



## 39% of Prospective Undergrads Say Roe v. Wade Ruling Impacts College Decision

*59% of Current and Prospective College Students Oppose the Ruling*

**August 4, 2022 (Seattle, WA)** - According to a new survey from BestColleges.com, 39% of those planning to enroll in an undergraduate program in the next 12 months say that the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade will impact their decision to attend college in a particular state. Nearly the same percentage (35%) of future graduate students say the same about their college decision. The survey of 1,000 current and prospective undergraduate and graduate students also found that 59% oppose the ruling.

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<https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/roe-v-wade-impacts-college-students/>

Current students are slightly more likely to say the decision will impact their choice to remain in the state where they attend school (43% of undergraduates, 42% of graduate students). More than a third of current undergraduate and graduate students (37%) say they would have attended college in a different state if the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade had occurred before they made their college choice.

"On top of declining college enrollment nationwide, institutions in states with laws that restrict access to abortion now have a new challenge to face in efforts to attract students," said Jessica Bryant, education analyst for BestColleges.com.

Overall, the majority of current students and those planning to enroll in the next year say they are familiar with the abortion laws and regulations in their current state of residence (68%), and more than half (57%) say they desire to attend a college in a state that legally protects the right to abortion.

More than two-thirds of current and future students (69%) say they support a woman's right to choose an abortion, and 59% say that the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe

v. Wade will impact their vote in the November 2022 midterm elections. About 1 in 3 students (36%) say they are confident in the Court as an institution. Slightly more (39%) say they are not, while a quarter (25%) are neutral.

An overwhelming majority of current and prospective students (75%) say they think colleges should support students in obtaining access to reproductive health services, including abortion. The most common ways students feel colleges should offer support include increasing mental health and counseling services related to abortion (58%) and implementing flexible attendance policies for students who need to travel to obtain an abortion and/or need medical leave time (57%).

"Schools that take steps to help students get access to reproductive health services, including abortion, may be favored by current and future students over those that don't offer such support," said Bryant.

## **Methodology**

The survey was conducted from July 7-13, 2022. Student respondents were fielded by Lucid LLC. Survey participants included 1,000 respondents nationwide, currently enrolled in or planning to enroll in an undergraduate or graduate degree program at a college or university in the next 12 months. Respondents were 16-65 years of age and currently pursuing or planning to pursue an associate, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, or professional degree. The respondents for the survey were screened by various quality checks, including systems like Relevant ID, and responses were manually reviewed to ensure consistency and accuracy.

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