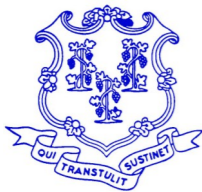


Policy Needs

To improve performance, Connecticut must:

- Increase student access and success in all types of postsecondary education (4-year, 2-year, training), particularly in critical workforce fields.
- Reach consensus on what constitutes a “college-ready” curriculum for high school students.
- Improve college graduation rates.
- Provide stable state support for operating expenses and student financial aid.



Michael P. Meotti
Commissioner
Department of Higher Education

This brochure highlights some of the performance indicators used by Connecticut’s public higher education institutions to demonstrate accountability. The full 2008 report, *Higher Education Counts: Achieving Results*, is available at www.ctdhe.org.

State of Connecticut
Department of Higher Education

HIGHER
EDUCATION
COUNTS

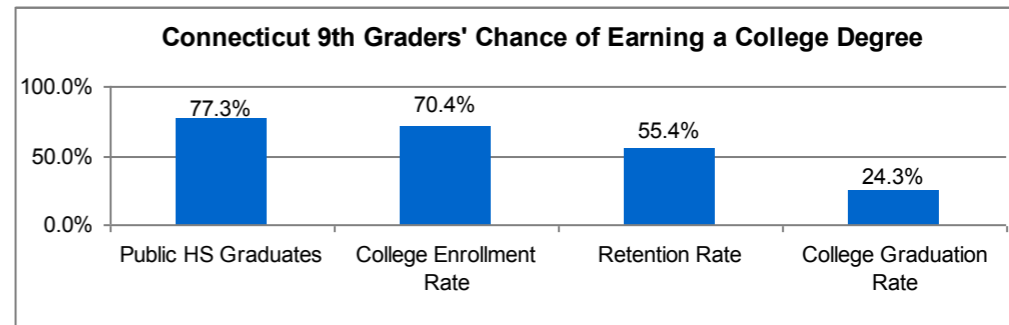
ACHIEVING
RESULTS

February 2009

61 Woodland Street
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www.ctdhe.org

The Challenge: Raising Educational Attainment

The knowledge and skills of Connecticut residents shape our economy more than any other factor. The percentage of our population with a college degree or a credential from a rigorous training program is the best measure of our economic competitiveness. Connecticut is among the top states in educational attainment today, but studies project that we may be in decline in the actual percentage of adults with a postsecondary education, and in our ranking among states.



Connecticut cannot afford to stagnate or decline in our educational attainment level. We must help more students succeed at all levels of education. This challenge will not be met by any one system or campus. Our state needs a public policy response that builds on our investment across local schools, colleges, training programs, employers and communities.

The facts –

- The chance of a Connecticut student in 9th grade earning a college degree is less than 1 in 4.
- The percentage of Connecticut’s young workers holding a bachelor’s degree is expected to drop from 34% to less than 31% by 2020 due to dramatically changing state demographics.
- Many good jobs require less than a four-year degree, yet Connecticut ranks 47th nationally in associate’s degrees awarded per 100 high school graduates, significantly below the national average (13.3 vs. 24.1).

The Opportunity: A History of Success

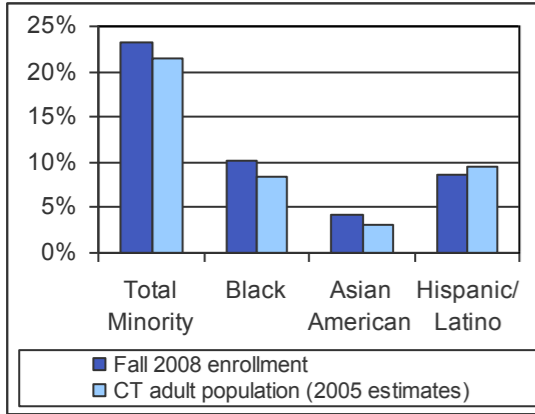
Fortunately, Connecticut has a long history of success on many educational measures. Some measures, such as the long bemoaned “brain drain,” are starting to turn around. We must increase our success, both in terms of numbers and in terms of equal access to educational success for all state residents.

The facts –

- 77% of Connecticut’s students entering 9th grade earn a high school diploma, well above the national average of 69%.
- More Connecticut high school graduates are opting to stay in state for college (57% vs. 52% in 1996).
- Minority student enrollment is growing, making up more than 23% of total enrollment.
- Nearly 70% of public college graduates stay in state to work, earning an average of \$41,000 in their first year.
- Annual earnings of college graduates exceed those with just a high school diploma by almost 62%.

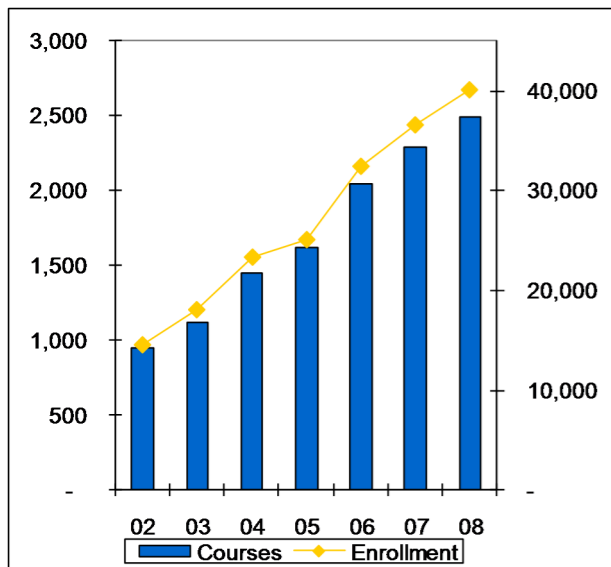
Minority Student Enrollment

Enrollment of all minorities in CT higher education exceeds their share of students in the CT population aged 18 and over, but Hispanic students are still underrepresented.



Online Courses and Enrollment

There has been tremendous growth in the number of online courses and enrollments in CT.



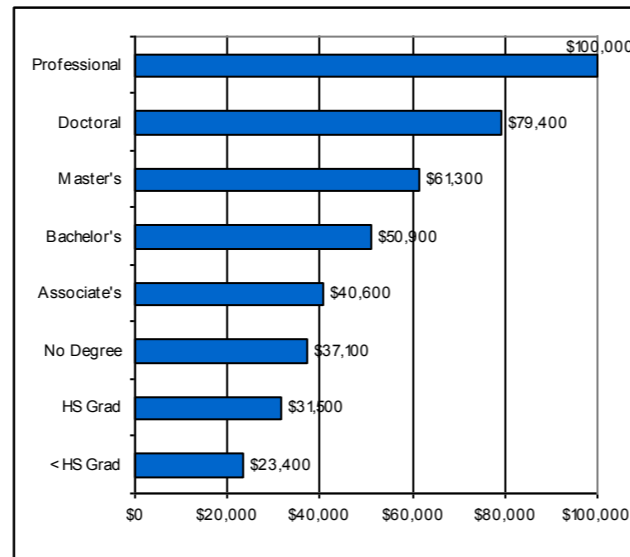
Educational Attainment

Connecticut has fallen from its top position among all states to 4th in the educational attainment level of its population. Worse, the percentage aged 25-and-older with a bachelor's degree or higher is below national and regional levels for Blacks and below the region for Hispanics.

	1990	1990 Rank	2000	2000 Rank	2007	2007 Rank
CT	27.2%	1	31.6%	4	34.7%	4
US	20.3%		24.4%		27.5%	

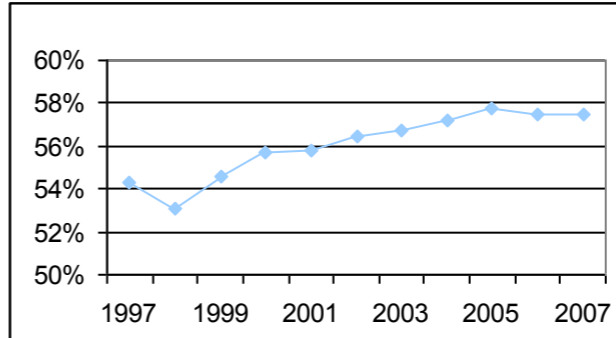
Earning Power

Earning a degree significantly raises individual earning power. Those with bachelor's degrees, for example, earn an average of \$50,900 a year compared to just \$31,500 for high school graduates across the country.



Brain Gain

Since 1996, CT has steadily increased the percentage of public high school graduates who plan to attend college in CT from 52% to over 57%.



Licensure Pass Rates

Graduates of CT public colleges score high on licensure exams. Some examples:

- Pass rates on nursing exams at all of the constituent units exceed the state average of all test takers.
- Pass rates on the teacher education Praxis II exam at UConn and CSU range between 95% and 100%.
- Pass rates on radiology, respiratory care and nuclear medicine at the community colleges range from 96% to 100%.

Retention and Graduation Rates

Institution	First-Year Retention	Graduation Rates	
		4-Year	6-Year
UConn	89%	56%	71%
Storrs	93%	66%	76%
Regional Campuses	78%	25%	48%
CSUS	77%	19%	43%
Central	79%	17%	46%
Eastern	74%	32%	46%
Southern	77%	16%	38%
Western	74%	16%	40%
		3-Year	
Community Colleges	59%		10%
Asnuntuck	57%		24%
Capital	56%		10%
Gateway	54%		10%
Housatonic	59%		10%
Manchester	63%		11%
Middlesex	60%		9%
Naugatuck Valley	58%		7%
Northwestern CT	66%		13%
Norwalk	63%		9%
Quinebaug Valley	60%		17%
Three Rivers	55%		13%
Tunxis	63%		7%
Charter Oak	87%		
Associate's	n/a		60%
Bachelor's	n/a		53%