



Press Release

Ipsos poll on behalf of the New America Foundation

Washington, DC, May 11, 2017

1. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

	Total
8th grade or less	1.8%
9th - 12th grade (no high school diploma)	5.5%
High school graduate (12) or GED	20.8%
Some college	20.3%
Trade/Technical/Vocational Training	2.7%
College graduate, Associate's degree	9.7%
College graduate, Bachelor's degree	21.1%
Some postgraduate work	2.5%
Postgraduate degree (Masters, PhD, MD, JD)	15.7%

2. Are you currently an undergraduate attending a two- or four-year college, or other post-high school career, or technical school during the 2016-2017 school year?

	Total
Yes	20.3%
No	79.6%
Don't know / Refused	0.1%

3. What is your current occupation?

	Total
Business	4.1%
Computers	2.3%
Construction	1.6%
Education	5.4%
Engineering	2.5%
Farming & Fishing	0.3%
Health	5.3%
Hospitality	2.4%
Law Enforcement	0.6%
Management	2.4%
Media	0.5%
Military	1.1%

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Office Administration	2.1%
Production	0.6%
Professional and services	2.5%
Psychology	0.6%
Installation & Repair	0.4%
Sales and marketing	3.1%
Science	0.6%
Transportation	1.7%
Student	8.5%
Other	56.4%

4. What is your age as of your last birthday?

	Total
18-24	19.1%
24-29	7.2%
30-34	6.9%
35-44	13.7%
45-54	16.9%
55-64	15.7%
65+	20.6%

5. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish background?

	Total
Yes	20.9%
No	78.8%
Don't know / Refused	0.4%

6. What is your race? Are you...

	Total
White	52.1%
Black or African American	18.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.3%
Asian	13.3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.9%
Other	15.7%
Don't know / Refused	1.6%

7. Compared to when your parents were your age, do you think doing the following goals have gotten easier to attain, harder to attain or are about the same?

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Finding a good paying job

	Total
Much easier	9.5%
Somewhat easier	14.1%
About the same	14.0%
Somewhat harder	26.6%
Much harder	32.7%

Getting a good education

	Total
Much easier	20.4%
Somewhat easier	21.0%
About the same	13.9%
Somewhat harder	17.5%
Much harder	24.6%

Being able to afford a family

	Total
Much easier	8.6%
Somewhat easier	9.0%
About the same	15.7%
Somewhat harder	27.1%
Much harder	37.2%

Being treated with respect by society

	Total
Much easier	10.8%
Somewhat easier	17.9%
About the same	27.6%
Somewhat harder	18.3%
Much harder	21.8%

8. I am going to read you some statements, please tell me if you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree Nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with each statement.
There are lots of good-paying jobs that do not require college.

	Total
Strongly agree	21.2%
Somewhat agree	30.0%

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Neither agree nor disagree	3.3%
Somewhat disagree	20.1%
Strongly disagree	23.8%
Don't know	1.7%

American society respects people who do not go to college.

	Total
Strongly agree	9.5%
Somewhat agree	28.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	9.9%
Somewhat disagree	32.4%
Strongly disagree	18.1%
Don't know	2.0%

It is easier to be successful with a college degree than without.

	Total
Strongly agree	45.8%
Somewhat agree	28.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	6.3%
Somewhat disagree	11.6%
Strongly disagree	6.6%
Don't know	0.8%

9. For the next set of statements, please tell me if the statement is True or False to the best of your knowledge. Is this True or False?

Most people who go to college finish with a degree

	Total
True	45.8%
False	48.2%
Don't know / Refused	6.0%

State governments have increased their spending on higher education in the last ten years

	Total
True	43.7%
False	46.0%
Don't know / Refused	10.4%

The federal government has increased their spending on higher education in the last ten years

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	Total
True	45.2%
False	41.9%
Don't know / Refused	12.9%

Students pay the majority of the costs (tuition, room & board, etc.) involved in their higher education

	Total
True	68.2%
False	26.2%
Don't know / Refused	5.6%

Government currently pays less than half the costs associated with higher education

	Total
True	58.5%
False	30.6%
Don't know / Refused	10.9%

Most financial aid goes to minority students

	Total
True	36.8%
False	51.8%
Don't know / Refused	11.4%

There are more students in 2-year and technical programs than there are in 4-year bachelor degree programs

	Total
True	57.2%
False	30.0%
Don't know / Refused	12.8%

The average college student is 20 years old

	Total
True	62.6%
False	33.9%
Don't know / Refused	3.5%

Most college students attend school full time

	Total

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True	53.1%
False	42.1%
Don't know / Refused	4.8%

10. Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree or Strongly Disagree with this statement? Two year community colleges
Are for people in my situation

	Total
Strongly agree	31.9%
Somewhat agree	31.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	7.4%
Somewhat disagree	12.3%
Strongly disagree	12.2%
Don't know	4.4%

Prepare people to be successful

	Total
Strongly agree	37%
Somewhat agree	43.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	4.9%
Somewhat disagree	8.2%
Strongly disagree	4.0%
Don't know	2.5%

Are worth the cost

	Total
Strongly agree	46.4%
Somewhat agree	35.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.5%
Somewhat disagree	6.3%
Strongly disagree	5.3%
Don't know	2.8%

Contribute to a strong American workforce

	Total
Strongly agree	43.7%
Somewhat agree	39.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	4.8%
Somewhat disagree	7.1%

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Strongly disagree	3.2%
Don't know	1.9%

Always put their students first

	Total
Strongly agree	25.8%
Somewhat agree	36.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	10.3%
Somewhat disagree	13.9%
Strongly disagree	7.9%
Don't know	5.8%

Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree or Strongly Disagree with this statement? Four-year public colleges or universities

Are for people in my situation

	Total
Strongly agree	30.3%
Somewhat agree	34.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	7.0%
Somewhat disagree	12.7%
Strongly disagree	10.1%
Don't know	5.1%

Prepare people to be successful

	Total
Strongly agree	33.3%
Somewhat agree	44.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	5.9%
Somewhat disagree	8.8%
Strongly disagree	5.5%
Don't know	2.1%

Are worth the cost

	Total
Strongly agree	26.2%
Somewhat agree	34.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	5.4%
Somewhat disagree	17.0%
Strongly disagree	13.2%

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Don't know	3.2%
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Contribute to a strong American workforce

	Total
Strongly agree	38.3%
Somewhat agree	40.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	4.5%
Somewhat disagree	9.5%
Strongly disagree	4.5%
Don't know	2.6%

Always put their students first

	Total
Strongly agree	17.8%
Somewhat agree	33.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	8.3%
Somewhat disagree	22.7%
Strongly disagree	12.7%
Don't know	4.8%

Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree or Strongly Disagree with this statement? Four-year private colleges or universities

Are for people in my situation

	Total
Strongly agree	15.9%
Somewhat agree	25.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	8.9%
Somewhat disagree	20.3%
Strongly disagree	23.5%
Don't know	5.7%

Prepare people to be successful

	Total
Strongly agree	36.3%
Somewhat agree	39.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	5.1%
Somewhat disagree	9.7%
Strongly disagree	6.6%
Don't know	3.0%

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Are worth the cost

	Total
Strongly agree	15.9%
Somewhat agree	27.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	7.6%
Somewhat disagree	21.6%
Strongly disagree	23.0%
Don't know	4.5%

Contribute to a strong American workforce

	Total
Strongly agree	32.3%
Somewhat agree	37.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	5.8%
Somewhat disagree	12.3%
Strongly disagree	8.3%
Don't know	3.4%

Always put their students first

	Total
Strongly agree	21.3%
Somewhat agree	31.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	7.7%
Somewhat disagree	20.4%
Strongly disagree	13.2%
Don't know	5.7%

Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree or Strongly Disagree with this statement? For-profit colleges or universities

Are for people in my situation

	Total
Strongly agree	14.1%
Somewhat agree	27.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	9.8%
Somewhat disagree	17.3%
Strongly disagree	22.6%
Don't know	8.9%

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Prepare people to be successful

	Total
Strongly agree	23.6%
Somewhat agree	36.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	9.5%
Somewhat disagree	12.3%
Strongly disagree	11.6%
Don't know	6.9%

Are worth the cost

	Total
Strongly agree	12.5%
Somewhat agree	27.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	8.9%
Somewhat disagree	18.5%
Strongly disagree	24.6%
Don't know	8.5%

Contribute to a strong American workforce

	Total
Strongly agree	20.2%
Somewhat agree	39.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	8.5%
Somewhat disagree	13.2%
Strongly disagree	13.0%
Don't know	6.2%

Always put their students first

	Total
Strongly agree	13.8%
Somewhat agree	25.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	8.9%
Somewhat disagree	20.3%
Strongly disagree	22.6%
Don't know	9.1%

11. In your opinion, is higher education mainly about getting a degree or gaining knowledge? Do you agree with that point of view strongly or somewhat?

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	Total
Strongly getting a degree	27.9%
Somewhat getting a degree	19.0%
Strongly gaining knowledge	12.6%
Somewhat gaining knowledge	27.3%
Both / the same	11.8%
Neither	0.3%
Don't know	1.2%

12. In your opinion, is a higher education system good for society or is higher education mostly a private benefit for individual graduates? Do you agree with that point strongly or somewhat?

	Total
Strongly an accessible higher education system is good for society	41.1%
Somewhat an accessible higher education system is good for society	21.3%
Somewhat higher education is mostly a private benefit for individual graduates	13.4%
Strongly higher education is mostly a private benefit for individual graduates	12.5%
Both / the same	8.6%
Neither	1.3%
Don't know	1.9%

13. Which of the following is closer to your point of view regarding success of students in higher education, the student is solely responsible or the university needs to assist in the success of its students? Do you agree with that point of view strongly or somewhat?

	Total
Strongly the student is solely responsible	19.7%
Somewhat the student is solely responsible	11.6%
Somewhat the university needs to assist in the success of its students	19.5%
Strongly the university needs to assist in the success of its students	37.9%
Both / the same	9.6%
Neither	0.5%
Don't know	1.2%

14. In your opinion do higher education leaders generally put the needs and interests of students first or put the long-term interests of their schools first? Do you agree with this point of view strongly or somewhat?

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	Total
Strongly put the needs and interests of students first	14.2%
Somewhat put the needs and interests of students first	16.8%
Somewhat put the long term interests of their schools first	24.9%
Strongly put the long term interests of their schools first	33.4%
Both / the same	5.0%
Neither	1.9%
Don't know	3.8%

15. Next I will read you some statements about the American higher education system. For each statement, I would like you to tell me if you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Strongly Disagree with the statement.

Higher education in America is fine how it is

	Total
Strongly agree	8.1%
Somewhat agree	17.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	4.8%
Somewhat disagree	27.4%
Strongly disagree	41.2%
Don't know	1.2%

All Americans have a decent chance of getting into a good college

	Total
Strongly agree	18.6%
Somewhat agree	22.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.6%
Somewhat disagree	22.4%
Strongly disagree	32.0%
Don't know	0.6%

Most people who enroll in higher education benefit

	Total
Strongly agree	41.6%
Somewhat agree	37.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.9%
Somewhat disagree	10.0%

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Strongly disagree	5.5%
Don't know	1.6%

16. I would also like to ask you about how the higher education system is run. For each statement, I would like you to tell me if you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the statement.

The federal government is having a positive impact on the higher education system

	Total
Strongly agree	14.0%
Somewhat agree	29.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	10.6%
Somewhat disagree	18.2%
Strongly disagree	21.0%
Don't know	7.0%

Higher education institutions in my state should act with greater independence from the government

	Total
Strongly agree	29.9%
Somewhat agree	26.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	13.1%
Somewhat disagree	14.9%
Strongly disagree	11.2%
Don't know	4.2%

17. How confident, if at all, are you that you made the right financial decisions regarding how you are paying or paid for college?

	Total
Completely confident	51.2%
Somewhat confident	25.0%
Neither confident nor unconfident	7.0%
Somewhat unconfident	7.2%
Not at all confident	6.9%
Don't know / Refused	2.8%

18. Did you use any sources to help you pay for your higher education?

	Total
Grants or scholarships	51.6%
Loans or debt	41.5%
Financial support from family	41.4%

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Income from a job	44.9%
Savings	22.6%
No / None	7.6%
Don't know / Refused	0.8%

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About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos dual frame landline/cellphone poll conducted for New America Foundation from February 24-March 9, 2017. For the survey, a sample of 1,000 adults from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were randomly selected and interviewed in English or Spanish. There were oversamples of 150 African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian Americans, and current college students respectively for a total sample size of 1,600.

All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Based on the sample size and common assumptions about the distribution of the underlying population, the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study, based on the adjustments made by the weights used to ensure a representative sample, following the formula of Kish (1965). In this way, we can control for the proper amount of sample variability due to the design of the sampling method. This study had a confidence interval adjusted for design effect of the following: (n=1,600, DEFF=1.5) adjusted Confidence Interval=4.3 percentage points. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

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About Ipsos Public Affairs

Ipsos Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective, survey-based research practice made up of seasoned professionals. We conduct strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of American and international organizations, based not only on public opinion research, but elite stakeholder, corporate, and media opinion research.

Ipsos has media partnerships with the most prestigious news organizations around the world. In Canada, the U.S., UK, and internationally, Ipsos Public Affairs is the media polling supplier to Reuters News, the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. Ipsos Public Affairs is a member of the Ipsos Group, a leading global survey-based market research company. We provide boutique-style customer service and work closely with our clients, while also undertaking global research.

About Ipsos

Ipsos is an independent market research company controlled and managed by research professionals. Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has grown into a worldwide research group with a strong presence in all key markets. Ipsos ranks fourth in the global research industry.

With offices in 89 countries, Ipsos delivers insightful expertise across five research specializations: brand, advertising and media; customer loyalty; marketing; public affairs research; and survey management.

Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

GAME CHANGERS

« Game Changers » is the Ipsos signature.

At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society.
We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions.
We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

Ipsos is listed on Eurolist – NYSE-Euronext.
The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index
and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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