Social Mobility, Race, and Higher Education
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The Fading American Dream

Percent of Children Earning More than Their Parents, by Year of Birth
The Geography of Upward Mobility
Mean Household Income at Age 35 for Children with Parents Earning $27,000 (25th Percentile)
Two Americas: The Geography of Upward Mobility For Black vs. White Men
Average Income at Age 35 For Men Whose Parents Earned $27,000 (25th percentile)
Parent Incomes and Student Outcomes
Measuring the Economic Mobility of Colleges

Use attendance and income data on all college students from 1999-2013 from Treasury and Dept. of Education

- **Parents**: Measure household incomes when students are teenagers

- **Students**: Measure earnings in the mid-30s for enrolled students

Rank students and parents relative to others in the same cohort
A college’s *mobility rate* is the fraction of its students who come from bottom fifth and end up in top fifth. This can be broken down into two key components:

- **Access rate** – fraction of students who come from the bottom fifth ($25,000 and below)
- **Success rate** – fraction of students from the bottom fifth who make it to the top fifth ($58,000 and above)

\[
\text{Mobility Rate} = \text{Access} \times \text{Success}
\]
Which Colleges Help Move Low-Income Students to the Top of Income Ladder?

Mobility Rates: Success Rate Versus Access Rate by Institution
Which Colleges Help Move Low-Income Students to the Top of Income Ladder?

Mobility Rates: Success Rate Versus Access Rate, Institutions in the Room Highlighted
Top 10 Colleges in America
Fraction of Bottom-to-Top Success Stories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cal State-Los Angeles</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pace University</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY-Stony Brook</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Career Institutes</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. Texas-Pan American</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUNY System</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale Comm. Coll.</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Texas College</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal State Poly-Pomona</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. Texas-El Paso</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy Plus Colleges</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. College in the U.S.</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Share of Low-Income Students at Colleges Changes Over Time

Changes in Access at High Mobility Rate Colleges

Access

Percent of Students from Bottom 20%

Cohort

Year in Which Students Were Age 20 Attending a College or University
CLIMB is a partnership between Opportunity Insights and 400 colleges across the U.S. that seeks to help colleges improve the economic mobility of their students by:

- Increasing access to low-income students to college
- Ensuring the success of students from disadvantaged backgrounds at college
The CLIMB Network’s Current Members
CLIMB Currently Includes 422 Colleges That Collectively Serve More Than 5.2 million students
Which Colleges Help Move Low-Income Students to the Top of Income Ladder?
Mobility Rates: Success Rate Versus Access Rate, Schools in the Room Highlighted

- Georgetown University
- Vanderbilt University
- Columbia University
- Harvard University
- Lehigh University
- Middlebury College
- Brown University
- George Mason University
- Pace University
- University Of Texas At Austin
- San Jose State University
- University Of California, Riverside
- Ohio State University
- University Of Maryland System
- University Of South Florida
- Texas State University
- University Of Mississippi
- Oakland University
- Georgia State University
- CUNY Lehman College
- University Of South Carolina System
- Tennessee State University
- Lincoln University
- Chicago State University
- Alamar College
- Los Angeles County Community College
- Columbus State Community College
- SouthWest Tennessee Community College
- Cuyahoga Community College

Success Rate Versus Access Rate: Which Colleges Help Move Low-Income Students to the Top of Income Ladder?