



CORE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

College opportunity for all



COLLEGE
POSSIBLE™
OMAHA



The growing college degree divide

A student’s future should be determined solely by their aspirations, motivation and effort, not by their family’s income

Yet across Omaha, there’s a widening gap between the aspirations of students from underrepresented communities who want to earn a college degree and the systemic, unfair barriers they face in achieving it.

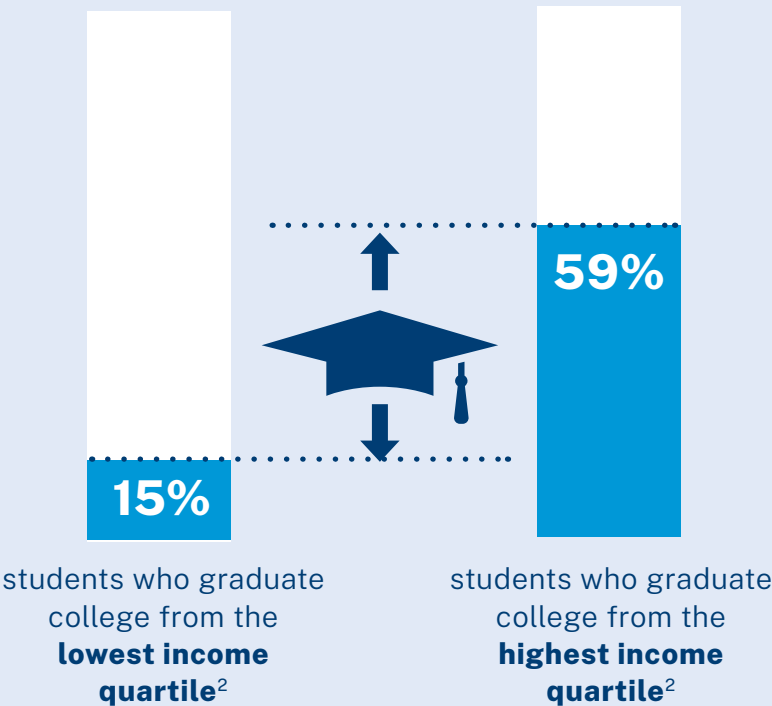
While there is no single cause, contributors to this “degree divide” include inequitable academic prep, fragmented resources, complex college systems and resource-constrained staff. Early evidence indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has widened these barriers, putting the diversity of our future workforce and equitable economic mobility at continued risk.

¹ The College Board, “Trends in Higher Education,” <https://research.collegeboard.org/trends/student-aid/report-archive>
² Pell Institute, “Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States: 2022 Historical Trend Report,” page 292.

THE COLLEGE DEGREE DIVIDE

The number of college students who live in poverty or who are nonwhite has increased.¹

Unfortunately, too many of them are still being left behind as they graduate college at rates far lower than their higher-income peers.²



THOSE WITH
A COLLEGE
DEGREE ARE:



3.5x less likely
to live in poverty³



24% more likely
to be employed⁴



And earn upward of
\$1.2M more
in their lifetime⁵

Strong communities start with college equity

When students from underinvested communities earn a bachelor’s degree, especially those who are the first in their family to attend college, they are 24% *more likely* to be employed and 3.5 times *less likely* to live in poverty when compared with peers who don’t attend college.³ Evidence shows that college graduates earn upward of \$1.2 million more in their lifetime, and have higher rates of civic engagement than their high school graduate peers.⁵

Evidence also shows that removing barriers to college access and success can create a more diverse and richer educational experience on college campuses. Removing these barriers also contributes to building a more diverse workforce, a critical factor in fueling greater innovation, stronger communities, and more equitable economic mobility.

³ “It’s Not Just the Money: The Benefits of College Education to Individuals and to Society,” 2015. <https://www.luminafoundation.org/resource/its-not-just-the-money/>
⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2019/44-6-percent-of-high-school-dropouts-and-72-3-percent-of-college-graduates-employed-in-august-2019.htm>
⁵ Lumina Foundation, “Stronger Nation Report,” 2015. <https://www.luminafoundation.org/news-and-views/stronger-nation-2015/>



“My favorite days of the school week were when I knew I was going to meet with my coach. She made me forget that the college process is stressful and always made me feel so productive.”

Anavela,
Westside High School



We empower the college dream

At College Possible Omaha, we’re working to close the college degree divide. Since 2011, our college access and success programs have helped empower more than 2,700* students throughout Omaha on their path to a college degree. Our pioneering model matches eligible students with near-peer coaches and an intensive curriculum designed to help them overcome the most common barriers to getting into college and completing their degree — all at no cost to students or their families.

Through our partnerships with area partner high schools and college institutions, we are advancing college equity for the greater Omaha community.

* Fiscal year 2021

WHAT SETS US APART:



Near-Peer Coaches

Students benefit from the relatability, recent experience and trusted relationship with our near-peer coaches who offer an intensive curriculum of personalized interventions.



6+ Years of Support

Students enrolled in our Core Program receive one of the longest support cycles available, starting their junior year in high school and continuing through degree completion.



Support for Unenrolled Students

Students who unenroll or stop out of college continue to receive coaching support to help them get back on track toward their college degree goal.



Free to Students

Thanks to the generous support of our funders and partners, our college access and success programs are offered at no cost to students or their families.



AmeriCorps

A PROUD AMERICORPS PROGRAM

AmeriCorps is a federal agency that brings people together to tackle the country’s most pressing challenges through national service. Our AmeriCorps members commit to a year of service as College Possible coaches in communities throughout the country. Many represent the identities of the students they serve, and each brings a commitment to social justice and closing the college equity divide.

College access and success programs offered in Omaha



Core Program

Our most comprehensive college access and success program. Eligible students receive at least six years of near-peer coaching support to navigate and overcome the most common barriers to getting into and through college.



Connects

Customized college partnerships that support the recruitment, enrollment, persistence and retention of College Possible students on partner institutions' campuses.



“College Possible really enlightened me about the opportunities available to me. They really opened my eyes to everything that is out there and made it tangible.

Ana,
Barnard College (pictured)

Over 20 years of national, evidence-based results

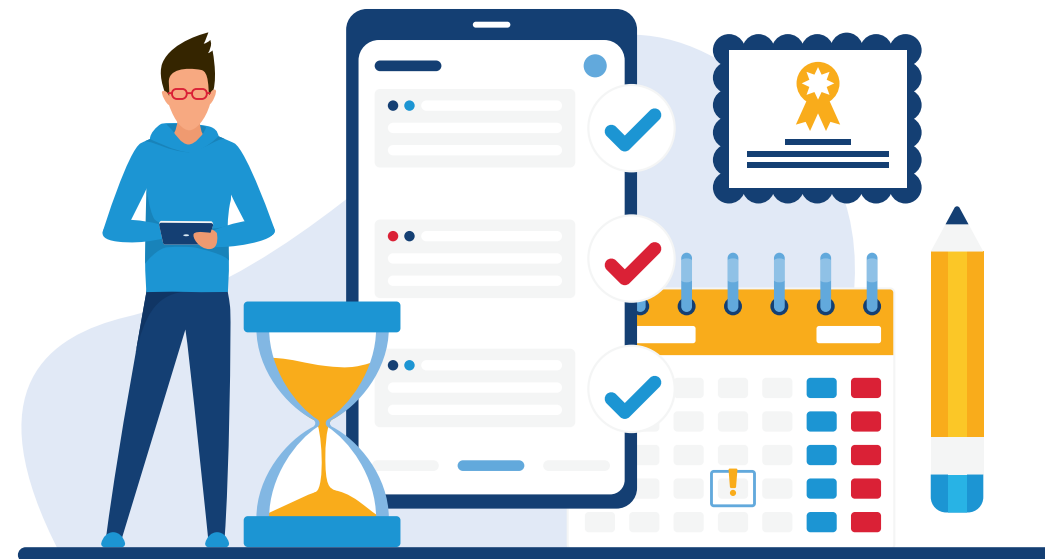
As one of the largest college access and success organizations in the country, our evidence-based programs have earned national credibility. Compared with their peers from similar backgrounds, College Possible students are **30% more likely** to enroll in college the year after high school graduation, and **three times more likely** to earn a bachelor's degree after graduating from high school.⁶

30%

more likely to enroll in college the year after high school graduation

3x

more likely to earn a bachelor's degree after graduating high school



⁶ The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education. Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States. p 121. 2019. http://pellinstitute.org/indicators/reports_2019.shtml



“College Possible was a great support system for me. It was a community where I made some really great friendships that remained strong even after I graduated.”



Miriam,
University of Nebraska Omaha



“College Possible is a useful resource that students can count on. I know if I have any questions, my AmeriCorps coach will be there to help.”

Paw,
Benson High School



“[My coach] was patient with me my senior year and always wanted to help me. She stayed on me and kept reminding me that the hard work was going to be worth it in the end. Persistence is key. If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t have made it this far. It was her guidance that helped me get to where I wanted to go.”

Denzell,
University of Nebraska Omaha



THE COLLEGE POSSIBLE STUDENT JOURNEY

1 Explore and prepare HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR YEAR

- ACT prep
- College fit exploration
- Paying for college

2 Select, apply and finance HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR YEAR

- Financial aid and scholarship applications
- College application and essay prep
- College visits and selection
- Plan for housing and transportation

3 Transition to college SUMMER BRIDGE

- Class enrollment
- Transition to school

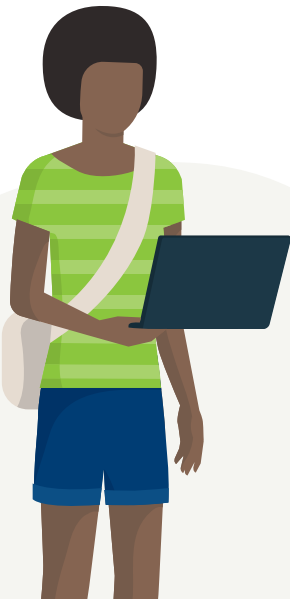
4 Persist through graduation COLLEGE YEARS

- Navigate complex college systems
- Access campus and community resources
- Form supportive peer and campus relationships
- Adjust to the rigors of the first year
- Stay on track academically
- Renew financial aid and scholarships
- Budget and manage time

5 Transition to career GRADUATION

- Explore internships and jobs
- Resume and interview prep

Near-peer coaches provide proactive, personalized support to help students **navigate and break through the most common barriers** on their path to a college degree





Learn more or get involved

PARTNER

To explore how a College Possible Omaha partnership can empower your students, contact our College Success team at OMainfo@CollegePossible.org to schedule an informational meeting.

GIVE

Your financial support helps us continue to expand our coaching and support throughout Omaha at no cost to enrolled students or their families. To make a donation, or to explore a broader funding partnership, visit CollegePossible.org/DonateOmaha.

SERVE

If you know a current college student or recent grad interested in making a meaningful difference in the lives of youth, encourage them to explore a life-changing year of service as a College Possible Omaha AmeriCorps coach at CollegePossible.org/Serve.

APPLY

If you know an eligible student who dreams of attending college and would like free support to find their best-fit colleges, build strong college applications, finance their education, and persist through graduation, refer them to CollegePossible.org/Apply.



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CollegePossible.org/Omaha