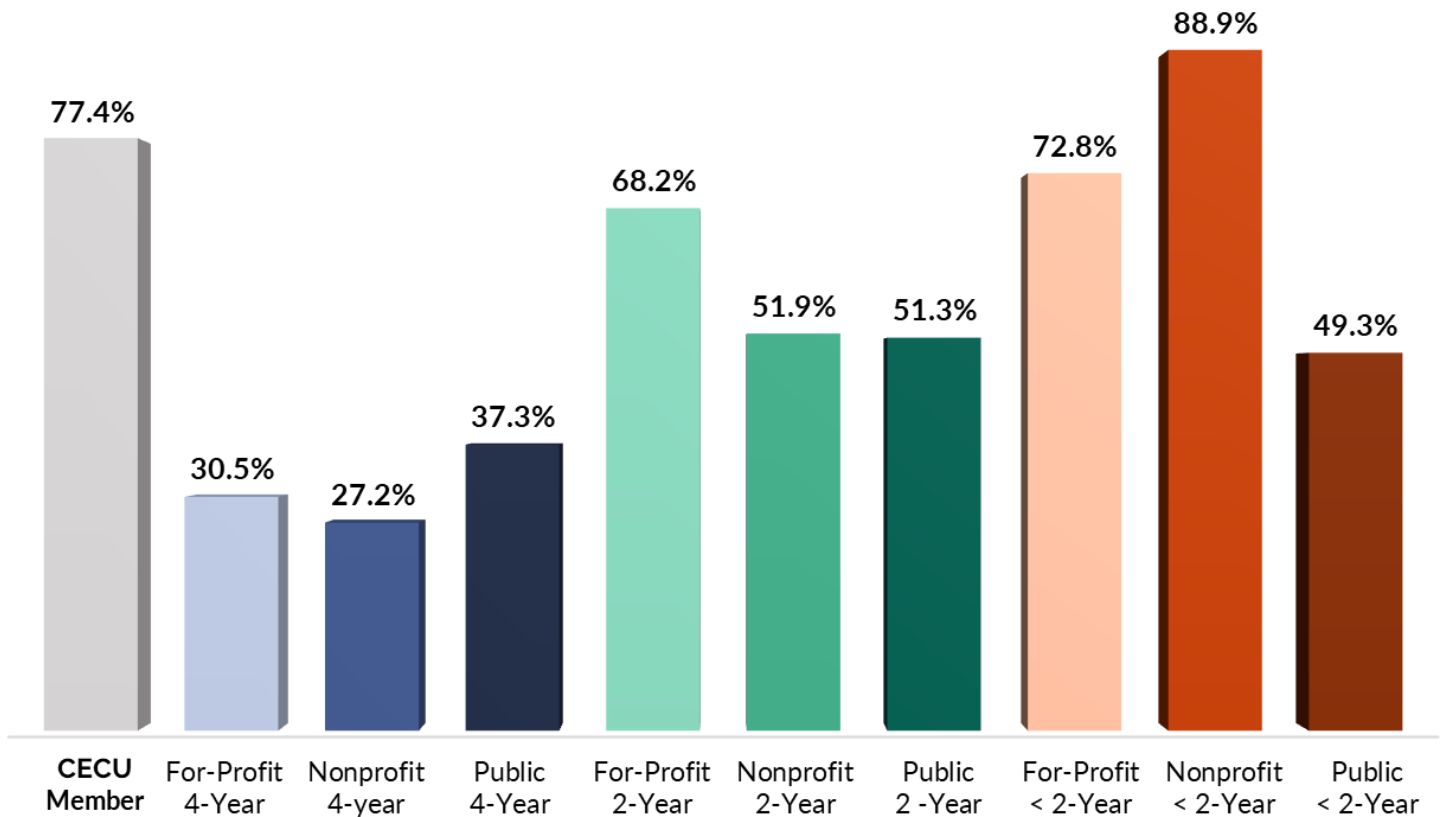
Black and Hispanic enrollment was higher at four-year and two-year for-profit schools compared to public and private nonprofit institutions. At CECU schools in Illinois, 60% of students were Black or Hispanic.



Diverse Populations Served: Low-Income

Low Income

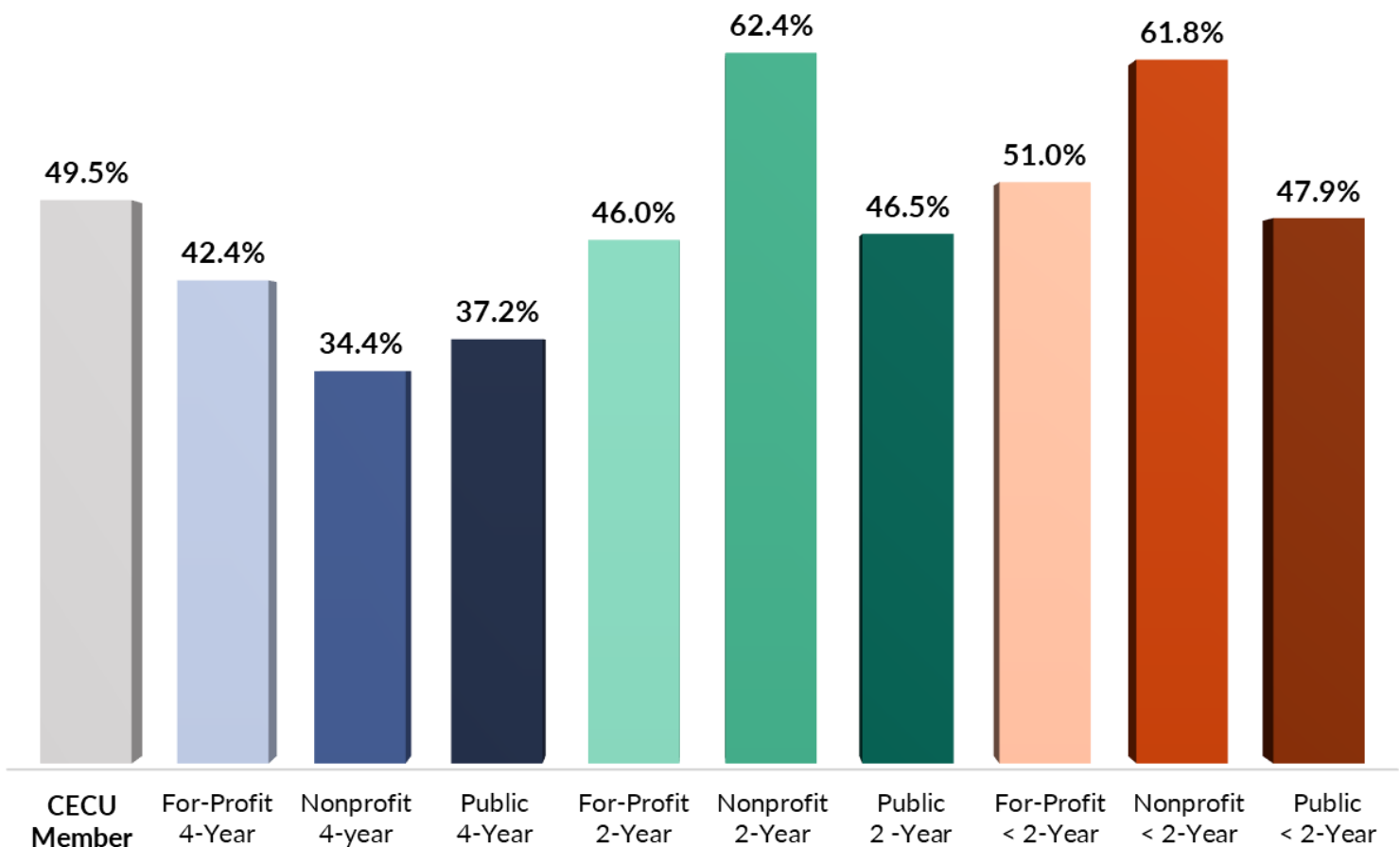
Other areas of underserved populations accommodated by for-profit colleges in Illinois include low-income students. For-profit colleges served the highest percentages of low-income students in the 2022-23 school year at two-year colleges (68%). CECU colleges in Illinois served 78% low income students across all levels.



Diverse Populations Served: First-Generation

For-profit colleges also served a large share of first-generation students in the 2022-23 school year. Four-year for-profit colleges served a greater percentage of first-generation students than their public and private nonprofit counterparts. CECU colleges alone have a student population with 50% first-generation students.

**1st
Gen**



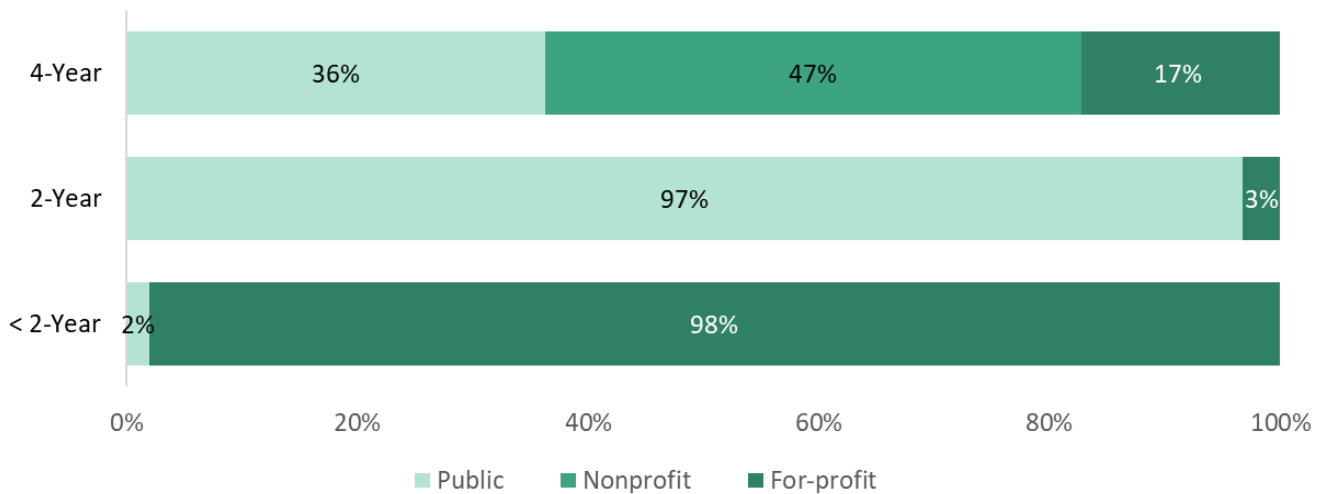
STUDENT OUTCOMES AND PREPARATION FOR THE WORKFORCE

Degrees Awarded

Academic year 2021-22

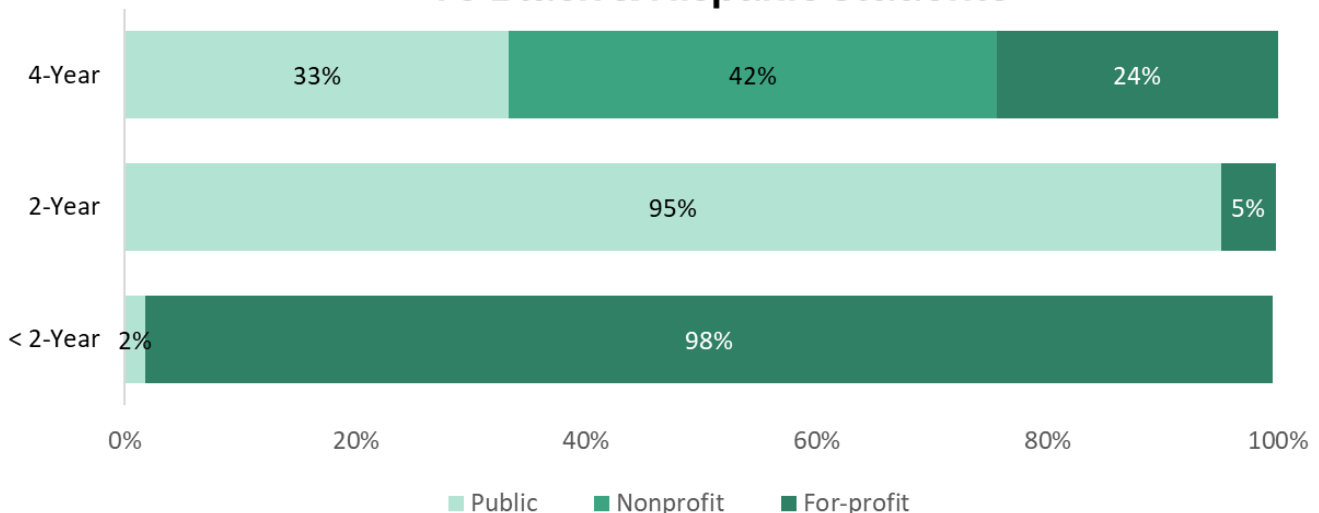
For-profit colleges conferred the majority of less-than-two-year degrees/certificates conferred in the 2021-22 school year. They also conferred 17% of four-year degrees/certificates.

Overall



For-profit colleges also conferred most of the less-than-two-year degrees/certificates to Black and Hispanic students and accounted for 24% of all four-year degrees/certificates conferred.

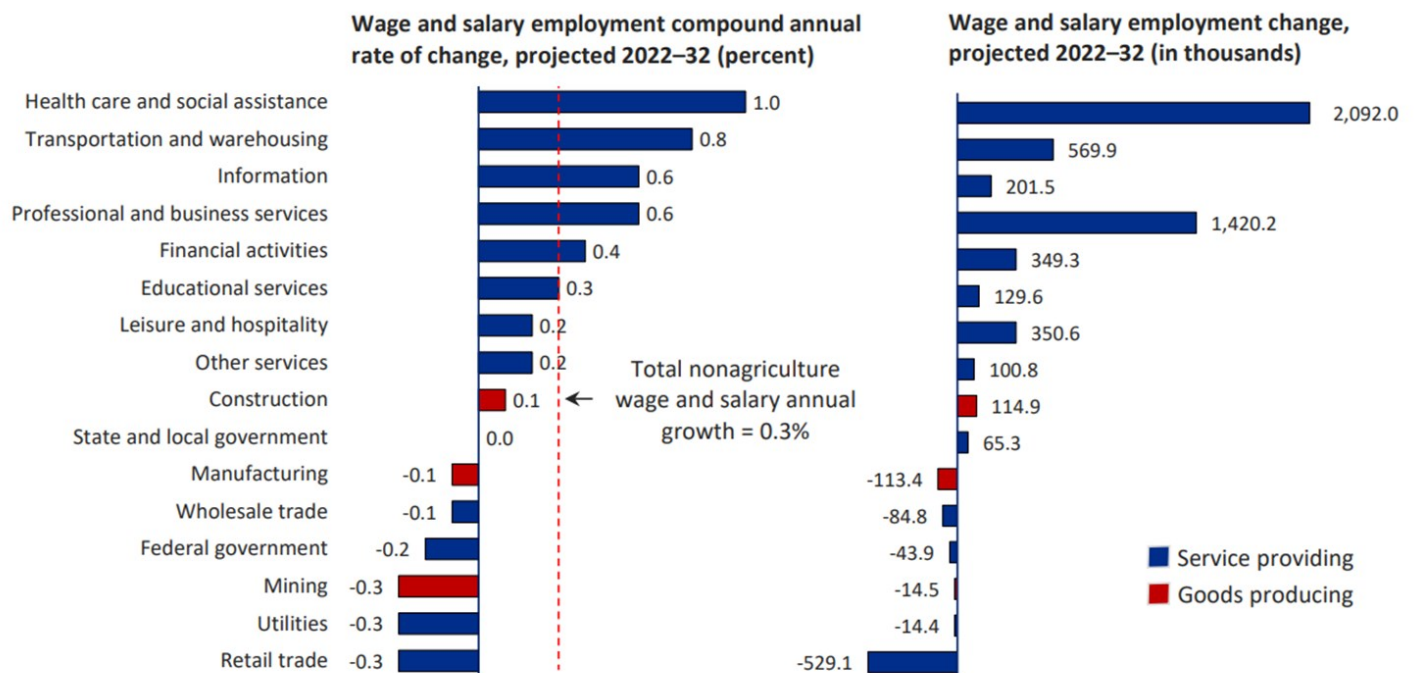
To Black & Hispanic Students



High-Growth Career Opportunities in the US

Employment change by industry sector, projected 2022–32

While for-profit colleges in Illinois confer degrees that are aligned with workforce readiness in general, they also align with the specific needs of the US workforce overall. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, health care and social assistance, transportation and warehousing, and information careers are projected to grow significantly over the next ten years. Healthcare in particular shows enormous growth in support occupations – an area that is very well aligned with the offerings of many for-profit colleges.



Note: Nonagriculture wage and salary employment includes wage and salary data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, except private households, which is from the Current Population Survey (CPS). Logging workers are excluded.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Types of Degrees/Certificates Awarded in Illinois

By control of institution, 2021-22 academic year

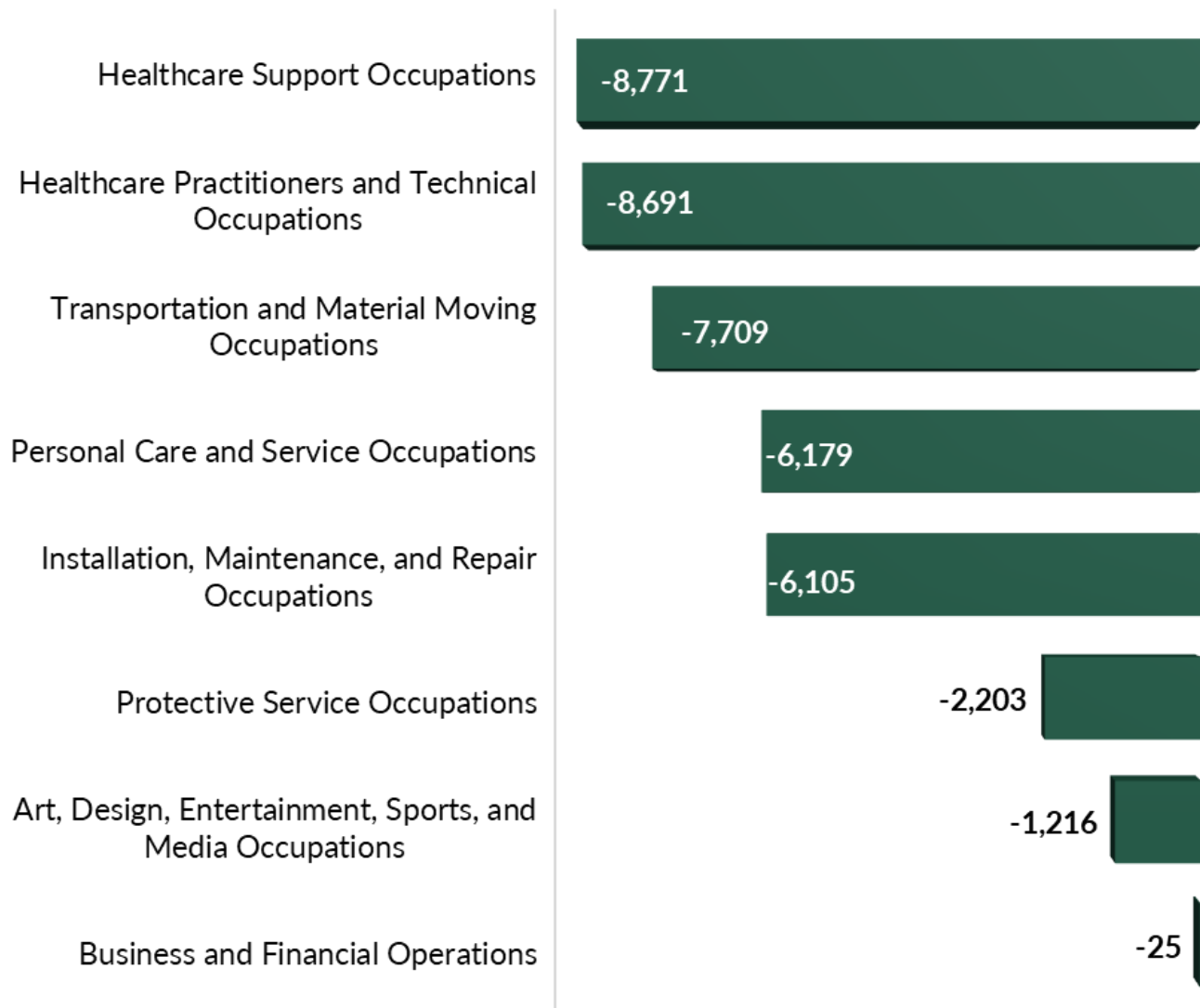
Profession	Public	Private, nonprofit	For-profit	Total	For-profit percentage
Aesthetician/Esthetician and Skin Care Specialist	22	0	2,034	2056	99%
Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General	152	0	1,448	1600	91%
Nail Technician/Specialist and Manicurist	14	0	142	156	91%
Massage Therapy/Therapeutic Massage	101	5	312	418	75%
Medical/Clinical Assistant	496	4	838	1338	63%
Dental Assisting/Assistant	87	0	191	278	69%
Pharmacy Technician/Assistant	81	0	20	101	20%
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training	869	0	139	1008	14%

For-profit colleges contribute significantly to the workforce, conferring the majority of degrees in key fields. They confer over 90% of all Illinois degrees/certificates for:

- Aesthetician/esthetician and skin care specialist
- Cosmetology/cosmetologist
- Nail technician/specialist and manicurist

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

Projected Shortage of Workers by Group

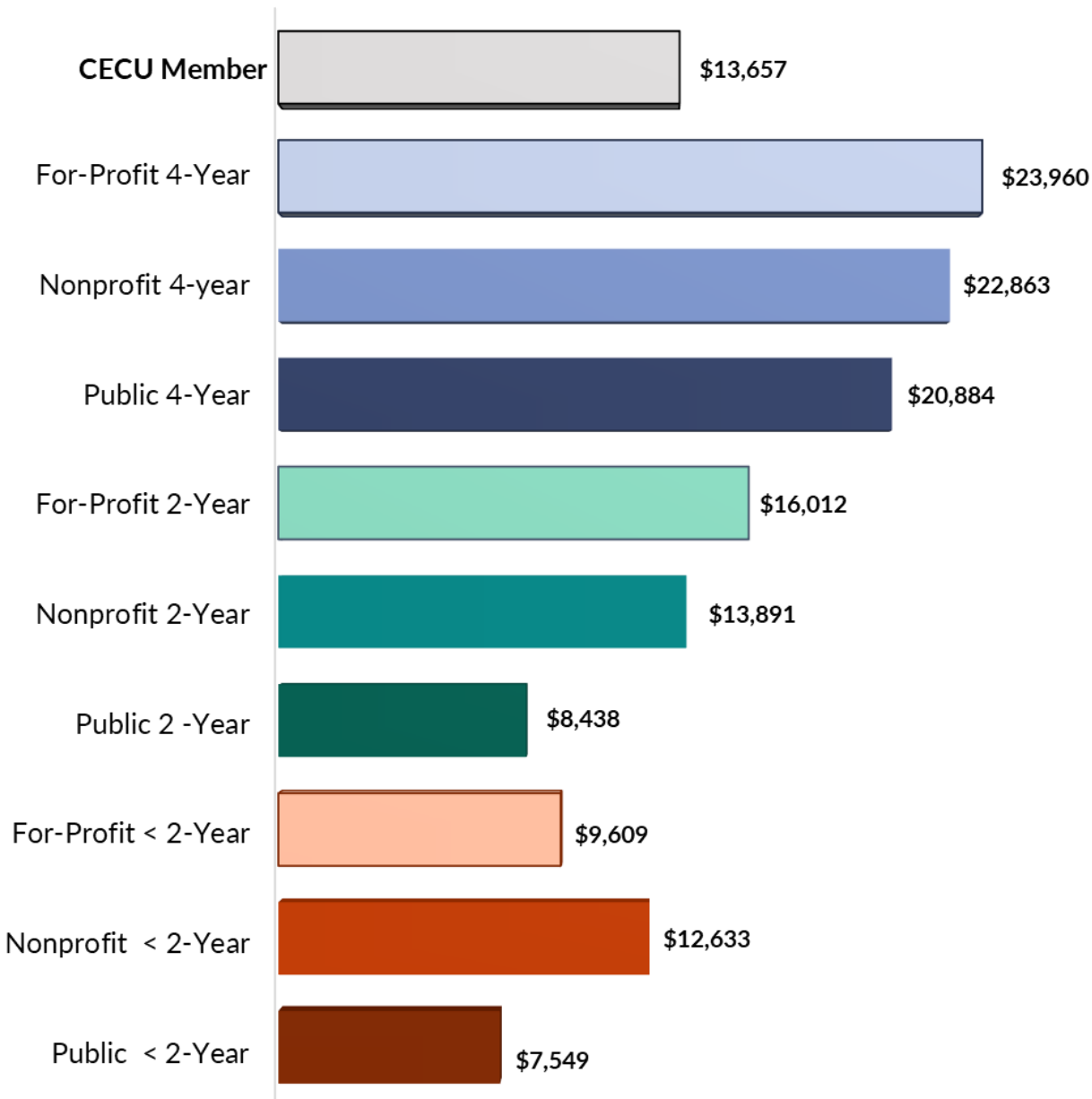


The degrees/certificates conferred by for-profit colleges in Illinois align very well with the estimated annual nationwide worker shortages in occupations requiring some college or a postsecondary nondegree award. Healthcare is by far the occupation most in need of workers. For-profit colleges confer 63% of degrees/certificates for medical/clinical assistants, 20% of degrees/certificates for pharmacy technicians/assistants, and 14% of degrees/certificates for licensed practical/vocational nurse training.

Student Debt

Academic year 2021–22

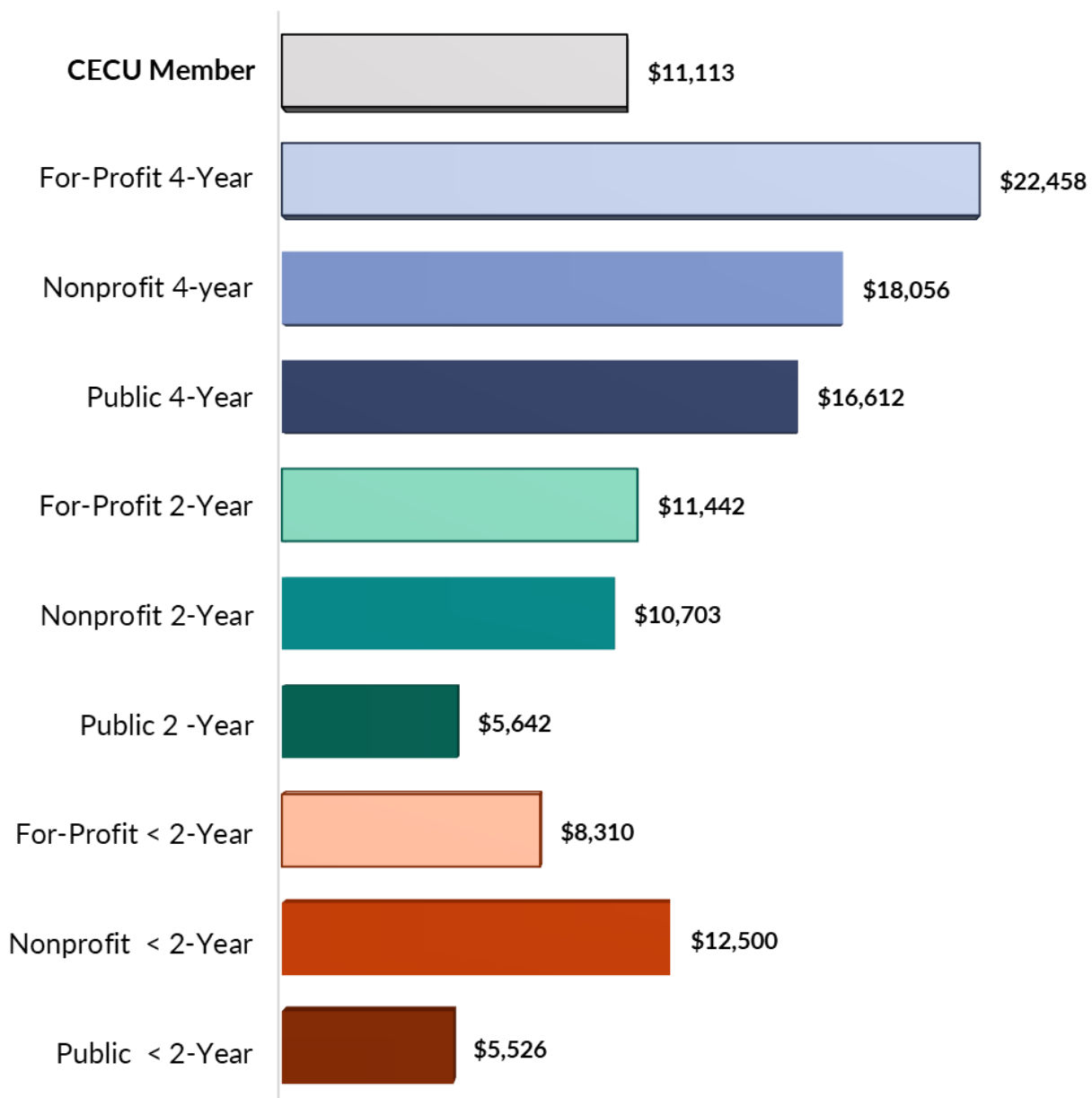
Illinois for-profit colleges show variability in debt levels at different institutional levels. For example, less-than-2-year institutions show lower debt than their private nonprofit counterparts, but for-profit colleges show less favorable numbers at two- and four-year institutions. However, CECU member institutions generally have a low rate of student debt among completers.



Debt for Low-Income Students

Academic year 2021–22

Low-income students attending CECU schools show lower debt levels than the average debt levels seen for all completers at CECU schools. Debt for low-income students at for-profit two-year institutions is comparable to that at private nonprofit institutions. At less-than-two-year institutions, for-profit institutions have lower student debt than their private nonprofit counterparts.



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.

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Colleges and Universities

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