

Reinventing Community College With Online Synchronous Learning



Today's community college leaders are grappling with enrollment, auditing changes, recovery from pandemic-related challenges, and more. But it's not all doom and gloom. Follow along to learn how community colleges can reinvigorate their missions by investing in online synchronous learning.

Serving all students

Community colleges play a critical role in the higher education landscape, **serving a diverse student population.**

66% of undergraduates enroll in community college at some point after completing high school¹

29% of community college students are the **first generation in their family to attend college**²

56% of community college students identify as **non-white**²

The **average age** of a community college student is 27 years old² **27 yrs**

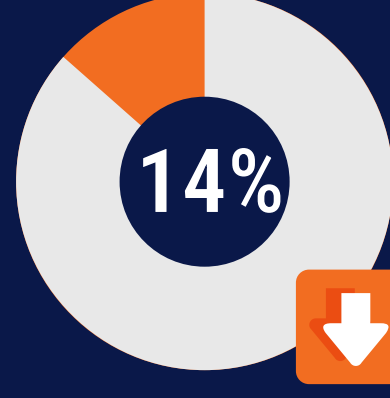


Navigating a challenging landscape

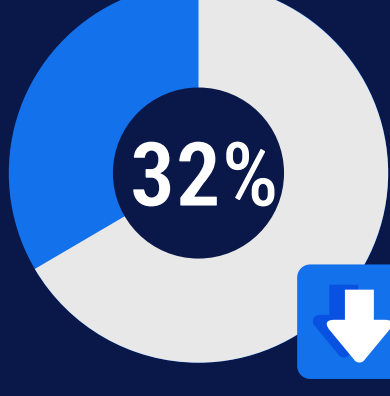
Declining enrollment has been a struggle for community colleges for more than a decade.



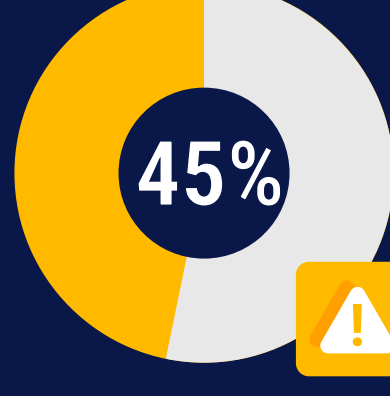
1 million fewer students enrolled in community colleges between 2010 and 2017³



14.4% decline in enrollment at community colleges from fall 2019 to fall 2021⁴



32.2% decline in enrollment of Black first-year students since fall 2019⁵



Approximately **45% of low-income students** who were originally planning on attending community college **opted not to attend** in fall 2020⁶

The digital divide is shrinking

In the past, the **digital divide was a barrier** for community colleges who wanted to expand their reach with remote learning. But today, that **divide is rapidly disappearing.**

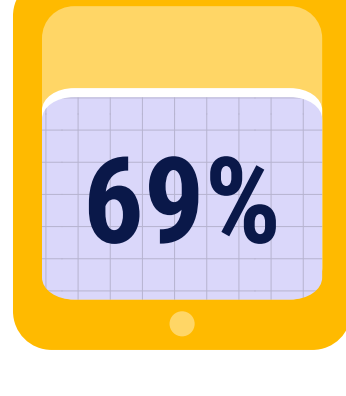
91% of new community college students report **reliable internet access at home** as of December 2020⁷

90% of new community college students in 2020 reported having **access to a device other than their mobile phone** where they can take courses⁷

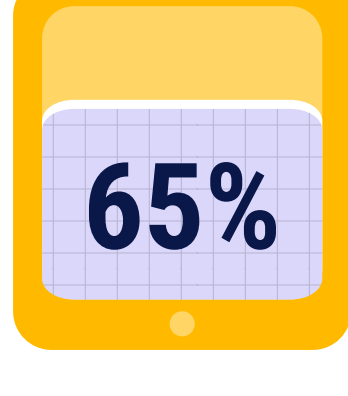


Students are embracing remote instruction

With the tools to succeed in hand, students are **now ready and eager to embrace online synchronous learning.**



69% of first-year community college students prefer either fully online or hybrid learning according to a December 2020 survey⁷



65% of continuing community college students in 2020 said they prefer remote or hybrid learning⁷



Students across all demographics prefer synchronous online learning according to a 2021 study of undergraduate learners⁸

Improving student experiences with synchronous online instruction



The data is clear: **it's time to reimagine remote learning at community colleges.** By embracing online synchronous instruction, community colleges can provide a **more connected and engaging remote learning experience**, innovate in the classroom, and appeal to students who might otherwise have opted out of higher education.

Download our eBook

Learn more about how your community college can better serve students with synchronous learning:

The Future of Community Colleges: How to Boost Enrollment and Improve Student Outcomes With Online Learning



Sources

- 1 ThinkImpact, 2022. Community College Statistics - Data and Trends. <https://www.thinkimpact.com/community-college-statistics/>
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- 3 AAAC, 2019. Community college enrollment crisis? <https://www.aacc.nche.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Crisis-in-Enrollment-2019.pdf>
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- 5 Bloomberg, 2021. Community Colleges Face Steep Losses in Black Freshmen Enrollment. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-18/community-colleges-see-steep-decline-in-black-freshmen>
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