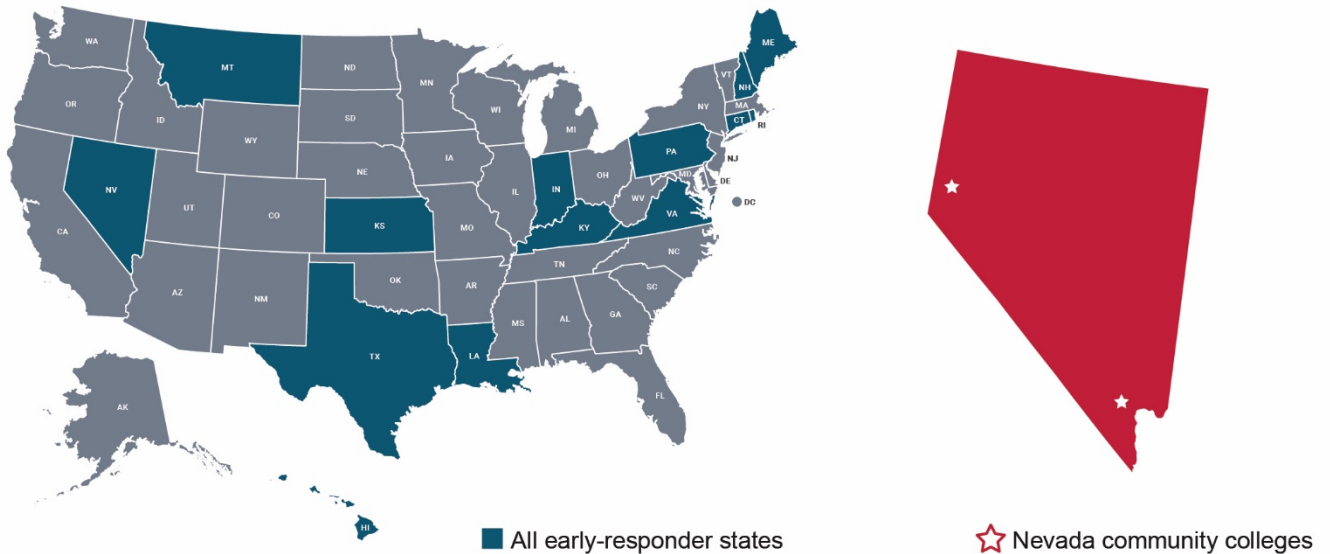


# COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE EDUCATION STUDY

In late 2020, Nevada community colleges participated in a national study of community college workforce education. Nevada was one of 14 states where education authorities volunteered to encourage colleges to respond early enough in 2020 to receive preliminary statewide results in January 2021. This brief compares Nevada to the 14 states in this early-responder group.

The goal of the study: to explore the innovation under way at community colleges across the US and highlight what these institutions are doing to put Americans to work as the nation recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic.

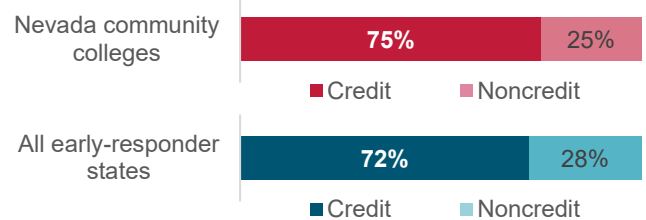
## Early responders



### Credit and noncredit enrollment

Community colleges report abundant information about students enrolled in credit-eligible programs. Much less is known about learners enrolled in institutions' noncredit divisions. This study begins to address that gap, with a special focus on two-year colleges' noncredit workforce education programs and relationships with employers.

### Percentage of students in credit & noncredit programs



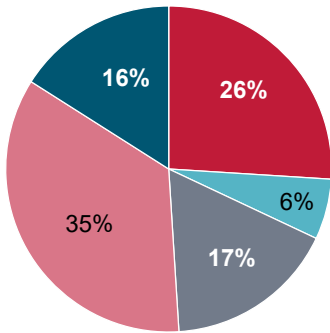
In 2019, 75 percent of Nevada community college students were enrolled in credit-eligible programs; 25 percent were enrolled in noncredit programs. This is similar to the average across all early-responder states, where 28 percent of students were enrolled in noncredit programs.

## Noncredit programs

Noncredit programs may include customized contract training provided for specific employers, occupational education programs open to all qualified students, remedial education, English as a second language and personal interest courses, among other types of instruction.

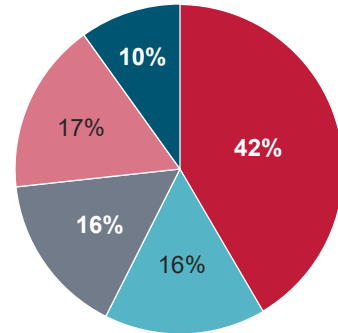
In 2019, 26 percent of Nevada noncredit community college students were enrolled in occupational programs open to all qualified students – a significantly smaller share than the average in all early-responder states.

**Nevada community colleges**



**All early-responder states**

- Occupational programs open to all qualified students
- Customized contract training
- ABE/ESL/remedial education
- Recreational or personal interest courses
- Other

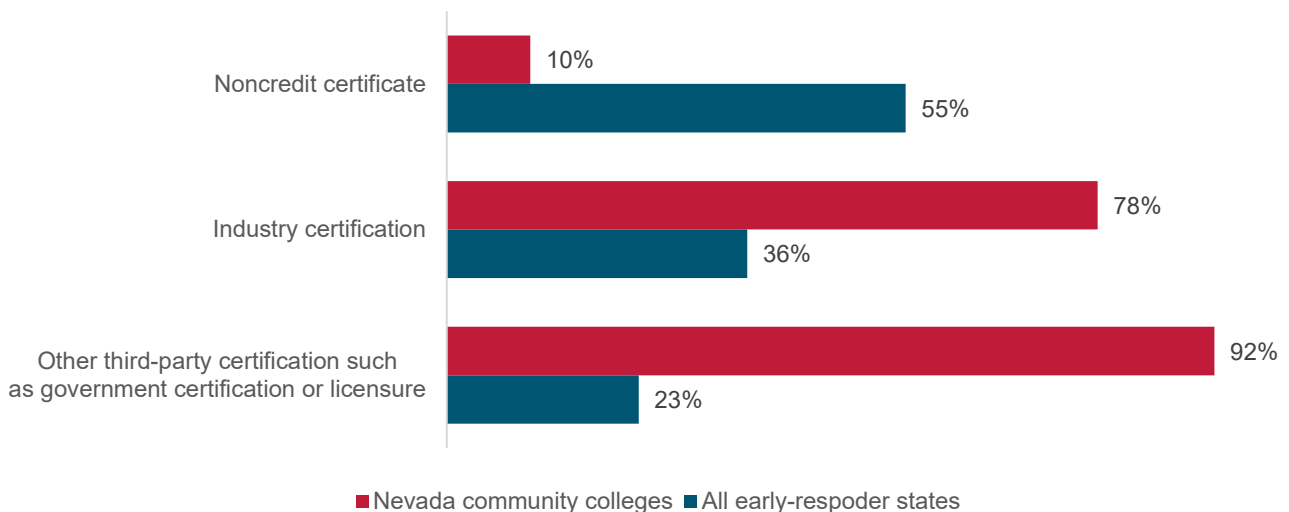


## Noncredit workforce education

### Credentials earned in noncredit occupational education programs

Students who complete noncredit workforce programs generally earn a credential of some kind, sometimes several credentials. In Nevada, 78 percent of students who completed noncredit workforce programs earned industry certifications – a significantly larger share than the average in all early-responder states.

**Percentage of program completers who earned credentials**



## Embedding industry certifications

Unlike traditional academic credentials, which signal that students have attended and completed a course of study, industry certifications signal what learners know and what job-related tasks they can perform – occupation-specific knowledge and skills measured by tests developed by industry groups.

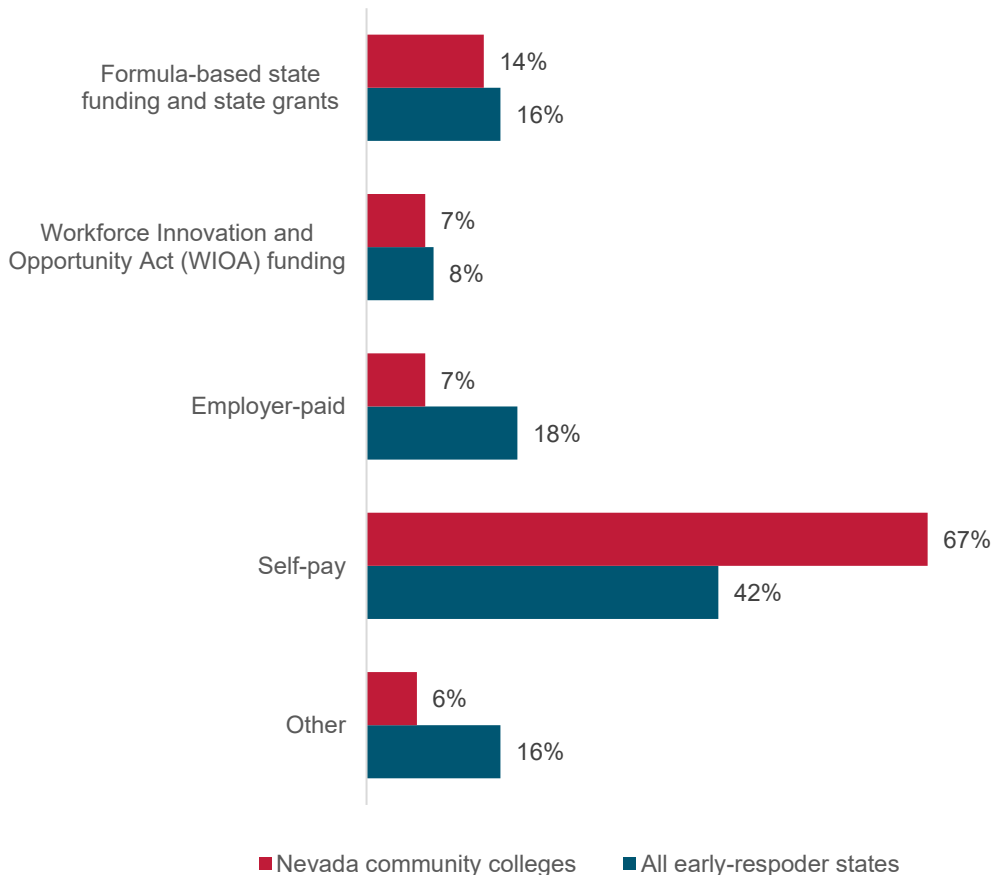
### Percentage of Nevada community colleges that embed certifications in credit & noncredit programs

Programs	Requires an assessment to complete the program	Program prepares learners for the assessment but does not require it
Credit	No programs	10% or less of programs
Noncredit	11-50% programs	11-50% of programs

## Funding

Nevada community colleges look to a variety of sources to provide funding for noncredit occupational education, with 67 percent coming from students paying out of pocket.

### Funding sources



## Quality assurance

Nevada community colleges use a variety of strategies to ensure the quality of noncredit occupational programs.

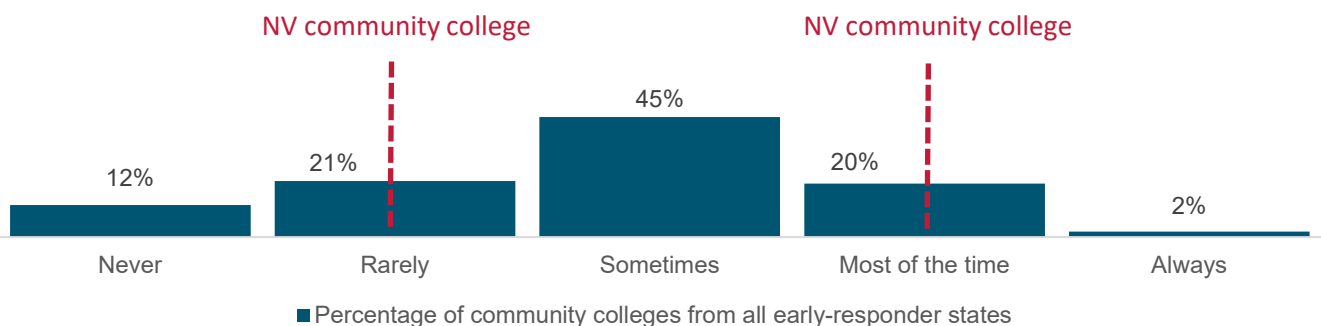
### How community colleges ensure the quality of noncredit programs

Quality assurance	Do Nevada community colleges do this?	Percent of community colleges from early-responder states that do this
Programs are designed or revised regularly based on labor market information from employers	2 out of 2 that participated in the study	96%
Students earn industry certifications or licensure	2 out of 2 that participated in the study	91%
Programs meet WIOA or Perkins standards or are approved by the state workforce board	1 out of 2 that participated in the study	64%
Institution tracks post-completion employment outcomes	none	25%

## Leveraging noncredit learning for college credit

Two of four Nevada community colleges responded to the survey question asking whether noncredit students who later enroll in credit-eligible programs can leverage most or all of what they learned in a noncredit program for college credit. One institution said this occurred 'rarely'; a second reported 'most of the time.'

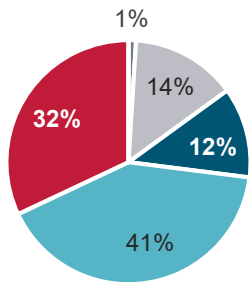
### Colleges where noncredit occupational students who later enroll in credit-eligible programs can leverage what they learned for college credit



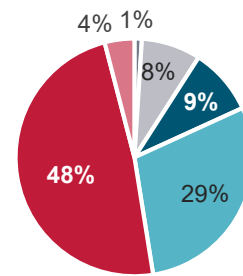
## Demographics

Many community colleges do not track demographic data for noncredit workforce students. In Nevada, where data are available for just over half of the noncredit workforce student body, 68 percent of that group identify as underrepresented minorities – African American, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, two or more races or some other race. Overall, 52 percent of Nevada residents identify as underrepresented minorities.

**Percentage of Nevada community college noncredit workforce students**



**Percentage of Nevada population**

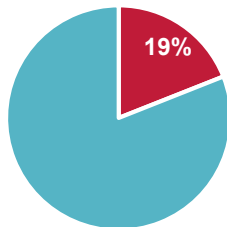


- American Indian
- Asian American
- Black or African American
- Hispanic
- White
- Two or more races or some other race

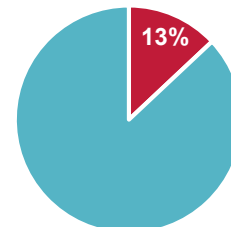
**Employer engagement**

Employers collaborate with community colleges in a wide variety of ways, from offering occasional labor market advice to partnering actively to design and provide instruction.

**Employers offering customized contract training**



**Employers offering work-based learning, including internships, apprenticeships and co-ops**



Percentage of employer partners at Nevada community colleges

**More about this study**

Four Nevada community colleges were invited to participate in this study in October 2020, and two responded by December 10, 2020, for a 50 percent response rate. This brief reflects the responses provided by participating colleges only and may not be representative of all community colleges in the state.

Nevada data were compared with data from 127 community colleges in 14 early responder states.

All questions in the study asked about fiscal year 2019. Participating colleges could pass over questions they were unable to answer; missing responses were excluded from calculated percentages.

As postsecondary workforce education evolves, so does the language used to describe it, and different educators in different states often use different terminology. The language used in this study represents an effort to find common ground but may not conform exactly with the terminology used in every state.

The survey is still being administered in some parts of the country and is still open to Nevada colleges that have not yet responded.



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