

FEBRUARY 2019

California's Black families and students know the value of an education. Today, more Black students are graduating from high school, going to college, and earning degrees than ever before. But for many of the 2.2 million Black Californians the dream of going to college and crossing the graduation stage remains an illusion.

California cannot remain innovative, entrepreneurial, or economically competitive without closing persistent racial equity gaps in education and ensuring more Black students go to college and graduate.

More Black students are graduating from high school than ever before

19-Year-Olds with a High School Diploma (89%)



College preparation is increasing, but the majority of Black students are not prepared by their high schools to be eligible applicants to the UC or CSU.

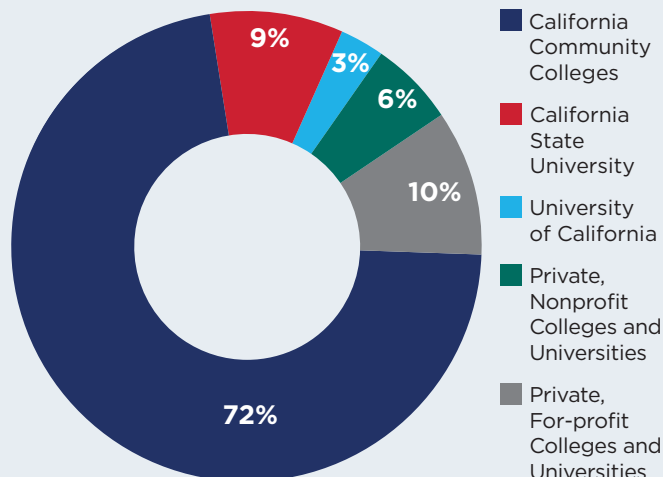
A-G Completion (35%)



65% of Black high school graduates are not prepared for college by their schools

Source: California Department of Education, 2017; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2016, includes adults 25-64 years old

The vast majority of Black students enroll in a California public college or university



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 12-month Enrollment Component, 2017

Two-thirds of Black adults have attended college but only half earned a degree

Some College, No Degree (49%)



Associate's Degree (15%)



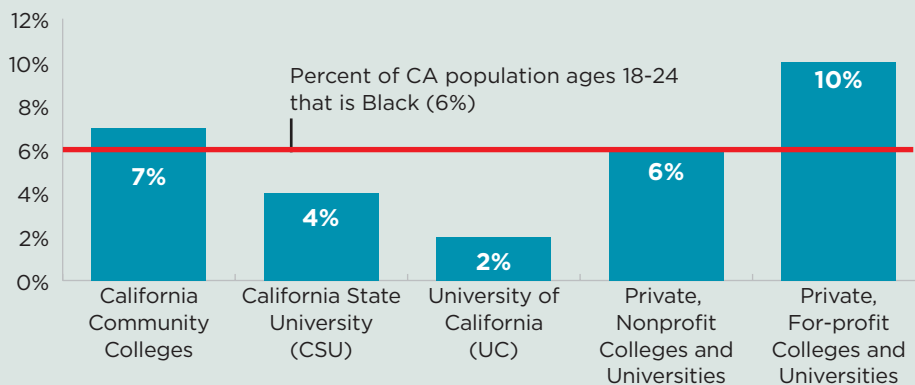
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (36%)



Source for the figures above: California Department of Education, 2017; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2016, includes adults 25-64 years old

84% of Black college students attend a California public college or university — but they remain underrepresented at the CSU and UC and overrepresented at for-profit institutions.

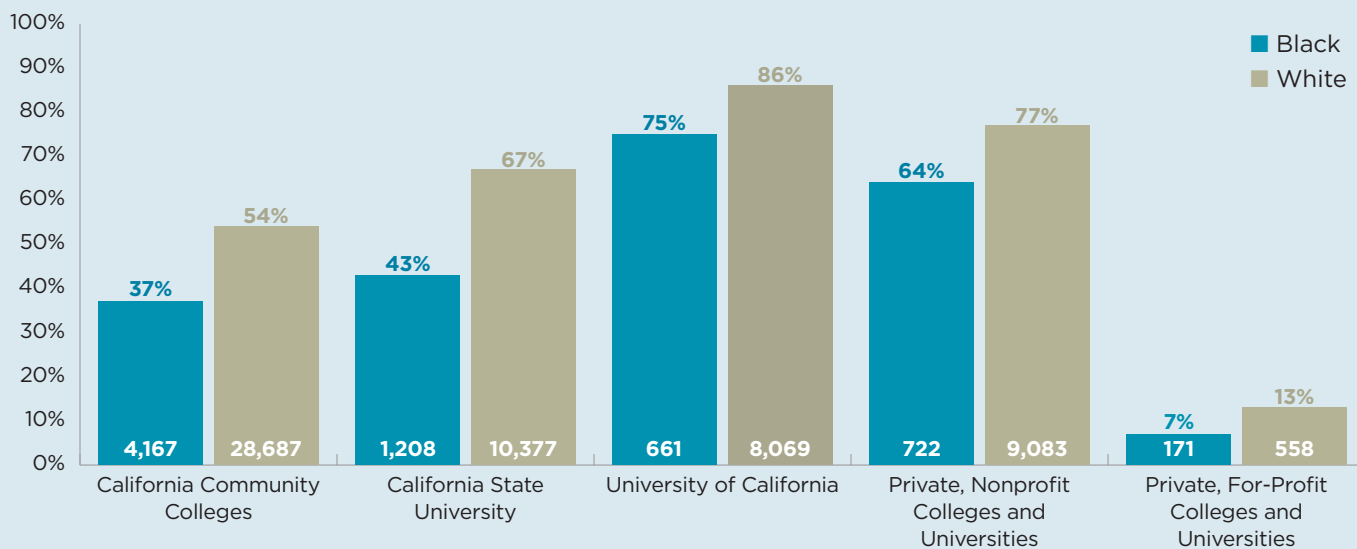
Percent of Total Students by Segment that are Black



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2016; National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Component, 2017

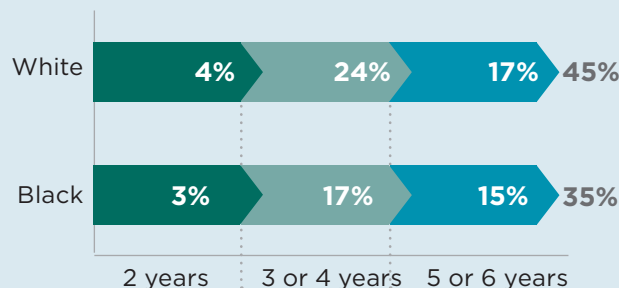
Colleges and Universities Graduate Black Students at Lower Rates than White Students

6-year Completion Rates for Black Students Compared to White Students



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Component, 2018; California Community College Chancellor's Office, DataMart, 2017

Community Colleges Only Transfer 35% of Black Students After Six Years



Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office, DataMart, 2017

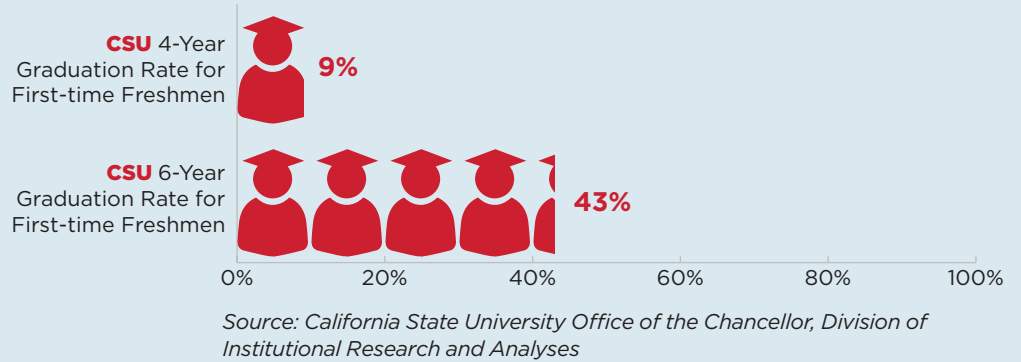


“If you don’t walk in and have a great counselor or know how to begin, transferring can be pretty confusing. I was enrolled in a Geology course without realizing I needed to take a lab. No one told me this. This delayed me from being able to transfer for an entire semester.”

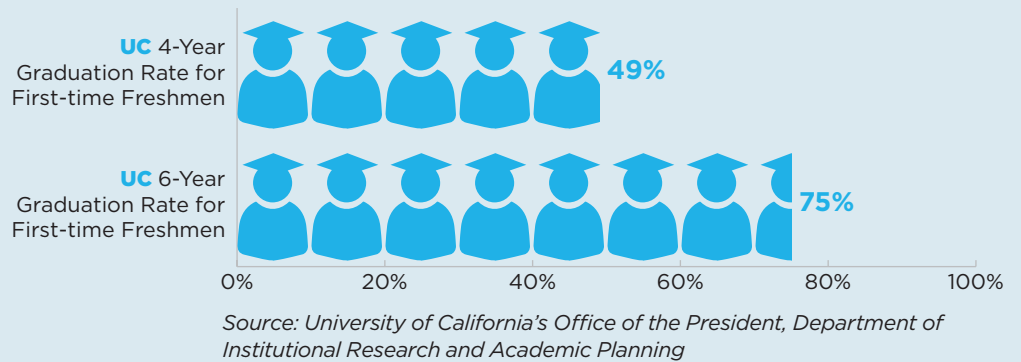
- ALEXANDER WALKER-GRIFFIN
Former Community College Student

Graduation Rates Are Still too Low for Black Californians at the UC and CSU

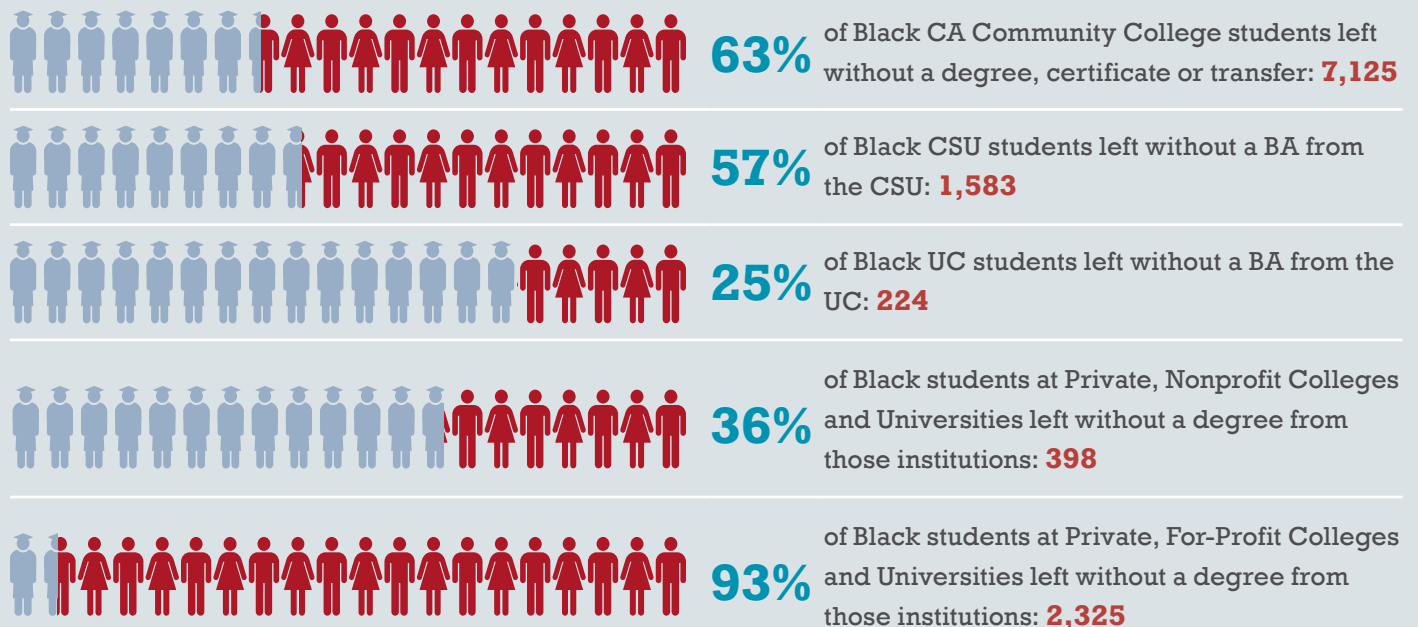
The CSU Only Graduates 9% of Black Students in 4 Years



The UC Graduates Half of Black Students in 4 Years



Lost Talent = 11,655 Black Students



The 11,655 students without degrees in this table represent one cohort of students who started college in that particular higher education segment in 2010 and were set to graduate in 2016 from that segment but did not. Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Component, 2018; California Community College Chancellor's Office, DataMart, 2017

RECOMMENDATIONS

California is home to the 5th largest Black population in the country and Black Californians are an integral part of the state's history, culture, and economy. A highly educated Black populace equals success for California. The good news is that more Black Californians are graduating from high school, going to college and earning a degree, but too many talented Black students are still being left behind. We need our policymakers and college leaders to ensure the California dream is possible for all of its residents, and this can only happen if there is the political will and courage to eliminate inequities and improve Black student success.



Set a specific statewide college attainment goal for Black students to close persistent college preparation, access, and completion gaps.



Establish a statewide strategy to support Black adults with some college but no degree so they can return to college and complete their education.



Increase enrollment capacity at the CSU and UC by providing additional funding and ensuring improvements in time to degree by the UC and CSU.



Require strong implementation of community college reforms that improve placement of students into college-level English and math, transfer and degree pathways, and utilize the new student success funding formula to support Black student success.



Provide state financial aid that helps low-income and middle-income students afford the full cost of college – not just tuition and fees.



Create welcoming campus environments that provide Black students with a strong sense of belonging by increasing the proportion of Black faculty and staff and ensuring all faculty and staff are committed and have the training to improve Black student success.



Establish a strong and centralized education data system overseen by a higher education coordinating body that will identify education trends and solutions to improve outcomes for Black students.



Provide adequate oversight of for-profit colleges by maintaining state financial aid minimum standards and strengthening data systems so that students and the public have clear information on college outcomes in order to make informed choices.



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