

**Table 3****Reasons for attending community college among employed college graduates reporting a first bachelor's degree and having attended community college, by broad field of major and calendar year of degree: 2019**

(Percent)

Reasons	Employed college graduates	Computer and mathematical sciences	Biological and life sciences	Physical sciences	Social sciences	Engineering	S&E-related fields	Non-S&E fields
Recent graduates, received first bachelor's 2008–17								
Total attended community college (number)	7,761,000	358,000	604,000	125,000	1,182,000	385,000	1,183,000	3,924,000
Earn credits for a bachelor's degree	75.6	76.7	73.0	69.8	73.1	77.5	70.1	78.4
Financial reasons	56.1	57.4	50.3	40.6	55.6	46.8	60.0	57.2
Gain skill or knowledge in academic or occupational field	40.8	45.7	40.3	38.9	37.5	35.8	47.7	39.8
Prepare for college or increase chance of acceptance to 4-year college or university	46.3	48.2	44.4	37.8	47.2	45.7	45.1	46.9
Complete associate's degree	41.5	37.9	22.5	22.8	36.6	22.2	51.0	45.9
Leisure or personal interest	21.8	25.4	21.9	32.8	24.2	21.0	15.7	22.3
Facilitate change in academic or occupational field	23.9	25.0	28.2	14.1	25.5	15.5	27.6	22.6
Earn college credits while in high school	28.8	34.3	42.5	52.9	30.4	35.6	26.7	24.9
Increase opportunities for promotion, advancement, or higher salary	27.5	31.0	19.9	8.8	23.6	14.4	29.9	30.6
Past graduates, received first bachelor's before 2008								
Total attended community college (number)	14,217,000	733,000	897,000	268,000	2,088,000	939,000	1,438,000	7,852,000
Earn credits for a bachelor's degree	63.9	60.4	60.2	55.1	59.9	60.5	66.1	66.0
Financial reasons	42.3	42.0	31.4	34.0	37.3	34.5	42.9	46.1
Gain skill or knowledge in academic or occupational field	42.4	45.6	39.2	46.6	42.3	42.6	46.8	41.6
Prepare for college or increase chance of acceptance to 4-year college or university	37.1	36.4	29.0	29.0	36.8	33.9	39.1	38.5
Complete associate's degree	32.1	35.0	19.9	19.2	28.9	22.2	34.4	35.2
Leisure or personal interest	27.8	32.3	28.9	35.9	30.4	29.9	26.1	26.3
Facilitate change in academic or occupational field	24.9	24.6	25.4	20.8	26.9	17.7	26.9	25.0
Earn college credits while in high school	17.7	18.5	25.6	21.9	19.2	20.2	17.1	16.0
Increase opportunities for promotion, advancement, or higher salary	25.7	27.5	17.8	22.8	26.4	23.4	28.4	26.1

S&amp;E = science and engineering.

**Note(s):**

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Sum of percentages in reasons for attending community college exceeds total because of multiple response.

**Source(s):**

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of College Graduates, 2019.