Students are eager to get back on campus

Online learning can open additional doors for Black and Hispanic students

Families spent $26,373 on college in AY 2020-21, a 12% decrease from AY 2019-20

More families have a plan to pay for college

Still, more families skip the FAFSA® year after year

Students are eager to get back on campus

Top reasons for not filing the FAFSA®:
• 44% believed they wouldn’t qualify for any financial aid
• 34% said they missed the deadline, found the application problematic or too complicated, or didn’t have the time

However, only 38% have discussed the starting salary for jobs in the student’s field of study

Just 17% of families want to study only online

56% of families are making payments on student loans while in school, up from 46% in AY 2019-20

77% 71% 68%

0 25 50 75 100

AY 2018-19 AY 2019-20 AY 2020-21

How America Pays for College 2021
A snapshot of the national study by Sallie Mae® and Ipsos

Ipsos conducted the How America Pays for College 2021 survey online, in English, between April 8 - May 4, 2021. Ipsos interviewed 1,985 undergraduate students and parents of undergraduate students from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii.

Parent income and savings 45%
Scholarships and grants 25%
Borrowed money 20%
Student income and savings 8%
Relatives and friends 2%

56% of families are making payments on student loans while in school, up from 46% in AY 2019-20

Parent income and savings
Parent income and savings

Scholarships and grants
Scholarships and grants

Borrowed money
Borrowed money

Student income and savings
Student income and savings

Relatives and friends
Relatives and friends

Learn more by visiting salliemae.com/howamerica pays Join the conversation with #HowAmericaPays.

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