



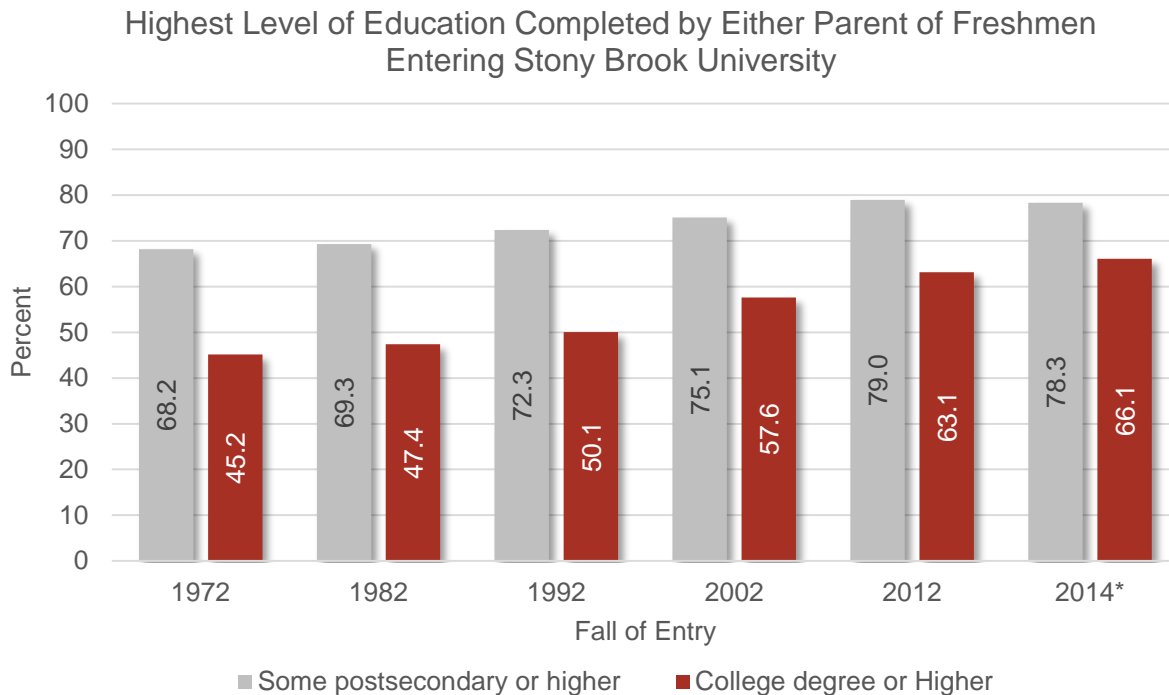
## Highest Level of Education Completed by Either Parent of Freshmen Entering Stony Brook University, 1971 – 2014

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness

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The expansion of college access to wider populations has been a policy goal and an institutional goal over multiple decades, and has led to frequent inquiries about how “first generation college students” attend and succeed in higher education. Little consensus exists about what this term means, including what constitutes “college” (cosmetology school, community college, university); what it means to be “first” (should sibling and grandparent education levels be considered?), whether college attendance or completion should be considered, and what constitutes “family” (educational attainment of stepparents or legal or *de facto* guardians). This brief provides some definition of these terms to add clarity by discussing the highest level of education attained by either parent of incoming freshmen, but caution should be used to retain qualifiers with the statistics presented.

Over time, the highest level of education attained by either parent has increased. Among freshmen entering Stony Brook in 1972, 68.2% had at least one parent who had participated in some postsecondary education; 45.2% had at least one parent who had completed a college degree (this would include associate’s degrees). By 2014, 78.3% of entering students had at least one parent who had participated in some postsecondary education, and 66.1% had at least one parent who had earned a college degree (including associate’s degrees).



Data for this report was collected on the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey. \* Low response rate in 2014; interpret with caution.

**Table 1. Highest Level of Education Completed by Either Parent of Freshmen Entering Stony Brook University, 1971 - 2014**

| Survey Year | Total Responses<br>Count | Highest Level of Education of Either Parent |                         |                             |  |                     |                       |                             |                        |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
|             |                          | Grammar school or less<br>Pct               | Some high school<br>Pct | High school graduate<br>Pct | Postsecondary school other than college<br>Pct | Some college<br>Pct | College degree<br>Pct | Some graduate school<br>Pct | Graduate degree<br>Pct |
| 1971        | 620                      | 2.7   | 7.4                     | 26.0                        | 0.0  | 21.5                | 23.1                  | 0.0                         | 19.4                   |
| 1972        | 952                      | 0.9   | 5.0                     | 25.8                        | 0.0  | 23.0                | 22.4                  | 4.9                         | 17.9                   |
| 1973        | 1,923                    | 2.9   | 6.6                     | 26.6                        | 6.5  | 20.4                | 15.5                  | 4.8                         | 16.6                   |
| 1974        | 1,745                    | 2.0   | 5.9                     | 26.2                        | 5.7  | 19.5                | 18.0                  | 4.5                         | 18.2                   |
| 1975        | 1,649                    | 3.2   | 5.6                     | 25.0                        | 6.6  | 19.3                | 19.8                  | 4.2                         | 16.3                   |
| 1976        | 1,476                    | 2.4   | 5.4                     | 25.1                        | 4.8  | 19.0                | 21.1                  | 5.0                         | 17.1                   |
| 1977        | 941                      | 2.3   | 5.1                     | 23.8                        | 4.5  | 20.2                | 21.6                  | 3.3                         | 19.2                   |
| 1978        | 1,190                    | 2.4   | 5.9                     | 25.0                        | 5.6  | 19.6                | 20.3                  | 3.4                         | 17.7                   |
| 1979        | 1,170                    | 3.5   | 5.6                     | 20.2                        | 6.0  | 18.9                | 20.6                  | 4.5                         | 20.8                   |
| 1980        | 1,178                    | 3.6   | 6.7                     | 24.4                        | 5.3  | 18.1                | 19.2                  | 3.7                         | 19.1                   |
| 1981        | 1,752                    | 2.8   | 5.2                     | 24.5                        | 4.5  | 17.9                | 20.7                  | 3.8                         | 20.7                   |
| 1982        | 1,835                    | 2.8   | 5.0                     | 22.9                        | 4.8  | 17.2                | 21.8                  | 4.0                         | 21.5                   |
| 1983        | 1,814                    | 2.4   | 4.1                     | 22.8                        | 4.7  | 19.2                | 22.2                  | 3.4                         | 21.1                   |
| 1984        | 1,609                    | 3.6   | 5.5                     | 22.1                        | 4.5  | 16.1                | 23.4                  | 3.0                         | 21.8                   |
| 1985        | 958                      | 3.9   | 5.8                     | 19.2                        | 5.0  | 18.7                | 23.2                  | 4.4                         | 19.8                   |
| 1986        | 850                      | 2.4   | 3.6                     | 19.4                        | 4.6  | 18.7                | 23.9                  | 2.7                         | 24.7                   |
| 1987        | 1,255                    | 4.5   | 7.0                     | 19.0                        | 4.8  | 18.1                | 21.7                  | 3.6                         | 21.4                   |
| 1988        | 1,155                    | 3.4   | 4.2                     | 19.5                        | 4.3  | 17.1                | 23.9                  | 3.2                         | 24.5                   |
| 1989        | 1,091                    | 4.3   | 5.3                     | 20.2                        | 5.7  | 17.8                | 22.8                  | 4.1                         | 19.8                   |
| 1990        | 978                      | 4.1   | 4.9                     | 21.1                        | 4.7  | 18.0                | 23.5                  | 2.9                         | 20.9                   |
| 1991        | 2,112                    | 4.1   | 5.1                     | 20.0                        | 4.4  | 17.5                | 25.5                  | 3.5                         | 19.9                   |
| 1992        | 1,656                    | 3.8   | 4.7                     | 19.1                        | 4.6  | 17.6                | 23.3                  | 4.0                         | 22.8                   |
| 1993        | 1,750                    | 4.3   | 6.1                     | 19.8                        | 4.8  | 15.5                | 25.4                  | 2.7                         | 21.5                   |
| 1994        | 1,744                    | 3.7   | 5.3                     | 20.3                        | 4.2  | 18.3                | 25.7                  | 2.9                         | 19.6                   |
| 1995        | 1,765                    | 4.1   | 5.3                     | 19.9                        | 4.0  | 16.2                | 28.0                  | 2.7                         | 19.8                   |
| 1996        | 1,657                    | 4.1   | 4.5                     | 19.1                        | 3.4  | 14.1                | 28.8                  | 2.5                         | 23.5                   |
| 1997        | 1,428                    | 4.6   | 6.5                     | 18.3                        | 3.6  | 17.7                | 27.7                  | 3.6                         | 17.9                   |
| 1998        | 1,928                    | 4.0   | 7.2                     | 19.3                        | 3.0  | 15.9                | 26.7                  | 3.0                         | 20.9                   |
| 1999        | 1,768                    | 4.5   | 6.8                     | 17.6                        | 3.8  | 15.3                | 28.4                  | 2.8                         | 20.8                   |
| 2000        | 2,197                    | 4.7   | 5.7                     | 17.8                        | 3.5  | 14.1                | 28.5                  | 2.1                         | 23.7                   |
| 2001        | 1,950                    | 3.0   | 6.4                     | 18.8                        | 3.8  | 14.1                | 29.1                  | 2.9                         | 21.9                   |
| 2002        | 1,773                    | 4.0   | 5.1                     | 15.7                        | 2.7  | 14.8                | 31.0                  | 2.1                         | 24.5                   |
| 2003        | 800                      | 4.9   | 5.8                     | 14.8                        | 2.0  | 12.4                | 30.6                  | 3.5                         | 26.1                   |
| 2004        | 1,903                    | 3.9   | 5.8                     | 16.4                        | 3.2  | 13.3                | 29.8                  | 2.9                         | 24.8                   |
| 2005        | 1,390                    | 3.5   | 4.8                     | 12.7                        | 3.1  | 15.4                | 29.6                  | 3.3                         | 27.5                   |
| 2006        | 1,895                    | 4.4   | 7.1                     | 13.6                        | 3.2  | 13.2                | 27.9                  | 3.2                         | 27.3                   |
| 2009        | 2,279                    | 3.4   | 5.5                     | 11.0                        | 2.2  | 15.3                | 31.7                  | 3.1                         | 27.8                   |
| 2012        | 1,232                    | 5.1   | 5.0                     | 10.9                        | 2.2  | 13.6                | 33.5                  | 3.5                         | 26.1                   |
| 2014*       | 451                      | 4.4   | 6.2                     | 11.1                        | 2.4  | 9.8                 | 33.0                  | 2.0                         | 31.0                   |

\* Low response rate, interpret with caution.

Source: CIRP Freshman Survey