

“NINE MYTHS ABOUT PRIVATE, NONPROFIT HIGHER EDUCATION”
(National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities)

Myth # 1: Private colleges are not affordable.

Fact: Because of generous institutional student aid policies, private colleges remain affordable to students from all backgrounds.

Myth #2: Federal student aid drives up college costs.

Fact: The myth that federal student aid drives up college tuition has been refuted by empirical evidence and by the real-world actions of colleges and universities.

Myth #3: Private colleges enroll only white, wealthy, traditional students.

Fact: Students at private colleges are as racially/ethnically and economically diverse as their peers at four-year public universities. Many older, working, and part-time students attend independent institutions.

Myth #4: Many college graduates leave school with more than \$100,000 in debt.

Fact: The overwhelming majority of college borrowers have manageable loan levels.

Myth #5: A college degree is no longer a good investment.

Fact: Over the course of an individual's lifetime, a college degree is still the best investment a person can make.

Myth #6: Fewer students are choosing to attend private colleges.

Fact: Enrollment at private colleges continues to grow, and the number of independent institutions has held steady for the past 30 years.

Myth #7: All private colleges have billion-dollar endowments.

Fact: Most private colleges do not have large endowments.

Myth #8: Private colleges are not innovative or flexible.

Fact: Private colleges are attuned and responsive to the changing needs of students, to the financial aid demographic, and to the technological transformations affecting higher education and the nation.

Myth #9: Private colleges are not transparent or accountable.

Fact: Through federal and state regulatory and reporting requirements, the accreditation process, and broad dissemination of consumer information, private colleges are held accountable to students, policymakers, and taxpayers.

*A more detailed report on *Nine Myths about Private, Nonprofit Higher Education*, including empirical evidence, is available through the National Association of Independent College and Universities at www.naicu.org or www.9myths.org.