

2025 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
Wave 180: Survey on Higher Education
September 22-28, 2025

TOPLINE
N=3,445

Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. Percentages less than 0.5% are replaced by an asterisk (*). Rows/columns may not total 100% due to rounding. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel.

"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say they don't know how to answer. In cases where "not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "no answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.

This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.

American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet).

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	3,445	+/- 1.9 percentage points

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

HIGHED

ASK ALL:

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE]

Now, thinking about the higher education system, that is colleges and universities, in the United States today...

Do you think the higher education system in the U.S. is generally going in the...

	<u>Right direction</u>	<u>Wrong direction</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 22-28, 2025	28	70	2
Oct 13-19, 2020	41	56	3
Jun 19-Jul 2, 2018	38	61	2

HIGHEDJOB**ASK ALL:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1, HOLDING 6 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION AND ROTATION IN DATA FILE]

How would you rate the job the higher education system in the U.S. (that is, colleges and universities) is doing these days when it comes to each of the following?

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Very good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [n=1,718]							
a.	Keeping tuition costs affordable							
	Sep 22-28, 2025	2	3	7	19	60	9	*
	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [n=1,727]							
b.	Providing financial help to students who need it							
	Sep 22-28, 2025	3	8	20	28	24	17	*
	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [n=1,718]							
c.	Exposing students to a wide range of opinions and viewpoints							
	Sep 22-28, 2025	5	13	23	17	27	14	*
	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [n=1,727]							
d.	Preparing students for well-paying jobs in today's economy							
	Sep 22-28, 2025	3	9	22	29	26	11	*
	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [n=1,718]							
e.	Advancing research and innovation							
	Sep 22-28, 2025	8	19	28	19	13	14	*
	ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [n=1,727]							
f.	Providing opportunities for students to express their own opinions and views							
	Sep 22-28, 2025	5	12	23	22	24	13	1
	ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [n=1,718]							
g.	Developing students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills							
	Sep 22-28, 2025	5	11	22	23	26	12	*

HIGHEDJOB CONTINUED ...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Very good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [n=1,727]							
h. Providing mental health support for students who need it							
Sep 22-28, 2025	4	7	18	23	22	25	*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

PARTY	In politics today, do you consider yourself a:						
ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3,4) OR MISSING [n=1,441]:							
PARTYLN	As of today do you lean more to... ¹						
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	No answer	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	28	28	28	14	2	18	18

¹ PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.