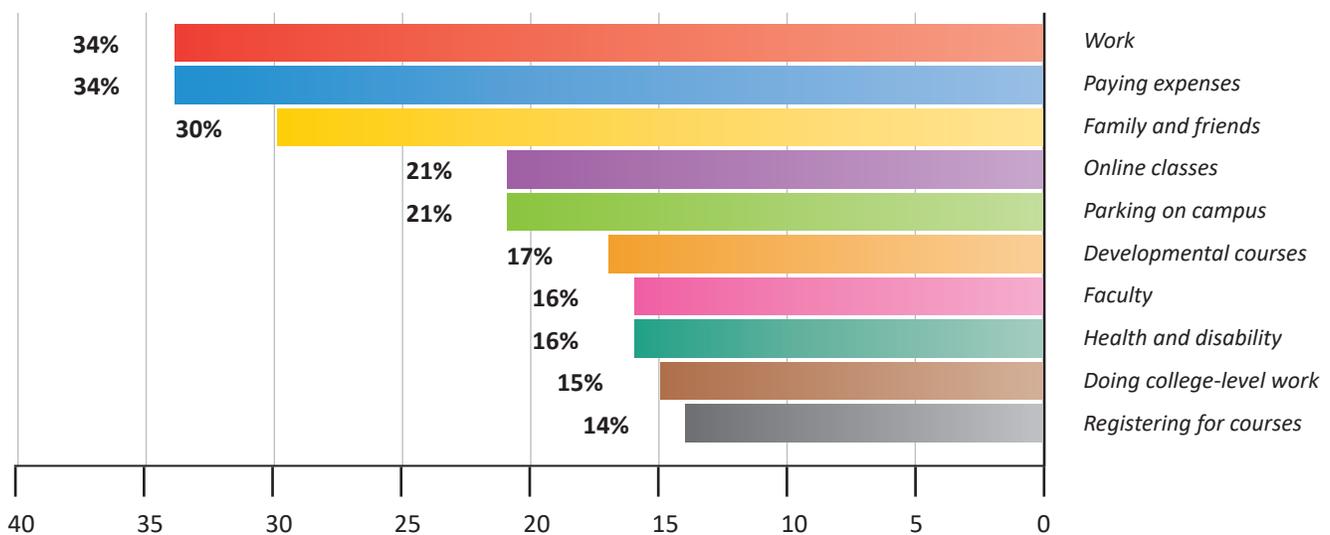


## Challenges to success

Work, expenses and family issues are the top three challenges to success cited by community college students.

Top 10 challenges to college success, according to community college students



*Editor's note:* The figures exceed 100 percent because students could select several categories in the survey.

*Source:* Percontor, "What Challenges to Success Do Community College Students Face?" January 2019.



Working, paying expenses, and family and friends are the top challenges facing many community college students, according to a recent survey. A breakdown of those categories shows the specific hurdles. For example, of students indicating work as a challenge, having work hours that do not leave time for study was most often cited (61 percent), followed by not being paid enough to cover expenses while in school (49 percent). A work schedule that hampered students' ability to use campus resources was also a challenge (36 percent), as was work schedules that conflicted with classes (35 percent). Among those who said paying expenses was a barrier, living expenses were most often cited (71 percent), followed by books, software and supplies (58 percent), and tuition and fees (55 percent). In regards to family and friends, difficulty balancing demands of family and friends (72 percent) was most often noted, followed by difficulty dealing with the health of family and friends (35 percent).

For more information, contact Matt Dembicki, director of publications at the American Association of Community Colleges, at 202-416-4525 or [mdembicki@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:mdembicki@aacc.nche.edu).