

# Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education Spotlight

## White Students



The total share of White students enrolled in higher education declined between 1995–96 and 2015–16, as the student body became more racially and ethnically diverse. While more students of color have gained access to postsecondary education, equity gaps in enrollment, persistence, completion, and employment and earnings remain. Overall, White students exhibit higher persistence and completion rates than students of color, in addition to lower unemployment rates and higher median annual earnings. This infographic highlights data from *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report* to provide an overview of the educational journeys of White students enrolled in postsecondary

education.  
[www.equityinhighered.org](http://www.equityinhighered.org)

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# U.S. Population & Educational Attainment\*

Whites represented 61.0% of the total U.S. population.



● Whites ● Total U.S. population

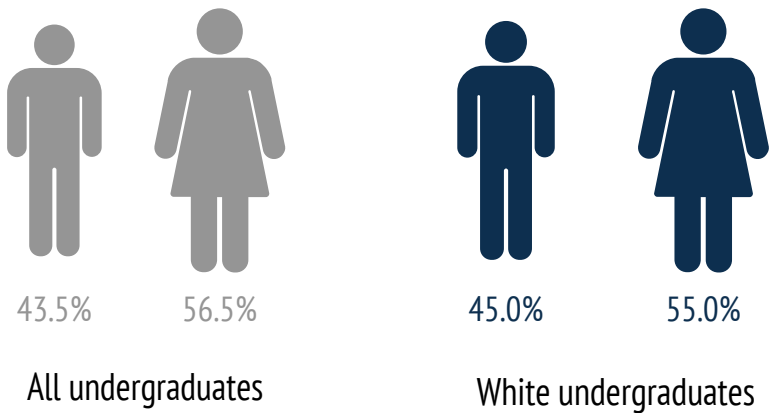
## Attainment of Associate Degree or Higher (Adults Ages 25 and Older)



# Undergraduate Enrollment\*

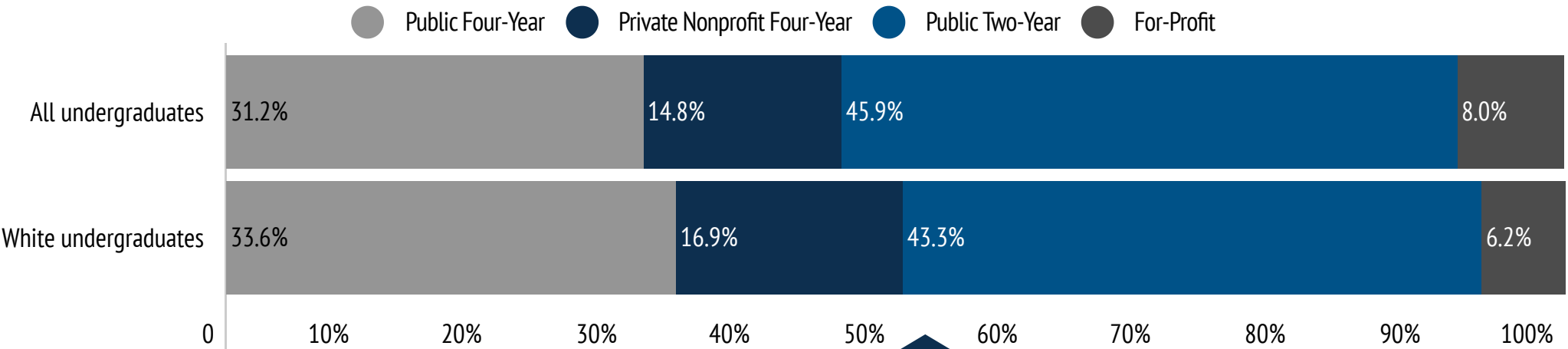
**52%** of all undergraduate students were White.

## Undergraduate Enrollment by Gender



The majority of White undergraduates were women.

## Undergraduate Enrollment Across Sectors<sup>1</sup>



**50.5%** of White undergraduates were enrolled at public and private nonprofit four-year institutions, compared with 46.0% of undergraduates overall.

1. Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted.

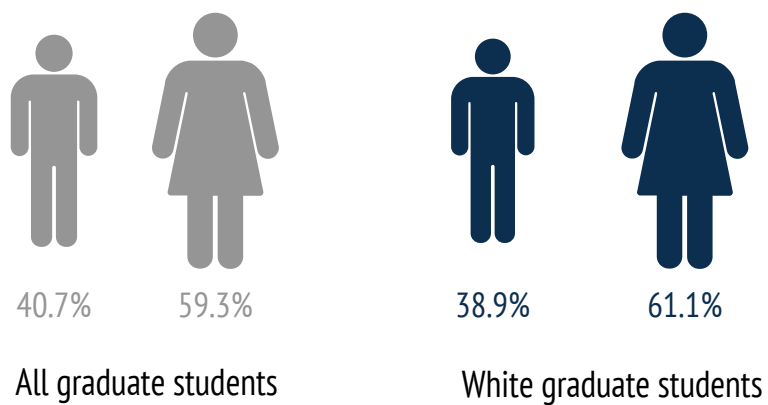


# Graduate Enrollment\*



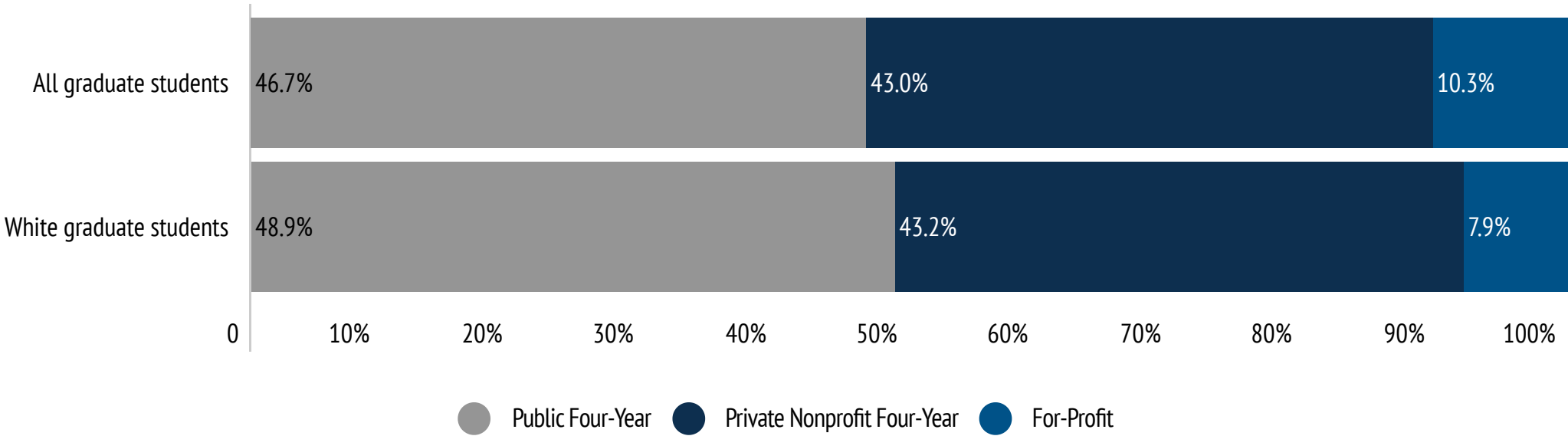
**56%** of all graduate students were White.

## Graduate Enrollment by Gender



6 in 10 White graduate students were women.

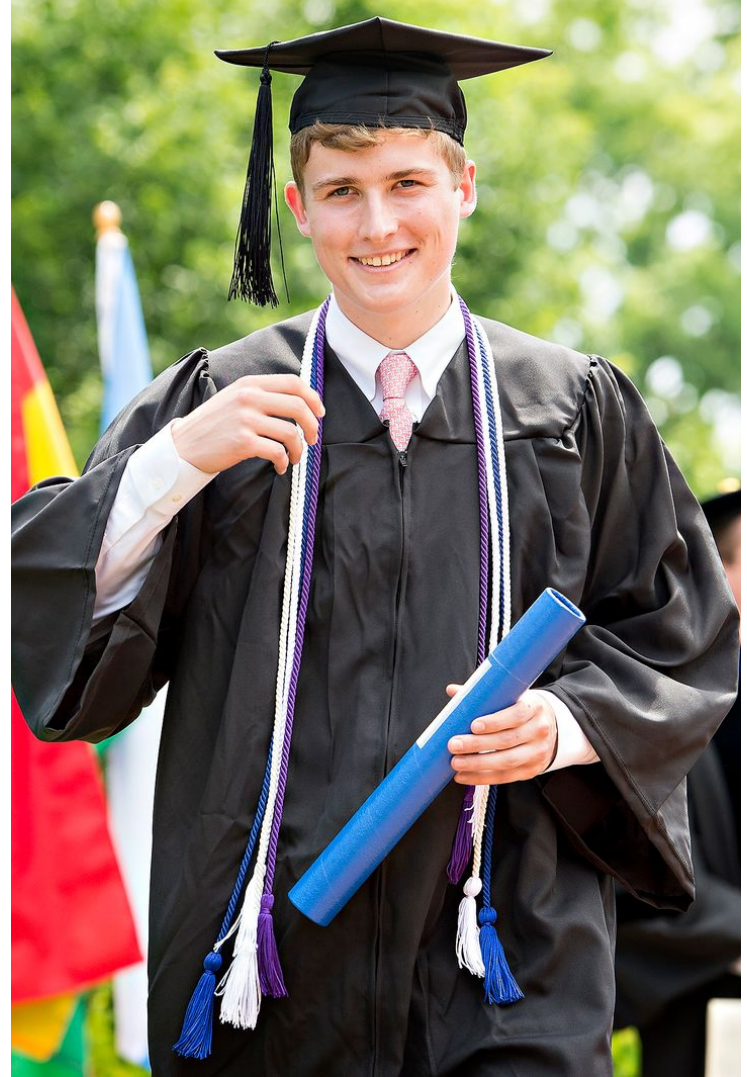
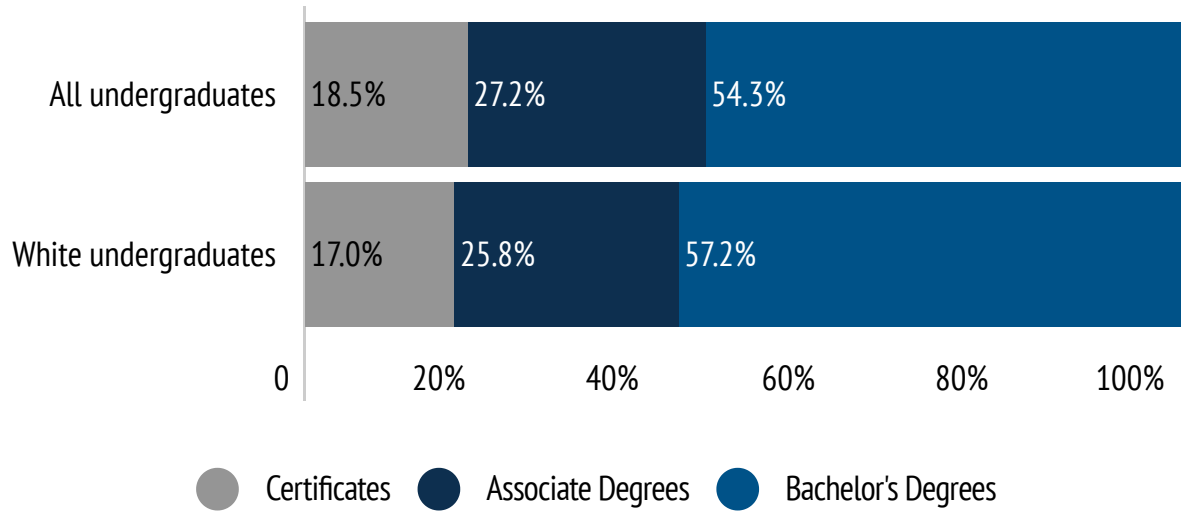
## Graduate Enrollment Across Sectors



\*2015-16

# Undergraduate Completion\*

Undergraduate Completions by Award Level



 White students earned 53.8% of all associate degrees and 59.9% of all bachelor's degrees.

# Graduate Completion\*

**White students earned**

- 50.4% of all master's degrees
- 61.3% of all professional degrees
- 47.9% of all doctoral degrees

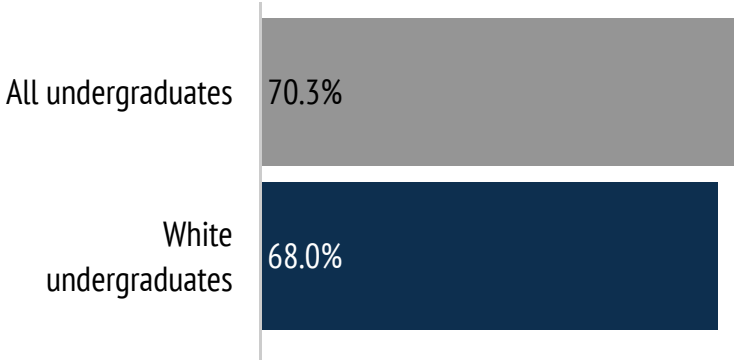
**75%**



of White graduate students completed master's degrees, compared with 77.0% of all graduate students.

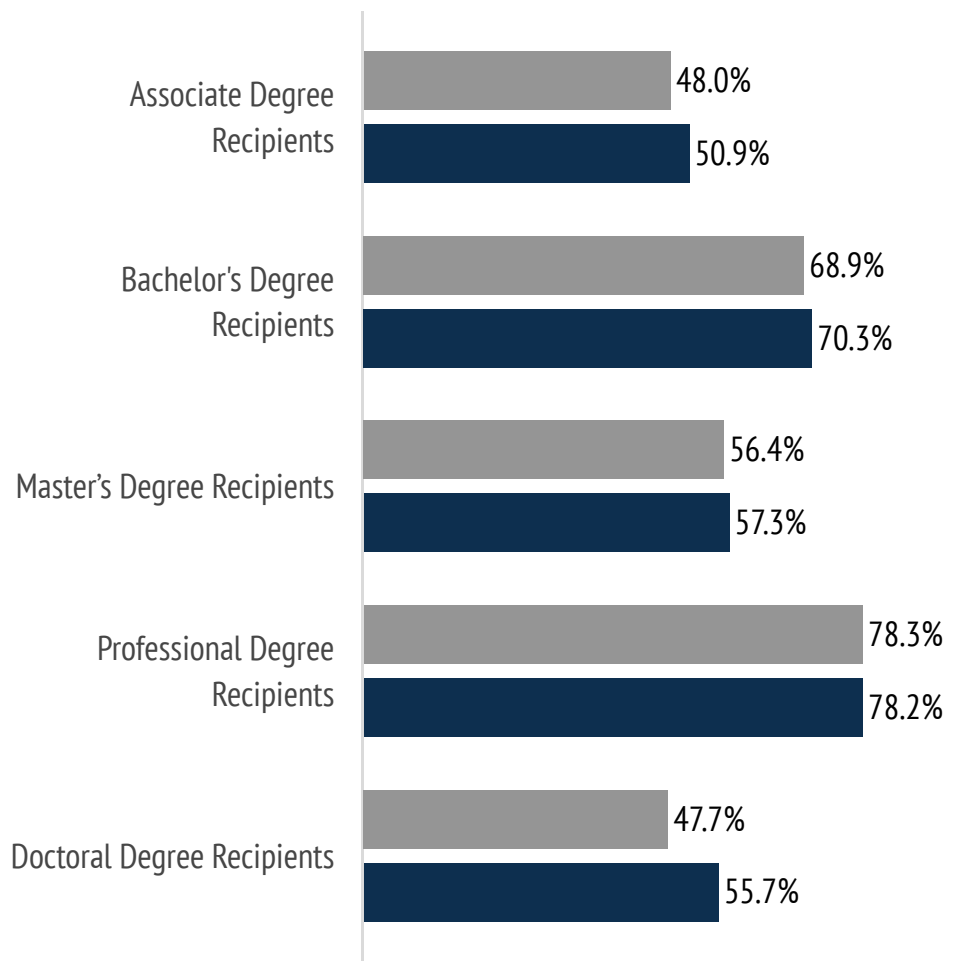
# Paying for College\*

## FAFSA Completion Rate

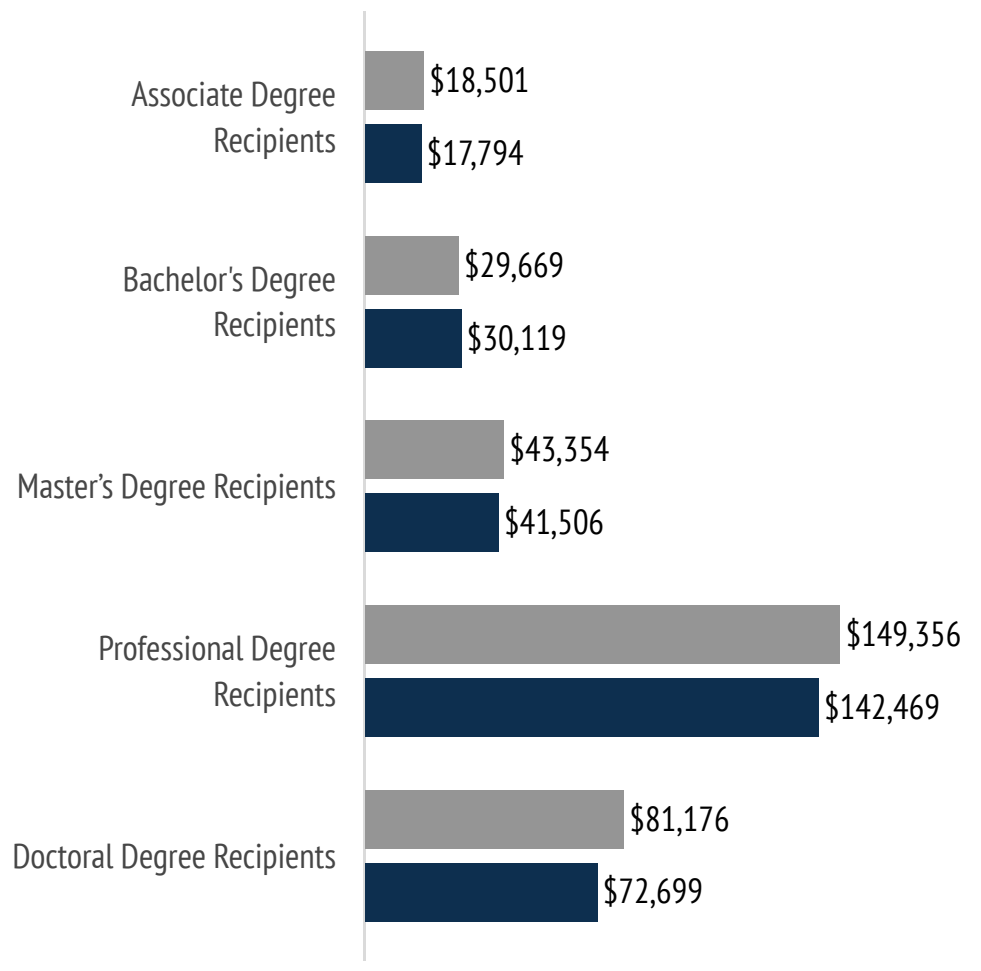


**29.7%** of White undergraduate students were from families with an expected family contribution of \$0, compared with 39.1% of undergraduate students overall.

## Percent Who Borrowed



## Average Amount Borrowed



● All students ● White students

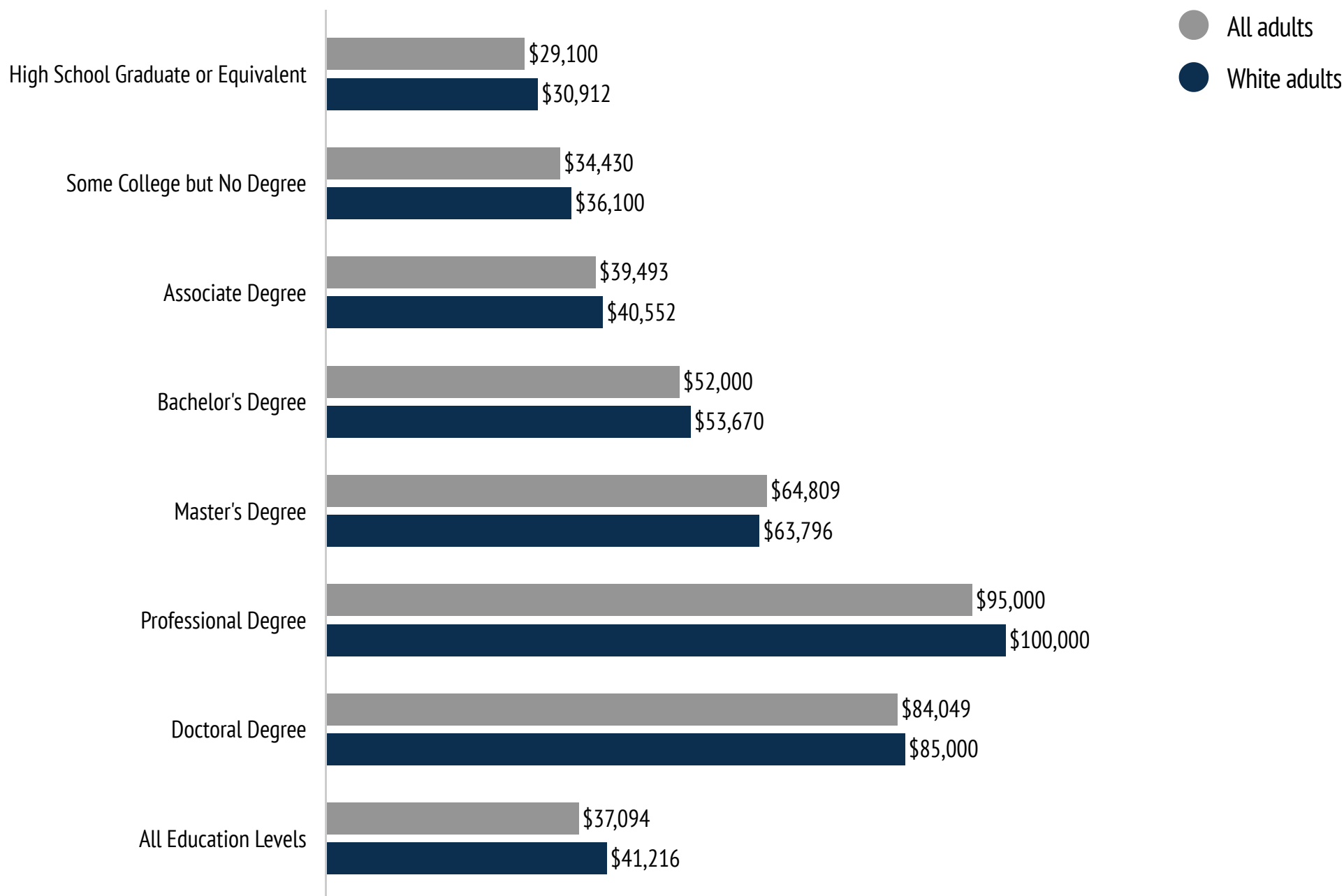
● All students ● White students

\*2015-16

# Median Annual Earnings\*

White adults earned **MORE** than the national median for all adults across nearly all levels of educational attainment.

## Median Annual Earnings for Adults Ages 25 and Older



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