

Gender Disparities in Education in FMN-PUMA



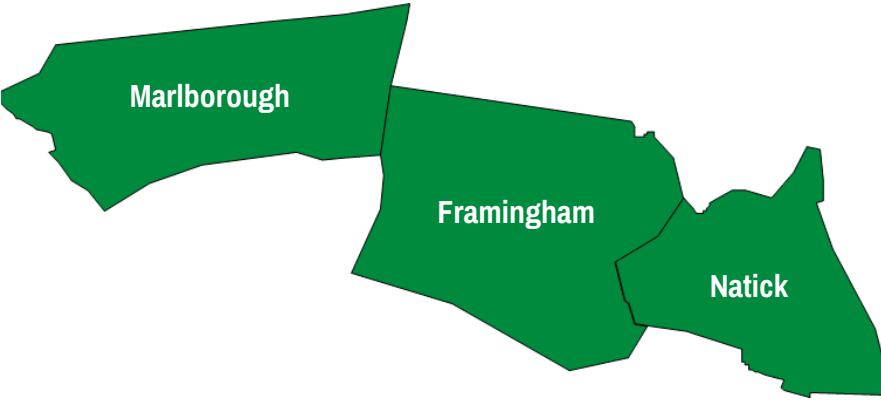
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There are substantial gender disparities in educational attainment in FMN-PUMA, particularly at the highest levels of education.

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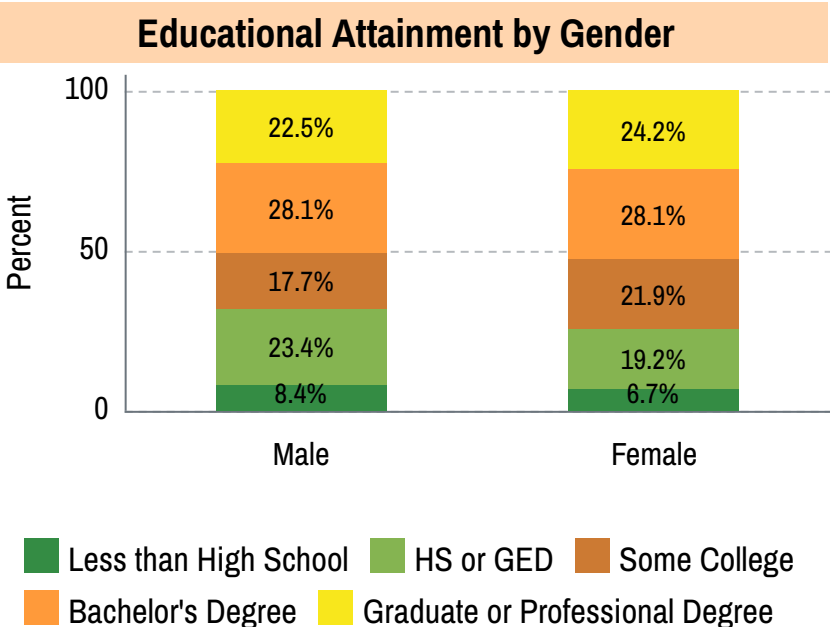
Historically, education was male dominated and prior to the early 1970's, males outnumbered females in college degrees. In 1972, the Title IX law was passed to promote gender equality in education. Since the passage of Title IX in 1972, women have surpassed men in college degree attainment, reversing the previous trend.

FMN-PUMA has a highly educated population and in the 25 to 40 year old population, there is a notable difference in educational attainment between males and females. In this region, males are more likely to only have attained a high school degree, whereas females are more likely to hold graduate or professional degrees. When compared to Massachusetts and New England, the region has a higher level of educational attainment overall and all three of these regions show a gender gap. Likewise, significant differences in educational attainment exist across racial groups with gender gaps evident across all races.

Population over age 25: 107,812
Male: 52,212
Female: 55,600

At Framingham State University, enrollment is predominately female, comprising 53.9% of total enrollment. From 2017 to 2023, more degrees were awarded to females than males at FSU each year and females consistently had higher retention rates during this period. Lastly, in Massachusetts and Greater MetroWest, college attendance rates among high school graduates have been higher for females than males in recent years.

FMN-PUMA: Population 25 Years Old and Over



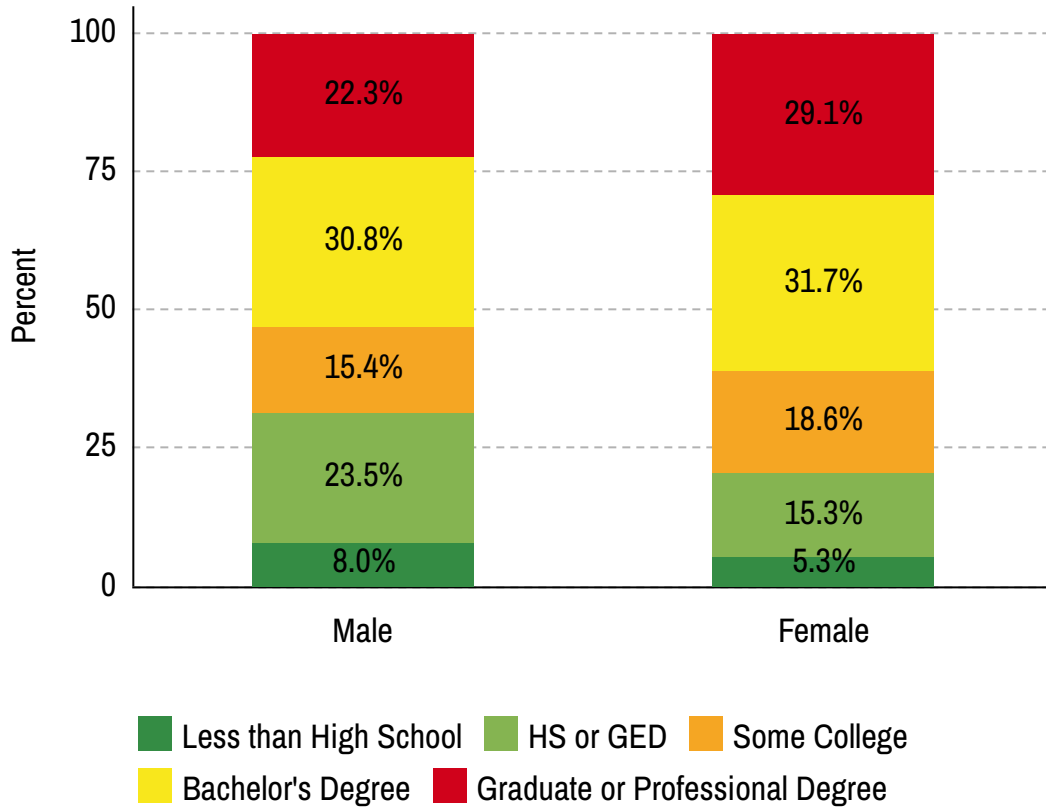
Overall, FMN-PUMA has a highly educated population, with a similar distribution of educational attainment between men and women for the population 25 years old and over.

< 10%
Less than 10% of the male and female population in FMN-PUMA have less than a high school degree.
23% of the male population has only a HS degree, compared to 19% of the female population.

28%
of males and females have bachelor's degrees.
Over 22%
of males and females have graduate or professional degrees.

SOURCE: ACS 5-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample 2021

Educational Attainment by Gender: Population 25 to 40 Years



The educational distribution by gender for individuals aged 25 to 40 starts to show divergence especially in the lowest and highest levels of education.



8% of males have less than a high school degree.

Only 5.3% of females have less than a high school degree.

23% of males and only 15% of females have only attained a high school degree. Bachelor's degrees remain even at about 30% of the male and female populations.

Females outnumber males in graduate or professional degrees by 7 percentage points, highlighting a significant disparity between the genders in educational attainment at the highest level of education.

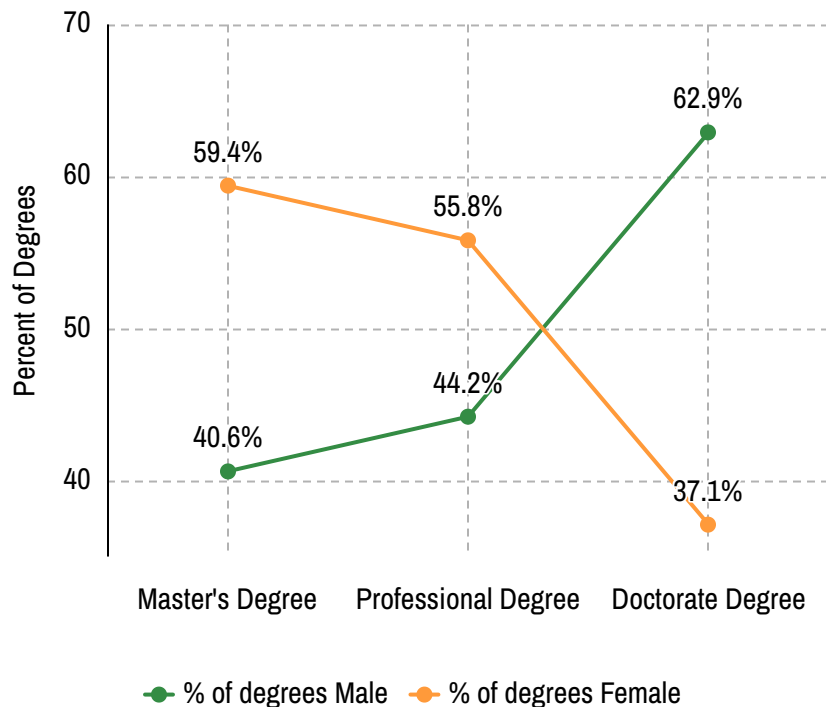
Percentage of Total Advanced Degrees by Gender: Population 25 to 40 Years

Females outnumber males slightly in bachelor degrees and by a greater amount in graduate and professional degrees.

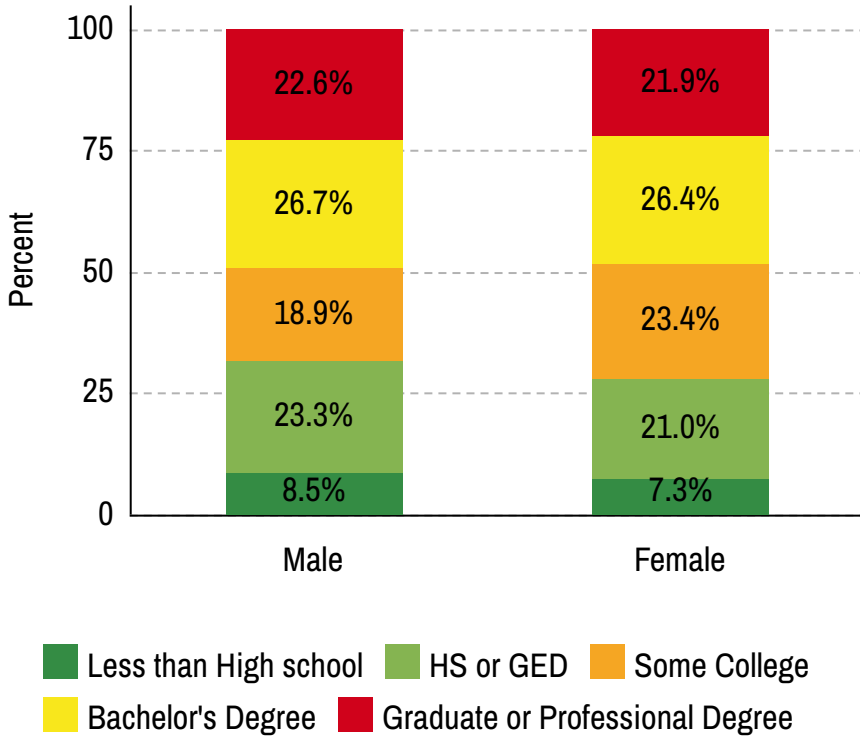
61% of females have a bachelor's degree and higher educational attainment.

53% of males have a bachelor's degree and higher educational attainment.

In the distribution of advanced degrees, males are heavily represented in doctorate degrees, accounting for nearly 63% of them. Meanwhile, females make up larger proportions in Master's and Professional Degrees. Males earn just over 40% of all Master's Degrees and 44% of all Professional Degrees.



Educational Attainment by Gender: Population Over 40 in FMN-PUMA



The distribution of educational attainment of males and females are similar among the 40 and over population of FMN-PUMA.

Females attending some college was slightly higher by 4.5 percentage points but was lower than males by just over 2 percentage points in the high school graduate or GED category.

Examining the various age groups suggests that key differences in educational attainment between males and females are primarily influenced by the 25 to 40 age group.

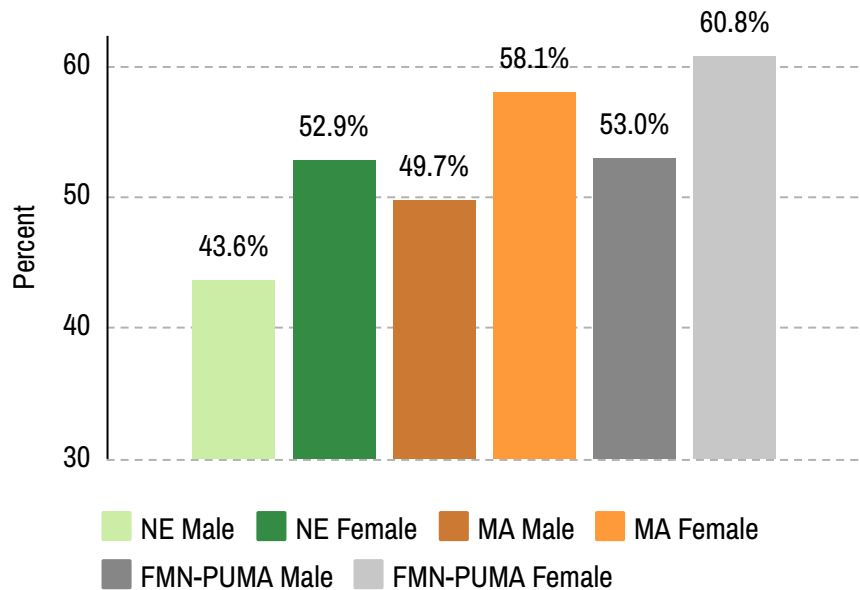
Educational Attainment in New England, Massachusetts, and FMN-PUMA: Population 25-40 Years

Percentage of Population with Bachelor's and Advanced Degrees

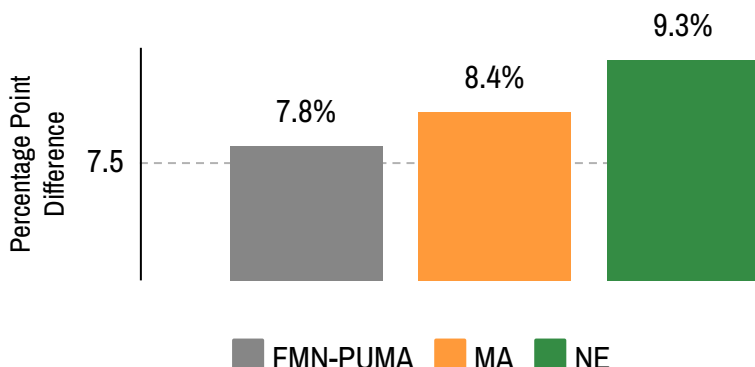
New England (NE) represents the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Overall, FMN-PUMA has a higher percent of bachelor's and advanced degrees than MA & NE. Additionally, across all three regions, females surpass males in achieving the highest levels of education.

In NE, 41% of males and 51% of females have a bachelor's or advanced degree. In MA, the percents rise to 50% for males and 58% for females.



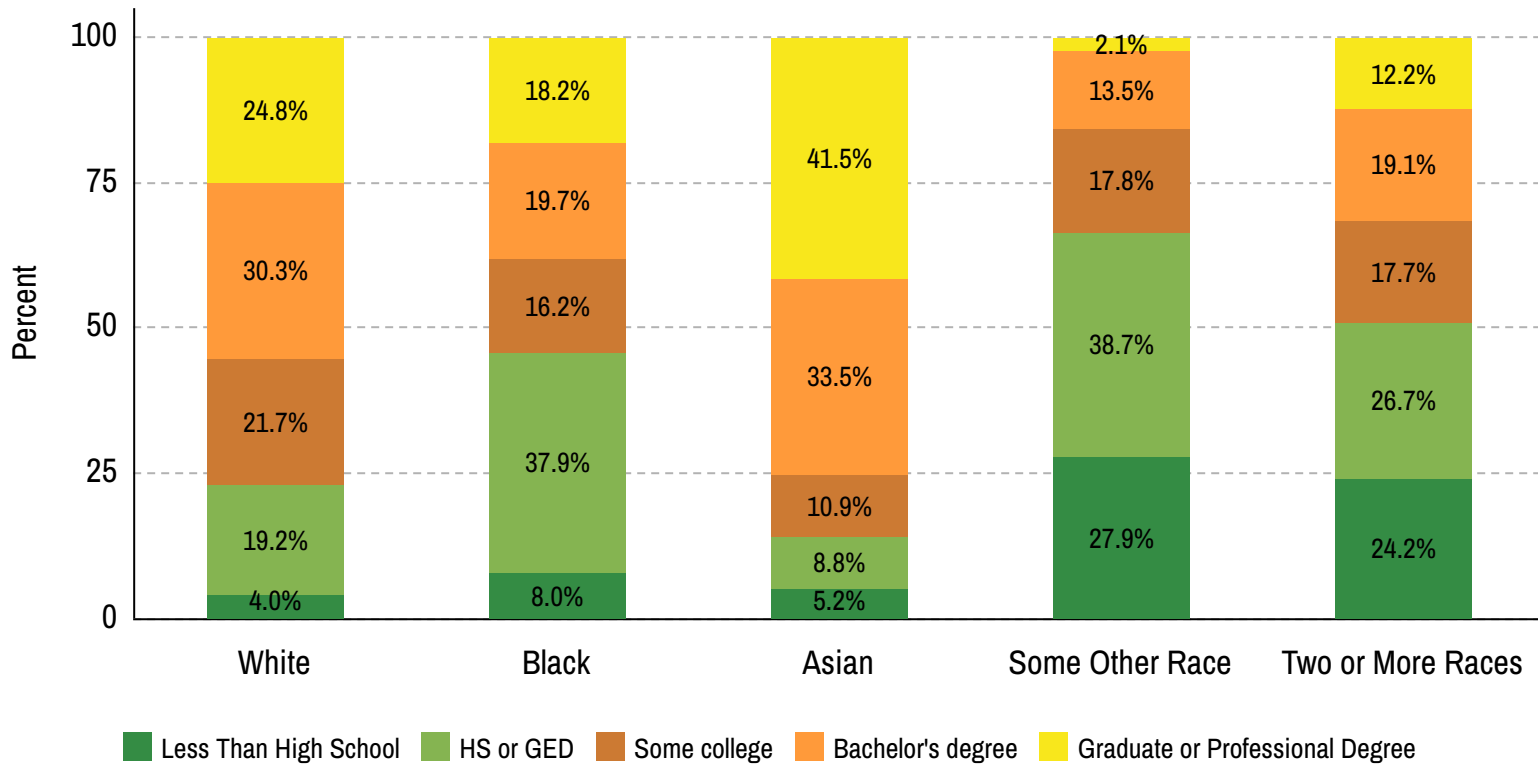
Gender Gap in Bachelor's and Advanced Degrees



New England exhibits the largest gender gap in bachelor's and advanced degrees, with nearly a 10 percentage point difference.



FMN-PUMA Educational Attainment by Race: Population 25 Years and Over

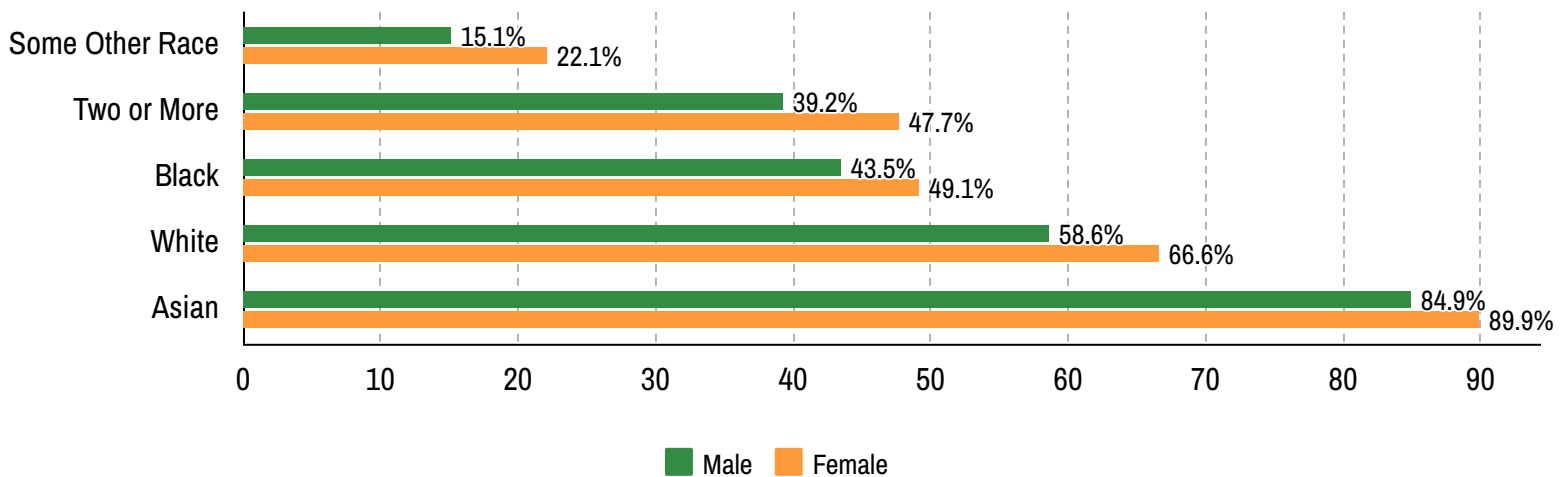


At the lower end of educational attainment, Some Other Race has the highest percent of the population with less than a high school degree, followed by Two or More Races.

Asian held the highest percent of bachelor's degree at 33.5%, with White following at 30.3%. Additionally, Black and Two or More Races are both around 19%.

Asian held the largest percent of advanced degrees at 41.5%. White was second at 24.8%. Conversely, Some Other Race only had 2.1% of the population with an advanced degree.

Percentage of Male and Females with Bachelors' and Advanced Degrees: Population 25 to 40 Years



Among males aged 25 to 40, the rates of obtaining a Bachelor's or Advanced Degree vary significantly across racial groups.

Compared to males in other racial groups, Asian men held the highest percentage of advanced degrees. They surpass the second highest group, White, by over 25 percentage points.

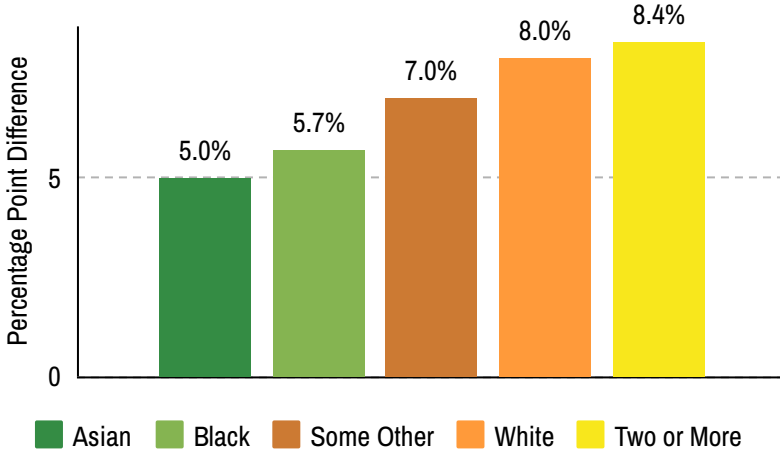
Asian held the highest percentage of Bachelor's and Advanced Degrees in both male and female with White following at 58.6% for males and 66.6% for females.

Almost half (49.1%) of Black Females aged 25 to 40 hold a bachelors or advanced degree.

There is a 17.5% percentage point gap between Black and White females aged 25 to 40 years, with a larger proportion of Whites having bachelor's and advanced degrees.

Meanwhile, nearly 90% of Asian Women held a bachelor's or advanced degree.

Gender Gap in Bachelor's and Advanced Degrees by Race: Population 25-40 Years



The gender gap between male and female attainment in bachelor's and advanced degrees ranges from 5% to 8.4%. Asian has the smallest gender gap, while Two or More races has the largest gender gap.

In all cases, **females** have a **higher** percent with bachelors and advanced degrees, compared to males in the same racial group.

The size of the gender gap between Asian and Black groups is similar, with a less than 1 percentage point difference.

Framingham State University (FSU) Undergraduate Enrollment



FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY



45.6% of undergraduates enrolled at FSU are male.



53.9% of undergraduates enrolled at FSU are female.

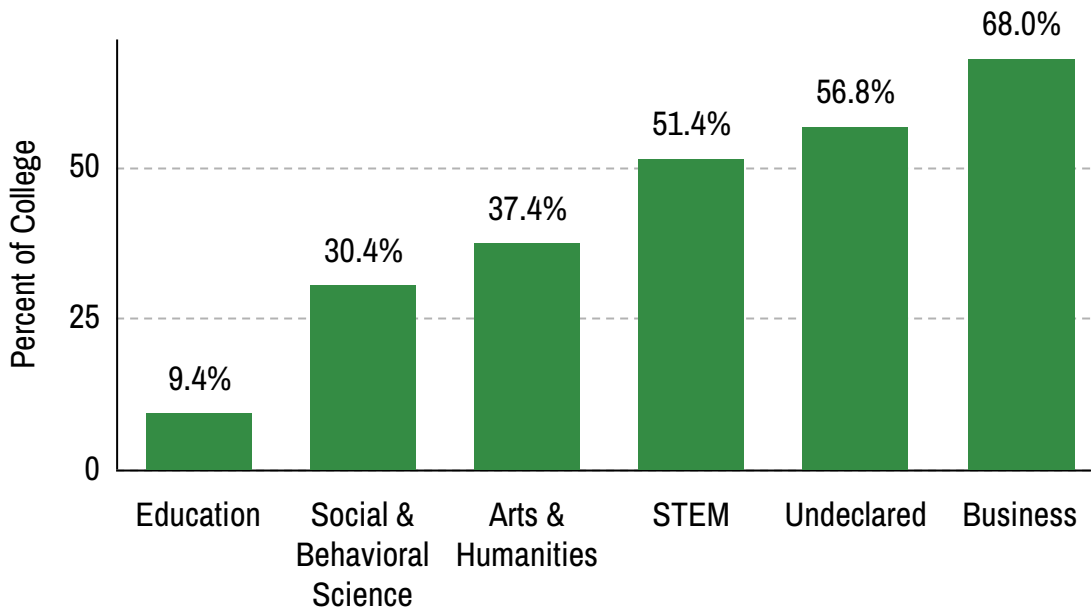


The gender gap in enrollment at FSU is 8.3%.

0.6% are labeled as unknown gender (15 students).

In 2024, total undergraduate enrollment at FSU is 2,566.

Percentage of Males Enrollment at FSU by College



FSU is divided into the following 4 colleges:

- College of Arts & Humanities
- College of Business
- College of Education and Social & Behavioral Science
- College of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM)

For this analysis, Education has been separated from the College of Education and Social & Behavioral Science

Enrollment in Education contained the smallest percent of males (9.4%) and the College of Business had the highest percent of males at 68.0%.

The colleges with over 50% of male enrollment included STEM, undeclared, and Business. STEM was only slightly male dominated at 51.4%.

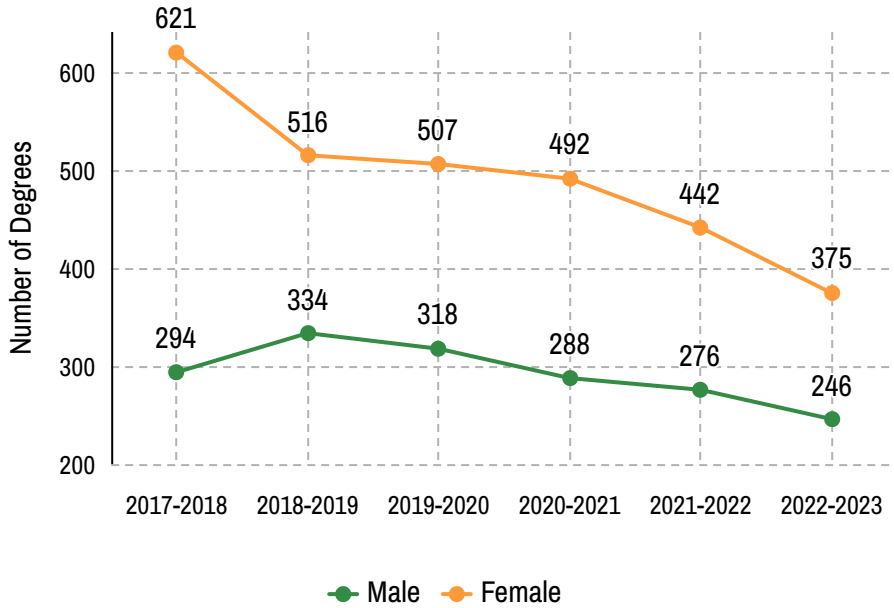
Majors with the Smallest Percentage of Males (not zero):

- Early Childhood Education 2.9%
- Nursing 7.1%
- Elementary Education 10.4%

Majors with the Largest Percentage of Males:

- Pre-engineering 95.0%
- Sports Management 86.5%
- Business & Information Technology 86.5%
- Computer Science 84.6%

Framingham State University Undergraduate Degrees Awarded by Gender



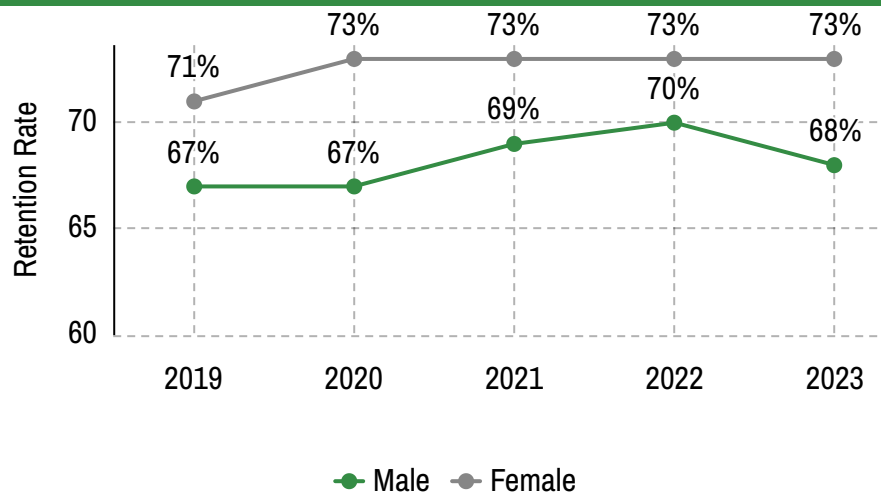
More degrees are awarded to females than males in every year from 2017 to 2023 at Framingham State University.

Undergraduate degrees at FSU earned by males ranges from 32% to 40% of total degrees from 2017 to 2023.

The **gender gap** in degrees awarded from 2017 to 2023 ranged from **20% to 35%** point difference which is much larger than the enrollment gap in 2024.

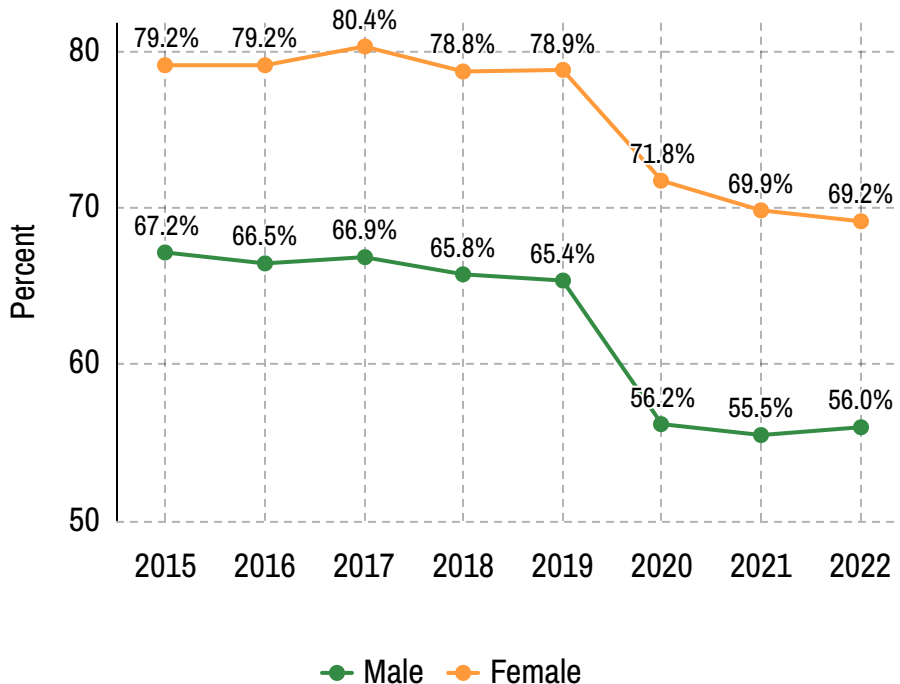
Framingham State University First-Time Full-Time Retention Rate by Gender

First-time full-time retention rate is a measure of the rate which students persist. It is the percent of first-time bachelor's degree seeking undergraduates from the previous fall who are again enrolled in the current fall.



Females consistently have a higher FTFT retention rate than males.

Massachusetts Rate of High School Graduates Attending College by Gender

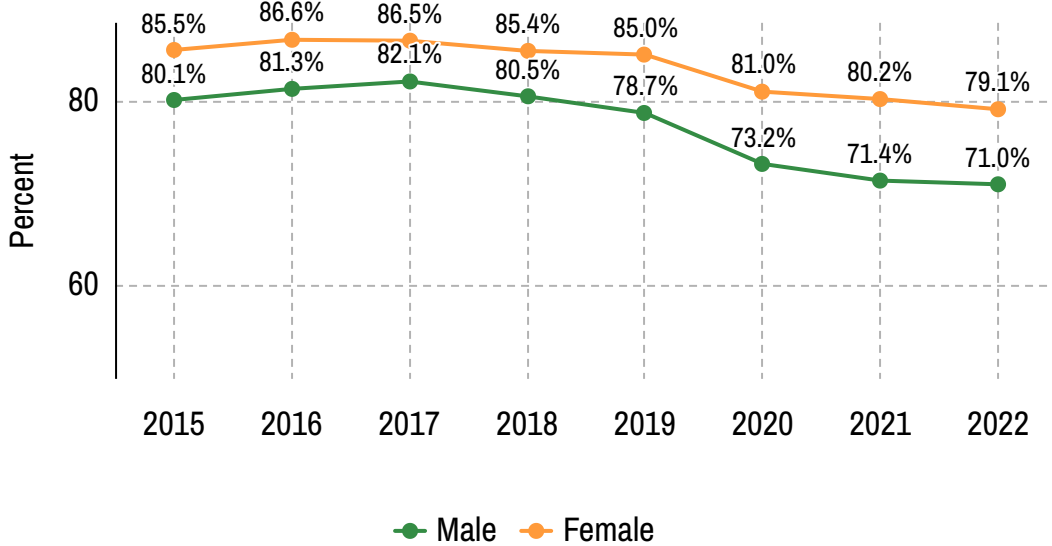


In Massachusetts, for the last 8 years **females** have outpaced males in college attendance.

Rates for females ranged from about 70% to 80% and males ranged from 55% to 67%.

Overall college attendance has dropped for both females and males since 2015. The gap has slightly increased but remains consistent at about 13%.

College Attendance Rates of High School Graduates by Gender



The Greater MetroWest (GMW) region includes the following 13 communities: Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Natick, Northborough, Marlborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, and Westborough.

College attendance rates are **higher in Greater MetroWest** than in MA for both males and females.

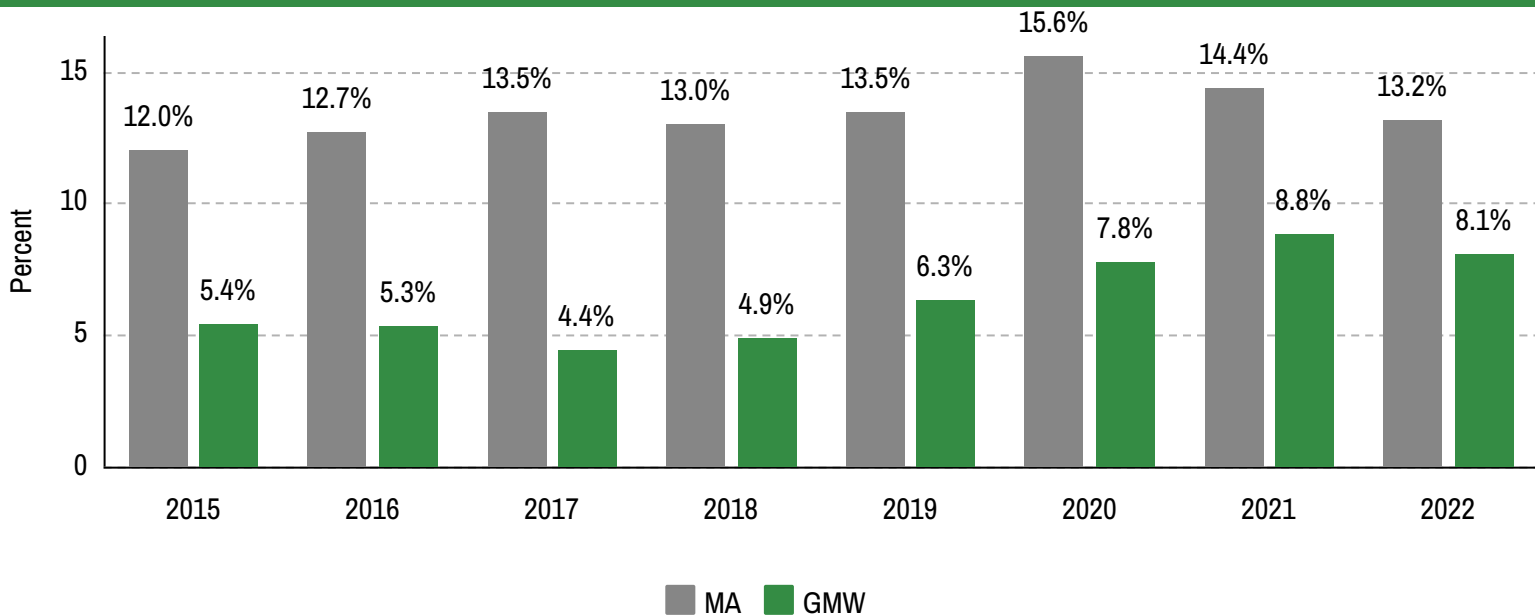
74.9%

of all high school graduates in Greater MetroWest attended college in 2022.

Both GMW and FMN-PUMA have experienced **decreases in college attendance** since 2015, with the most sizeable drop occurring from 2019 to 2020, a possible consequence of COVID-19.

In Greater MetroWest, college attendance rates range from 79% to 86% for females and 71% to 80% for males between 2015 and 2022.

Gender Gap in Rates of High School Graduates Attending College



The gender gap for college attendance is smaller for Greater MetroWest than the state for every year from 2015 to 2022.

The largest gender gap in the MA college attendance rate was in 2020 at 15.6%.



In Greater MetroWest the largest college attendance gap occurred in 2021 at 8.8%.

The gender gap has slightly increased over time in MA and Greater MetroWest, but Greater MetroWest still remains lower than MA.