

**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 98 OCTOBER 2021  
FINAL TOPLINE  
OCTOBER 18-24, 2021  
TOTAL N=9,676**

**NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (\*). ROWS/COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING. THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BELOW ARE PART OF A LARGER SURVEY CONDUCTED ON THE AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL. THE OTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SURVEY ARE HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error at 95% confidence level</b>
U.S. adults	9,676	+/- 1.6 percentage points
<i>With a bachelor's degree</i>	4,866	+/- 1.9 percentage points
<i>Without a bachelor's degree and     not enrolled in college</i>	4,475	+/- 2.3 percentage points

**ASK IF NO BACHELOR'S DEGREE, AND NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL OR NO ANSWER TO SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (XNOCOLLWHY=1) [N=4,475]:**

NOCOLLWHY In a previous survey you told us that you do not have a four-year college degree.

Many people do not get a four-year college degree for a variety of reasons. Please indicate whether each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason why you have not received a four-year college degree. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. You didn't need more education for the job or career you wanted Oct 18-24, 2021	23	22	54	1
b. You couldn't afford to get a four-year degree Oct 18-24, 2021	42	19	39	1
c. You needed to work to help support your family Oct 18-24, 2021	36	19	44	1
d. You just didn't consider it Oct 18-24, 2021	20	21	59	1
e. You just didn't want to Oct 18-24, 2021	29	25	45	1
f. You didn't think you would get into a four-year college Oct 18-24, 2021	13	14	71	1

**ASK IF GRADUATED FROM FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE (XCOLLUSE=1) [N=4,866]:**

COLLUSE In a previous survey you told us that you have a college education.

How useful was your college education when it comes to each of the following?  
**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Extremely useful</u>	<u>Very useful</u>	<u>Somewhat useful</u>	<u>A little useful</u>	<u>Not at all useful</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Helping you develop specific skills and knowledge that could be used in the workplace Oct 18-24, 2021	38	27	22	8	4	*
b. Helping you grow personally and intellectually Oct 18-24, 2021	49	30	15	4	2	*
c. Opening doors to job opportunities Oct 18-24, 2021	44	26	19	6	6	*

**QUESTION ASKED IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

	<u>Very useful</u>	<u>Somewhat useful</u>	<u>Not too useful</u>	<u>Not at all useful</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Helping you develop specific skills and knowledge that could be used in the workplace May 25-Jun 29, 2016 <sup>1</sup>	49	35	9	6	*
b. Helping you grow personally and intellectually May 25-Jun 29, 2016	62	31	4	3	*
c. Opening doors to job opportunities May 25-Jun 29, 2016	53	29	9	8	1

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>2</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
26	32	26	14	2	16	20

<sup>1</sup> The 2016 survey was conducted via telephone (landline and cellphone), and due to the [difference in modes](#), results may not be directly comparable to those of the 2021 survey that was conducted online. In 2016, this question was asked of those who had graduated from two-year or four-year college.

<sup>2</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.