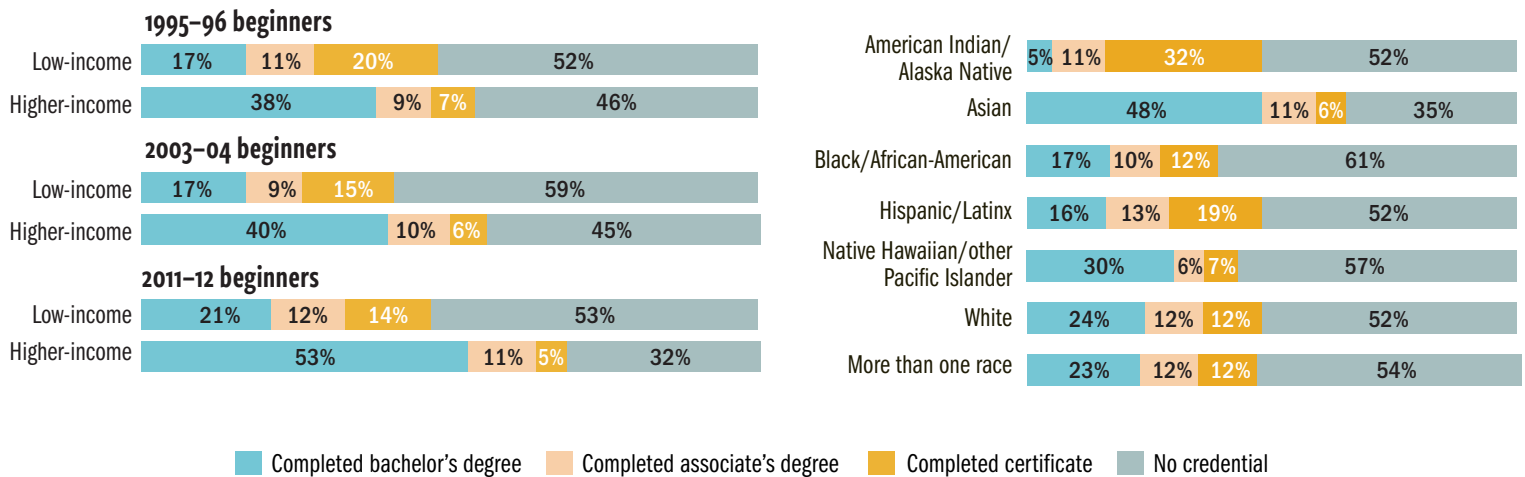


Attainment and Post-Graduation Earnings of Low-Income College Students

More low-income than higher-income students earned a certificate, and more higher-income than low-income students earned a bachelor's degree.^{1,2} Bachelor's degree attainment has increased more over time for higher-income than for low-income students.

Among low-income students, certificate and bachelor's degree attainment differed by race/ethnicity.³



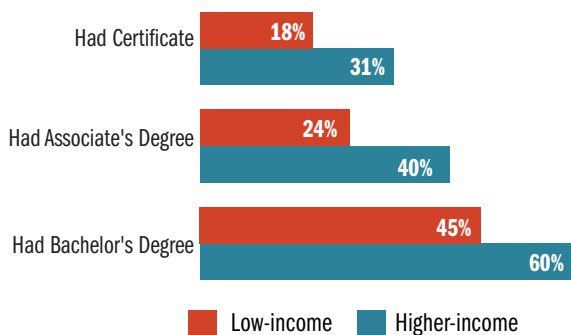
Among those who earned a bachelor's degree,

graduates with a **low-income background** earned a median of **\$29,977**

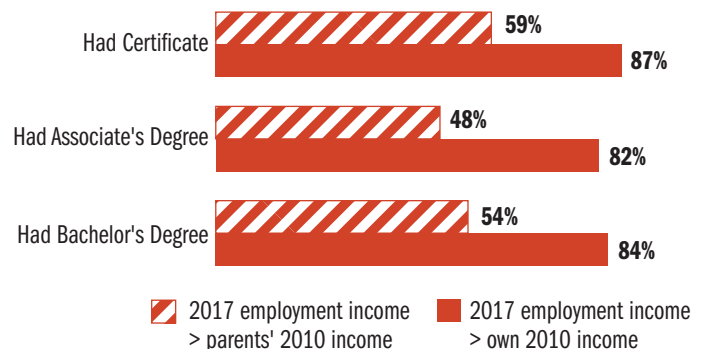
and

graduates with a **higher-income background** earned a median of **\$35,907**

Fewer graduates with a low-income background earned enough to afford basic necessities for their family than those with a higher-income background.⁴



Among credential earners with a low-income background, many had incomes higher than their parents' 2010 income (financial dependents) or higher than their own 2010 income (financial independents).⁵



Note: ¹Low-income is defined as a family income under 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The 200% threshold is similar to those used by federal programs to determine eligibility for aid. Higher-income is defined as a family income 200 percent or more of the federal poverty level. ²Outcomes are measured six years after first enrolling in college. Attainment refers to highest undergraduate-level attainment. ³Fact sheet refers to students who first enrolled in college in academic year 2011–12, unless stated otherwise. ⁴Earnings data represent graduates who were employed and not enrolled. ⁵“Employment income > parents' 2010 income” represents graduates who had been financially dependent students; “Employment income > own 2010 income” represents graduates who had been financially independent students. Data sources are United Way of Northern New Jersey, 2016 Household Survival Budget data and U.S. Department of Education, Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Studies of 1996/01, 2004/09, and 2012/17. Fact sheet produced by RTI International, supported by Ascendium Education Group.

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