



TOPLINE & METHODOLOGY

Axios_Ipsos Hard Truth Higher Education Poll

Conducted by Ipsos using KnowledgePanel®
A survey of the American general population (ages 18+)

Interview dates: August 11 – August 18 2021

Number of interviews: 1,992

Number of White interviews: 761

Number of Black interviews: 510

Number of Hispanic interviews: 477

Number of Asian/Pacific Islander/Pacific Islander interviews: 205

Margin of error: +/-2.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Reduced bases are unweighted values.

NOTE: * = less than 0.5%, - = no respondents

Annotated Questionnaire:

1. Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying? (Select up to three)

Topic	Total April-May 2021	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander
COVID-19/coronavirus	30	41	37	51	43	55
Political extremism or polarization	31	31	37	12	21	31
Climate Change	21	29	31	16	26	36
Crime or gun Violence	31	24	21	37	28	32
Healthcare	23	22	23	17	19	24
Government budget and debt	19	19	24	6	11	16
Immigration	20	19	23	5	18	9
Racial injustice and discrimination	25	17	11	52	16	23
Taxes	13	12	13	7	10	7
Domestic terrorism	14	11	11	11	11	8
Education	10	10	10	11	9	9
Opioid or drug addiction	8	9	10	7	10	5
Unemployment	7	7	6	11	12	4
Social inequality	10	7	6	13	6	13
Natural disasters	5	6	5	8	11	4
Foreign conflicts	5	5	6	1	3	3
Other	3	3	3	3	3	1
None of these	3	3	3	6	5	2
Skipped	*	*	*	-	-	-

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2. How well, if at all, do you think the following types of higher education institutions equip **people like you** to succeed professionally and financially?

Trade programs or community colleges	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very well	36	38	31	32	26
Somewhat well	51	50	53	54	53
Not very well	8	8	9	8	14
Not well at all	3	3	4	4	4
Skipped	1	1	2	1	3
Total well (net)	87	88	85	87	79
Total not well (net)	12	11	13	12	18

Four-year colleges and universities	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very well	22	20	25	27	31
Somewhat well	51	52	50	49	51
Not very well	17	18	15	17	11
Not well at all	8	9	7	6	4
Skipped	2	1	3	2	3
Total well (net)	73	72	75	76	82
Total not well (net)	25	27	22	23	15

Post-graduate universities, to obtain a masters or PhD	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very well	27	24	29	33	36
Somewhat well	50	52	49	44	47
Not very well	15	15	12	16	10
Not well at all	7	8	9	6	4
Skipped	1	1	2	1	3
Total well (net)	76	76	77	77	83
Total not well (net)	22	23	20	22	15

Professional graduate schools (e.g. medical or law school)	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander
Very well	38	38	35	41	45
Somewhat well	44	44	45	42	42
Not very well	10	9	11	11	5
Not well at all	6	7	7	5	5
Skipped	1	1	2	1	3
Total well (net)	83	83	79	83	87
Total not well (net)	16	16	18	16	10

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3. How comfortable, if at all, do you think a **person like you** would be in the following types of higher education institutions today?

Trade programs or community colleges	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very comfortable	35	34	37	38	31
Somewhat comfortable	45	44	44	46	44
Not very comfortable	12	13	10	9	18
Not at all comfortable	7	8	7	6	5
Skipped	1	1	3	1	3
Total comfortable (net)	79	78	80	84	75
Total not comfortable (net)	19	21	17	15	22

Four-year colleges and universities	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very comfortable	31	30	31	30	45
Somewhat comfortable	37	32	42	46	38
Not very comfortable	18	20	13	13	12
Not at all comfortable	14	16	11	10	3
Skipped	2	2	2	1	3
Total comfortable (net)	67	62	74	76	83
Total not comfortable (net)	31	36	24	23	15

Post-graduate universities, to obtain a masters or PhD	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very comfortable	24	23	25	25	33
Somewhat comfortable	35	31	40	43	42
Not very comfortable	23	25	19	18	16
Not at all comfortable	16	20	13	12	5
Skipped	1	1	3	1	3
Total comfortable (net)	59	54	65	68	76
Total not comfortable (net)	39	44	32	30	22

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3. How comfortable, if at all, do you think a **person like you** would be in the following types of higher education institutions today?

Professional graduate schools (e.g., medical or law school)	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very comfortable	23	21	25	25	34
Somewhat comfortable	35	31	40	44	38
Not very comfortable	24	27	17	20	17
Not at all comfortable	17	20	15	11	9
Skipped	1	1	3	1	3
Total comfortable (net)	58	52	66	68	72
Total not comfortable (net)	41	47	32	30	26

4. Based on what you know, is the cost of the education and degree from the following higher education institutions affordable or expensive?

Trade programs or community colleges	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very affordable	13	14	13	10	15
Somewhat affordable	42	43	36	42	49
Somewhat expensive	25	25	27	26	22
Very expensive	15	14	17	19	9
About right	3	4	4	2	2
Skipped	1	1	3	1	3
Total affordable (net)	55	57	49	52	64
Total expensive (net)	40	38	45	45	31

Four-year colleges and universities	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very affordable	1	*	2	1	1
Somewhat affordable	8	7	11	10	9
Somewhat expensive	31	32	28	29	31
Very expensive	58	59	55	57	56
About right	1	1	2	2	1
Skipped	1	1	2	1	2
Total affordable (net)	9	7	13	11	10
Total expensive (net)	89	91	83	86	87

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4. Based on what you know, is the cost of the education and degree from the following higher education institutions affordable or expensive?

Post-graduate universities, to obtain a masters or PhD	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very affordable	1	*	2	*	1
Somewhat affordable	5	5	7	6	7
Somewhat expensive	19	18	22	20	25
Very expensive	73	75	65	72	64
About right	1	1	2	1	-
Skipped	1	1	2	1	2
Total affordable (net)	6	5	9	7	8
Total expensive (net)	92	93	87	91	89

Professional graduate schools (e.g. medical or law school)	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Very affordable	1	*	2	1	*
Somewhat affordable	3	3	6	5	3
Somewhat expensive	13	12	15	13	12
Very expensive	81	83	73	79	82
About right	1	1	2	1	-
Skipped	1	1	2	1	2
Total affordable (net)	4	3	8	6	4
Total expensive (net)	94	95	88	92	94

5. How much do you support or oppose the following policies regarding higher education?

Making four-year colleges free to any US citizen	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly support	31	24	49	41	34
Somewhat support	28	27	29	30	33
Somewhat oppose	19	21	13	16	19
Strongly oppose	21	27	6	12	13
Skipped	1	1	3	1	2
Total support (net)	59	51	78	71	66
Total oppose (net)	40	48	19	28	31



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5. How much do you support or oppose the following policies regarding higher education?

Making trade programs or community colleges free to any U.S. citizen	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly support	44	38	59	55	45
Somewhat support	29	30	26	27	36
Somewhat oppose	14	17	8	11	11
Strongly oppose	11	14	4	6	6
Skipped	2	1	3	2	2
Total support (net)	73	68	85	81	81
Total oppose (net)	25	30	12	17	17

A single national test system to determine admission to elite universities	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly support	14	10	21	22	22
Somewhat support	39	39	36	41	37
Somewhat oppose	28	30	23	23	25
Strongly oppose	17	19	16	13	14
Skipped	2	2	4	1	3
Total support (net)	53	49	57	63	59
Total oppose (net)	45	49	39	36	38

Abolishing standardized tests, such as the SAT or ACT, that are normally needed for 4-year college admissions	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly support	19	16	29	23	16
Somewhat support	32	30	36	36	32
Somewhat oppose	30	32	23	27	33
Strongly oppose	17	20	8	12	16
Skipped	2	2	4	2	3
Total support (net)	51	46	65	60	48
Total oppose (net)	47	52	31	39	50



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5. How much do you support or oppose the following policies regarding higher education?

Allowing universities to base admissions on a range of factors, including test scores, potential, and if the applicant comes from a disadvantaged community <i>Base: Half Sample</i>	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly support	17	14	26	25	17
Somewhat support	42	42	41	40	52
Somewhat oppose	25	28	20	21	25
Strongly oppose	13	14	9	12	7
Skipped	2	2	4	1	-
Total support (net)	60	56	67	65	69
Total oppose (net)	38	42	30	34	31

Allowing universities to base admissions on a range of factors, including test scores and potential <i>Base: Half Sample</i>	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly support	28	24	24	37	47
Somewhat support	48	52	41	42	43
Somewhat oppose	16	16	23	16	5
Strongly oppose	6	7	9	5	2
Skipped	2	1	3	1	4
Total support (net)	76	76	66	79	90
Total oppose (net)	23	23	31	21	7

Forgiving, or erasing, all federal student loan debt	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly support	28	20	52	39	24
Somewhat support	27	26	28	26	36
Somewhat oppose	18	20	11	18	19
Strongly oppose	26	34	6	15	18
Skipped	1	1	3	1	2
Total support (net)	55	46	80	66	60
Total oppose (net)	44	53	17	33	38



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6. Do you think the following people should have their federal student loans forgiven or erased?

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
People working in public service jobs (i.e., teacher, first responder, social worker)	39	37	44	38	49
People with an income below \$50,000	38	33	53	44	38
People providing health care services in disadvantaged communities	35	33	37	36	42
All people, for an amount up to \$50,000	30	26	43	33	30
No one should have their student loans forgiven	27	35	7	17	22
All people, for an amount up to \$10,000	17	14	29	22	21
People with student loan debt more than \$100,000, with only the amount above \$100,000 forgiven	11	8	18	17	20
Skipped	2	2	3	2	3

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

A four-year college education is worth the tuition	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	9	7	10	17	11
Somewhat agree	28	28	26	25	36
Neither agree nor disagree	29	29	32	27	24
Somewhat disagree	23	24	20	23	22
Strongly disagree	11	12	10	8	5
Skipped	1	1	2	1	3
Total agree (net)	37	35	36	41	46
Total disagree (net)	34	35	30	31	27



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7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

A trade school or community college education is worth the tuition	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	31	34	25	30	24
Somewhat agree	42	44	37	37	45
Neither agree nor disagree	20	17	24	25	22
Somewhat disagree	4	3	8	6	5
Strongly disagree	2	2	3	2	2
Skipped	1	1	3	1	2
Total agree (net)	73	77	62	67	69
Total disagree (net)	6	5	12	8	7

All people in the U.S. have an equal opportunity to get a college degree	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	18	16	19	23	17
Somewhat agree	20	21	15	19	25
Neither agree nor disagree	15	15	15	18	14
Somewhat disagree	24	26	20	21	26
Strongly disagree	22	21	28	19	16
Skipped	1	1	3	*	2
Total agree (net)	38	37	34	42	42
Total disagree (net)	46	47	48	40	42

Anyone can work hard and get into a good college	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	19	17	21	25	25
Somewhat agree	28	30	22	28	29
Neither agree nor disagree	19	19	22	16	18
Somewhat disagree	22	23	19	22	20
Strongly disagree	10	10	13	9	7
Skipped	1	1	3	1	2
Total agree (net)	47	47	44	53	53
Total disagree (net)	33	33	32	31	27



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7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

An educated workforce should be a priority for the United States	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	39	39	37	43	47
Somewhat agree	32	34	29	28	29
Neither agree nor disagree	20	20	25	20	15
Somewhat disagree	5	5	3	6	5
Strongly disagree	2	2	4	3	2
Skipped	1	1	3	1	2
Total agree (net)	71	73	66	71	76
Total disagree (net)	7	7	7	8	7

Colleges and universities with large endowments should not charge their students tuition	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	15	11	20	24	19
Somewhat agree	28	28	29	29	28
Neither agree nor disagree	32	34	33	29	27
Somewhat disagree	16	19	10	12	18
Strongly disagree	7	7	6	6	5
Skipped	1	1	2	*	3
Total agree (net)	43	39	48	53	47
Total disagree (net)	23	26	17	17	22

People without college degrees are looked down on in our society	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	15	13	20	23	16
Somewhat agree	39	41	35	33	43
Neither agree nor disagree	23	23	24	25	17
Somewhat disagree	13	13	10	11	16
Strongly disagree	9	10	7	7	6
Skipped	1	1	3	1	2
Total agree (net)	54	53	56	56	59
Total disagree (net)	22	23	17	18	22



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8. Do you think your race gives you an advantage or disadvantage when it comes to access and opportunity for higher education in America?

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Advantage	23	29	5	13	15
Disadvantage	18	9	51	25	25
Neither an advantage nor disadvantage	48	51	31	50	46
Don't know	10	10	11	12	12
Skipped	1	1	2	*	2

9. Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Higher education needs to continue making changes to give Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native Americans equal opportunities with white Americans	53	43	81	67	65
Higher education has made the changes needed to give Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native Americans equal opportunities with white Americans	44	55	16	31	32
Skipped	3	3	4	2	3

10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Social policies, such as affirmative action, discriminate unfairly against white people.	Total April-May 2021	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	14	13	15	4	9	9
Somewhat agree	19	21	26	7	13	21
Neither agree nor disagree	34	32	33	27	37	22
Somewhat disagree	16	15	13	17	19	26
Strongly disagree	16	17	12	42	21	19
Skipped	1	1	1	3	2	3
Total agree (net)	33	34	42	10	22	31
Total disagree (net)	32	32	24	60	39	44



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10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Black or Brown people do not have the same opportunities as white people in the U.S	Total April-May 2021	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	23	22	15	51	27	30
Somewhat agree	26	25	24	22	26	36
Neither agree nor disagree	16	18	18	14	21	9
Somewhat disagree	15	15	19	5	10	12
Strongly disagree	19	19	23	5	15	10
Skipped	1	1	1	3	1	2
Total agree (net)	49	47	39	72	53	66
Total disagree (net)	34	34	42	11	25	22

America is not a racist country	Total April-May 2021	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	11	14	17	3	10	9
Somewhat agree	12	12	14	5	11	11
Neither agree nor disagree	20	19	19	19	20	13
Somewhat disagree	27	25	26	16	25	27
Strongly disagree	29	29	23	54	33	38
Skipped	1	1	1	3	1	2
Total agree (net)	23	26	31	8	21	21
Total disagree (net)	56	54	49	70	57	64

Colleges and universities are biased in favor of liberal ideas and beliefs	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	22	25	11	16	17
Somewhat agree	24	25	19	23	28
Neither agree nor disagree	39	36	50	42	37
Somewhat disagree	8	8	9	11	11
Strongly disagree	5	5	8	7	6
Skipped	2	1	4	1	2
Total agree (net)	45	50	30	39	45
Total disagree (net)	14	12	17	18	16

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10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Colleges and universities are biased towards the values and beliefs of white people	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	10	7	23	14	14
Somewhat agree	24	24	20	25	35
Neither agree nor disagree	34	34	32	35	26
Somewhat disagree	15	17	10	11	13
Strongly disagree	15	17	11	14	11
Skipped	1	1	3	1	2
Total agree (net)	35	31	43	39	48
Total disagree (net)	30	34	22	25	24

Colleges and universities are biased in favor of conservative ideas and beliefs	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Strongly agree	5	3	14	7	1
Somewhat agree	12	10	19	17	14
Neither agree nor disagree	40	37	47	43	43
Somewhat disagree	18	20	11	15	20
Strongly disagree	24	29	7	18	20
Skipped	2	1	3	1	2
Total agree (net)	17	13	33	23	15
Total disagree (net)	42	49	17	32	40

11. Which of these is your main source of news?

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander
ABC / CBS / NBC News	21	21	32	19	15
Digital or online news	16	17	11	12	24
Public television or radio	10	8	9	15	12
FOX News	9	11	5	7	3
Social media	8	7	6	12	10
CNN	6	4	11	6	9
MSNBC	3	3	7	4	1
New York Times or Washington Post	3	4	1	3	7
Your local newspaper	3	4	2	2	4
Other	5	6	3	5	4
None of these	14	15	10	14	8
Skipped	1	*	2	1	2



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About the Study

This Axios/Ipsos Hard Truth Higher Education poll was conducted August 11th to August 18th, 2021 by Ipsos using our KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a nationally representative probability sample of 1,992 general population adults age 18 or older.

The survey was conducted using KnowledgePanel, the largest and most well-established online probability-based panel that is representative of the adult US population. Our recruitment process employs a scientifically developed addressed-based sampling methodology using the latest Delivery Sequence File of the USPS – a database with full coverage of all delivery points in the US. Households invited to join the panel are randomly selected from all available households in the U.S. Persons in the sampled households are invited to join and participate in the panel. Those selected who do not already have internet access are provided a tablet and internet connection at no cost to the panel member. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in used to complete surveys online. As a result of our recruitment and sampling methodologies, samples from KnowledgePanel cover all households regardless of their phone or internet status and findings can be reported with a margin of sampling error and projected to the general population.

The study was conducted in both English and Spanish. The data were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, household income, race/ethnicity by gender, race/ethnicity by age, race/ethnicity by education and race/ethnicity by region. The demographic benchmarks came from 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) from the US Census Bureau. The weighting categories were as follows:

- Gender (Male, Female) by Age (18–29, 30–44, 45–59, and 60+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic, Other or 2+ Races Non-Hispanic, Hispanic)
- Education (High School graduate or less, Some College, Bachelor and beyond)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Metropolitan status (Metro, non-Metro)
- Household Income (Under \$25,000, \$25,000-\$49,999, \$50,000-\$74,999, \$75,000-\$99,999, \$100,000-\$149,999, \$150,000+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White/Other non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Hispanic) by gender (Male, Female)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White/Other non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Hispanic) by age (18-44, 45+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White/Other non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Hispanic) by education (Less than college grad, Bachelor and beyond)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White/Other non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Hispanic) by Census region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)



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The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.39. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

About Ipsos

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