

New England Adult Learner Survey Findings

Higher Education Experience

NOVEMBER 2020

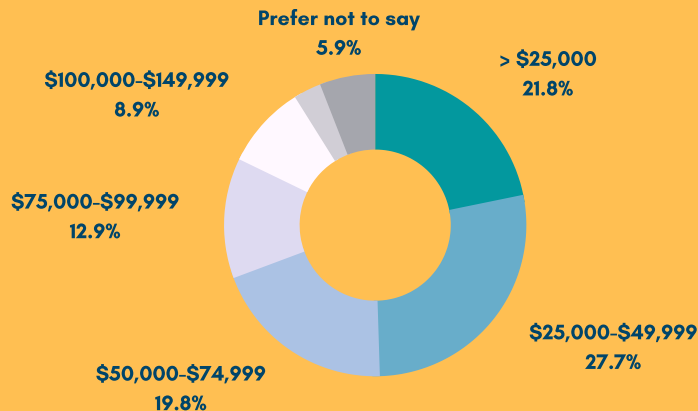
In the spring of 2020, NEBHE, in collaboration with Maguire Associates, administered a survey to adult learners currently living in New England who were over the age of 25 and had achieved a minimum education level of a high school diploma or GED, but did not hold a Bachelor's degree. We received 2,031 valid responses from a sample representative of the populations of the six New England States. Here is what we discovered about New England adults' experiences with higher education.

SURVEY RESPONSE DEMOGRAPHICS

Valid response counts

- Massachusetts: 959 (47%)
- Connecticut: 490 (24%)
- New Hampshire: 176 (9%)
- Maine: 173 (9%)
- Rhode Island: 146 (7%)
- Vermont: 87 (4%)

Income level

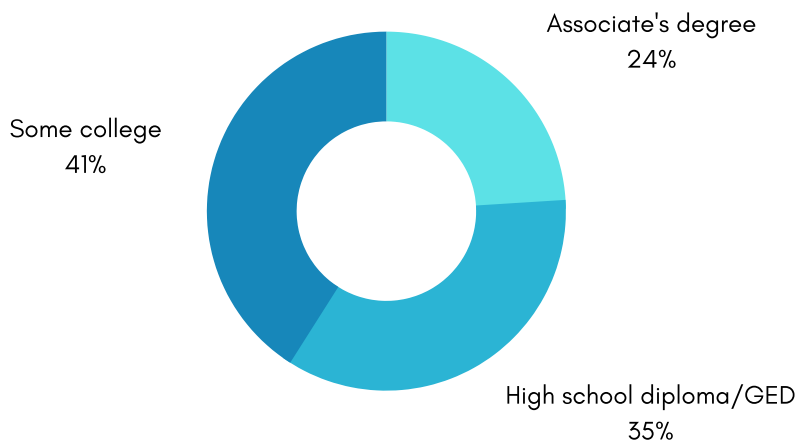


Employment status

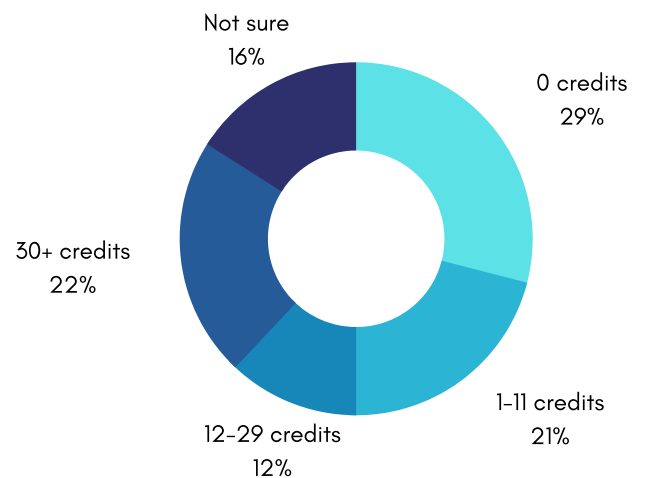
- 47% Employed full-time
- 15% Employed part-time
- 12% Unemployed, seeking employment
- 17% Unemployed, not seeking employment
- 1% Full-time student
- 7% Retired

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

What is the highest level of education you have completed?



How many prior college or university credits have you earned?



Did you know...

Over half of respondents who are currently in an associate's degree program plan to continue on to a bachelor's degree program

Have you ever taken courses for credit at a college/university?

Yes: 60%

Those with college experience are more likely to be female (72%) than those without

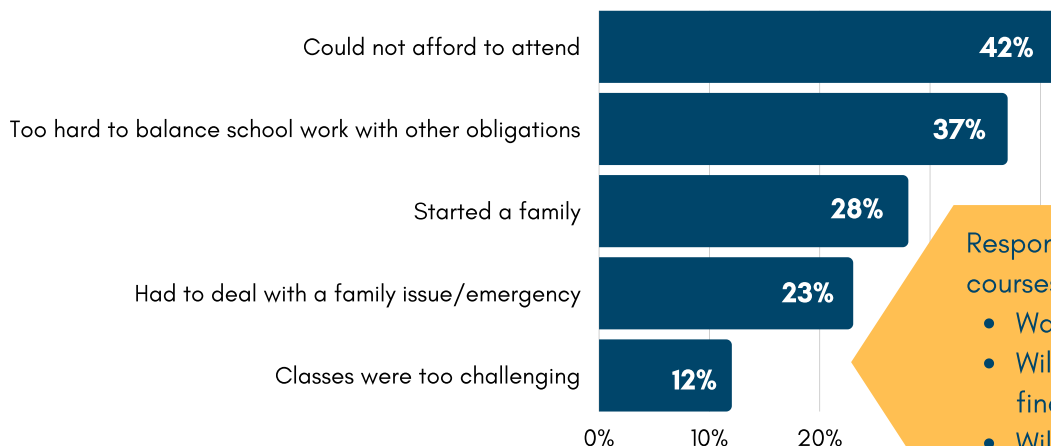
No: 40%

28% of those who have never taken a course for credit report incomes below \$25,000. This compares to only 18% amongst those with some past credit-taking behavior.

Where have you taken courses for credit?

State	Most commonly cited institution(s)
Connecticut	Gateway Community College University of Connecticut
Maine	UMaine Augusta University of Southern Maine
Massachusetts	Bristol Community College North Shore Community College
New Hampshire	Hesser College New Hampshire Technical Institute
Rhode Island	Community College of Rhode Island
Vermont	Community College of Vermont

For those with some college experience, what were the main reasons you decided to stop taking courses in the past?



Respondents who are considering taking courses in the future cited reasons including:

- Want to finish what I started
- Will make me and my family more financially secure
- Will make me eligible for new job opportunities



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