Appendix

State Opportunity Index 2026

Work-Based Learning

The Work-Based Learning indicator reflects the extent to which current students at public universities and colleges in each state are participating in immersive experiences that connect their academic learning with professional applications.

Given the absence of standardized and comprehensive data sources about participation in Work-Based Learning, a custom survey of current students documents their self-reported experiences. The state categorizations are based on the percentage of students at public universities and colleges who report participating in at least one of the following experiences prior to degree completion:

- Paid internship
- Paid undergraduate research experience
- Paid student teaching, practicum, clinical hours
- Paid apprenticeship
- Paid co-op program

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Approach

The 2026 results for Work-Based Learning are based on a rolling average of student survey responses collected in 2025 and 2026. This approach, similar to the U.S. Census American Community Survey's use of multi-year estimates, increases sample size, allowing for more precise and stable state estimates.

Strada partnered with College Pulse, Trellis Strategies, RTI, and Generation Lab to conduct the 2025 survey and with College Pulse and Trellis Strategies to conduct the 2026 survey. The surveys collected data on Work-Based Learning experiences among students enrolled at public associate degree-granting institutions, excluding dual enrollment students who had not yet graduated from high school, and senior students enrolled at public bachelor's degree-granting institutions (students in their last year of study). The 2025 survey was conducted from February through July 2025, and the 2026 survey was fielded from January through June 2026.

The data are representative at the national and state levels by race/ethnicity, gender, setting (metropolitan or non-metropolitan), institutional research classification (R1 or non-R1), and three broad categories of field of study: (1) business, computer science, and engineering; (2) education and health-related programs; and (3) all other majors.[1]

[1] Representation is based on completion data from public two- and four-year institutions, as reported to IPEDS. Statistics are not reported for states with very low sample sizes or with samples that were otherwise unrepresentative. Representation by major categories is based on the IPEDS CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) codes. *Category 1* includes majors in the following codes: 11 Accounting and finance, 14 Business and marketing, 15 Computer science, and 52 Engineering. *Category 2* includes majors in the following codes: 13 Education and 51 Nursing. *Category 3* includes majors in the other CIP codes.

Methodology

States are categorized using the thresholds shown below, based on the percentage of students reporting participating in at least one of the paid Work-Based Learning experiences described above and the associated 95 percent confidence interval (Table 1).

Table 1: Category thresholds for overall state bachelor's and associate Work-Based Learning progress

Overall state category	Thresholds
Leading	Confidence interval (CI) is entirely at or above 75%
Advanced/Leading	CI spans both of the following ranges: 50% to less than 75%, and 75% or greater
Advanced	CI is entirely at or above 50% and below 75%
Developing/Advanced	CI spans both of the following ranges: 25% to less than 50%, and 50% to less than 75%
Developing	CI is entirely at or above 25% and below 50%
Foundational/Developing	CI spans both of the following ranges: less than 25%, and 25% to less than 50%
Foundational	CI is entirely below 25%

Table 2: State results for students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences

	Students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences at associate institutions			
State	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**43%**	**42%**	**43%**	**29,715**	**14%**	**14%**	**15%**
Alabama	1,131	42%	39%	45%	100	20%	11%	28%
Alaska	76	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Arizona	2,530	32%	30%	34%	169	34%	25%	43%
Arkansas	631	39%	35%	44%	192	25%	17%	33%
California	5,887	31%	30%	33%	935	13%	11%	16%
Colorado	1,253	39%	36%	42%	149	18%	11%	24%
Connecticut	1,170	41%	38%	45%	54	-	-	-
Delaware	997	50%	46%	53%	52	-	-	-
District of Columbia	11	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Florida	2,232	40%	38%	42%	826	23%	20%	26%
Georgia	5,855	42%	41%	43%	818	12%	10%	15%
Hawaii	665	36%	32%	40%	1,029	14%	11%	16%
Idaho	396	40%	35%	45%	46	-	-	-
Illinois	2,002	44%	42%	47%	1,440	15%	13%	16%
Indiana	3,035	51%	49%	53%	346	18%	13%	23%
Iowa	1,271	60%	57%	63%	268	16%	11%	21%
Kansas	1,004	45%	42%	49%	348	26%	21%	32%
Kentucky	1,265	45%	42%	48%	2,074	8%	7%	9%
Louisiana	725	43%	38%	47%	230	10%	5%	15%
Maine	322	39%	33%	44%	289	5%	3%	8%
Maryland	1,353	43%	40%	46%	149	28%	20%	36%
Massachusetts	935	40%	36%	44%	126	12%	6%	17%
Michigan	1,834	53%	51%	56%	1,336	10%	8%	12%
Minnesota	898	48%	44%	52%	200	11%	6%	15%
Mississippi	919	40%	36%	43%	138	14%	8%	19%
Missouri	1,208	43%	40%	46%	229	16%	11%	22%
Montana	385	48%	43%	54%	10	-	-	-

State	Students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences at associate institutions			
	n	Percent	95% CI		n	Percent	95% CI	
USA	**73,996**	**43%**	**42%**	**43%**	**29,715**	**14%**	**14%**	**15%**
Nebraska	898	47%	43%	51%	144	17%	10%	25%
Nevada	597	33%	29%	37%	72	-	-	-
New Hampshire	1,073	42%	38%	46%	263	12%	8%	16%
New Jersey	1,595	41%	38%	44%	534	16%	12%	19%
New Mexico	462	38%	33%	44%	113	12%	6%	19%
New York	4,083	38%	36%	39%	1,381	18%	15%	20%
North Carolina	2,568	41%	39%	43%	1,593	11%	9%	13%
North Dakota	252	43%	36%	50%	94	28%	18%	38%
Ohio	2,805	53%	50%	55%	5,226	10%	9%	11%
Oklahoma	541	41%	36%	46%	743	9%	7%	11%
Oregon	1,009	33%	30%	37%	492	10%	7%	13%
Pennsylvania	2,815	49%	46%	51%	2,381	19%	17%	21%
Rhode Island	535	42%	37%	47%	337	13%	9%	17%
South Carolina	2,154	48%	46%	51%	391	10%	7%	13%
South Dakota	255	51%	45%	58%	4	-	-	-
Tennessee	1,114	42%	39%	45%	519	8%	5%	10%
Texas	3,751	39%	37%	41%	2,320	11%	10%	13%
Utah	670	49%	44%	53%	632	15%	12%	18%
Vermont	196	47%	39%	54%	177	5%	2%	9%
Virginia	2,837	52%	50%	54%	243	13%	9%	18%
Washington	940	39%	36%	42%	146	20%	13%	28%
West Virginia	662	44%	38%	49%	195	14%	9%	20%
Wisconsin	1,867	51%	49%	54%	83	-	-	-
Wyoming	327	42%	36%	47%	79	8%	3%	14%

Table 3: National results for students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences by demographic

	Students participating in at least one of five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in at least one of five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences at associate institutions			
Demographic group	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**43%**	**42%**	**43%**	**29,715**	**14%**	**14%**	**15%**
Gender								
Male	23,879	49%	49%	50%	7,949	19%	18%	20%
Female	47,244	38%	38%	38%	20,849	11%	11%	12%
Another gender identity	2,119	37%	34%	39%	906	13%	11%	16%
Race/ethnicity								
Native American/Alaska Native	302	27%	21%	33%	270	17%	11%	23%
Asian	11,809	50%	49%	51%	2,208	16%	15%	18%
Black or African American	5,964	37%	35%	38%	5,122	13%	12%	14%
Hispanic/Latino	11,739	35%	34%	36%	5,621	13%	12%	14%
Middle Eastern	931	43%	40%	46%	269	18%	13%	23%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	217	32%	25%	40%	271	18%	12%	24%
Two or more races	3,628	42%	40%	44%	1,436	12%	10%	13%
White	37,720	45%	45%	46%	13,720	15%	15%	16%
Other/unknown	1,686	41%	38%	43%	798	14%	11%	17%
Parental education status								
First-generation	22,596	35%	34%	35%	16,426	11%	10%	11%
Continuing-generation	49,702	46%	46%	47%	12,017	19%	19%	20%
Pell status								
Received Pell	28,957	35%	35%	36%	18,250	12%	12%	13%
Did not receive Pell	37,296	50%	49%	50%	8,161	19%	18%	20%

Table 4: National results for students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences by field of study

	Students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in at least one of the five types of paid Work-Based Learning experiences at associate institutions			
Field of study	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**43%**	**42%**	**43%**	**29,715**	**14%**	**14%**	**15%**
Applied or technical fields	856	51%	48%	55%	1,620	25%	22%	27%
Arts and humanities	5,804	35%	33%	36%	2,749	15%	13%	16%
Biology, environmental, or life sciences	7,242	41%	40%	43%	1,301	16%	14%	18%
Business	15,455	57%	56%	57%	4,158	16%	15%	17%
Communications	3,162	46%	44%	48%	388	16%	12%	19%
Computer and information sciences	5,337	52%	50%	53%	1,830	15%	13%	17%
Education	3,512	21%	20%	23%	1,602	15%	13%	17%
Engineering	6,325	72%	70%	73%	1,239	22%	19%	24%
Math	978	50%	47%	54%	154	28%	21%	36%
Nursing and other health professions	8,311	28%	27%	29%	9,056	9%	8%	9%
Other major	4,702	42%	41%	44%	2,397	19%	17%	21%
Physical sciences	1,021	48%	44%	51%	253	14%	9%	19%
Social and behavioral sciences	11,291	29%	28%	30%	2,968	10%	9%	11%

Table 5: State results for students participating in paid internships

State	Students participating in paid internships at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in paid internships at associate institutions			
	n	Percent	95% CI		n	Percent	95% CI	
USA	**73,996**	**35%**	**34%**	**35%**	**29,715**	**10%**	**9%**	**10%**
Alabama	1,131	33%	30%	36%	100	9%	3%	15%
Alaska	76	–	–	–	0	–	–	–
Arizona	2,530	25%	23%	26%	169	27%	19%	35%
Arkansas	631	34%	30%	38%	192	20%	13%	27%
California	5,887	24%	23%	25%	935	10%	8%	12%
Colorado	1,253	29%	26%	31%	149	15%	9%	21%
Connecticut	1,170	33%	29%	36%	54	–	–	–
Delaware	997	41%	38%	45%	52	–	–	–
District of Columbia	11	–	–	–	0	–	–	–
Florida	2,232	32%	29%	34%	826	17%	15%	20%
Georgia	5,855	34%	33%	35%	818	4%	3%	6%
Hawaii	665	29%	25%	32%	1,029	10%	8%	12%
Idaho	396	30%	25%	35%	46	–	–	–
Illinois	2,002	37%	35%	40%	1,440	11%	9%	13%
Indiana	3,035	44%	42%	46%	346	8%	4%	11%
Iowa	1,271	54%	51%	57%	268	14%	9%	18%
Kansas	1,004	39%	36%	42%	348	22%	17%	27%
Kentucky	1,265	36%	33%	39%	2,074	3%	2%	4%
Louisiana	725	33%	29%	37%	230	6%	2%	10%
Maine	322	32%	26%	37%	289	4%	2%	7%
Maryland	1,353	35%	32%	39%	149	24%	16%	31%
Massachusetts	935	31%	27%	35%	126	8%	3%	13%
Michigan	1,834	43%	41%	46%	1,336	6%	5%	8%
Minnesota	898	40%	36%	43%	200	6%	2%	10%
Mississippi	919	32%	29%	35%	138	10%	5%	15%
Missouri	1,208	34%	31%	36%	229	14%	9%	19%
Montana	385	41%	35%	47%	10	–	–	–

	Students participating in paid internships at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in paid internships at associate institutions			
State	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**35%**	**34%**	**35%**	**29,715**	**10%**	**9%**	**10%**
Nebraska	898	39%	35%	43%	144	15%	7%	22%
Nevada	597	22%	18%	26%	72	-	-	-
New Hampshire	1,073	34%	30%	38%	263	9%	5%	12%
New Jersey	1,595	33%	31%	36%	534	8%	5%	10%
New Mexico	462	21%	16%	26%	113	5%	1%	10%
New York	4,083	32%	30%	33%	1,381	13%	11%	15%
North Carolina	2,568	34%	32%	36%	1,593	6%	5%	8%
North Dakota	252	33%	26%	39%	94	25%	16%	35%
Ohio	2,805	44%	42%	46%	5,226	6%	5%	7%
Oklahoma	541	34%	29%	38%	743	6%	4%	8%
Oregon	1,009	24%	21%	27%	492	6%	4%	8%
Pennsylvania	2,815	41%	39%	43%	2,381	16%	14%	18%
Rhode Island	535	35%	30%	39%	337	9%	5%	12%
South Carolina	2,154	41%	39%	44%	391	4%	2%	6%
South Dakota	255	46%	39%	52%	4	-	-	-
Tennessee	1,114	36%	33%	39%	519	4%	3%	6%
Texas	3,751	31%	29%	32%	2,320	6%	5%	8%
Utah	670	40%	35%	44%	632	9%	6%	11%
Vermont	196	39%	31%	46%	177	2%	0%	5%
Virginia	2,837	43%	41%	46%	243	6%	3%	10%
Washington	940	30%	27%	33%	146	16%	9%	23%
West Virginia	662	38%	32%	43%	195	10%	6%	15%
Wisconsin	1,867	44%	42%	47%	83	-	-	-
Wyoming	327	38%	32%	44%	79	3%	0%	7%

Table 6: National results for students participating in paid internships by demographic

	Students participating in paid internships at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in paid internships at associate institutions			
Demographic group	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**35%**	**34%**	**35%**	**29,715**	**10%**	**9%**	**10%**
Gender								
Male	23,879	42%	41%	42%	7,949	13%	13%	14%
Female	47,244	31%	30%	31%	20,849	7%	7%	7%
Another gender identity	2,119	25%	23%	27%	906	8%	6%	10%
Race/ethnicity								
Native American/Alaska Native	302	16%	12%	21%	270	11%	7%	16%
Asian	11,809	40%	39%	41%	2,208	12%	10%	13%
Black or African American	5,964	28%	26%	29%	5,122	8%	7%	9%
Hispanic/Latino	11,739	27%	27%	28%	5,621	8%	7%	9%
Middle Eastern	931	31%	28%	34%	269	8%	4%	11%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	217	23%	16%	29%	271	10%	5%	14%
Two or more races	3,628	34%	33%	36%	1,436	8%	6%	9%
White	37,720	38%	38%	39%	13,720	11%	10%	12%
Other/unknown	1,686	33%	31%	35%	798	9%	7%	11%
Parental education status								
First-generation	22,596	27%	26%	27%	16,426	6%	6%	7%
Continuing-generation	49,702	39%	39%	40%	12,017	14%	13%	15%
Pell status								
Received Pell	28,957	28%	27%	28%	18,250	8%	8%	9%
Did not receive Pell	37,296	42%	41%	42%	8,161	13%	12%	14%

Table 7: National results for students participating in paid internships by field of study

	Students participating in paid internships at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in paid internships at associate institutions			
Field of study	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**35%**	**34%**	**35%**	**29,715**	**10%**	**9%**	**10%**
Applied or technical fields	856	43%	40%	47%	1,620	14%	13%	16%
Arts and humanities	5,804	27%	26%	28%	2,749	11%	9%	12%
Biology, environmental, or life sciences	7,242	28%	27%	29%	1,301	10%	8%	11%
Business	15,455	52%	51%	53%	4,158	12%	11%	13%
Communications	3,162	42%	40%	44%	388	12%	8%	15%
Computer and information sciences	5,337	45%	43%	46%	1,830	11%	10%	13%
Education	3,512	10%	9%	11%	1,602	7%	6%	9%
Engineering	6,325	64%	62%	65%	1,239	17%	15%	19%
Math	978	40%	37%	43%	154	21%	14%	28%
Nursing and other health professions	8,311	20%	19%	21%	9,056	5%	4%	5%
Other major	4,702	34%	33%	35%	2,397	13%	11%	14%
Physical sciences	1,021	32%	29%	35%	253	8%	4%	12%
Social and behavioral sciences	11,291	24%	23%	24%	2,968	6%	6%	7%

Table 8: State results for students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid

	Students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, at associate institutions			
State	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**71%**	**71%**	**72%**	**29,715**	**30%**	**30%**	**31%**
Alabama	1,131	71%	68%	74%	100	49%	38%	60%
Alaska	76	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Arizona	2,530	61%	59%	63%	169	55%	44%	65%
Arkansas	631	70%	66%	74%	192	41%	32%	51%
California	5,887	61%	60%	62%	935	28%	25%	31%
Colorado	1,253	69%	67%	72%	149	34%	25%	42%
Connecticut	1,170	74%	71%	78%	54	-	-	-
Delaware	997	82%	79%	85%	52	-	-	-
District of Columbia	11	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Florida	2,232	73%	71%	75%	826	43%	39%	46%
Georgia	5,855	71%	69%	72%	818	30%	27%	33%
Hawaii	665	63%	59%	67%	1,029	28%	25%	31%
Idaho	396	71%	66%	75%	46	-	-	-
Illinois	2,002	75%	72%	77%	1,440	33%	30%	36%
Indiana	3,035	79%	78%	81%	346	42%	36%	48%
Iowa	1,271	80%	78%	83%	268	33%	27%	39%
Kansas	1,004	74%	71%	78%	348	41%	35%	47%
Kentucky	1,265	75%	73%	78%	2,074	26%	24%	28%
Louisiana	725	68%	64%	72%	230	29%	21%	36%
Maine	322	68%	63%	74%	289	20%	16%	25%
Maryland	1,353	76%	73%	79%	149	51%	41%	60%
Massachusetts	935	70%	66%	75%	126	31%	22%	40%
Michigan	1,834	79%	77%	81%	1,336	28%	25%	31%
Minnesota	898	74%	71%	78%	200	26%	18%	33%
Mississippi	919	70%	67%	74%	138	22%	15%	29%
Missouri	1,208	72%	69%	75%	229	37%	30%	45%
Montana	385	71%	66%	76%	10	-	-	-

	Students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, at associate institutions			
State	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**71%**	**71%**	**72%**	**29,715**	**30%**	**30%**	**31%**
Nebraska	898	74%	70%	78%	144	28%	19%	37%
Nevada	597	64%	60%	68%	72	–	–	–
New Hampshire	1,073	78%	75%	81%	263	36%	30%	42%
New Jersey	1,595	71%	69%	74%	534	34%	29%	38%
New Mexico	462	63%	58%	68%	113	36%	26%	45%
New York	4,083	66%	64%	67%	1,381	37%	34%	40%
North Carolina	2,568	71%	69%	73%	1,593	28%	26%	31%
North Dakota	252	71%	65%	78%	94	45%	34%	56%
Ohio	2,805	80%	79%	82%	5,226	29%	27%	30%
Oklahoma	541	70%	66%	75%	743	23%	19%	26%
Oregon	1,009	61%	58%	65%	492	24%	19%	28%
Pennsylvania	2,815	78%	76%	80%	2,381	33%	31%	36%
Rhode Island	535	77%	73%	81%	337	37%	31%	43%
South Carolina	2,154	79%	76%	81%	391	30%	25%	35%
South Dakota	255	79%	74%	84%	4	–	–	–
Tennessee	1,114	71%	68%	74%	519	29%	25%	33%
Texas	3,751	66%	64%	67%	2,320	29%	26%	31%
Utah	670	73%	69%	77%	632	33%	29%	37%
Vermont	196	81%	75%	87%	177	8%	4%	13%
Virginia	2,837	77%	76%	79%	243	29%	23%	36%
Washington	940	69%	66%	72%	146	49%	40%	58%
West Virginia	662	75%	71%	80%	195	35%	28%	42%
Wisconsin	1,867	79%	77%	81%	83	–	–	–
Wyoming	327	75%	70%	80%	79	26%	15%	36%

Table 9: National results for students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, by demographic

	Students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, at associate institutions			
Demographic group	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**71%**	**71%**	**72%**	**29,715**	**30%**	**30%**	**31%**
Gender								
Male	23,879	70%	70%	71%	7,949	32%	31%	33%
Female	47,244	72%	72%	72%	20,849	29%	29%	30%
Another gender identity	2,119	70%	68%	72%	906	30%	26%	33%
Race/ethnicity								
Native American/Alaska Native	302	56%	50%	63%	270	27%	21%	33%
Asian	11,809	75%	74%	76%	2,208	34%	32%	36%
Black or African American	5,964	66%	64%	67%	5,122	30%	28%	31%
Hispanic/Latino	11,739	63%	62%	64%	5,621	28%	26%	29%
Middle Eastern	931	73%	70%	76%	269	40%	34%	46%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	217	62%	55%	70%	271	36%	29%	43%
Two or more races	3,628	71%	70%	73%	1,436	27%	25%	30%
White	37,720	75%	74%	75%	13,720	32%	31%	33%
Other/unknown	1,686	68%	65%	70%	798	30%	26%	33%
Parental education status								
First-generation	22,596	64%	64%	65%	16,426	25%	25%	26%
Continuing-generation	49,702	75%	75%	75%	12,017	37%	36%	38%
Pell status								
Received Pell	28,957	65%	64%	65%	18,250	28%	27%	29%
Did not receive Pell	37,296	77%	77%	78%	8,161	36%	34%	37%

Table 10: National results for students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, by field of study

	Students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, at bachelor's institutions				Students participating in at least one of the five experiences, paid or unpaid, at associate institutions			
Field of study	**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**		**n**	**Percent**	**95% CI**	
USA	**73,996**	**71%**	**71%**	**72%**	**29,715**	**30%**	**30%**	**31%**
Applied or technical fields	856	70%	67%	74%	1,620	34%	32%	37%
Arts and humanities	5,804	62%	61%	64%	2,749	26%	24%	27%
Biology, environmental, or life sciences	7,242	75%	74%	76%	1,301	33%	31%	36%
Business	15,455	69%	68%	69%	4,158	25%	23%	26%
Communications	3,162	72%	70%	73%	388	34%	29%	39%
Computer and information sciences	5,337	67%	65%	68%	1,830	23%	21%	25%
Education	3,512	88%	87%	89%	1,602	43%	40%	46%
Engineering	6,325	82%	81%	83%	1,239	28%	26%	31%
Math	978	71%	68%	74%	154	40%	32%	48%
Nursing and other health professions	8,311	76%	75%	77%	9,056	35%	34%	36%
Other major	4,702	72%	70%	73%	2,397	34%	32%	36%
Physical sciences	1,021	80%	78%	83%	253	33%	27%	39%
Social and behavioral sciences	11,291	64%	63%	65%	2,968	23%	21%	25%

Table 11: Major classifications

Work-Based Learning participation rates are reported by field of study. The survey questions used to classify students' majors differed slightly in the 2025 and 2026 surveys. To ensure comparability across years, majors were harmonized into common categories.

Respondents were asked the following question in the 2025 survey:

What is your program of study? If you are pursuing multiple programs of study, please select the option that you consider to be your primary program.

Respondents were asked the following question in the 2026 survey:

Please select the category that best describes your program or the focus of your studies. If you have more than one program or focus, choose the one that requires the most courses to complete.

Reported major category	Response options included from 2025 survey	Response options included from 2026 survey
Applied or technical fields	▪ Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services ▪ Construction Trades ▪ Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians ▪ Military Technologies ▪ Personal and Culinary Services ▪ Precision Production ▪ Science Technologies/Technicians ▪ Security and Protective Services ▪ Transportation and Materials Moving	▪ Applied or Technical Fields (manufacturing technology, skilled trades, HVAC, automotive, drafting, construction management, applied technology, culinary arts)
Arts and humanities	▪ Architecture and Related Services ▪ Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies ▪ English Language and Literature/Letters ▪ Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics ▪ History ▪ Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities ▪ Philosophy and Religious Studies ▪ Theology and Religious Vocations ▪ Visual and Performing Arts	▪ Arts and Humanities (English, history, philosophy, fine arts, design, languages, architecture, performing arts)
Biology, environmental, or life sciences	▪ Biological and Biomedical Sciences	▪ Biology, Environmental, or Life Sciences

Reported major category	Response options included from 2025 survey	Response options included from 2026 survey
Business	▪ Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	▪ Business (accounting or finance) ▪ Business (marketing, management, administration, or other)
Communications	▪ Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	▪ Communications (communications, journalism, public relations, media studies)
Computer and information sciences	▪ Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	▪ Computer and Information Sciences
Education	▪ Education ▪ Library Science	▪ Education
Engineering	▪ Engineering ▪ Engineering Technologies/Technicians	▪ Engineering
Nursing and other health professions	▪ Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences ▪ Health-Related Knowledge and Skills	▪ Health Professions other than Nursing ▪ Nursing
Math	▪ Mathematics and Statistics	▪ Math
Other major	▪ Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences ▪ Basic Skills ▪ Citizenship Activities ▪ Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences ▪ High School/Secondary Diplomas and Certificates ▪ Interpersonal and Social Skills ▪ Leisure and Recreational Activities ▪ Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies ▪ Natural Resources and Conservation ▪ Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies ▪ Personal Awareness and Self-Improvement ▪ Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC, ROTC) ▪ Residency Programs	▪ Other major

Reported major category	Response options included from 2025 survey	Response options included from 2026 survey
Physical sciences	▪ Physical Sciences	▪ Physical Sciences (physics, chemistry)
Social and behavioral sciences	▪ Legal Professions and Studies ▪ Psychology ▪ Public Administration and Social Service Professions ▪ Social Sciences	▪ Social and Behavioral Sciences (psychology, sociology, political science, anthropology, criminal justice) ▪ Economics

Work-Based Learning Survey Items

2026 items

1. **During your time in college, have you participated in any of the following? [Select all that apply]**
    a. **Internship**: fixed-term position lasting longer than four weeks performing entry-level tasks for an employer
    b. **Apprenticeship**: paid job combining on-the-job training under an experienced mentor with classroom learning
    c. **Co-op program**: degree program that alternates periods of academic courses with paid work experiences
    d. **Student teaching, practicum, clinical hours**: closely supervised performance of professional responsibilities in a workplace setting
    e. **Undergraduate research**: experience outside of a course, typically working directly with a faculty member in a lab, on a project, or on a research team
    f. None of the above [exclusive]

2. **[skip if Q1 = None of the above] Were you paid for any of your experiences? [Select all that apply]**
    a. [display if Q1 = a] **Internship**: fixed-term position lasting longer than four weeks performing entry-level tasks for an employer
    b. [display if Q1 = b] **Apprenticeship**: paid job combining on-the-job training under an experienced mentor with classroom learning
    c. [display if Q1 = c] **Co-op program**: degree program that alternates periods of academic courses with paid work experiences
    d. [display if Q1 = d] **Student teaching, practicum, clinical hours**: closely supervised performance of professional responsibilities in a workplace setting
    e. [display if Q1 = e] **Undergraduate research**: experience outside of a course, working directly with a faculty member in a lab, on a project, or on a research team
    f. None of the above [exclusive]

2025 items

1. **During your time in college, have you participated in any of the following? [Select all that apply]**
    a. paid internship (a fixed-term position performing entry-level tasks for an employer)
    b. unpaid internship (a fixed-term position performing entry-level tasks for an employer)
    c. micro-internship (four weeks or less of work on an employer-defined project)
    d. apprenticeship (a paid job combining on-the-job training under an experienced mentor with classroom learning)
    e. co-op program (a degree program that alternates periods of academic courses with paid work experiences)
    f. student teaching, practicum, clinical hours (closely supervised performance of professional responsibilities in a workplace setting)
    g. project-based learning activity in a course (real-world employer-designed projects built in as assignments within academic courses)
    h. service learning (courses that combine academic and volunteer experiences)
    i. undergraduate research experience outside of a course (working directly with a faculty member in a lab, on a project, or on a research team)
    j. on-campus job
    k. off-campus job

2. **[display for all experiences from Q1 ≠ on-campus job, off-campus job, apprenticeship, paid internship, unpaid internship] Were you paid for any of the experiences you participated in?**
    a. Yes
    b. No

Notes

State samples

Statistics are not reported for states with very low sample sizes or with samples that are otherwise unrepresentative.

Parental education samples

Respondents who indicated that their parent or guardian's highest level of education was vocational or technical school or lower are categorized as first-generation students. Respondents who indicated associate degree or higher are categorized as continuing-generation students.