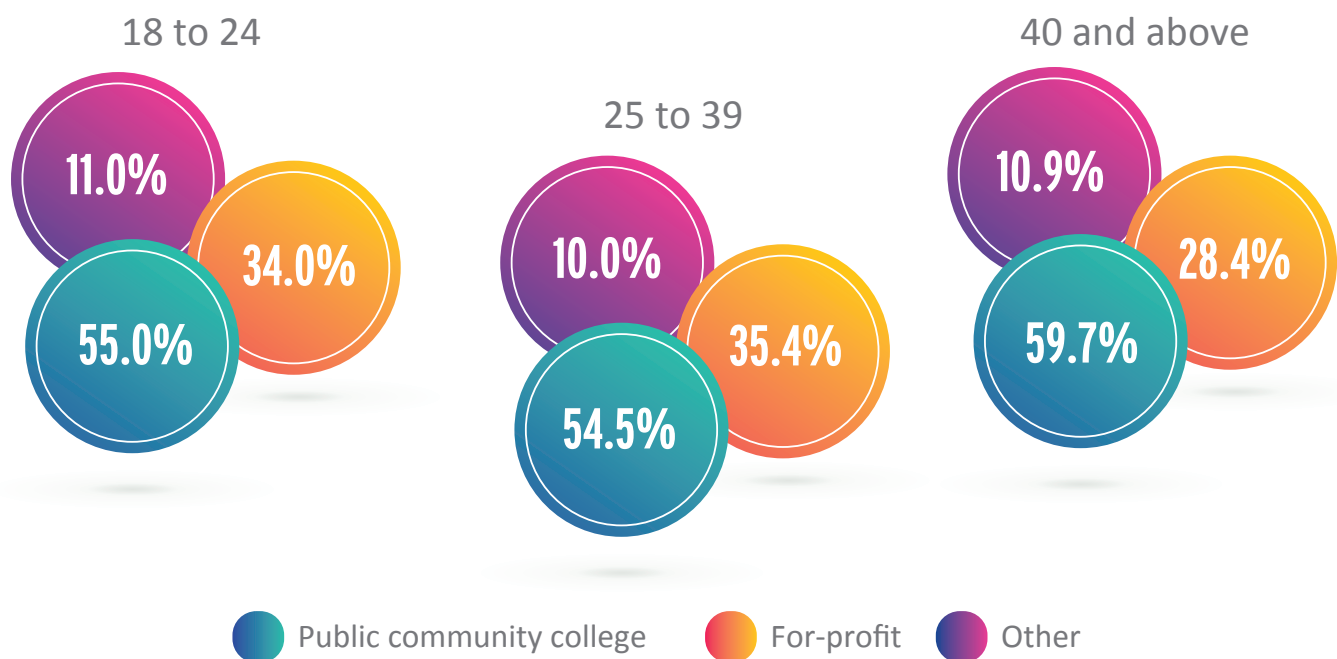


For certificates, it's community colleges

Older students are more likely to earn certificates at community colleges than traditional-age students.

Distribution of less-than-two-year certificate earners by age and institution type, 2016-17



Source: AACC analysis of Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2016-17 Completions Data File, U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, August 2018.



Well over half of students who earned a certificate in the 2016-17 academic year received their credential from a public community college, according to federal data. Roughly one-third of certificate earners received their credential from a for-profit college, with students ages 25 to 39 more likely than those in other age groups to have earned their certificate from a for-profit college. Students ages 40 and above were more likely to have earned their certificate at a community college than students 18 to 39. While only 1.5 percent of students who earned a certificate were under 18, 79 percent of them earned their certificate from a community college. Slightly more than one in 10 certificate earners received their credential from another type of postsecondary institution.

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