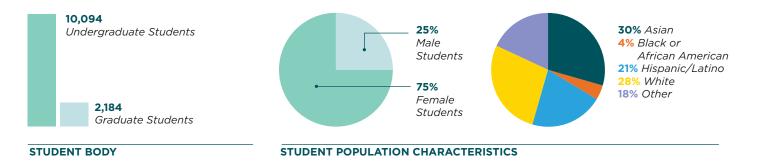


AHEAD OF THE CURVE

West Coast University (WCU) has been educating and preparing students for nursing and healthcare related careers for over 100 years. WCU opened its doors in Los Angeles, California in 1909 as a small ophthalmology school, with instruction conducted from a single classroom. Today, WCU offers a diverse range of health care programs across six campuses in Southern California, Texas, and Florida. WCU is known for its preeminent undergraduate, master's, and doctorate nursing programs. In 2019, WCU produced 28% of the bachelor-credentialed nurses in the state of California.

WCU also offers undergraduate degree programs in dental hygiene, as well as master's and doctorate programs in health administration, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and pharmacy. WCU is committed to helping prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals and leaders through academic excellence, fostering of a student-centric culture, and investment in advanced campus facilities including state of the art simulation labs.

WEST COAST UNIVERSITY BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020:



DEFAULT RATE:

- » 0% student default rate with Sallie Mae for 2019 and 2020
 - Only 10 total defaults since 2014
 - Lowest default rate of any nonprofit or proprietary school in the country
 - Top 5 in the nation for lowest default rates at Sallie Mae
 - The private student loan default rate for WCU was 0.7% in 2016 and 0.3% in 2017
 - 44.7% of WCU borrowers with Sallie Mae paid off loans early
- » Three Year Cohort Default Rate (CDR): 2.7% (18 defaulters out of 1,149 borrowers)
 - National Average across all education sectors in 2015 was 11.5%

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

- » WCU graduates earn on average \$76,892, or \$104 million cumulatively in annual income in California
- » Passage rate for BSN programs on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), the nationwide examination for the licensing of nurses, in California for the past four years was 93.69%
- » In 2019 and 2020, WCU had either the best or second best NCLEX passage rate in the state of Florida
- » In California, nurses with a BSN make on average 20% more income than nurses with a twoyear Associate's Degree. Additionally, 70% of employers exclusively or usually hire BSN's, and 90% of employers prefer to hire BSN's, according to a study conducted by Hanover Research.

PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT:

- » Donated more than \$2.1 million to over 180 organizations in 2019:
 - Supporting the underserved, provide healthcare access
 - Increasing nurse lead research
 - Providing education opportunities
- » 15,000 annual visits to WCU's no-cost dental hygiene clinic

POLICY ISSUE:

Various federal rules, regulations and introduced federal legislation are disproportionately impacting the proprietary sector, regardless of the individual outcomes of institutions in that sector. This is resulting in the limiting of choice and access to millions of individuals that are seeking a postsecondary education. Schools like WCU play an essential role in the higher education landscape – they enable non-traditional students such as working parents and second-career students to gain practical, skills-based training that better equips them for the marketplace relative to many traditional academic paths. Proprietary schools also provide excellent career services, resume writing, and interview training to their students, to prepare and to connect them with future employers.

It is essential that students and families have clear information when considering where to invest their time, money, and energy in pursuit of postsecondary education. In the interest of fairness and transparency, all institutions that receive federal funding should be evaluated under common federal standards and metrics. Harmful federal regulations such as gainful employment and borrower defense to repayment rules, while seemingly well intentioned, sharply reduce students' access to diverse programs, including but not limited to postsecondary career-education programs, and programs offered at many reputable schools that are helping hundreds of thousands of students reach their educational goals.

