

# Introduction to College Terminology, Basic Issues, and Some Facts about College Students By Professor Knucklehead



# Types of Student Classification

- A. Traditional Students- These individuals are under 24 years old. They make up the majority of the student body on campuses.
- B. Non-Traditional (Adult) Students- These individuals are ages 25 and up. Most go back to further their careers or change to another field.
- C. International Students- Students from countries outside US. They make up less than a million of the student body on campuses.
- D. Auditor Students- Individuals who audit courses for non-credit. It is usually for knowledge acquisition.

# General College Terminology (No particular order) Part 1

- 1. **Associate Degree**- two year degree usually completed at a community college.
- 2. **Bachelor Degree**- four year degree usually completed at a college or university.
- 3. **Master's Degree**- typically one to two years program. You must complete your bachelor's degree before obtaining your master's degree.
- 4. **Doctorate (Ph.D.):** "The highest academic degree awarded by a university upon successful completion of an advanced program of study, typically requiring at least three years of graduate study beyond the master's degree (which may have been earned at a different university). Ph.D. candidates must demonstrate their mastery of a subject through oral and written exams and original, scholarly research presented in a dissertation."
- 5. **Community College**- two year institution.
- 6. **College/ University**- four year or higher institution.
- 7. **Semester hour** – fall, spring, and summer terms that lasted usually 15-17 weeks each. 120 semester hours are generally needed to complete bachelor's degree.
- 8. **Quarter hour**- fall, spring, winter, and summer terms that last 10-12 weeks.
- 180 semester hours are generally needed to complete bachelor's degree.

# General College Terminology (No particular order) Part 2

- 9. **W**- Withdraw from a course.
- 10. **S**- Satisfactory in a course.
- 11. **U**- Unsatisfactory in a course.
- 12. **Part time**- usually the student only takes 1-3 courses per term.
- 13. **Full time**- usually the student take more than 3.
- 14. **Term**- the period of time you start and finish a course.
- 15. **Commencement**- Day of graduation.
- 14. **Syllabus**- a contract between professor and students with an detail explanation of the course.
- 15. **Prerequisite**: a course that must be taken before you can assign up for another (usually low level course for an upper level course).
- 16. **Major**- Primary Course of Study.
- 17. **Minor**- Secondary Course of Study. Not as many classes within subject.
- 18. **Audit**- to take a course without receiving credit.
- 19. **Elective**- Course taken that is not required of major or minor.

# General College Terminology (No particular order- Cont.) Part 3

- 20. **Resident**- student meets requirement to be consider eligible for instate tuition (usually lower cost than out of state).
- 21. **Non-resident**- student does not meet requirement to be consider eligible for instate tuition (must pay out of state).
- 22. **Transcript**- A document that can be unofficial or official containing your college work and grades.
- 23. **General Education**- requirements specified by colleges that everyone must take at the college or within a major/degree.
- 24. **Core** – The relevant curriculum of your major.
- 25. **Graduate Assistant/Graduate Adviser (GA)**: “A GA is often the same thing as a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI).”
- 26. **Hall Coordinator (HC)**: “A hall coordinator is typically in charge of your entire hall and oversees Resident Advisers (RAs).”
- 27. **Hall Council (HC)**: “ A Hall Council is a small governing body that serves as a student voice and helps make decisions and plan programs for your hall community; frequently the same thing as a Residence Council.”

# General College Terminology (No particular order- Cont.) Part 4

- 28. **Academic Probation:** “If your grades fall below a certain level, your campus may place you on academic probation. This traditionally means that you need to raise your GPA or face the possibility of being removed from your school for academic reasons.”
- 29. **Service Learning:** Service Learning is an approach to learning (i.e., classroom learning) that is often complemented by experiential learning (i.e., volunteering, immersion programs).
- 30. **Study Abroad:** Pursuing academic studies in another country for a semester or two.
- 31. **Alumna:** Female graduate or former student.
- 32. **Alumnae:** Female graduates or former students.
- 33. **Alumni:** Male graduates or both male and female graduates.
- 34. **Alumnus:** Male graduate or former student.

# General College Terminology (No particular order- Cont.) Part 5

- 35. **Affidavit of Support:** "An official document proving adequate funding from an individual or organization to cover an international student's educational and living expenses while enrolled at a U.S. college or university."
- 36. **Accredited:** Official recognition that a college or university meets the standards of a regional or national association. Although international students are not required to attend an accredited college or university in the United States, employers, other schools, and governments worldwide often only recognize degrees from accredited schools. **Note exceptions.**
- 37. **Coed:** "Open to both men and women (often used to describe a school that admits both sexes and a dormitory that houses both genders)."
- 38. **Core requirements:** "Mandatory courses that students are required to complete to earn a degree."
- 39. **Curriculum:** "A program of study made up of a set of courses offered by a school."
- 40. **Deferral / Deferred admission:** "A school's act of postponing a student's application for early decision or early action, so that it will be considered along with the rest of the regular applicant group. A "deferral" can also refer to a student's act of postponing enrollment for one year, if the school agrees."

# General College Terminology (No particular order- Cont.) Part 6

- 41. **Drop:** “ To withdraw from a course. A college or university typically has a period of time at the beginning of a term during which students can add or drop courses.”
- 42. **Independent study:** “An academic course that allows students to earn credit for work done outside of the normal classroom setting. The reading or research assignment is usually designed by the students themselves or with the help of a faculty member, who monitors the progress.”
- 43. **Pass-fail:** ‘ A grading system in which students receive either a "pass" or "fail" grade, rather than a specific score or letter grade. Certain college or university courses can be taken pass-fail, but these typically don't include ones taken to fulfill major or minor requirements.’
- 44. **Plagiarism:** The use of another person's words or ideas as your own, without acknowledging that person. Schools have different policies and punishments for students caught plagiarizing, which tends to occur with research papers and other written assignments.



# General College Terminology (No particular order- Cont.) Part 7

- 45. **Provost:** "The senior academic officer of a college or university who typically oversees all academic policies and curriculum-related matters."
- 46. **Dean:** "The head of a division of a college or university."
- 47. **Liberal arts:** 'Academic studies of subjects in the humanities, social sciences, and the sciences, with a focus on general knowledge, in contrast to a professional or technical emphasis. "Liberal arts" is often used interchangeably with "liberal arts and sciences" or "arts and sciences." '
- 48. **Seminar:** "A course offered to a small group of students who are typically more advanced and who meet with a professor to discuss specialized topics."
- 49. **Thesis:** "A formal piece of writing on a specific subject, which may be required to earn a bachelor's or master's degree."
- 50. **Dissertation:** An in-depth, formal writing requirement on an original topic of research that is typically submitted in the final stages before earning a doctorate (PhD).

# Basic Issues for Students Pursuing an Education



# Basic Issue for Students Pursuing an Education #1

- 1 Taking Useless Courses: Colleges will try to get you to take useless courses. They know most people will listen to their counselor, so they train the counselor to sell certain courses. (Give an example). The courses count as electives and really are not beneficial to your career or learning. They mainly are propaganda courses to promote the University and take up space. It is better to use that slot for a minor or double major.
- Example: UFO Studies and American Studies

# Basic Issue for Students Pursuing an Education #2

- 2. Failing a course: Sometimes, we fail a course no matter how hard we try. You may have to take a course over. Most colleges will let you repeat a course or a few courses. You generally must fill out a repeat form and get permission from the Dean. You are only allowed to take twice total at some schools. Most people retake their first semester in college (due to partying).

# Basic Issue for Students Pursuing an Education #3

- 3. Transfer from One College to Another: This is one of the biggest issues for a good majority of students. Some colleges will not accept courses from lower schools (community vs. university, ivy league vs. public university). Pay attention to the guidelines specify by a transfer counselor. They may require an description of the course and additional information. Sometimes no more than a few courses can transfer due to completely different curriculum at both schools.

# Basic Issue for Students Pursuing an Education #4

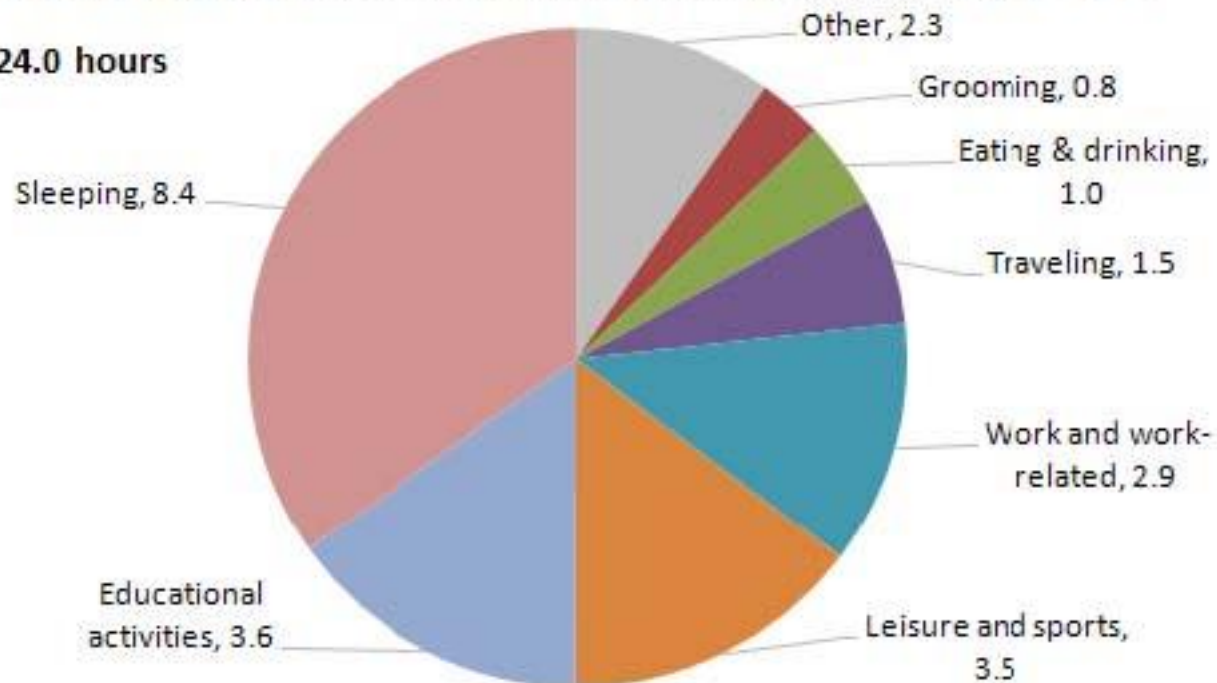
- 4. Switch majors too many times: One of the main problems with college is education variety. It is positive for the most part, but the variety makes students want to try other majors before settling down. This may seem like dating, but you will run into so many pitfalls treating majors this way. If possible start out majoring in two fields (not related). This is a good way to prevent falling into the trap of being in and out of several majors (one major must be your fun major and the other is career major).
- Example: I switch my major from Biology to Psychology the first time. Then, my Junior year I switch to Philosophy.

# Some Facts about US College Students

## 1<sup>st</sup> Graph

**Time use on an average weekday for full-time university and college students during the traditional school year (September through May), 2005–09**

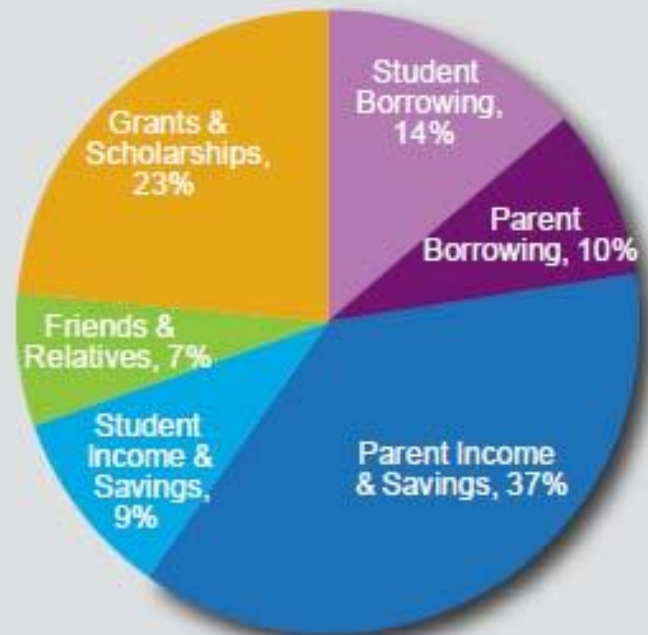
**Total = 24.0 hours**



# Some Facts about US College Students

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Graph

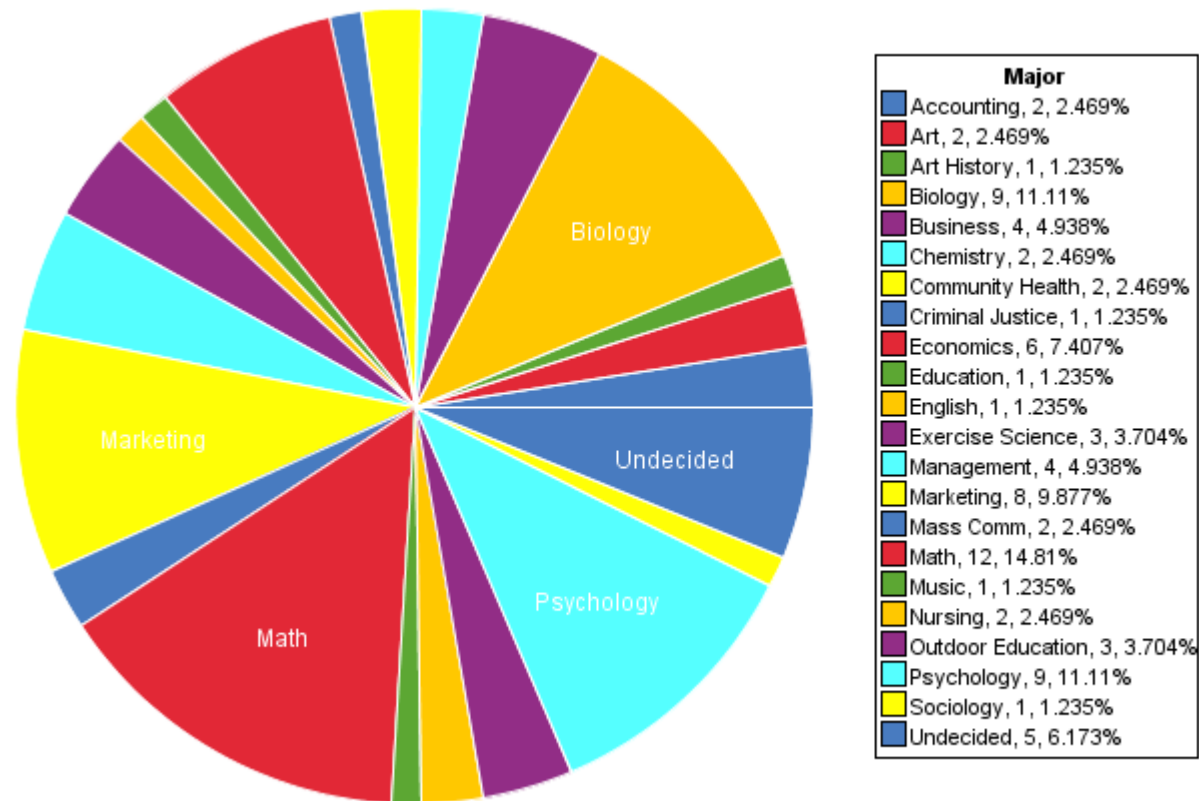
Fig. 1 How the Average Family Pays for College: Average Percent of Total Cost of Attendance Paid from Each Source





# Some Facts about US College Students

## 3rd Graph



# Some Facts about US College Students

## 4 th Graph

### COLLEGE GRADS

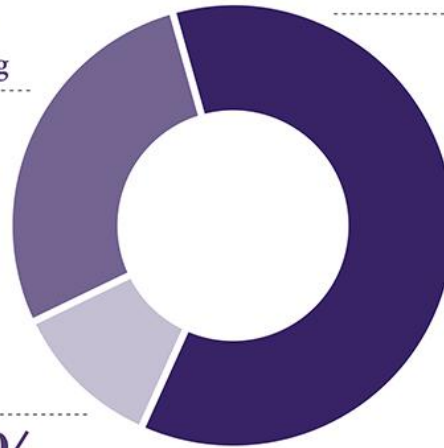
*Ages 21-24: What are they up to now?*

**28%**

Enrolled in  
Further  
Schooling

**61%**

Employed



**11%**

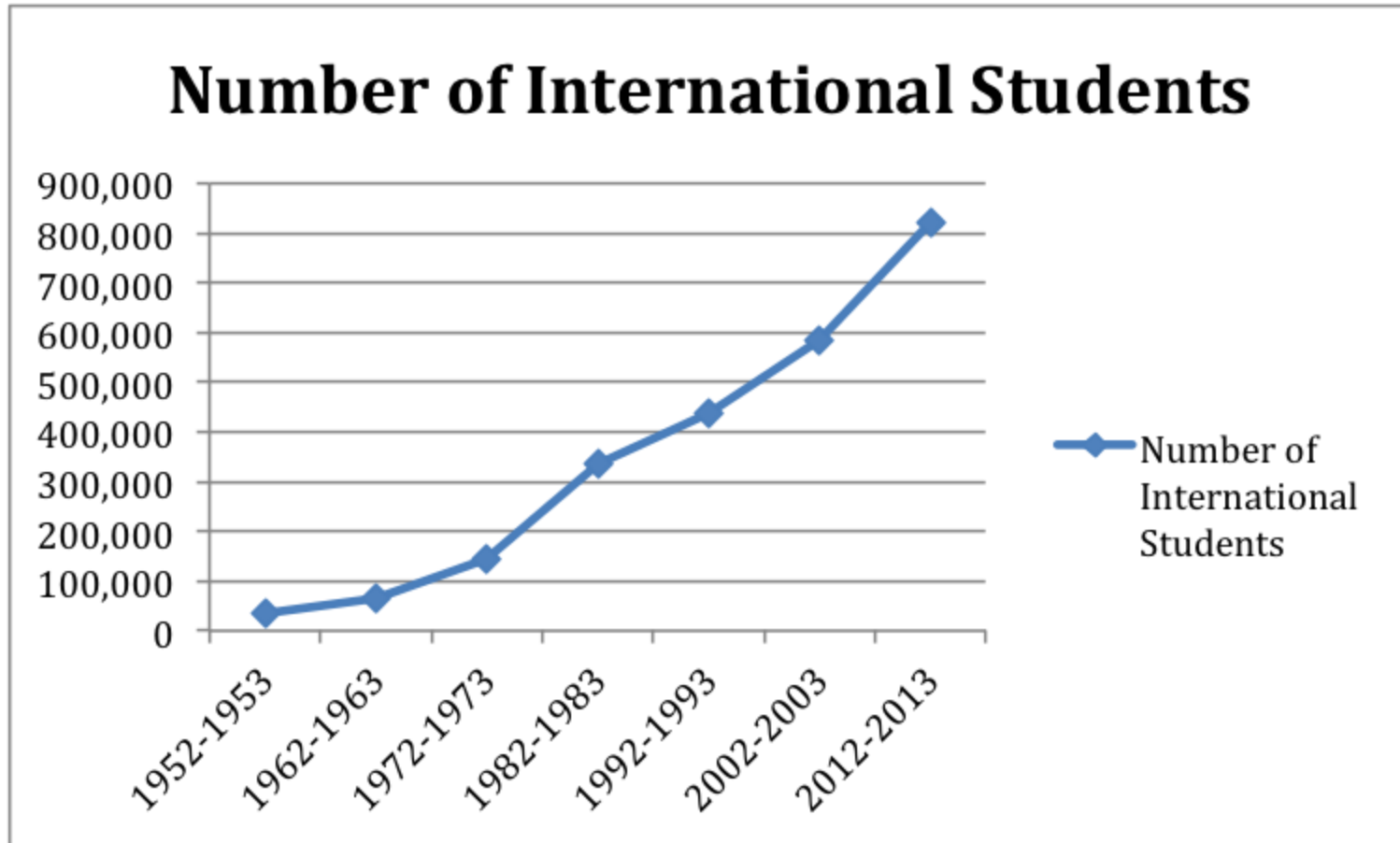
Not in School or  
Employed

Source: 2013 data, economic policy institute analysis of bureau of labor statistics data

Graphic by Griffin Belzer/TKS

# Some Facts about US College Students

## 5 th Graph



# Helpful Tips on Studying and Other Points



# Helpful Tips on Studying and Other Points

- This section will be discuss in the video.