



Career Education in Texas

The role of for-profit colleges in
postsecondary education



FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE FACTS 2024

63,039



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



67%

Completion rate at 2-year colleges

55%

Completion rate at 4-year colleges



17:1

Student-Teacher
Ratio

22%

Black

68%

Hispanic



67%

Women



33%

Men



70%
Pell Grant
Recipients



4.8K Associate's
+1.6K Bachelor's
+29.6K Certificates
awarded

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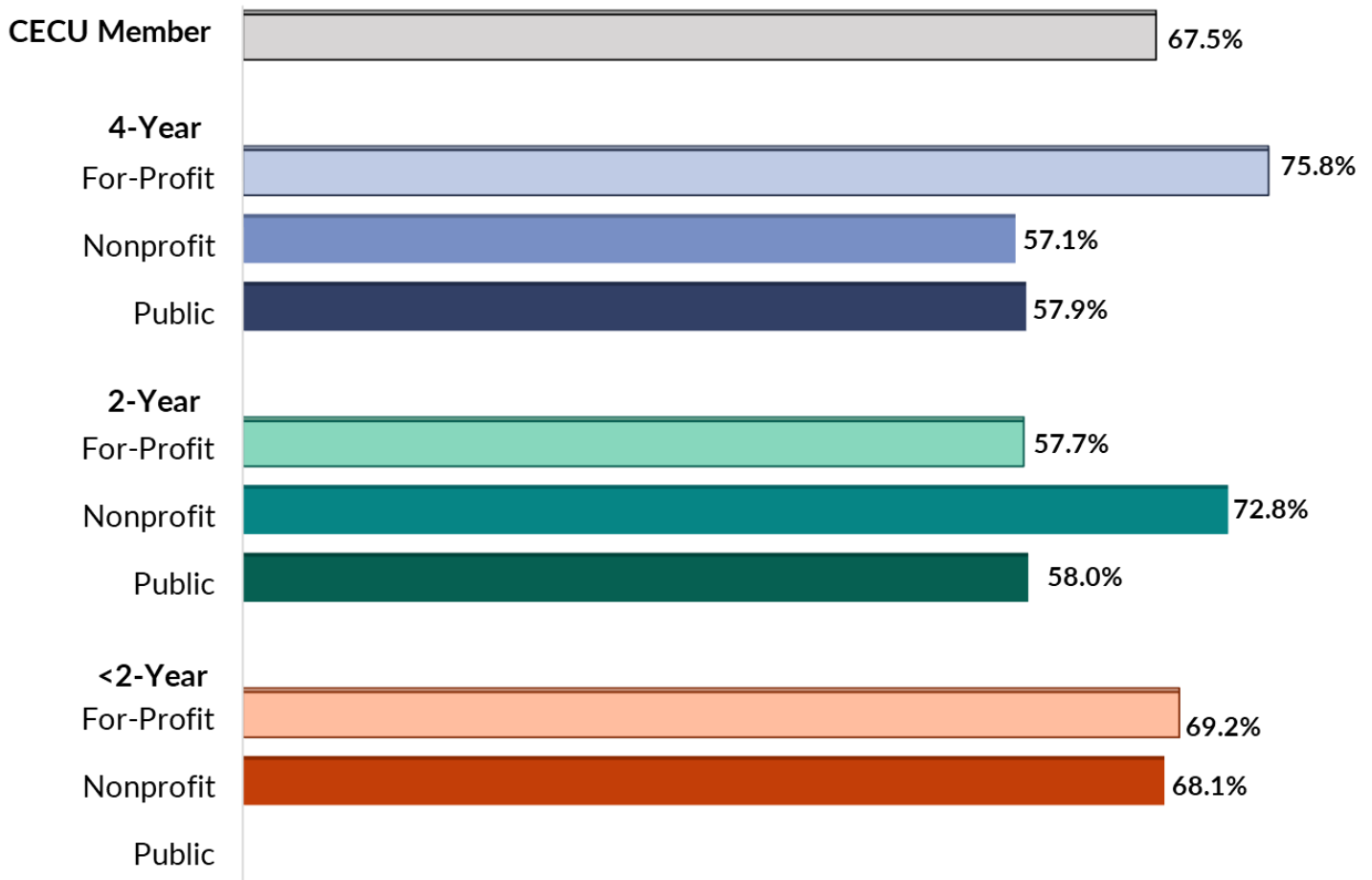
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DIVERSE POPULATIONS SERVED

Diverse Populations Served: Female

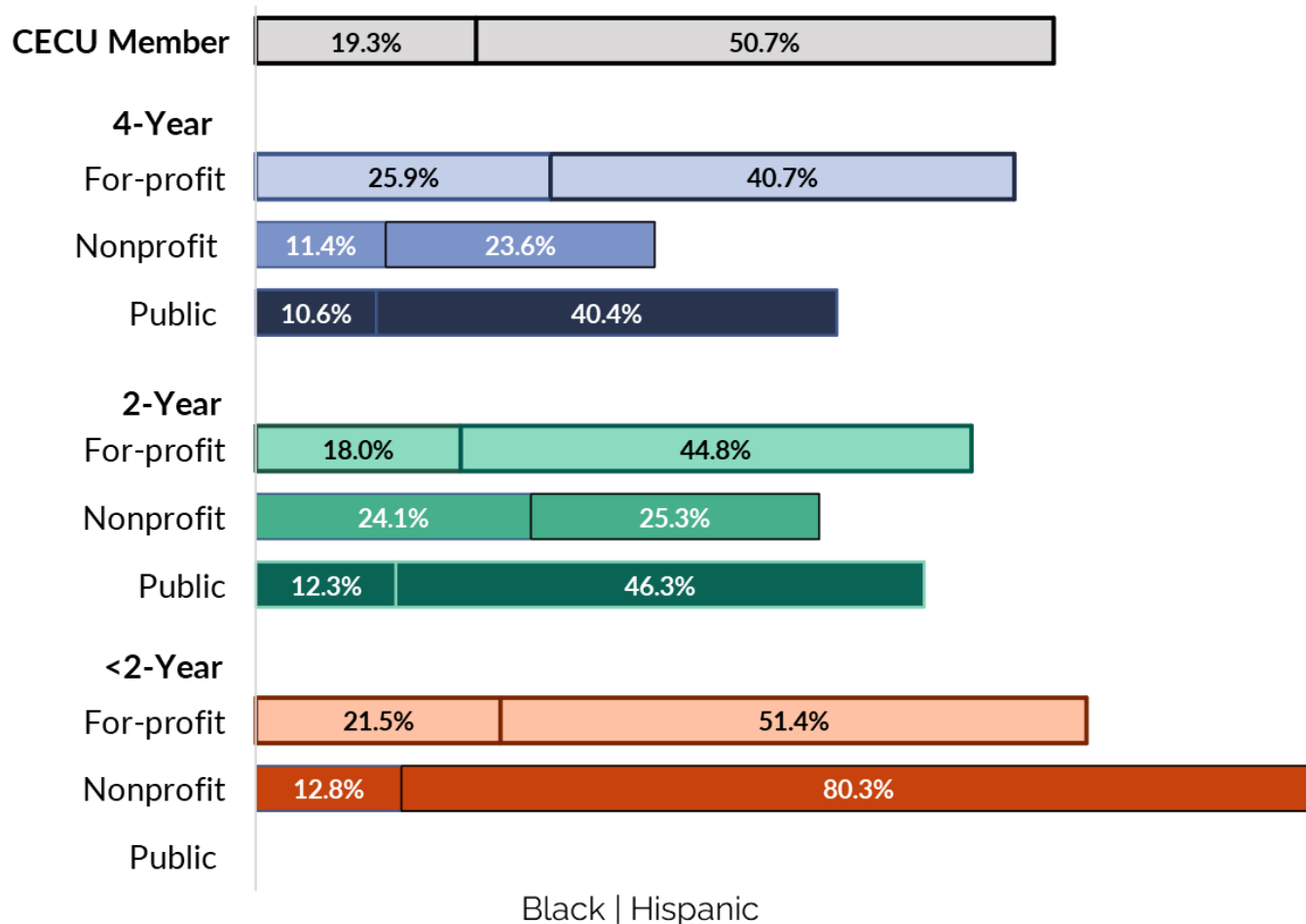


First, we look at the percentage of women enrolled at for-profit colleges in the 2022-23 school year. For-profit colleges conferring primarily four-year degrees lead the way at their institutional level at 76% female enrollment while less-than-two-year for-profit colleges lead the way in their level with just over 69% female enrollment. Across all institutional levels, CECU members boasted an average enrollment of approximately 67% women.



Source: IPEDS, 2024
Data for Public <2-year colleges is not available

Diverse Populations Served: Students of Color



Additionally, all levels of for-profit colleges, as well as CECU members, served around 20% Black students as of the 2022-23 school year. They also served over 40% Hispanic students at all institutional levels.

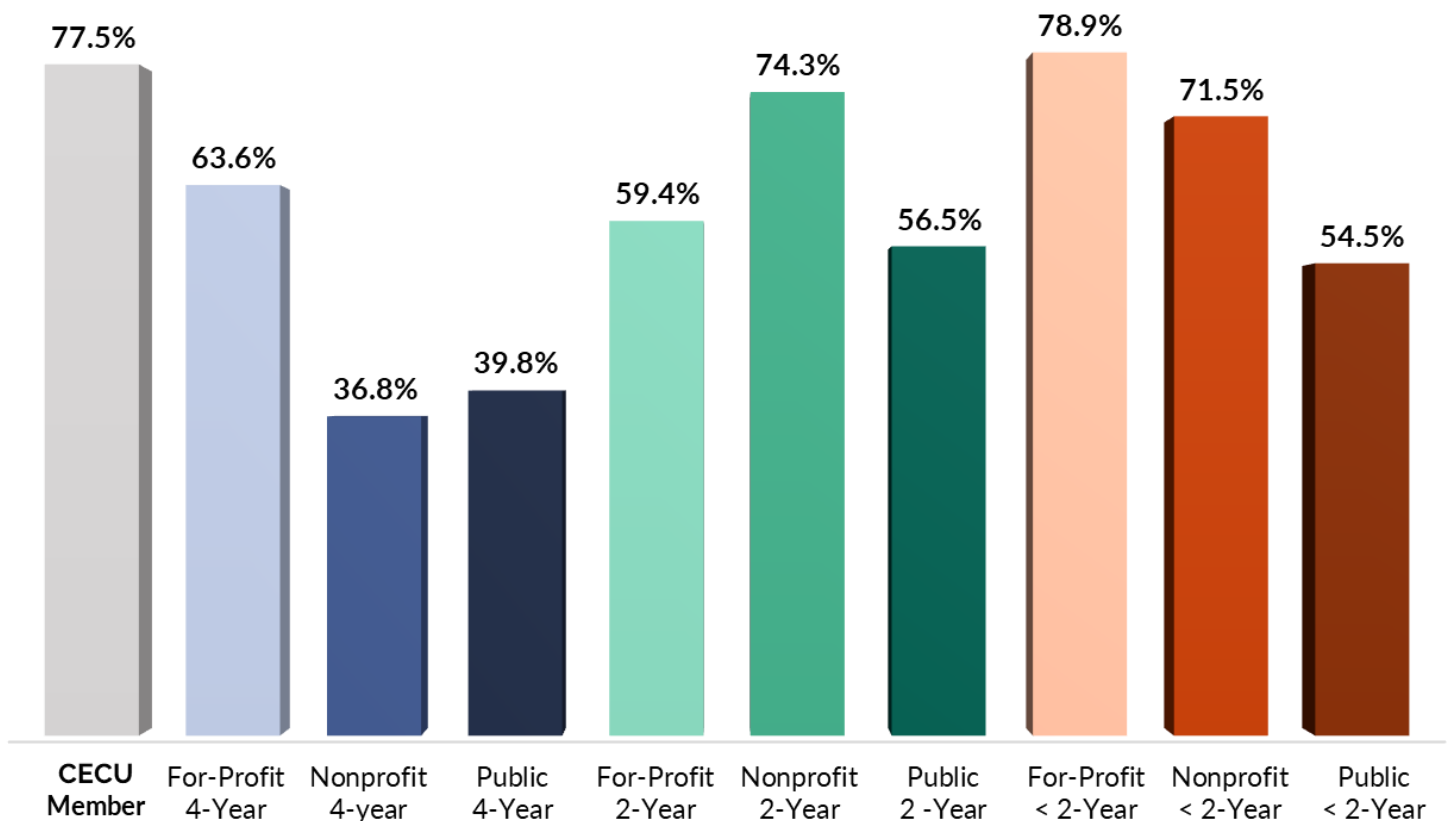
Black and Hispanic enrollment was higher at 4-year and 2-year for-profit schools compared to public and private nonprofit institutions.



Diverse Populations Served: Low-Income

Low Income

Other areas of underserved populations accommodated by for-profit colleges include low-income students. For-profit colleges served the highest percentages of low-income students in the 2022-23 school year at less-than-two-year (79%) and four-year (64%) colleges.

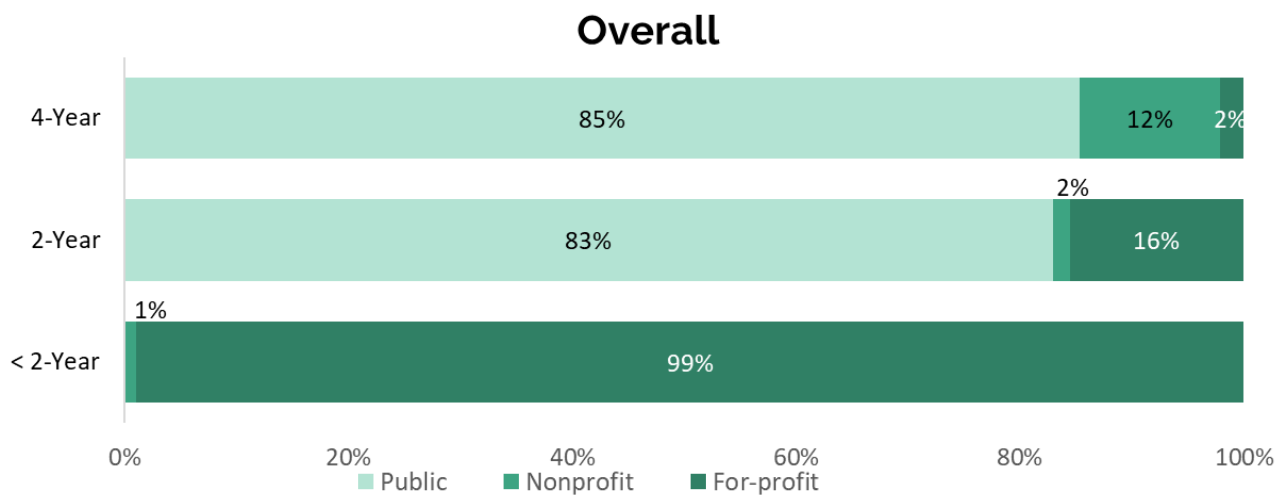


STUDENT OUTCOMES AND PREPARATION FOR THE WORKFORCE

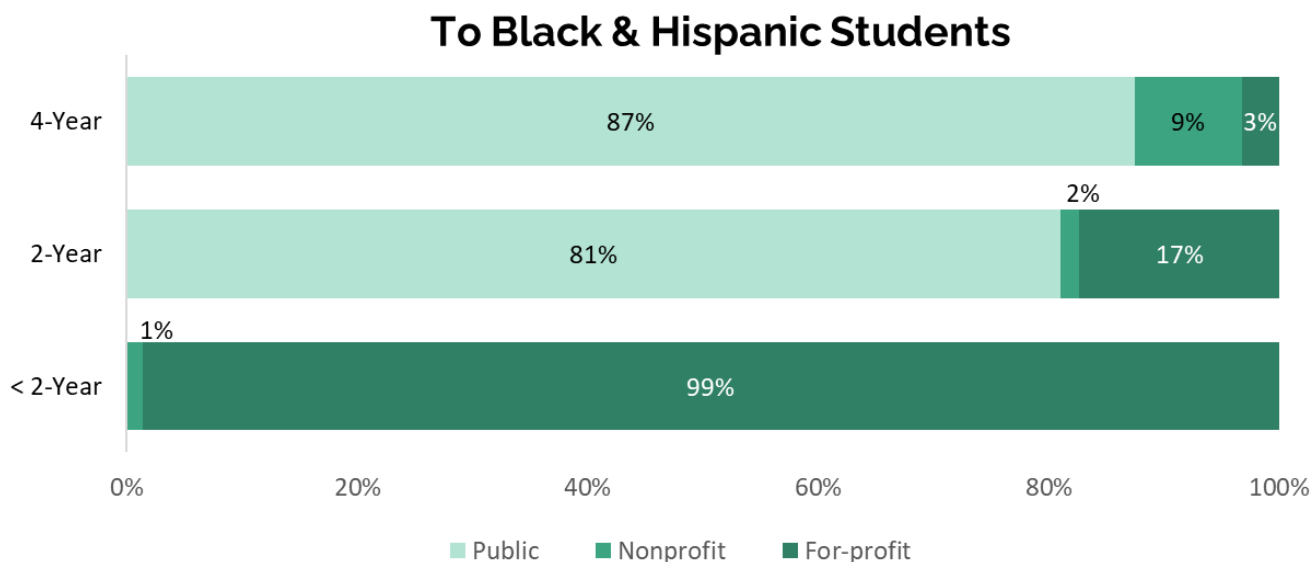
Degrees Awarded

Academic year 2021–22

For-profit colleges conferred the bulk of less-than-two-year completions across all sectors, accounting for 99% of all less-than-two-year degrees/certificates conferred in the 2021-22 school year.



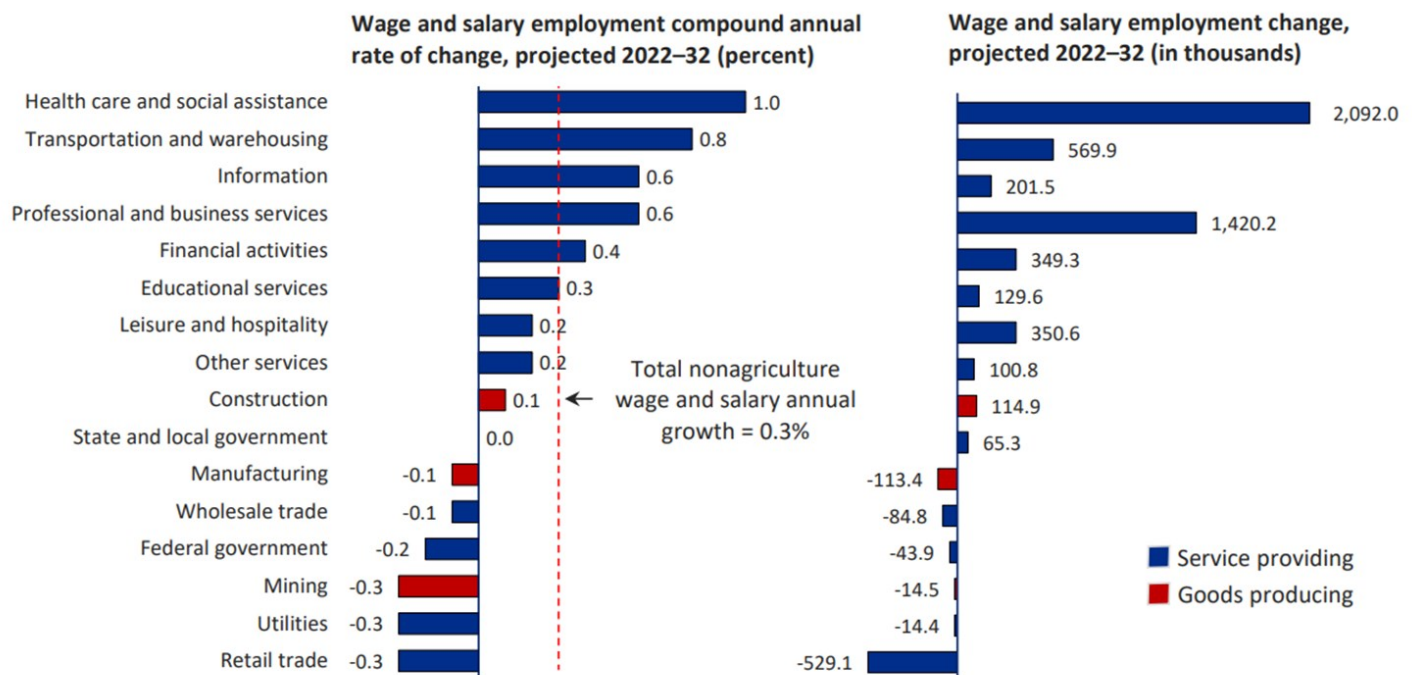
For-profit colleges also conferred the bulk of less-than-two-year degrees/certificates to Black and Hispanic students, again accounting for 99% of all less-than-two-year degrees/certificates conferred in the 2021-22 school year.



High-Growth Career Opportunities in the United States

Employment change by industry sector, projected 2022–32

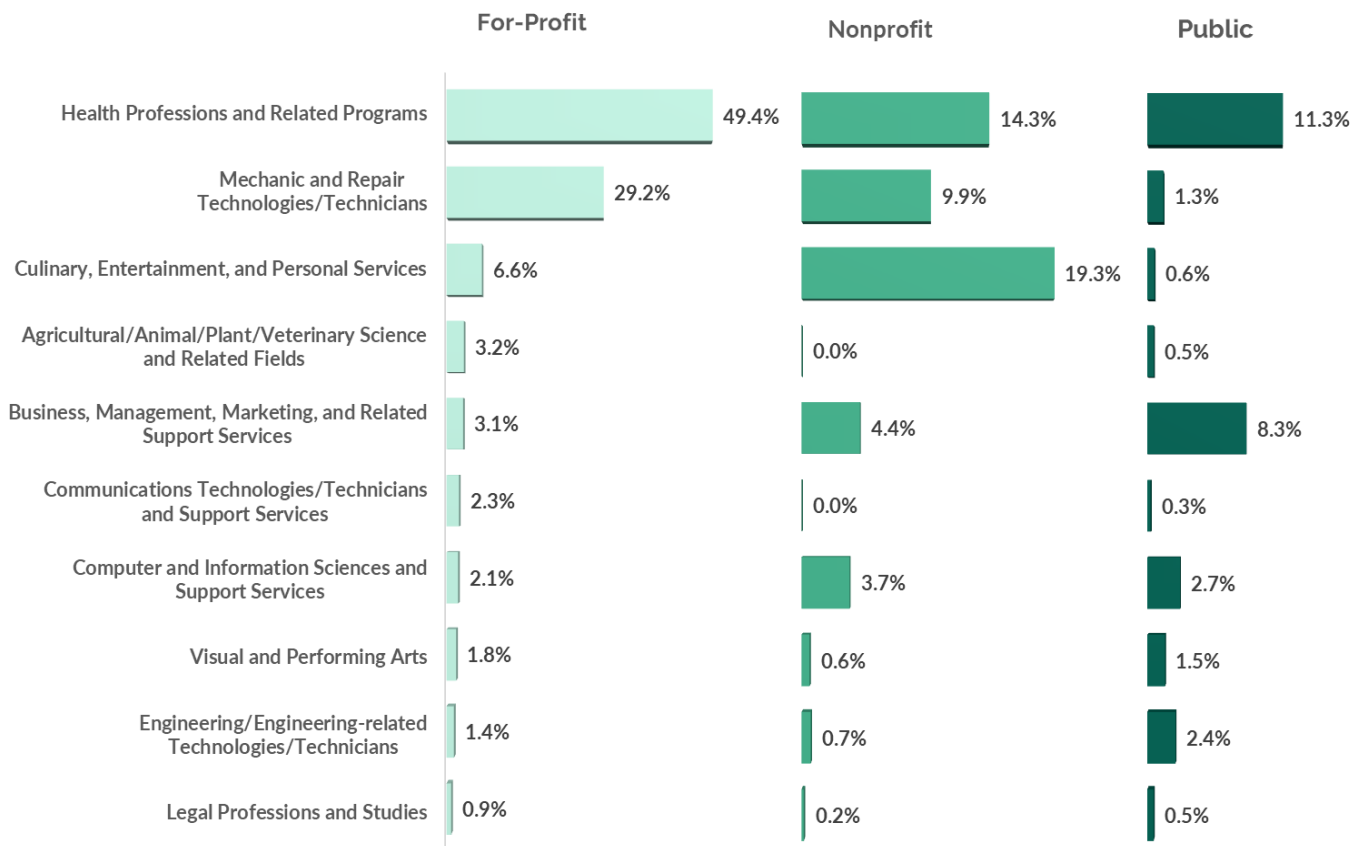
While for-profit colleges confer degrees that are aligned with workforce readiness in general, they also align with the specific needs of the workforce. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, health care and social assistance, transportation and warehousing, and information careers are projected 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

Associate's Degrees by Discipline

Academic year 2021–22

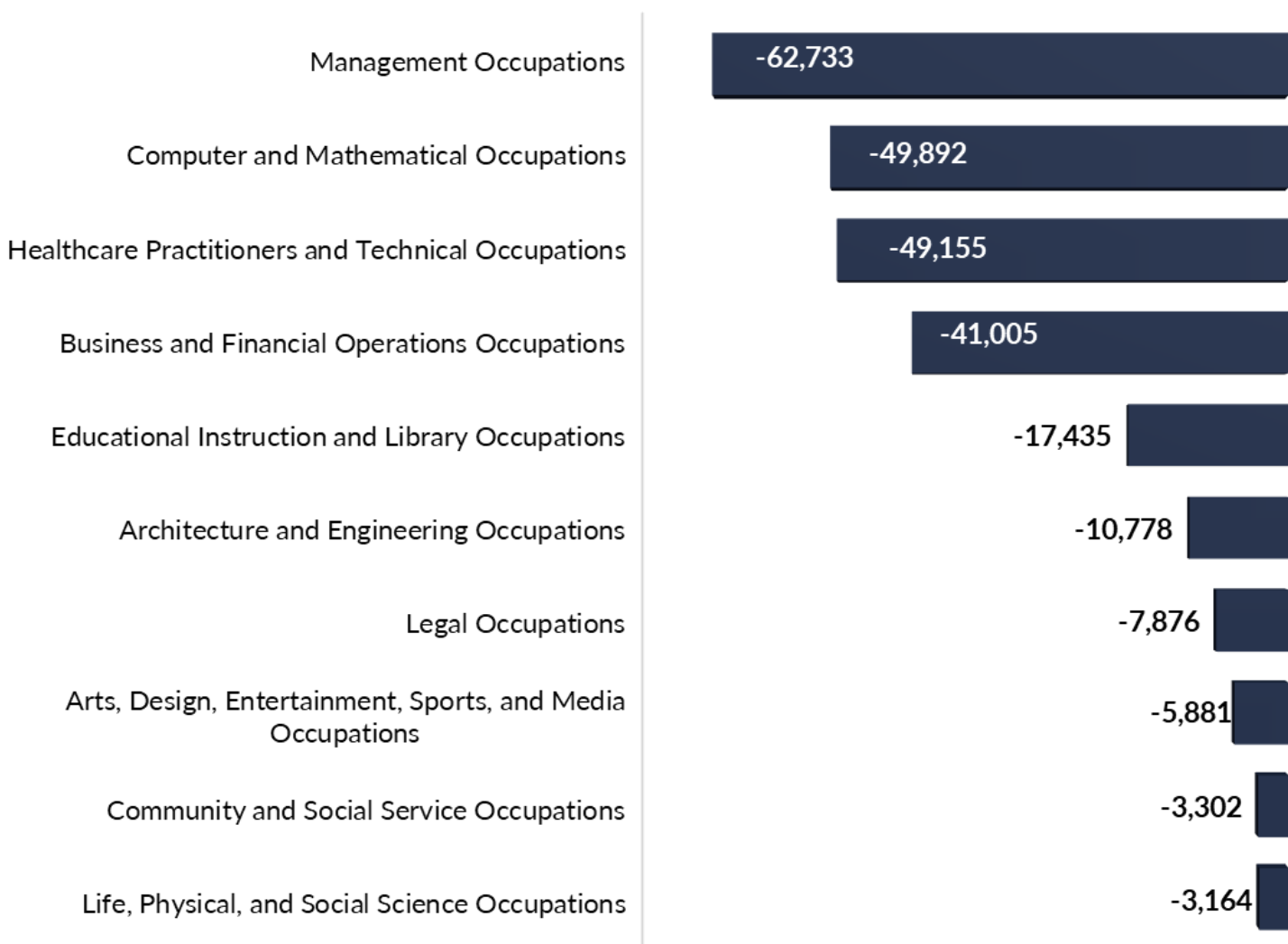


Looking more closely at associate's degrees conferred in 2022, nearly half of the associate's degrees conferred by for-profit colleges in Texas were in health professions and related programs. Other top fields included mechanical and repair technologies and culinary, entertainment, and personal services. Public and private nonprofit colleges grant just between 11 and 14 percent of their associate's degrees in health professions and related fields. Public colleges instead conferred the bulk of their degrees in liberal arts and sciences, which is not included in the figure above.

In-Demand Career Training: Two-Year Degrees

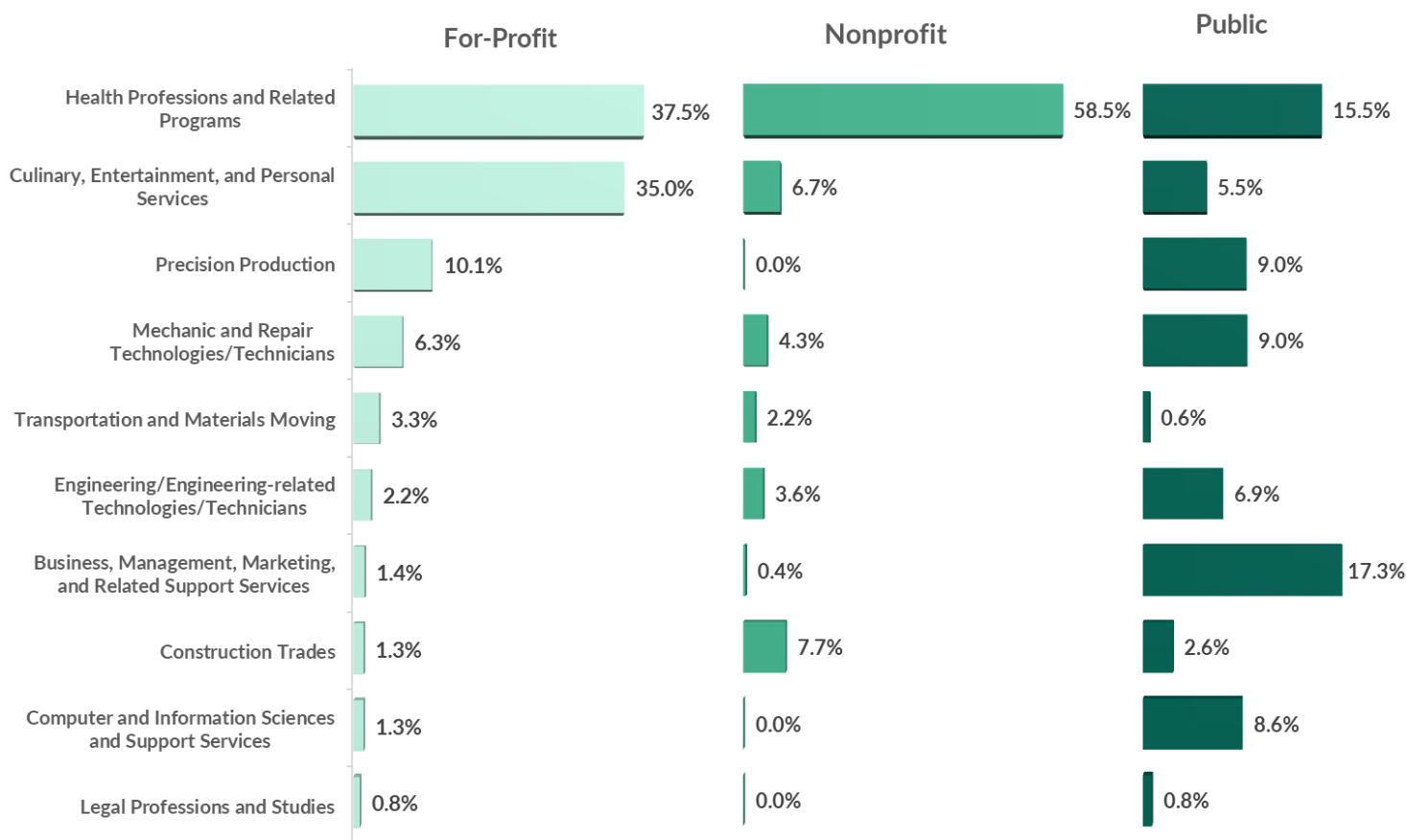
When looking at the projected worker shortage for occupations that require at least a two-year degree, for-profit graduates are well prepared to fill these gaps. In fact, the four occupational groups with the largest worker shortages align with three of the top four fields in which for-profit colleges conferred degrees in 2022, setting for-profit graduates up for success in the workplace.

Projected Shortage of Workers by Group



Certificates by Discipline

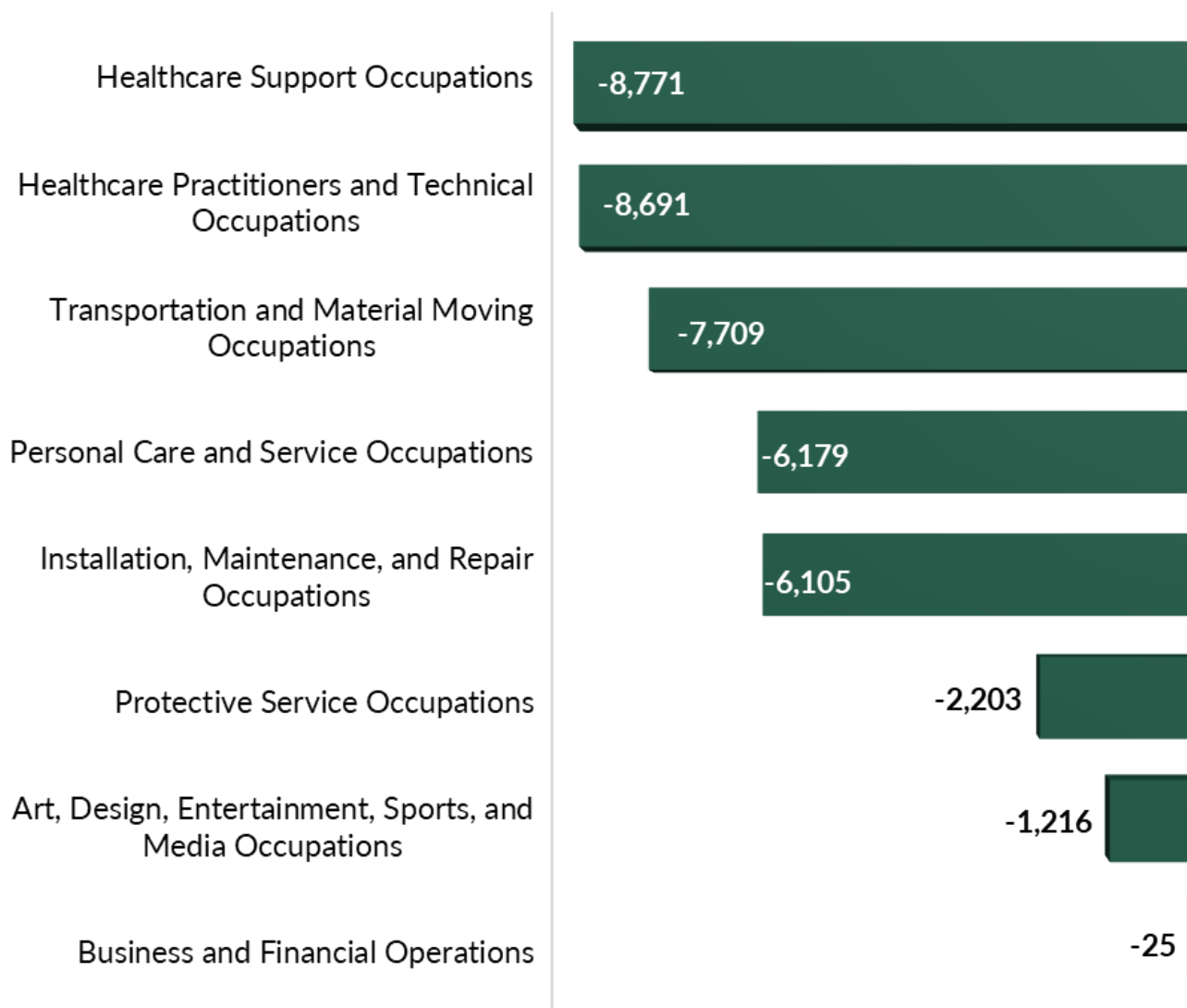
Academic year 2021–22



Similarly to the trend seen in associate's degrees, for-profit colleges in Texas confer most of their degrees in health professions and related programs with 38% of certificates conferred in this field. Nonprofit colleges also confer most of their certificates (58%) in health professions and related programs. At for-profit schools, this is followed closely by culinary, entertainment, and personal services, which account for 35% of for-profit college certificates conferred. Public colleges tend to confer more degrees in business fields.

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

Projected Shortage of Workers by Group



Certificates conferred by for-profit colleges also 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. Thirty-four percent of certificates conferred by for-profit institutions are in the healthcare field, setting students up for success in the workforce.

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

1530 Wilson Blvd | Suite 1050 | Arlington, VA 22209