A new survey fielded by Opportunity America, Lumina Foundation, and Wilder Research explores how community and technical colleges are innovating to keep up with a changing workplace.

This infographic is a sampling of the study’s top findings. For more information and the full survey results, please visit https://opportunityamericaonline.org/ccsurvey/.

Community colleges educate more learners each year than coding boot camps, government job training, and apprenticeship programs combined.

Coding boot camps: 18,000
Workforce system training: 209,000
Civilian apprenticeships: 523,000
Community colleges: 10,500,000


Students come to community college pursuing a variety of goals. Some seek traditional academic credentials, others do not.

NOT JOB-FOCUSED
Degree-seeking students in academic programs: 31%
Noncredit students in remedial and recreational programs: 15%

JOB-FOCUSED
Community college students: 34%
Degree-seeking students in job-focused programs: 20%
Noncredit students in job-focused programs: 20%

Source: Opportunity America community college survey and Opportunity America’s calculation based on National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, “Fall 2019 Current Term Enrollment Estimates.”
Sometimes called the ‘hidden college,’ the noncredit division is often invisible to the public and policymakers.

3.7 million
Estimated number of students enrolled in noncredit programs — learners who are not included in federal education data


The noncredit division’s signature strength is workforce education.

Who pays for noncredit workforce education?

About the survey: Opportunity America invited administrators from 1,259 public two-year institutions to participate in the study. The survey was in the field from October 2020 through March 2021. More than 600 colleges answered at least one question and 477 provided more robust responses, for a 38 percent response rate. Except where noted, all the figures presented here are based on the results of the Opportunity America community college survey.

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