A special report from Lumina Foundation

A STRONGER NATION THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

How and why Americans must achieve a Big Goal for college attainment

March 2012

Today, more than ever, education equals opportunity. In fact, college-level learning is now seen as key — to individual prosperity, to economic security, and to the enduring strength of our democracy. We all feel the **power** of increased college attainment ... so let's make it a **priority**.

A STRONGER NATION THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

More than mere data, 'Stronger Nation' report is a call for change

By now, anyone who is at all familiar with Lumina Foundation has heard about the Big Goal for college attainment. For several years, the goal — that, by the year 2025, 60 percent of Americans will have a high-quality postsecondary credential — has driven and essentially defined us at Lumina. And we're pleased that it is driving others as well. College attainment is now a central topic in the public conversation at the national, state and local levels. Policymakers, economists and other experts agree that, in order to sustain the still-fragile recovery and assure long-term economic growth and social stability, the nation's educational attainment rate must improve steadily and significantly in coming years.

This report, *A Stronger Nation through Higher Education*, embodies Lumina's commitment to that 60 percent Big Goal and serves as a report card on the nation's effort to reach it. This edition of *Stronger Nation* marks the third report in what will be an annual series through the target date of 2025. Using the most recent Census data (2010), it provides detailed breakdowns of college-attainment data at the national level, in each state, and in every county. At the national and state levels, the data also show attainment rates among various racial/ethnic groups. Also, this year, for the first time, the report includes college-attainment rates for the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas.

As always, *Stronger Nation* acts as a timely barometer of progress, a window on statistical reality when it comes to higher education attainment. But it's much more than mere numbers. In fact, this year *Stronger Nation* can and should be viewed in other important ways.

First of all, look at it as an alarm, an urgent call to action. The numbers themselves convey this message of urgency. Although the overall trend is positive (with the national attainment rate rising from 37.9 percent in 2008 to 38.3 percent in 2010), the pace of change is far too slow. In fact, at the current pace, less than 47 percent of Americans will have at least an associate degree by 2025. Labor experts say that means we will be more than 23 million degree holders below the total needed to meet workforce demands.

We simply cannot afford this shortfall — not as a nation built on the concept of individual opportunity, or as a society committed to social progress. That means the pace of progress in higher education attainment must improve sharply. And for

that to happen, the scale and scope of change must expand dramatically.

Facing a 'Kodak moment'

In some ways, American higher education is facing what might be called a "Kodak moment" — and that's not a good thing. The recent bankruptcy of the Eastman Kodak Company, an iconic American corporation if ever there was one, holds a lesson for today's higher-ed system. Kodak, long respected for its traditional approach and even treasured for its popular Brownie and Instamatic cameras, simply reacted too slowly to the age of digital photography … and suddenly found itself irrelevant.

Of course, American colleges and universities are by no means irrelevant today, but they certainly can't stand pat — not if they expect to meet the challenges inherent in the drive to reach the Big Goal. Without question, higher education must change. For one thing, it must become responsive to the needs of a much wider range of students than ever before. The 21st century student population is dizzyingly diverse — racially, ethnically, socially, economically, and in terms of age and family situation. Clearly, no one-size-fits-all system will work for these students, and it won't serve us as a nation.

So the higher-ed system must be retooled and redesigned to meet the needs of *all types* of students because we need these 21st century students to succeed — without delay and in far greater numbers. In other words, higher education must become much more productive — educating many more people without increasing costs, and without compromising the quality of the credentials that students earn.

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A good first step in boosting productivity and in serving today's diverse student population is to begin with adults who already have some college credit but lack a degree. More than 36 million adults — one out of every five working-age Americans — fit this category. Colleges and universities must be innovative, expansive and flexible to help these students — to help *all* students — earn degrees and credentials that have genuine relevance and value.

And in serving today's students, that word "value" is important because it points to the second change that's needed. That is: a redefinition of "quality" in higher education — one rooted, not in the concept of inputs (large endowments, impressive facilities, highly selective admission policies, steep tuition costs), but in the idea of outputs (the knowledge and skills that graduates actually demonstrate).

In today's society and economy, the only definition of quality that makes sense is one based on student outcomes, on what students actually learn in their programs and what they can do with the skills and knowledge they gain. Mere college completion can't be the ultimate aim. The true goal must be completion with *connection* — a credential that connects clearly to the workforce and to opportunities for further education.

Still, completion rates certainly matter, and the data in this report can be a very valuable aid in tracking those rates — and, ultimately, in improving them. That's another important way in which this year's *Stronger Nation* report can be viewed: as a tool you can use to actually tackle this work.

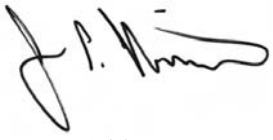
The numbers and trends in this report tell thousands of vital, real-life stories: about college attainment in your state, your county, the metropolitan area in which you live or work. The data here can help you pinpoint problems or opportunities in particular geographic areas and among certain groups of students. They can suggest possible partnerships for increasing college success — a coalition among educators, policymakers and workforce organizations in a certain region or metro area, for example; perhaps a compact among higher-education institutions serving a particular geographic region or student population; or a cooperative effort among policymakers in contiguous states or counties.

A powerful tool

Again, *Stronger Nation* is designed as a tool, and we urge you to use it — as we ourselves plan to use it in our own work at Lumina. This report, and the data on which it is based, isn't a mere public relations exercise. It is central to our mission, and it has already shaped our work in fundamental ways, pointing us toward areas in which our efforts are likely to have the greatest impact — the "working adult" student population, for example.

And that leads me to the final way in which the *Stronger Nation* report might be viewed: Look at it as a promise … our promise to stay focused on this effort. Lumina Foundation is absolutely committed to the Big Goal, and that means this report can't be a one-and-done enterprise. As an organization — really, as a nation — we can only stay on track toward that goal by looking regularly and closely at the data, and we see *Stronger Nation* as a very good lens for learning.

I hope you'll use that lens creatively and often, and I urge you to join with us in applying its lessons to the vital effort of increasing college attainment. You can be assured that Lumina is ready and eager to collaborate, to assist and to help connect groups and organizations that share our commitment to reaching the Big Goal.



Jamie P. Merisotis
President and CEO
Lumina Foundation

Tracking progress toward an audacious but attainable goal

In 2009, Lumina Foundation officially adopted its Big Goal that 60 percent of Americans obtain a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by 2025. That same year, we began reporting on progress toward the Big Goal in a series of reports titled *A Stronger Nation through Higher Education*. The core of the reports is Census data on the higher education attainment rate — the percentage of the U.S. adult population that holds a two- or four-year college degree. The attainment rate remains the key metric for the Big Goal.

This is the third *Stronger Nation* report, and it contains several additions and improvements designed to make it more pertinent and useful:

- An assessment of higher education attainment in the nation and in every state, showing recent progress toward the Big Goal.
- The attainment rate for every county in the United States.
- Various breakdowns of the attainment data, including by race and ethnicity, age, and level of education.
- A new report on the attainment rate for the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas.
- A scenario for how to close the gap and reach 60 percent attainment by 2025.

As in past years, in this report we also attempt to get behind the data — to understand higher education attainment and its ramifications for the future of our nation. This year we discuss our deepening understanding of the relationship between higher education attainment and the nation's economy, particularly job growth and employment. We also discuss the role that quality plays in the drive to increase attainment, particularly as quality is defined in terms of learning.

Lumina Foundation will continue to produce *Stronger Nation* reports regularly to track progress toward the Big Goal.

The bottom line

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between the ages of 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was **38.3 percent**. The rate is increasing slowly but steadily. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent.

Because of the wide range of ages in the adult population represented by the Big Goal, the higher education attainment rate of the young-adult population (ages 25-34) is a good leading indicator of where higher education attainment rates are headed. In 2010, the attainment rate for young adults was 39.3 percent — a full percentage point higher than for all adults. In 2009, the rate for young adults was 39.0 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.8 percent. This is a step in the right direction — in 2008 the higher education attainment rate for young adults was below that of the adult population as a whole. However, this trend must accelerate if the nation is to reach the Big Goal.

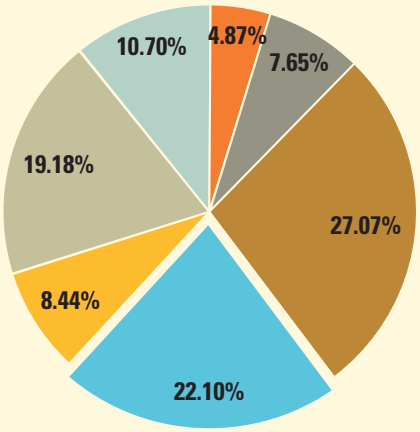
A changing climate

A lot has changed in the U.S. — and in American higher education — since the first *Stronger Nation* report was issued.

The president has continued to focus national attention on the need to increase higher education attainment, calling it "an economic imperative" in his most recent State of the Union address. A growing number of states have adopted formal goals for college attainment. In fact, 36 states now have specific goals for attainment established in statute, executive order or statewide strategic plans; 15 of these states set challenging and specific goals and commit to ongoing measurement of progress. Many colleges and universities and a number of national higher education associations have attainment goals as well.

The need to increase higher education attainment is increasingly recognized by civic leaders in cities across the nation. We believe this recognition is both important and extremely constructive, since cities can help raise the

Levels of education for United States residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	7,972,497	4.87%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	12,539,457	7.65%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	44,350,497	27.07%
Some college, no degree	**36,209,776**	**22.10%**
Associate degree	13,832,109	8.44%
Bachelor's degree	31,423,077	19.18%
Graduate or professional degree	17,527,995	10.70%
TOTAL	163,855,408	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey (Includes all states and the District of Columbia.)

Higher education attainment and job growth

The relationship between higher education attainment and employment is clear, but is there an even deeper connection between attainment and the economy? Could increasing higher education attainment actually drive economic growth and job creation, particularly in today's economy?

Economists have examined the unexplained causes of the job market's slow recovery from the recession. Available evidence suggests that our nation's inability to match jobs to people with the right skills is a major factor in explaining why employment rates have not increased as quickly as they should have in the economic recovery.[1] This mismatch goes beyond the level of specific occupations — i.e., unemployed auto workers needing to be retrained as nurses. The problem goes deeper — a mismatch of general skills across all occupations.

A fascinating study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York found that, in each U.S. recession since 1980, an increasing share of total unemployment was caused by structural job loss, not by short-term cyclical layoffs.[2]

This phenomenon is a major factor in the slowing of employment growth after recessions — the so-called "jobless recovery."

The most recent recession followed the same pattern, only more so. What is now very clear is that, when structural job loss takes place in an economy with increasing skill requirements — such as ours, education and training are essential to putting people back to work. If we can't supply labor markets with enough people who have the necessary knowledge and skills, economic growth will be choked off.

educational aspirations of many students, help align K-12 education with expectations for college readiness, and help develop innovative programs to meet emerging occupational needs. Lumina feels strongly enough about the role of civic leadership in the attainment agenda to include in this edition of *Stronger Nation* — for the first time — college-attainment data for the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas.

The value of setting specific and measurable goals for college completion and attainment should not be underestimated. Not only do such goals help communicate to the public and higher education stakeholders the urgent priority to dramatically increase postsecondary completion and attainment, they also help focus the strategies that foundations, states and institutions must pursue to meet the goals. Because of these goals, factors that influence attainment — most notably, the need to improve completion rates in higher education — are receiving much more attention at the federal, state and institutional levels.

Lumina Foundation has begun reaching out to other groups that have a stake in increasing higher education attainment, including students and employers. Through our Goal 2025 initiative, Lumina is working to move beyond awareness of the need to increase attainment to a commitment to act. Employers, in particular, can play a key role in this effort by supporting the educational advancement of their own workers, as well as advocating for policies that increase attainment.

Higher education and jobs

The rationale for increasing higher education attainment is also much more widely understood than ever before. Most now agree that, as a nation, we desperately need more citizens with postsecondary degrees. We need them to bolster our economy, to strengthen our democracy, to lead our communities and more.

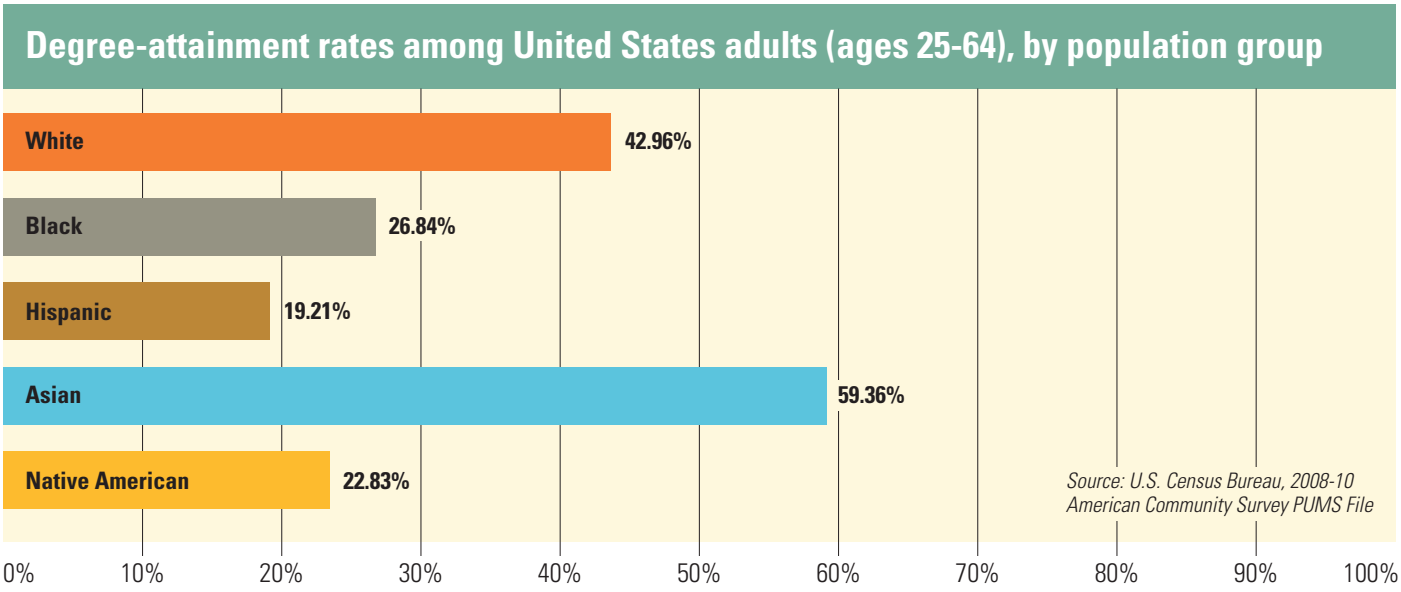
Understandably, however, the main focus has been on jobs and the fact that a growing number of them require some form of postsecondary education. According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 60 percent of U.S. jobs will require some form of postsecondary education by 2018. For individual Americans, the consequences of not completing some form of postsecondary education are increasingly dire — especially in this economy.

For many years, the main reason many people went to college was to gain access to better-paying jobs that allowed them to earn more throughout their lives. But earnings potential is no longer the main driver. In this economy, the issue is whether you even *have* a job. According to the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution, in 2010 at the peak of U.S. unemployment rates, around 8 percent of baccalaureate degree holders were unemployed or underemployed. But the situation for those with less education was even more serious. For high school graduates, the rate of unemployment and underemployment reached 21 percent, while for high school dropouts it peaked at 32 percent.

Given these figures, it's no wonder that millions are seeking postsecondary education — or that policymakers and higher education leaders are focused on increasing the number of Americans with college degrees and other postsecondary credentials. But the drive to increase attainment is not without its critics. In particular, it has become fashionable in some quarters to suggest that higher education is no longer worth the cost. Some in the public sphere have garnered a lot of publicity by saying there is a "higher education bubble" and advising bright young people to skip college and instead use their savings to start their own businesses. Newspapers and magazines are full of stories about the poor job prospects for recent college graduates, and nearly everyone seems to have heard about a college graduate who is supposedly living in his

[1] http://macroblog.typepad.com/macroblog/2010/07/a-curious-unemployment-picture-gets-more-curious.html

[2] The Federal Reserve Bank of New York study is called *Has Structural Change Contributed to a Jobless Recovery?* and was written by Erica L. Groshen and Simon Potter. An overview of the research and link to a PDF of the full report can be found at http://www.ny.frb.org/research/current_issues/ci9-8/ci9-8.html.



parents' basement or driving a cab. It's certainly true that college costs much more than it used to, and more students are taking on debt to pay for it. So it's become reasonable to ask the once-heretical question: Is college worth it?

What about all those unemployed college graduates? A recent analysis by the Georgetown Center found that 8.9 percent of 22- to 26-year-olds with bachelor's degrees are unemployed. That's high by any measure, but probably not as bad as might be expected given the amount of media coverage of the supposed oversupply of college and university graduates. The unemployment rate for that same 22- to 26-year-old population with only a high school diploma is 22.9 percent, and it's a staggering 31.5 percent for high school dropouts. And it is almost certain that, as the economy recovers, the college graduates will be the first ones hired.

It's not hard to figure out what is behind these numbers. Occupations that require higher-level skills — healthcare, for example — are growing. Low-skill jobs aren't exactly disappearing, but their numbers are shrinking, leaving more workers competing for them. The skill and knowledge requirements of most occupations are increasing, and people with only a high school diploma or less are unable to fill many of the jobs that the knowledge economy is creating. It's like two games of musical chairs, where chairs are taken away from one game — the one for low-skill workers — and added to the game for workers with the skills and knowledge that today's workplace demands.

An emerging understanding of quality

At Lumina, we believe strongly that increasing the number of Americans with high-quality postsecondary degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025 is essential, but we also believe that merely increasing the number of college graduates isn't enough. We know very clearly that the need for

more college graduates is driven by real demand for the skills and knowledge that the degrees represent. Quite frankly, without a sharper focus on the quality of learning, increased degree attainment is meaningless.

For too long, quality in higher education has been thought of mainly as a characteristic of institutions and programs. It is correlated with things such as admissions selectivity, faculty credentials, class size, campus amenities, the size of the endowment — even the price of tuition. Unfortunately, most people still think of higher education quality in terms of these input measures. But inputs are not now — and probably never have been — a true measure of quality. Today, actual outcomes are what matter, particularly outcomes for students.

To better define higher education quality in terms of learning outcomes, Lumina has introduced the Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP). Drafted by experts in American higher education, the DQP is a framework for clearly defining the learning represented by college degrees. It is a baseline set of reference points for what students in any field should be able to do to earn their degrees.

Currently, the DQP is being tested at more than 100 institutions in 30 states, representing virtually every sector of nonprofit higher education. It outlines five areas of student learning — specialized knowledge, broad knowledge, intellectual skills, applied learning and civic learning. While each of the five areas is described independently, the areas clearly interact, both in learning and in application. Students must apply their learning in a variety of settings and be able to solve problems that span disciplines. The expectation for student performance ratchets up from associate degree to bachelor's to master's.

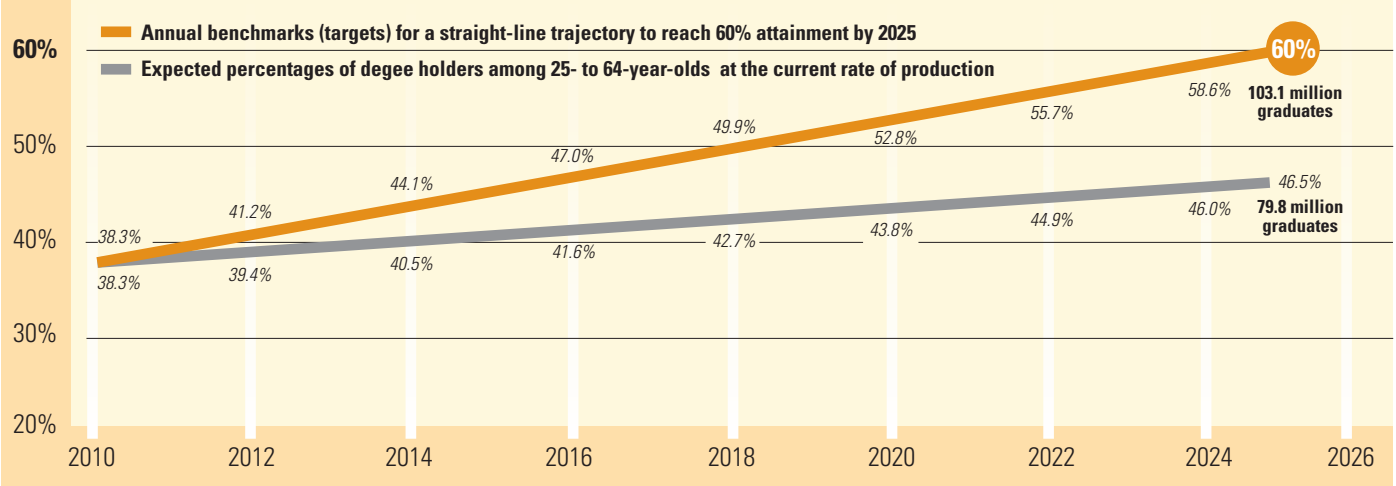
From this effort, we have already learned that there is value in explicitly defining — and putting in writing — what a degree represents in terms of learning. Again, the idea is to clearly demonstrate what a degree holder knows and is able to do with the degree he or she has earned. We have also learned that there is actually a great deal of consensus among educators and employers about the knowledge and skills that students need — and about how they should be able to apply them — as they progress from the associate degree to the bachelor's and on to the master's. The work of the past several decades on learning outcomes has produced an impressive body of knowledge that can be built on. And the data from employers strongly suggest that what they need from college graduates aligns with what educators are saying.

Degrees matter, so we must increase the number of Americans who complete college degrees. But in the final analysis, college degrees must represent real learning. With the DQP, higher education can be accountable for the learning of its graduates. A list of credits earned and courses taken does not provide that assurance of quality. Being accountable for the quality and integrity of degrees means we must be accountable for student learning. We hope that the DQP continues to develop into an effective tool that all of higher education can use to define quality — and quality degrees — in terms of student learning.

The road ahead

The need to increase higher education attainment is clear and critical. America is grappling with the challenge of how to grow jobs, skills and opportunity. The issue can't be wished away by trendy talk about higher education bubbles and simplistic questions about whether college is still "worth it." America needs more college graduates. It's the only viable route to economic prosperity — for individuals and for the nation.

The path to 60% degree attainment in the U.S.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

How many degrees to hit the Big Goal ... and how to get there

The Big Goal calls for the United States to reach a 60 percent higher education attainment rate by 2025, compared to the current rate of 38 percent. Lumina and many others are working on strategies to reach the Big Goal, but what will it actually take? How many degrees do we need, and where will they come from?

To reach a 60 percent higher education attainment rate in 2025, 103 million Americans between the ages of 25 and 64 will need a college degree (that's 60 percent of the projected 2025 U.S. population in that age range). About 37 million of those degrees have already been produced — they're held by people who are young enough that they'll still be in the workforce in 2025. That leaves 66 million new degrees. At current rates, the American higher education system can be expected to produce 38.3 million new degrees between now and 2025. Another 4.4 million will come from immigrants who come to this country with college degrees. That leaves a gap of 23.3 million new degrees that we need to produce.

Plug the pipeline

The first place to go for those degrees is to plug the leaks in the education pipeline. One good step would be to increase the high school graduation rate and college-going rate from high school to 75 percent and 70 percent respectively. These increased rates, which would still be lower than those already achieved by the best-performing U.S. states, would produce 3.6 million new degrees. Increasing completion rates in public colleges and universities to levels above where they are now but below today's best-performing states would yield an additional 5.3 million degrees. The total impact of these ambitious but realistic approaches would be about 9 million additional college degrees — a substantial increase, but less than half of what is necessary to reach the Big Goal.

Producing the rest of the degrees needed to reach the 60 percent goal will require innovative efforts outside the mainstream of current thinking. First, we can get more college degrees from adults — both those who didn't go to college directly from high school, and those who went to college but left without a degree. Increasing enrollment by students who did not go to college when they graduated from high school could realistically add 1.5 million college graduates to the total. Going after adults who attended college but never completed a degree would yield even more. Today, 36.2 million Americans between the ages of 25 and 64 fall into this category. If just 10 percent of them completed a degree or other high-quality credential, 3.6 million degree holders would be added to the total.

The next step is to include high-value certificates. The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce has calculated that approximately 5 percent of adults between the ages of 25 and 64 have a postsecondary certificate as their highest level of education, and have earnings equivalent to those of two-year degree holders.

Certificates matter

To be counted under Lumina's definition of high-quality degrees or credentials (those with clear and transparent learning outcomes leading to further education and employment), these certificates should be recognized in terms of learning outcomes and have clear pathways to further degrees. Once this is accomplished, counting these certificate holders would add 10.3 million degrees to the total.

Even more innovative approaches are possible in the drive to reach the Big Goal, such as taking advantage of the burgeoning expansion of open courseware to create new pathways to degrees. Another innovative effort could be to significantly expand the availability of prior learning assessment (PLA), including granting degrees based on PLA. If made widely available, these approaches might produce more than 2 million new degrees by 2025.

Undoubtedly, there are other promising ideas for increasing the number of college graduates. Getting to the Big Goal will require a combination of proven and innovative strategies.

The cumulative effect of the approaches described above would be to produce 26.3 million new degrees — enough for the U.S. to reach an attainment rate of 62 percent by 2025. These aggressive but attainable targets show how the Big Goal can be reached.

Percentage of adults (25-64) with at least an associate degree, by metropolitan area

	Percent with at least an associate degree	Total Population 2010	2010 Population Rank		Percent with at least an associate degree	Total Population 2010	2010 Population Rank
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	45.88	18,897,109	1	Salt Lake City, UT	39.64	1,124,197	51
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	38.96	12,828,837	2	Rochester, NY	46.90	1,054,323	52
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI	43.59	9,461,105	3	Tucson, AZ	37.77	980,263	53
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	38.66	6,371,773	4	Honolulu, HI	44.50	953,207	54
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	42.65	5,965,343	5	Tulsa, OK	35.55	937,478	55
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	35.25	5,946,800	6	Fresno, CA	28.71	930,450	56
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	54.37	5,582,170	7	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	53.29	916,829	57
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	39.65	5,564,635	8	Albuquerque, NM	37.68	887,077	58
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	43.39	5,268,860	9	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	48.94	870,716	59
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	54.01	4,552,402	10	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	43.82	865,350	60
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	52.91	4,335,391	11	New Haven-Milford, CT	42.99	862,477	61
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	37.86	4,296,250	12	Dayton, OH	36.67	841,502	62
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	27.54	4,224,851	13	Bakersfield-Delano, CA	21.33	839,631	63
Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ	37.30	4,192,887	14	Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	40.11	823,318	64
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	47.97	3,439,809	15	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	38.76	821,173	65
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	50.06	3,279,833	16	Baton Rouge, LA	31.65	802,484	66
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	43.95	3,095,313	17	El Paso, TX	28.05	800,647	67
St. Louis, MO-IL	41.15	2,812,896	18	Worcester, MA	46.32	798,552	68
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	37.56	2,783,243	19	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	20.78	774,769	69
Baltimore-Towson, MD	43.90	2,710,489	20	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	37.62	774,160	70
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO	47.39	2,543,482	21	Columbia, SC	40.59	767,598	71
San Juan-Caguas-Guaynabo, PR	36.92	2,478,905	22	Greensboro-High Point, NC	35.30	723,801	72
Pittsburgh, PA	43.56	2,356,285	23	Akron, OH	39.93	703,200	73
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	43.82	2,226,009	24	North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota, FL	36.47	702,281	74
Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA	40.65	2,149,127	25	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	35.18	699,757	75
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	33.88	2,142,508	26	Knoxville, TN	38.86	698,030	76
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	39.55	2,134,411	27	Springfield, MA	41.17	692,942	77
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	39.37	2,130,151	28	Stockton, CA	26.11	685,306	78
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	38.65	2,077,240	29	Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY	42.77	670,301	79
Kansas City, MO-KS	42.52	2,035,334	30	Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC	40.75	664,607	80
Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	29.67	1,951,269	31	Syracuse, NY	43.53	662,577	81
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	54.08	1,836,911	32	Toledo, OH	34.82	651,429	82
Columbus, OH	42.83	1,836,536	33	Colorado Springs, CO	46.38	645,613	83
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	43.16	1,758,038	34	Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC	38.58	636,986	84
Indianapolis-Carmel, IN	41.00	1,756,241	35	Wichita, KS	36.58	623,061	85
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX	46.97	1,716,289	36	Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	32.46	618,754	86
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	38.20	1,671,683	37	Boise City-Nampa, ID	37.85	616,561	87
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	40.28	1,600,852	38	Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	27.57	602,095	88
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, TN	39.06	1,589,934	39	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	46.86	569,633	89
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	42.09	1,555,908	40	Madison, WI	53.74	568,593	90
Jacksonville, FL	36.50	1,345,596	41	Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	28.71	565,773	91
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	33.28	1,316,100	42	Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA	34.50	563,631	92
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	34.85	1,283,566	43	Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	32.58	556,877	93
Richmond, VA	39.61	1,258,251	44	Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	39.68	549,475	94
Oklahoma City, OK	35.19	1,252,987	45	Ogden-Clearfield, UT	40.09	547,184	95
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	46.28	1,212,381	46	Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	39.37	543,376	96
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	33.70	1,167,764	47	Jackson, MS	38.78	539,057	97
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	44.14	1,135,509	48	Chattanooga, TN-GA	32.34	528,143	98
Raleigh-Cary, NC	52.72	1,130,490	49	Provo-Orem, UT	46.97	526,810	99
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	36.92	1,128,047	50	Lancaster, PA	32.21	519,445	100

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2008-10 American Community Survey Three-Year Estimates.

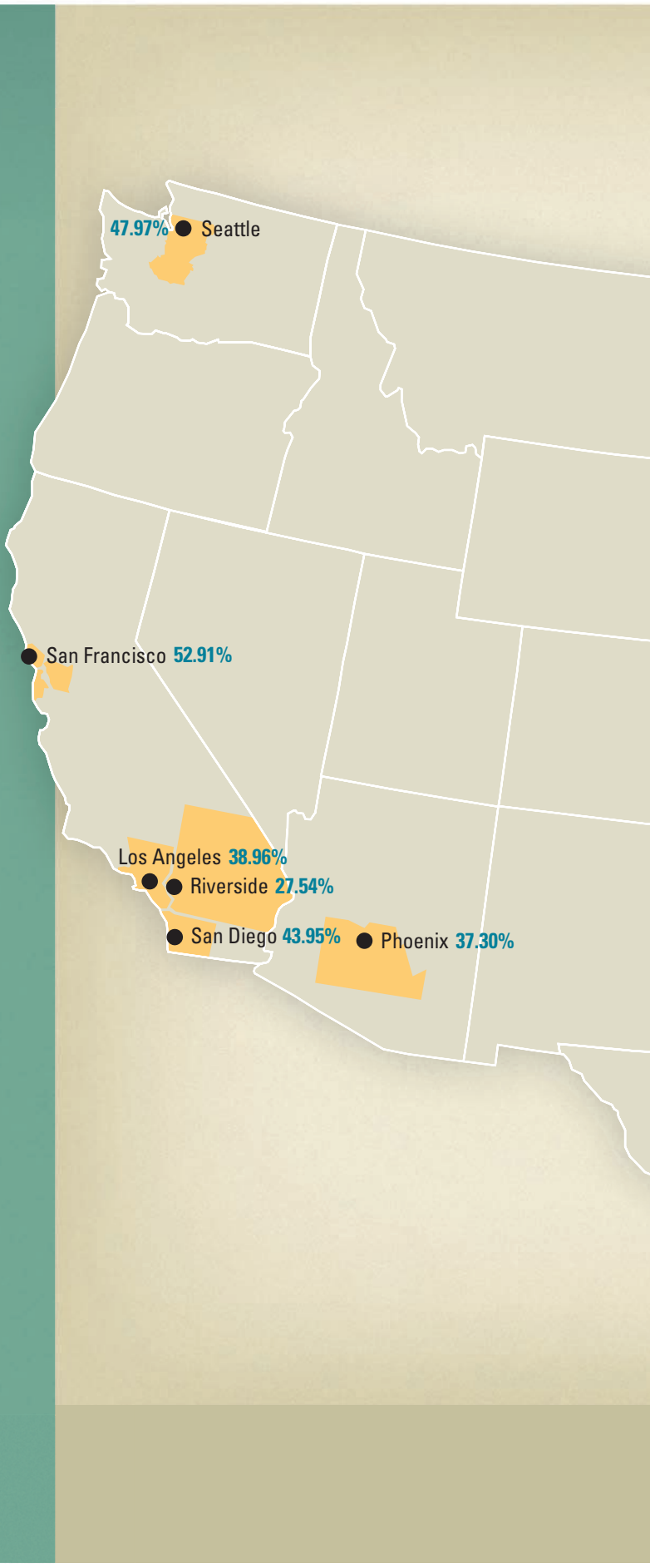
Note: This chart lists Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The term MSA refers to a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core. MSAs comprise one or more entire counties, except in New England, where cities and towns are the basic geographic units. The federal Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs for purposes of collecting, tabulating and publishing federal data. These definitions result from applying published standards to Census Bureau data.

Rank by population

1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island	18.9 million
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	12.8 million
3	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville	9.5 million
4	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	6.4 million
5	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington	6.0 million
6	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	5.9 million
7	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria	5.6 million
8	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach	5.6 million
9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta	5.3 million
10	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy	4.6 million
11	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont	4.3 million
12	Detroit-Warren-Livonia	4.3 million
13	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario	4.2 million
14	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale	4.2 million
15	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue	3.4 million
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington	3.3 million
17	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos	3.1 million
18	St. Louis	2.8 million
19	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	2.8 million
20	Baltimore-Towson	2.7 million

Rank by degree attainment

1	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria	54.37%
2	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy	54.01%
3	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont	52.91%
4	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington	50.06%
5	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue	47.97%
6	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island	45.88%
7	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos	43.95%
8	Baltimore-Towson	43.90%
9	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville	43.59%
10	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta	43.39%
11	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington	42.65%
12	St. Louis	41.15%
13	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach	39.65%
14	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	38.96%
15	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	38.66%
16	Detroit-Warren-Livonia	37.86%
17	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	37.56%
18	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale	37.30%
19	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	35.25%
20	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario	27.54%



Attainment rates for the nation's 20 most populated metropolitan areas

Note: This map denotes Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The term MSA refers to a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core. MSAs comprise one or more entire counties, except in New England, where cities and towns are the basic geographic units. The federal Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs for purposes of collecting, tabulating and publishing federal data. These definitions result from applying published standards to Census Bureau data.

ALABAMA

In Alabama, 31.5 percent of the state's 2.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Alabama are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 32 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Alabama and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 38 percent of Alabama's adult population — 886,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Alabama will need to add nearly 517,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 55 percent of Alabama's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Alabama will need to fill more than 680,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 373,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Alabama's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Alabama can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 577,000 Alabama adults — 23 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Alabama reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Alabama develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Alabama communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Alabama must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Alabama's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

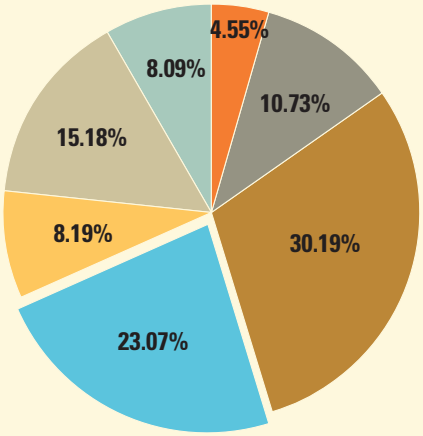
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 31.6%

2009 – 31.7%

2010 – 31.5%

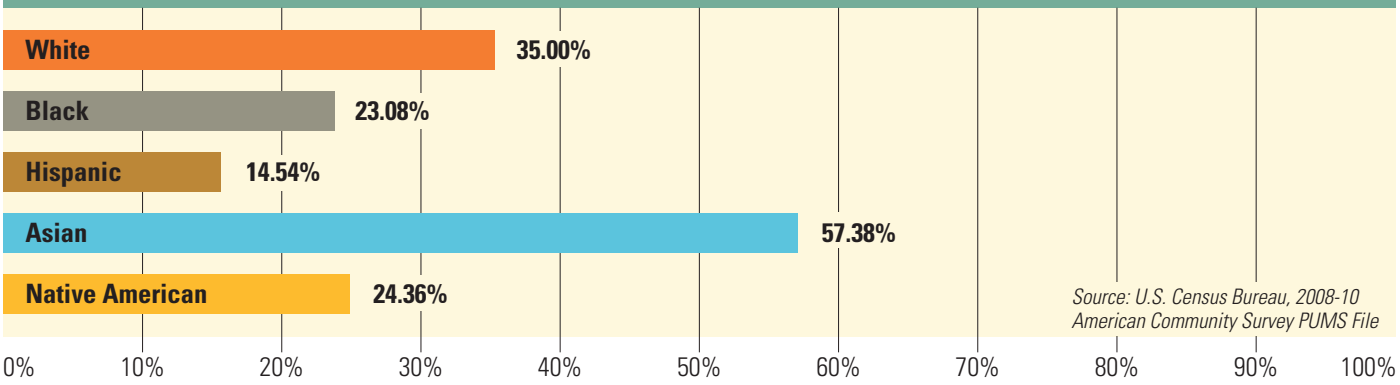
Levels of education for Alabama residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	113,930	4.55%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	268,620	10.73%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	755,740	30.19%
Some college, no degree	**577,615**	**23.07%**
Associate degree	205,005	8.19%
Bachelor's degree	380,136	15.18%
Graduate or professional degree	202,501	8.09%
TOTAL	2,503,547	100%

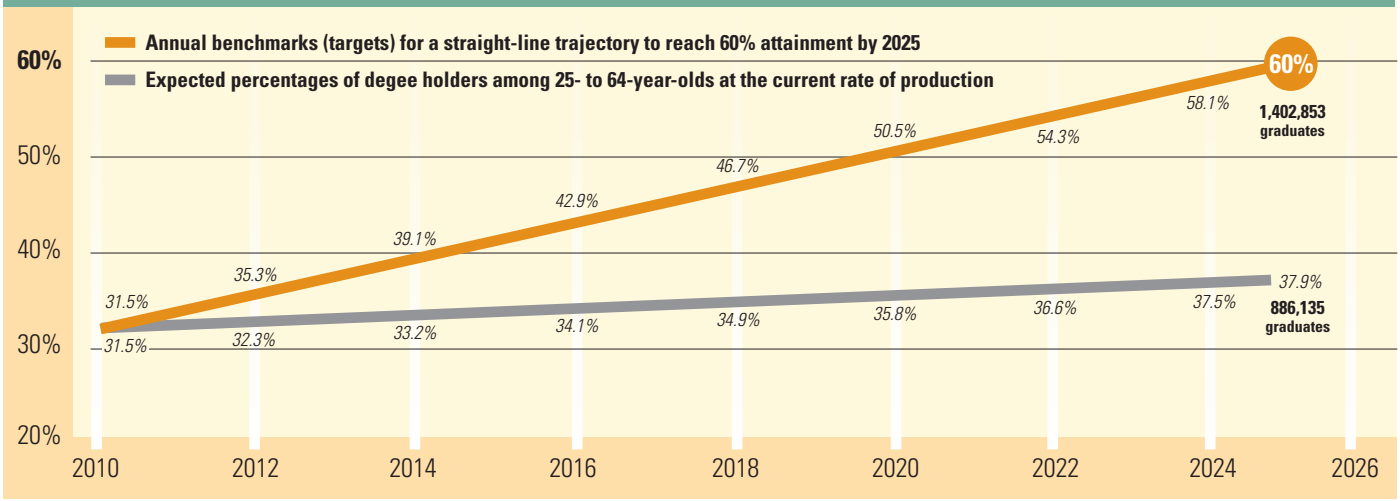
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Alabama adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Alabama



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Alabama adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Autauga	31.06	Clarke	21.18	DeKalb	18.88	Jefferson	39.19	Mobile	29.27	Talladega	20.03
Baldwin	36.61	Clay	19.13	Elmore	27.87	Lamar	16.13	Monroe	20.03	Tallapoosa	24.21
Barbour	21.63	Cleburne	14.79	Escambia	22.00	Lauderdale	30.58	Montgomery	38.27	Tuscaloosa	34.78
Bibb	16.06	Coffee	33.08	Etowah	27.02	Lawrence	20.55	Morgan	28.07	Walker	19.17
Blount	20.91	Colbert	25.86	Fayette	19.59	Lee	39.90	Perry	19.92	Washington	14.60
Bullock	19.14	Conecuh	23.14	Franklin	21.04	Limestone	30.07	Pickens	19.83	Wilcox	20.08
Butler	21.64	Coosa	13.98	Geneva	17.19	Lowndes	18.30	Pike	28.87	Winston	18.60
Calhoun	24.65	Covington	23.47	Greene	15.90	Macon	28.90	Randolph	19.10		
Chambers	20.39	Crenshaw	17.53	Hale	17.05	Madison	46.74	Russell	20.77		
Cherokee	17.53	Cullman	25.82	Henry	23.70	Marengo	26.33	St. Clair	23.40		
Chilton	19.22	Dale	29.71	Houston	29.86	Marion	19.33	Shelby	50.03		
Choctaw	19.96	Dallas	23.50	Jackson	19.84	Marshall	23.92	Sumter	21.42		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

ALASKA

In Alaska, 37.3 percent of the state's 397,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Alaska are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 33.2 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Alaska and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 44 percent of Alaska's adult population — 170,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Alaska will need to add nearly 65,000 more degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 63 percent of Alaska's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Alaska will need to fill 104,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 65,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Alaska's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Alaska can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 119,000 Alaska adults had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. They represent about 30 percent of the state's adult population. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Alaska reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Alaska develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each borough. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural boroughs. Assuring that all Alaska communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Alaska must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Alaska's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

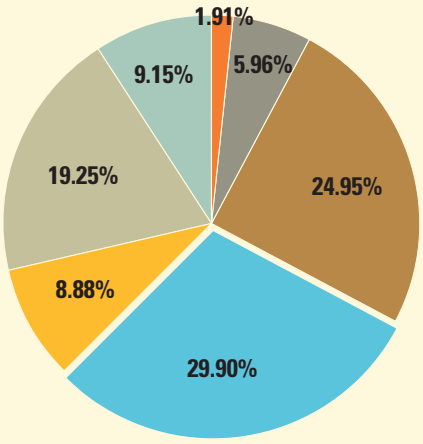
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 36.3%

2009 – 35.1%

2010 – 37.3%

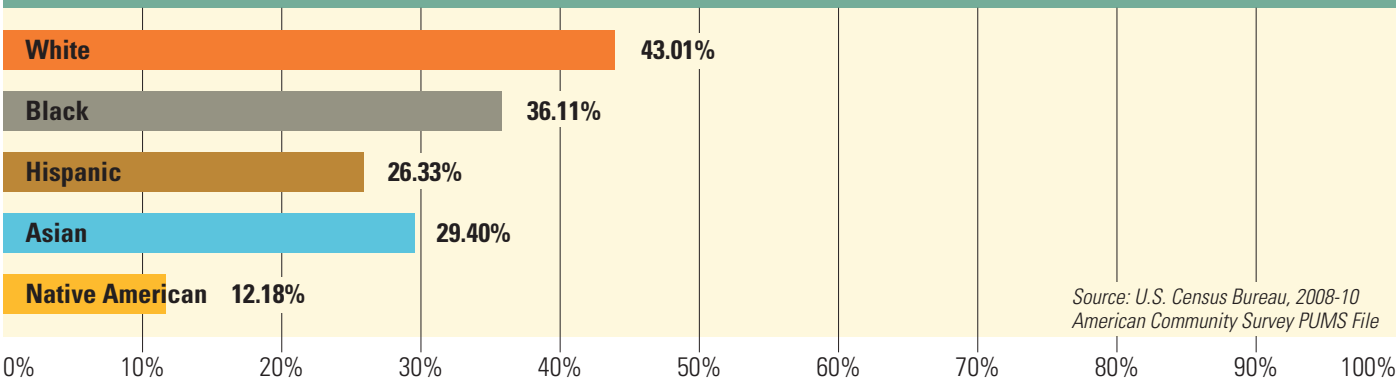
Levels of education for Alaska residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	7,577	1.91%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	23,689	5.96%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	99,114	24.95%
Some college, no degree	**118,771**	**29.90%**
Associate degree	35,273	8.88%
Bachelor's degree	76,459	19.25%
Graduate or professional degree	36,355	9.15%
TOTAL	397,238	100%

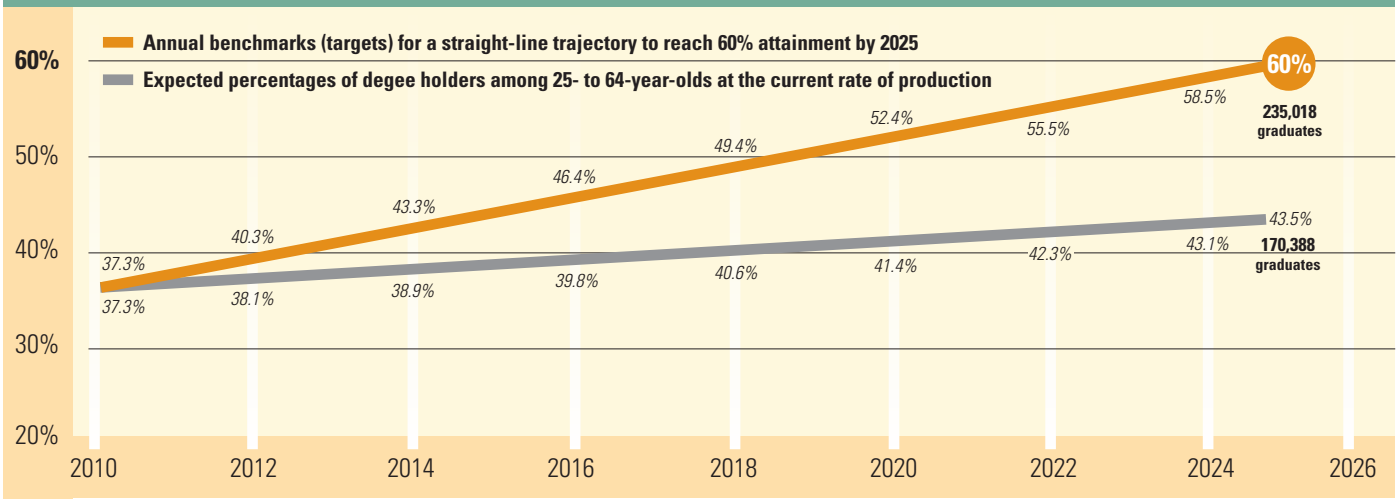
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Alaska adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Alaska



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Alaska adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by borough

Aleutians East Borough	17.23	Juneau City and Borough	41.33	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	23.01
Aleutians West Census Area	14.92	Kenai Peninsula Borough	30.53	Sitka City and Borough	38.31
Anchorage Municipality	42.56	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	34.10	Skagway Municipality	38.11
Bethel Census Area	18.78	Kodiak Island Borough	31.52	Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	25.83
Bristol Bay Borough	29.67	Lake and Peninsula Borough	19.94	Valdez-Cordova Census Area	34.38
Denali Borough	36.49	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	31.37	Wade Hampton Census Area	10.58
Dillingham Census Area	26.19	Nome Census Area	18.85	Wrangell City and Borough	28.79
Fairbanks North Star Borough	37.77	North Slope Borough	16.49	Yakutat City and Borough	32.52
Haines Borough	38.42	Northwest Arctic Borough	17.21	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	17.27
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	35.74	Petersburg Census Area	38.63		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

ARIZONA

In Arizona, 35.1 percent of the state's 3.3 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Arizona are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 32.7 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Arizona and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 39 percent of Arizona's adult population — 1.7 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Arizona will need to add more than 900,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 61 percent of Arizona's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Arizona will need to fill 907,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 554,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Arizona's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Arizona can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 884,000 Arizona adults had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. They represent 27 percent of the state's adult population. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Arizona reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Arizona develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Arizona communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Arizona must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Arizona's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

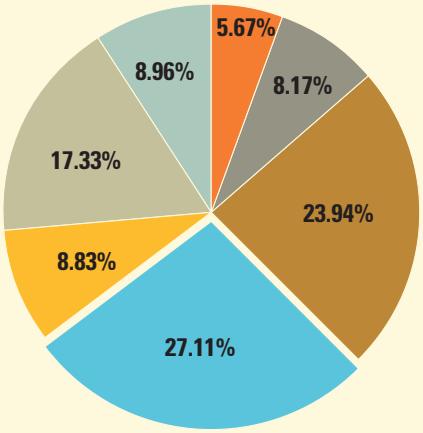
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 34.4%

2009 – 34.8%

2010 – 35.1%

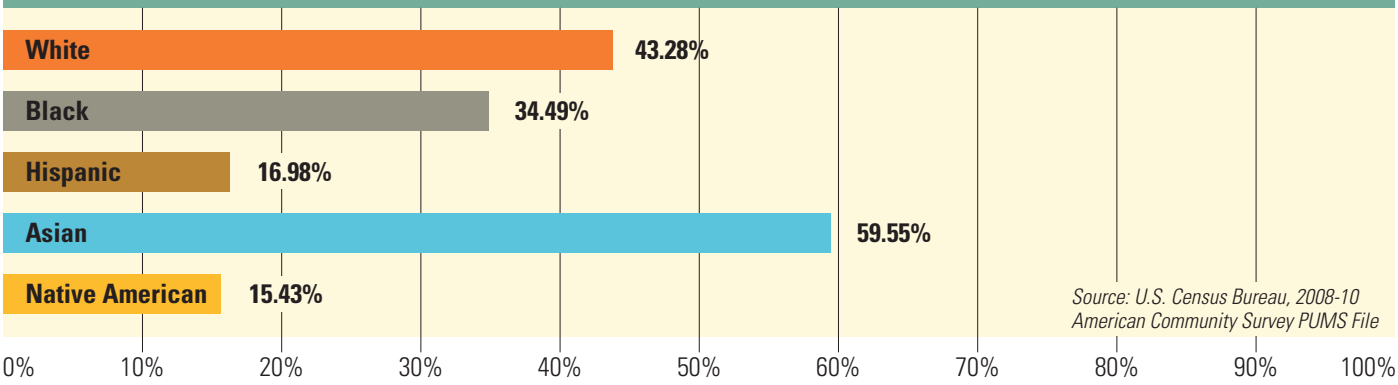
Levels of education for Arizona residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	184,819	5.67%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	266,365	8.17%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	780,448	23.94%
Some college, no degree	**883,777**	**27.11%**
Associate degree	287,734	8.83%
Bachelor's degree	564,835	17.33%
Graduate or professional degree	291,985	8.96%
TOTAL	3,259,963	100%

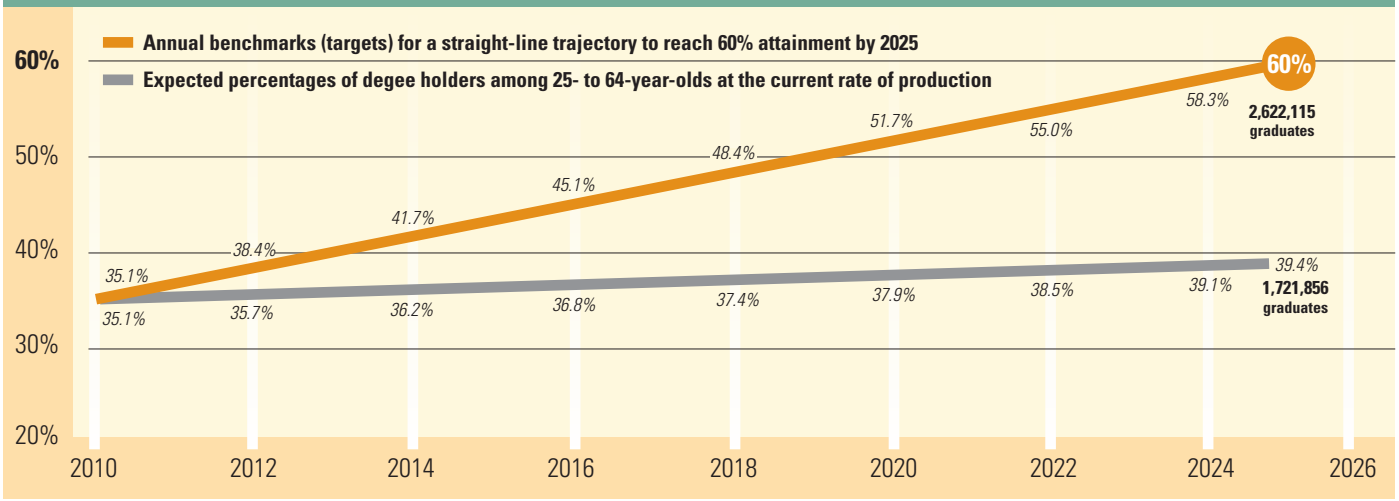
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Arizona adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Arizona



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Arizona adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Apache	19.46	Gila	24.33	La Paz	14.32	Navajo	24.38	Santa Cruz	20.92
Cochise	33.97	Graham	21.22	Maricopa	38.54	Pima	38.58	Yavapai	32.31
Coconino	39.57	Greenlee	23.65	Mohave	20.36	Pinal	27.56	Yuma	21.67

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

ARKANSAS

In Arkansas, 27.9 percent of the state's 1.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Arkansas are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 30.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Arkansas and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 35 percent of Arkansas' adult population — nearly 538,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Arkansas will need to add about 374,000 more degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 52 percent of Arkansas' jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Arkansas will need to fill 419,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 217,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Arkansas' economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Arkansas can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, 358,000 Arkansas adults — 24 percent of the adult population —had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Arkansas reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Arkansas develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Arkansas communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Arkansas must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Arkansas' economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

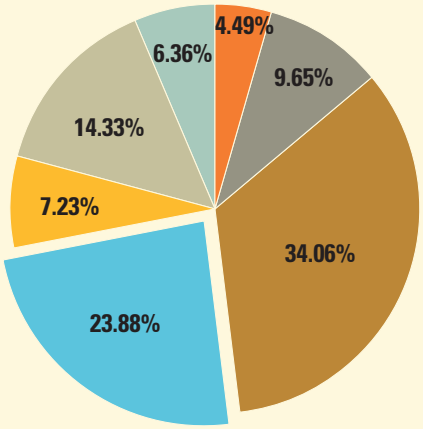
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 26.5%

2009 – 27.0%

2010 – 27.9%

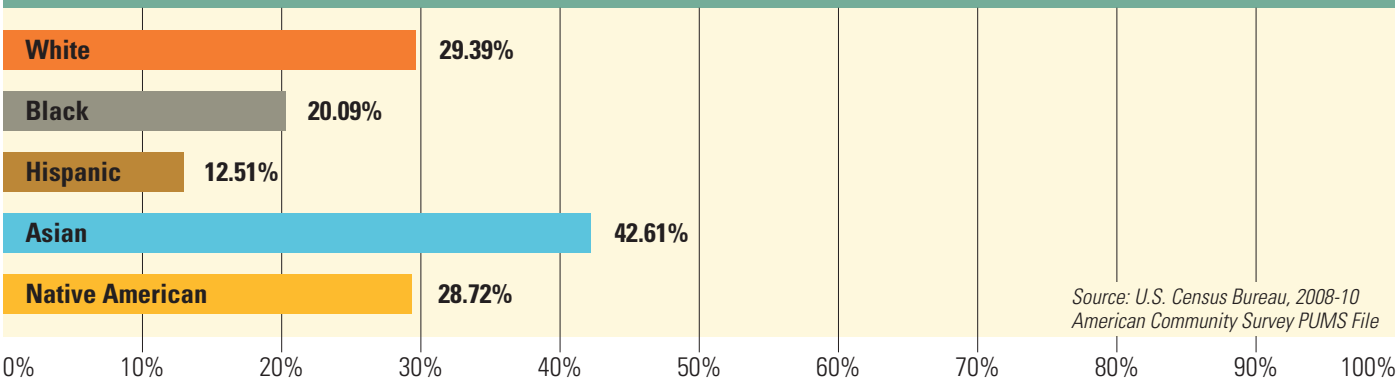
Levels of education for Arkansas residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	67,387	4.49%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	144,629	9.65%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	510,657	34.06%
Some college, no degree	**358,003**	**23.88%**
Associate degree	108,448	7.23%
Bachelor's degree	214,858	14.33%
Graduate or professional degree	95,365	6.36%
TOTAL	1,499,347	100%

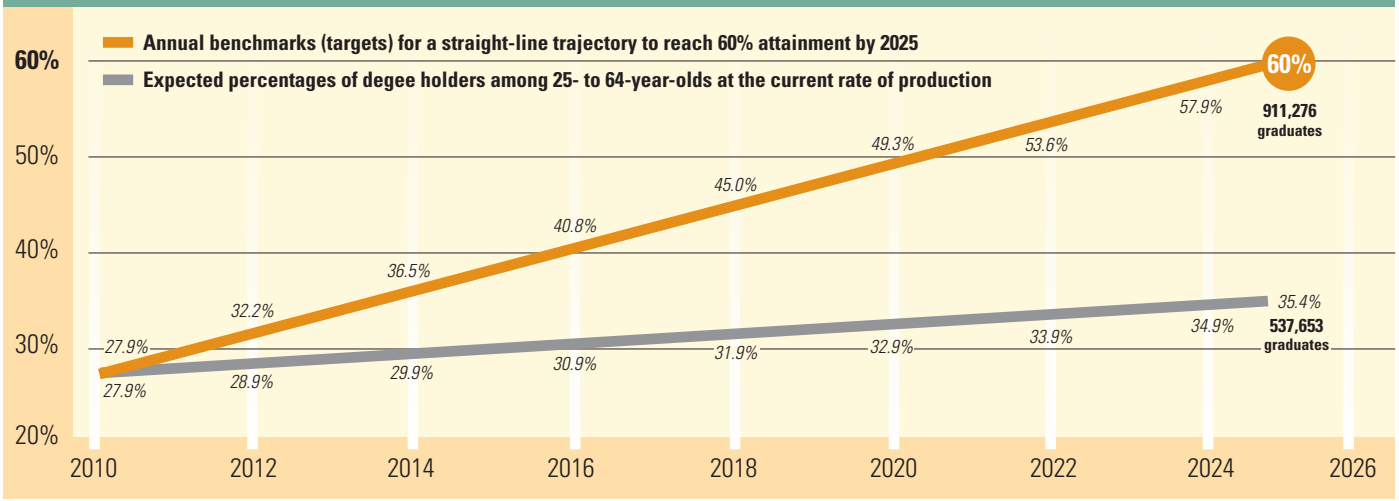
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Arkansas adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Arkansas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Arkansas adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Arkansas	23.87	Columbia	30.23	Grant	22.32	Lincoln	13.45	Perry	15.80	Sebastian	26.89
Ashley	18.53	Conway	20.12	Greene	17.44	Little River	22.84	Phillips	24.60	Sevier	14.82
Baxter	24.61	Craighead	29.71	Hempstead	20.85	Logan	19.79	Pike	20.49	Sharp	19.15
Benton	34.07	Crawford	23.31	Hot Spring	22.75	Lonoke	27.22	Poinsett	14.15	Stone	20.18
Boone	23.18	Crittenden	20.62	Howard	16.59	Madison	17.27	Polk	18.51	Union	26.80
Bradley	16.99	Cross	20.16	Independence	22.10	Marion	21.00	Pope	27.71	Van Buren	22.63
Calhoun	15.85	Dallas	17.80	Izard	18.07	Miller	17.86	Prairie	15.88	Washington	34.05
Carroll	23.03	Desha	19.71	Jackson	12.60	Mississippi	18.02	Pulaski	39.50	White	24.34
Chicot	15.76	Drew	27.63	Jefferson	22.33	Monroe	23.64	Randolph	21.97	Woodruff	12.70
Clark	31.98	Faulkner	35.50	Johnson	19.26	Montgomery	22.54	St. Francis	17.59	Yell	14.18
Clay	16.52	Franklin	16.87	Lafayette	19.03	Nevada	19.65	Saline	30.41		
Cleburne	22.37	Fulton	18.02	Lawrence	15.75	Newton	18.88	Scott	14.62		
Cleveland	20.97	Garland	28.88	Lee	12.60	Ouachita	20.08	Searcy	16.39		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

CALIFORNIA

In California, 38.8 percent of the state's 19.8 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in California are stable or increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 38 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In California and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 43 percent of California's adult population — 9.6 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, California will need to add nearly 3.7 million more degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 61 percent of California's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, California will need to fill 5.5 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 3.3 million will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, California's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

California can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 4.5 million California adults — 23 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping California reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help California develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all California communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, California must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build California's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

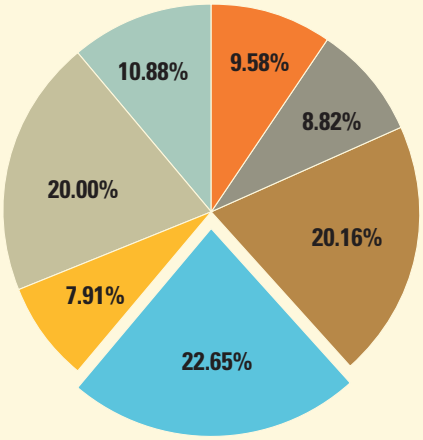
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 38.6%

2009 – 38.7%

2010 – 38.8%

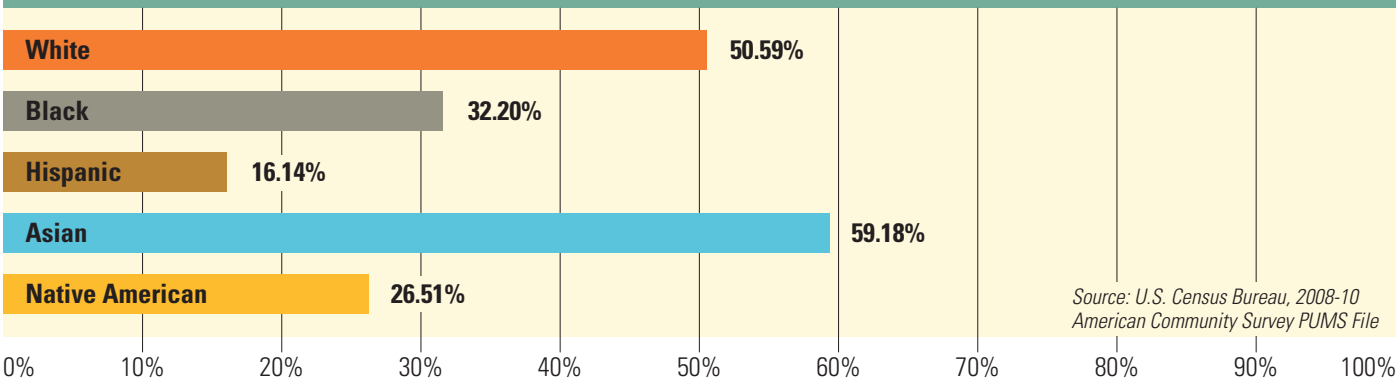
Levels of education for California residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	1,899,532	9.58%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	1,749,651	8.82%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	3,998,052	20.16%
Some college, no degree	**4,491,007**	**22.65%**
Associate degree	1,567,500	7.91%
Bachelor's degree	3,965,501	20.00%
Graduate or professional degree	2,156,462	10.88%
TOTAL	19,827,705	100%

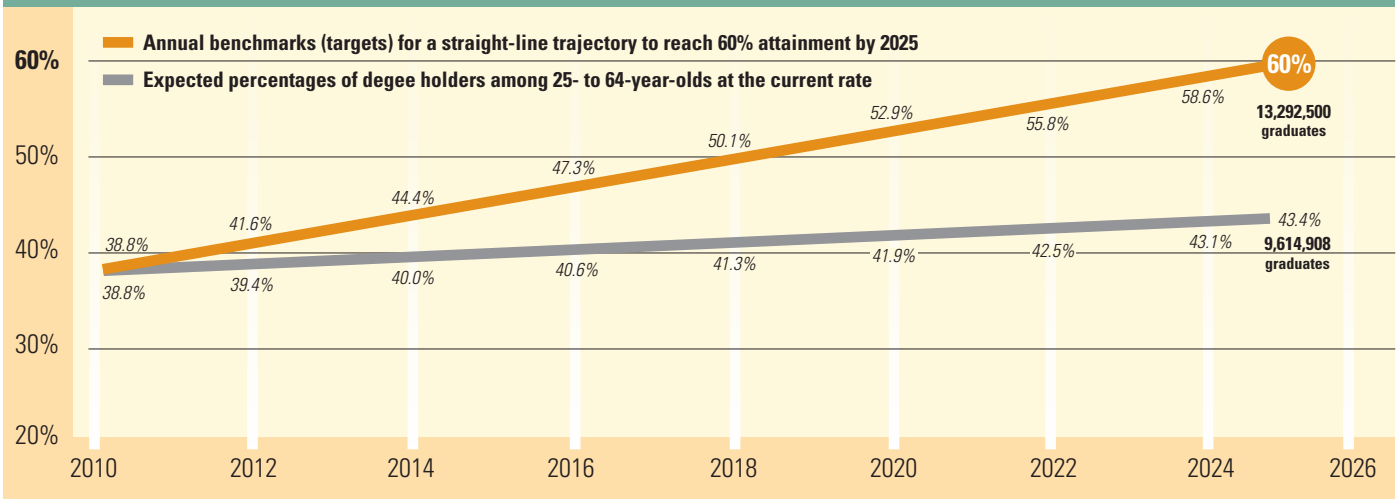
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among California adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in California



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of California adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Alameda	49.78	Glenn	23.83	Marin	62.08	Placer	47.88	San Mateo	54.61	Sutter	30.14
Alpine	37.70	Humboldt	37.22	Mariposa	30.04	Plumas	28.83	Santa Barbara	39.82	Tehama	21.19
Amador	28.50	Imperial	20.38	Mendocino	33.07	Riverside	28.31	Santa Clara	55.06	Trinity	29.83
Butte	35.46	Inyo	30.44	Merced	19.91	Sacramento	38.40	Santa Cruz	46.56	Tulare	20.97
Calaveras	30.99	Kern	21.68	Modoc	26.62	San Benito	27.31	Shasta	31.89	Tuolumne	26.67
Colusa	20.51	Kings	19.84	Mono	40.86	San Bernardino	27.37	Sierra	34.30	Ventura	40.42
Contra Costa	48.01	Lake	25.99	Monterey	29.67	San Diego	43.92	Siskiyou	34.29	Yolo	47.17
Del Norte	23.42	Lassen	23.68	Napa	39.52	San Francisco	61.54	Solano	35.66	Yuba	22.66
El Dorado	42.68	Los Angeles	37.17	Nevada	43.44	San Joaquin	26.73	Sonoma	40.06		
Fresno	28.55	Madera	20.12	Orange	45.26	San Luis Obispo	41.36	Stanislaus	23.97		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

COLORADO

In Colorado, 46 percent of the state's 2.8 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Colorado are stable or increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 43.9 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Colorado and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 51 percent of Colorado's adult population — nearly 1.4 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Colorado will need to add more than 236,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 67 percent of Colorado's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Colorado will need to fill 924,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 609,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Colorado's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Colorado can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 641,000 Colorado adults — 23 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Colorado reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Colorado develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Colorado communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Colorado must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Colorado's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

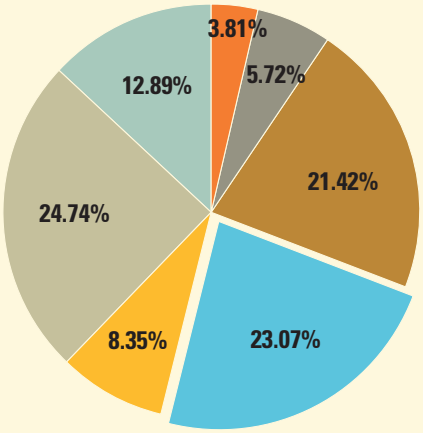
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 45.3%

2009 – 45.8%

2010 – 46.0%

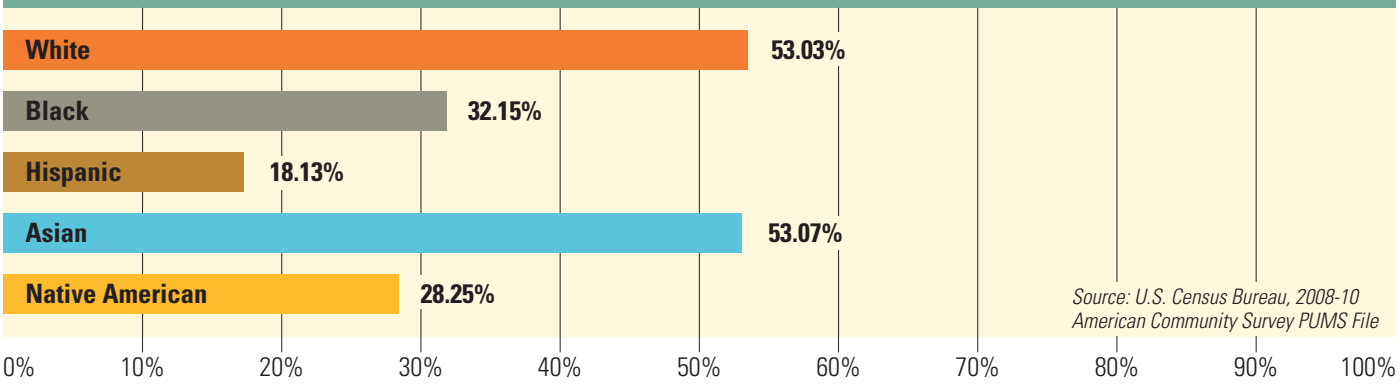
Levels of education for Colorado residents, ages 25-64



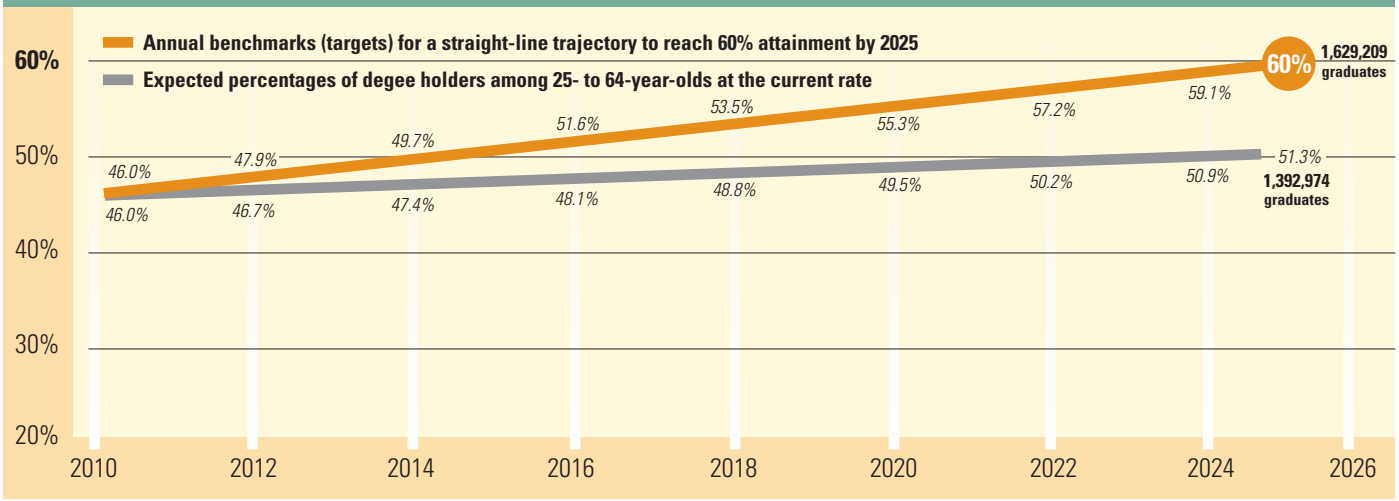
Less than ninth grade	105,734	3.81%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	158,672	5.72%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	594,813	21.42%
Some college, no degree	**640,570**	**23.07%**
Associate degree	231,777	8.35%
Bachelor's degree	686,902	24.74%
Graduate or professional degree	357,939	12.89%
TOTAL	2,776,407	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Colorado adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in Colorado



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Colorado adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	29.81	Conejos	28.68	Fremont	20.98	Lake	37.01	Morgan	25.74	Saguache	25.78
Alamosa	34.92	Costilla	17.65	Garfield	32.33	La Plata	48.17	Otero	30.01	San Juan	29.82
Arapahoe	47.25	Crowley	18.93	Gilpin	43.47	Larimer	53.50	Ouray	45.15	San Miguel	52.92
Archuleta	45.13	Custer	40.78	Grand	40.74	Las Animas	34.93	Park	38.17	Sedgwick	30.24
Baca	35.58	Delta	27.03	Gunnison	54.73	Lincoln	24.51	Phillips	28.11	Summit	55.46
Bent	23.31	Denver	47.72	Hinsdale	37.94	Logan	31.72	Pitkin	64.70	Teller	38.76
Boulder	64.48	Dolores	19.65	Huerfano	35.54	Mesa	35.79	Prowers	32.00	Washington	32.13
Broomfield	56.71	Douglas	64.34	Jackson	34.65	Mineral	50.97	Pueblo	33.14	Weld	36.19
Chaffee	40.12	Eagle	50.06	Jefferson	49.40	Moffat	25.34	Rio Blanco	32.06	Yuma	28.89
Cheyenne	37.92	Elbert	41.57	Kiowa	35.96	Montezuma	35.23	Rio Grande	22.62		
Clear Creek	48.16	El Paso	46.47	Kit Carson	27.06	Montrose	31.29	Routt	51.13		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

CONNECTICUT

In Connecticut, 45.8 percent of the state's 1.9 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Connecticut are decreasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 45.4 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Connecticut and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 51 percent of Connecticut's adult population — 953,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Connecticut will need to add nearly 162,000 more degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 65 percent of Connecticut's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Connecticut will need to fill 564,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 359,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Connecticut's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Connecticut can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 360,000 Connecticut adults — about 19 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Connecticut reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Connecticut develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Connecticut communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Connecticut must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Connecticut's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

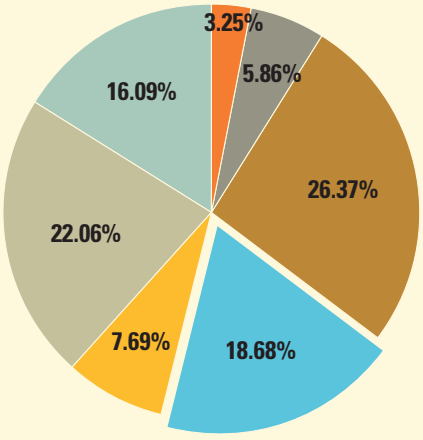
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 46.6%

2009 – 46.4%

2010 – 45.8%

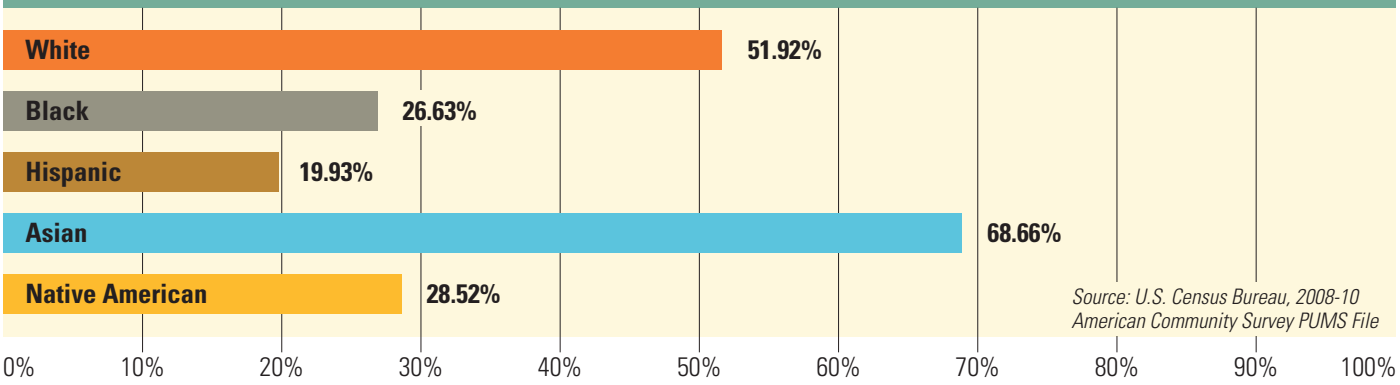
Levels of education for Connecticut residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	62,509	3.25%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	112,901	5.86%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	507,963	26.37%
Some college, no degree	**359,891**	**18.68%**
Associate degree	148,063	7.69%
Bachelor's degree	424,953	22.06%
Graduate or professional degree	309,950	16.09%
TOTAL	1,926,230	100%

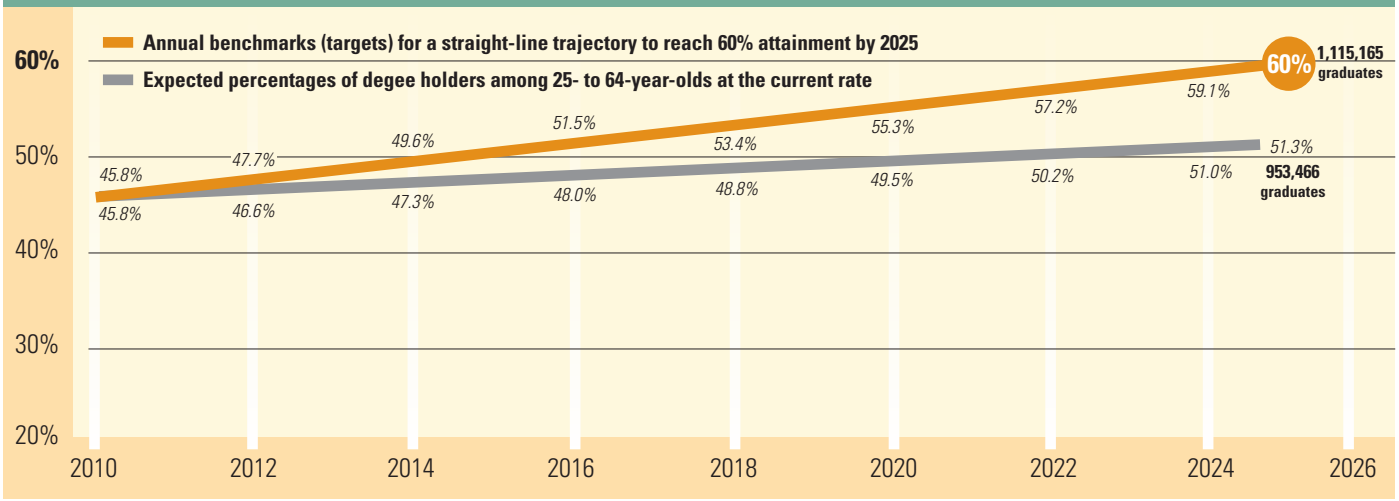
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Connecticut adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Connecticut



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Connecticut adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Fairfield	53.38	Litchfield	43.66	New Haven	42.54	Tolland	49.66
Hartford	44.56	Middlesex	49.41	New London	41.00	Windham	30.56

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

DELAWARE

In Delaware, 37.4 percent of the state's 471,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Delaware are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 37.9 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Delaware and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 42 percent of Delaware's adult population — 204,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Delaware will need to add nearly 88,000 more degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 59 percent of Delaware's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Delaware will need to fill 144,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 83,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Delaware's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Delaware can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 100,000 Delaware adults — 21 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Delaware reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Delaware develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Delaware communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Delaware must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Delaware's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

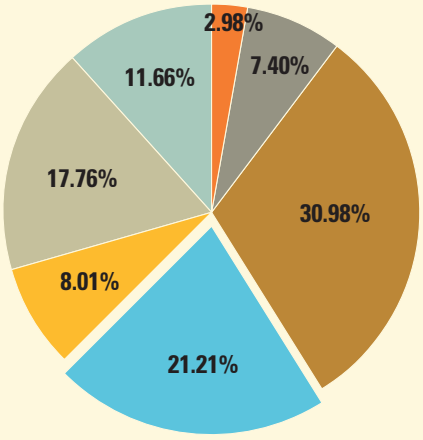
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 37.0%

2009 – 38.6%

2010 – 37.4%

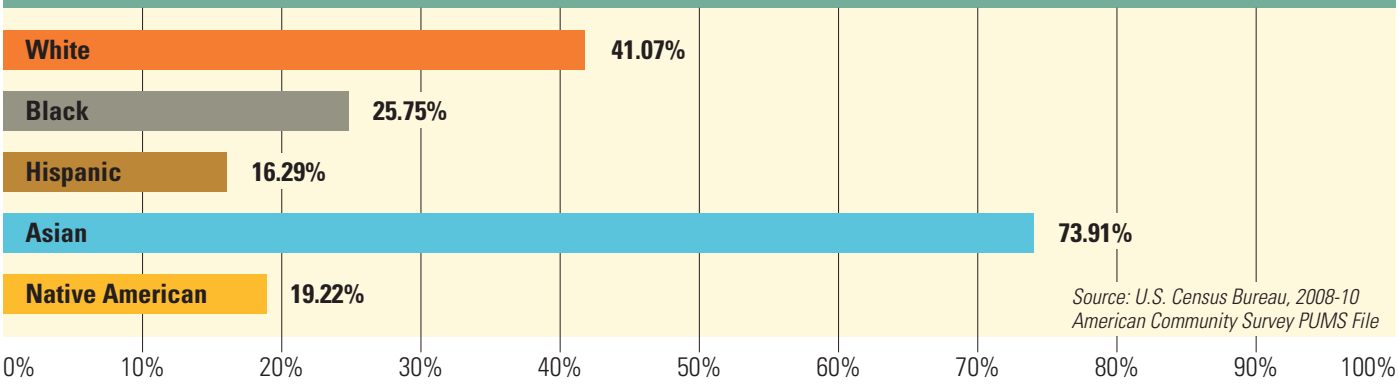
Levels of education for Delaware residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	14,034	2.98%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	34,893	7.40%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	146,001	30.98%
Some college, no degree	**99,953**	**21.21%**
Associate degree	37,771	8.01%
Bachelor's degree	83,712	17.76%
Graduate or professional degree	54,945	11.66%
TOTAL	471,309	100%

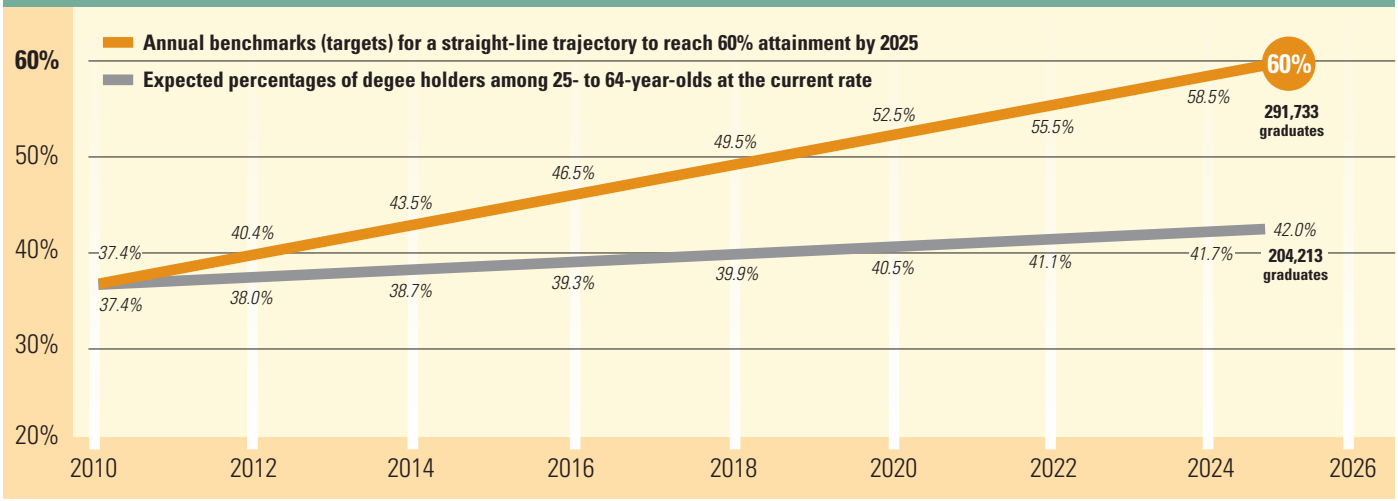
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Delaware adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Delaware



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Delaware adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Kent	30.82	New Castle	41.99	Sussex	30.45

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

FLORIDA

In Florida, 36.5 percent of the state's 9.8 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Florida are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 35.8 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Florida and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 43 percent of Florida's adult population — 5.2 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Florida will need to add more than 2.1 million degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 59 percent of Florida's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Florida will need to fill 2.8 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 1.6 million will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Florida's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Florida can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 2.1 million Florida adults — nearly 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Florida reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Florida develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Florida communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Florida must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Florida's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

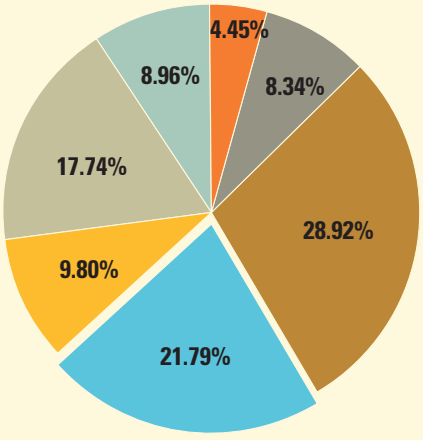
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 36.8%

2009 – 36.4%

2010 – 36.5%

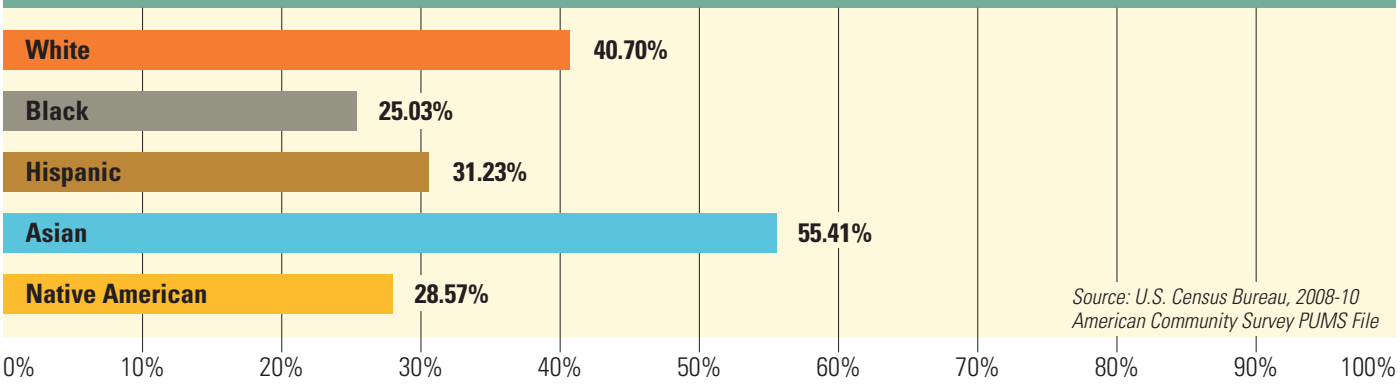
Levels of education for Florida residents, ages 25-64



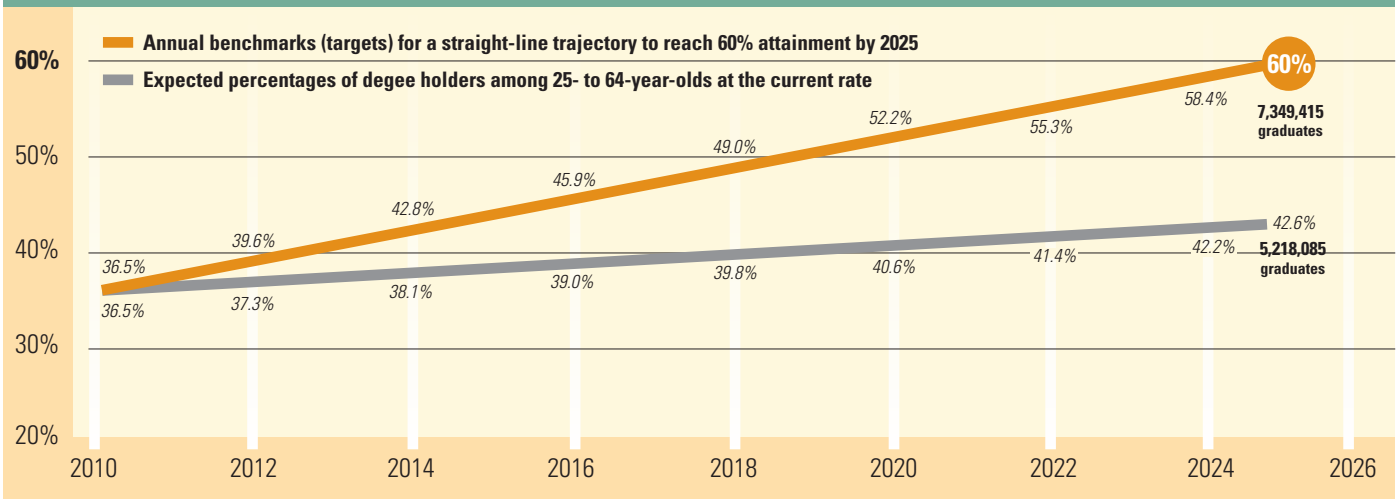
Less than ninth grade	436,359	4.45%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	817,557	8.34%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,835,384	28.92%
Some college, no degree	**2,136,681**	**21.79%**
Associate degree	960,424	9.80%
Bachelor's degree	1,739,410	17.74%
Graduate or professional degree	878,165	8.96%
TOTAL	9,803,980	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Florida adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in Florida



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Florida adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Alachua	54.14	DeSoto	15.80	Hendry	12.47	Levy	21.01	Osceola	30.49	Suwannee	17.87
Baker	15.75	Dixie	10.83	Hernando	26.59	Liberty	19.31	Palm Beach	41.96	Taylor	18.75
Bay	31.95	Duval	35.44	Highlands	23.55	Madison	16.74	Pasco	33.13	Union	14.69
Bradford	16.50	Escambia	34.67	Hillsborough	41.05	Manatee	36.24	Pinellas	39.08	Volusia	32.97
Brevard	40.01	Flagler	33.42	Holmes	16.08	Marion	27.56	Polk	27.71	Wakulla	25.76
Broward	41.79	Franklin	21.85	Indian River	34.36	Martin	41.36	Putnam	19.10	Walton	31.68
Calhoun	16.40	Gadsden	17.56	Jackson	21.21	Miami-Dade	37.72	St. Johns	49.86	Washington	18.73
Charlotte	31.98	Gilchrist	17.29	Jefferson	21.06	Monroe	38.54	St. Lucie	27.24		
Citrus	25.50	Glades	17.05	Lafayette	20.84	Nassau	30.48	Santa Rosa	37.18		
Clay	35.50	Gulf	20.48	Lake	30.62	Okaloosa	38.69	Sarasota	38.18		
Collier	34.93	Hamilton	14.36	Lee	33.06	Okeechobee	18.43	Seminole	46.18		
Columbia	24.43	Hardee	12.09	Leon	51.52	Orange	42.79	Sumter	23.07		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

GEORGIA

In Georgia, 36.1 percent of the state's 5.2 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Georgia are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 34.8 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Georgia and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 43 percent of Georgia's adult population — 2.4 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Georgia will need to add more than 989,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 58 percent of Georgia's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Georgia will need to fill 1.4 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 820,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Georgia's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Georgia can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, 1.1 million Georgia adults — 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Georgia reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Georgia develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Georgia communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Georgia must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Georgia's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

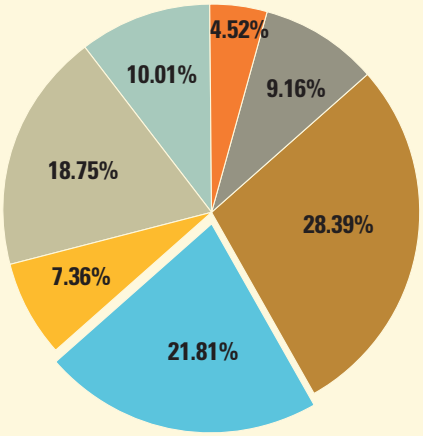
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 36.2%

2009 – 36.2%

2010 – 36.1%

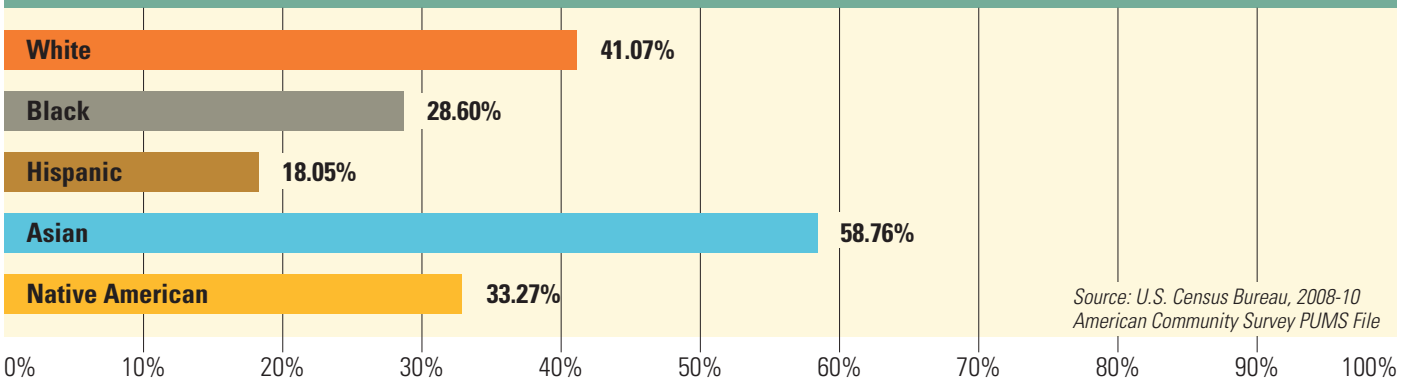
Levels of education for Georgia residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	234,927	4.52%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	476,552	9.16%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,476,738	28.39%
Some college, no degree	**1,134,662**	**21.81%**
Associate degree	383,029	7.36%
Bachelor's degree	975,273	18.75%
Graduate or professional degree	520,544	10.01%
TOTAL	5,201,725	100%

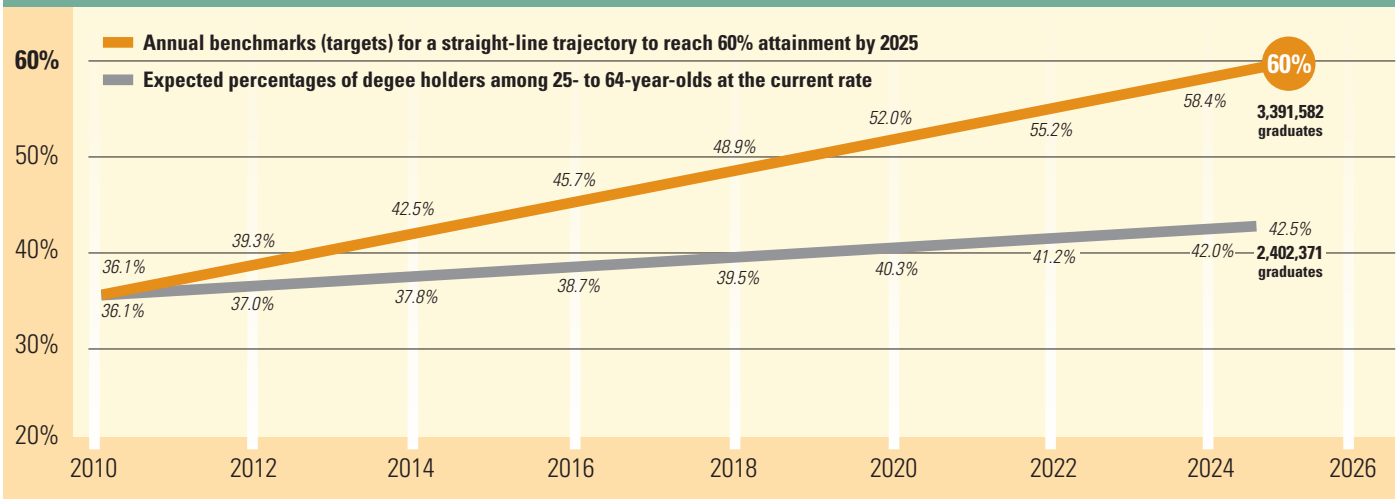
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Georgia adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Georgia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Georgia adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Appling	15.18	Cherokee	43.56	Fannin	22.91	Jenkins	23.20	Oglethorpe	18.81	Thomas	26.63
Atkinson	12.43	Clarke	47.04	Fayette	54.46	Johnson	15.07	Paulding	29.26	Tift	26.39
Bacon	12.38	Clay	16.30	Floyd	24.85	Jones	27.52	Peach	27.38	Toombs	23.27
Baker	19.11	Clayton	25.89	Forsyth	53.80	Lamar	16.11	Pickens	26.33	Towns	29.37
Baldwin	24.25	Clinch	23.20	Franklin	20.48	Lanier	17.78	Pierce	16.21	Treutlen	17.26
Banks	16.06	Cobb	52.94	Fulton	55.00	Laurens	23.29	Pike	21.21	Troup	26.84
Barrow	24.01	Coffee	20.45	Gilmer	17.63	Lee	28.64	Polk	17.17	Turner	19.96
Bartow	22.39	Colquitt	17.97	Glascock	19.24	Liberty	28.74	Pulaski	14.58	Twiggs	14.14
Ben Hill	16.93	Columbia	45.20	Glynn	33.19	Lincoln	18.94	Putnam	26.81	Union	31.28
Berrien	22.21	Cook	17.20	Gordon	18.31	Long	13.44	Quitman	13.14	Upson	16.90
Bibb	31.84	Coweta	35.56	Grady	19.23	Lowndes	31.38	Rabun	29.33	Walker	20.52
Bleckley	17.34	Crawford	20.43	Greene	20.56	Lumpkin	26.10	Randolph	20.94	Walton	25.70
Brantley	11.11	Crisp	19.17	Gwinnett	45.52	McDuffie	19.26	Richmond	29.55	Ware	19.39
Brooks	20.86	Dade	25.52	Habersham	26.09	McIntosh	22.24	Rockdale	34.40	Warren	10.96
Bryan	38.00	Dawson	22.78	Hall	27.50	Macon	15.73	Schley	21.26	Washington	13.73
Bulloch	31.89	Decatur	22.17	Hancock	14.59	Madison	19.41	Screven	14.82	Wayne	18.27
Burke	12.38	DeKalb	47.22	Haralson	16.95	Marion	12.82	Seminole	16.67	Webster	17.59
Butts	15.51	Dodge	22.79	Harris	38.83	Meriwether	11.97	Spalding	20.33	Wheeler	15.80
Calhoun	13.52	Dooly	15.65	Hart	22.10	Miller	18.27	Stephens	20.99	White	27.73
Camden	30.16	Dougherty	27.23	Heard	15.83	Mitchell	15.15	Stewart	16.35	Whitfield	21.40
Candler	17.94	Douglas	33.78	Henry	34.92	Monroe	24.71	Sumter	24.94	Wilcox	11.80
Carroll	24.96	Early	25.71	Houston	36.37	Montgomery	26.51	Talbot	15.58	Wilkes	21.16
Catoosa	28.83	Echols	10.94	Irwin	17.57	Morgan	30.53	Taliaferro	12.26	Wilkinson	17.85
Charlton	11.70	Effingham	23.95	Jackson	26.08	Murray	11.25	Tattnall	15.46	Worth	16.01
Chatham	38.35	Elbert	17.22	Jasper	18.90	Muscogee	30.96	Taylor	10.88		
Chattahoochee	45.03	Emanuel	18.25	Jeff Davis	18.97	Newton	28.19	Telfair	16.91		
Chattooga	17.05	Evans	21.40	Jefferson	13.33	Oconee	53.15	Terrell	18.04		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

HAWAII

In Hawaii, 41.6 percent of the state's 729,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Hawaii are decreasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 38.6 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Hawaii and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 47 percent of Hawaii's adult population — roughly 309,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Hawaii will need to add more than 87,000 degrees.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 65 percent of Hawaii's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Hawaii will need to fill 205,400 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 131,100 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Hawaii's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Hawaii can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 174,000 Hawaii adults — 24 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Hawaii reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Hawaii develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Hawaii communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Hawaii must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Hawaii's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

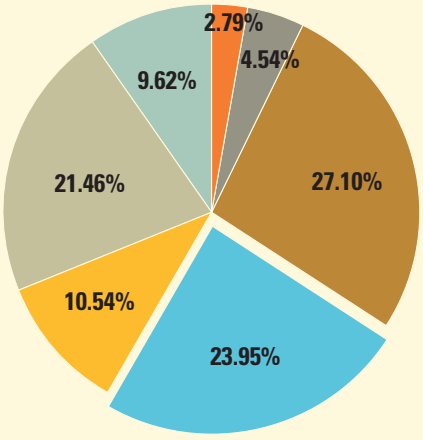
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 42.3%

2009 – 42.9%

2010 – 41.6%

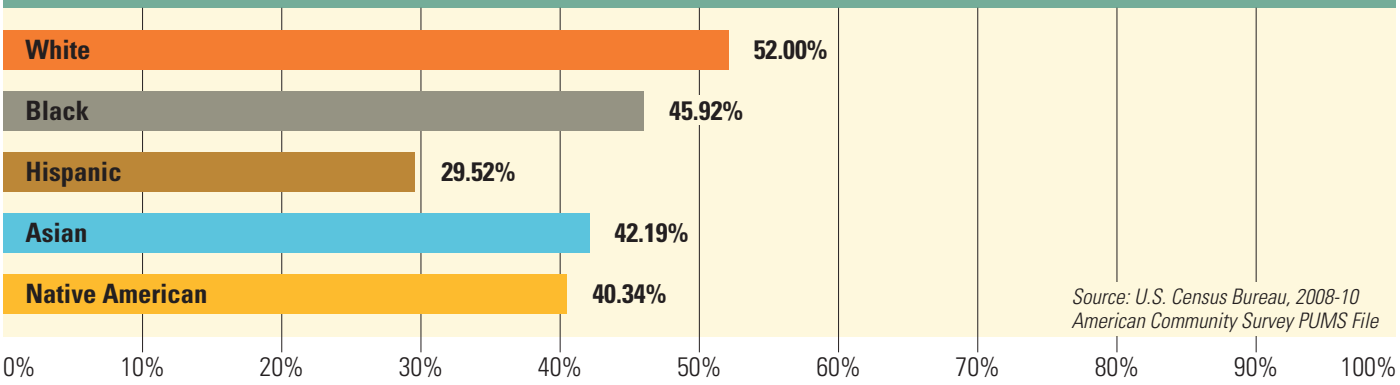
Levels of education for Hawaii residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	20,341	2.79%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	33,066	4.54%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	197,491	27.10%
Some college, no degree	**174,559**	**23.95%**
Associate degree	76,815	10.54%
Bachelor's degree	156,400	21.46%
Graduate or professional degree	70,130	9.62%
TOTAL	728,802	100%

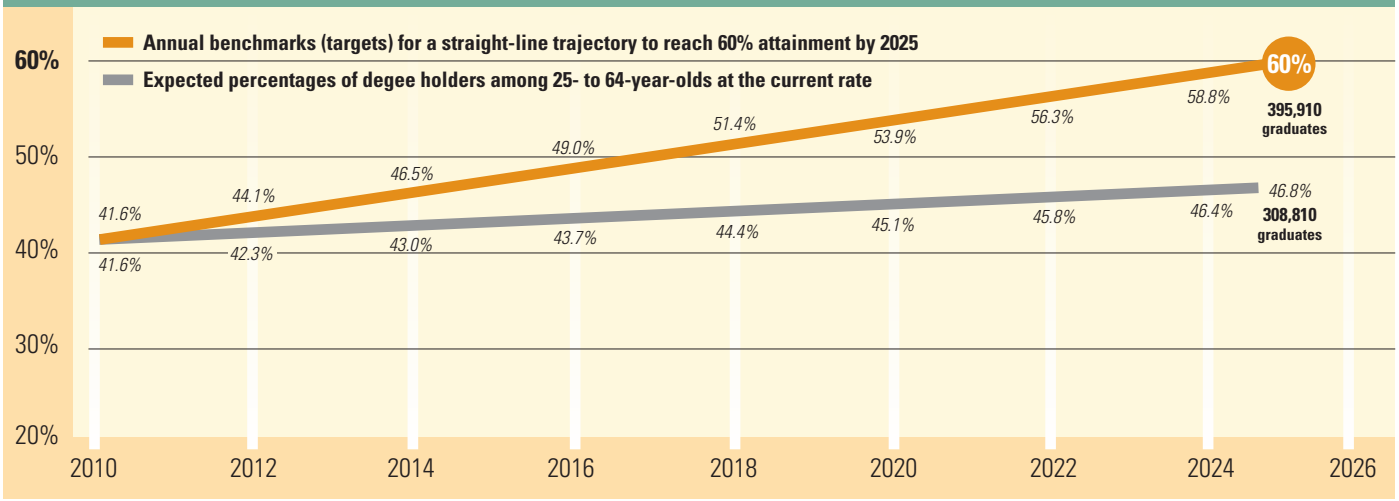
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Hawaii adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Hawaii



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Hawaii adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Hawaii	39.60	Honolulu	44.64	Kalawao	53.33	Kauai	36.35	Maui	35.73

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

IDAHO

In Idaho, 34.7 percent of the state's 791,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Idaho are essentially stable. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 31.2 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Idaho and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 39 percent of Idaho's adult population — roughly 360,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Idaho will need to add slightly more than 188,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 61 percent of Idaho's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Idaho will need to fill 239,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 146,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Idaho's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Idaho can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 217,000 Idaho adults — 27 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Idaho reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Idaho develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Idaho communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Idaho must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Idaho's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

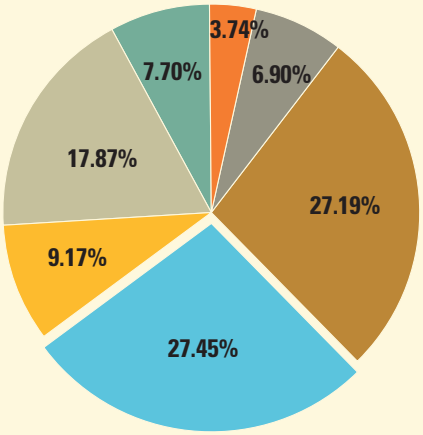
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 34.8%

2009 – 34.3%

2010 – 34.7%

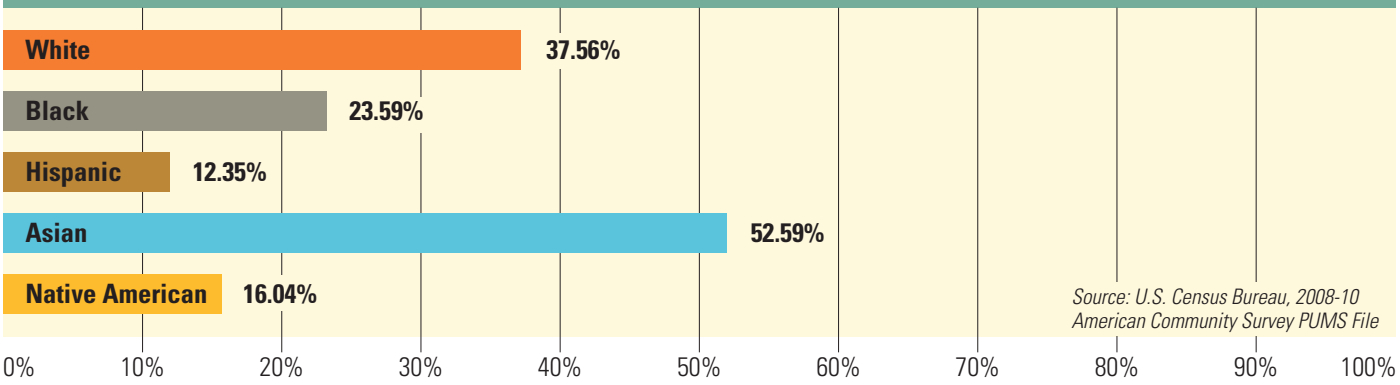
Levels of education for Idaho residents, ages 25-64



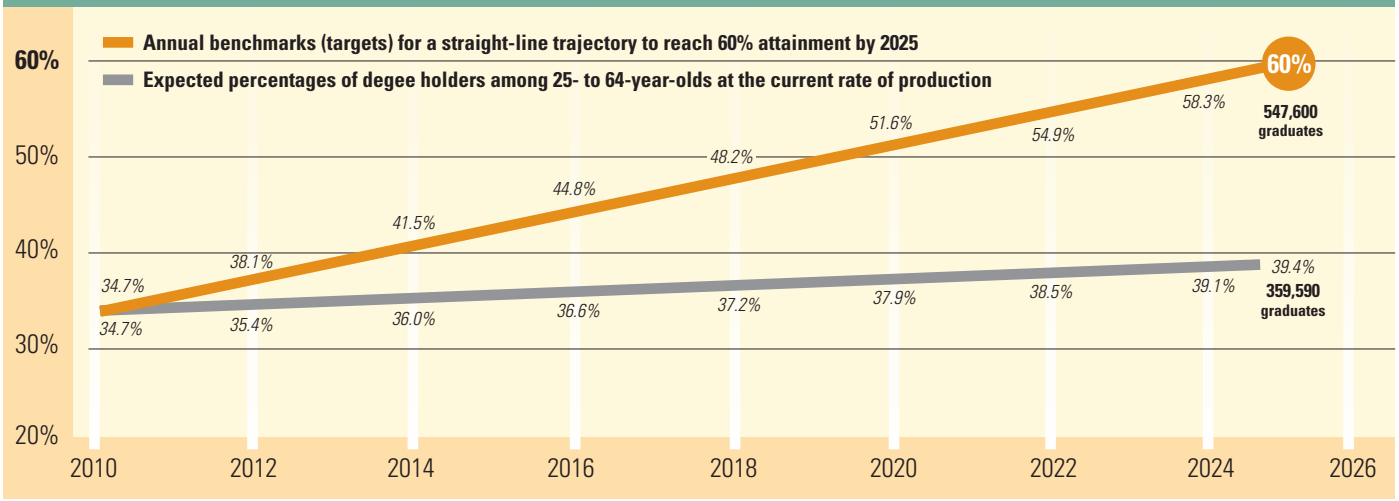
Less than ninth grade	29,554	3.74%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	54,590	6.90%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	215,040	27.19%
Some college, no degree	**217,092**	**27.45%**
Associate degree	72,528	9.17%
Bachelor's degree	141,311	17.87%
Graduate or professional degree	60,873	7.70%
TOTAL	790,988	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Idaho adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in Idaho



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Idaho adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Ada	45.52	Bonner	32.25	Clark	5.76	Idaho	19.42	Madison	44.93	Teton	40.66
Adams	29.46	Bonneville	37.24	Clearwater	26.10	Jefferson	30.28	Minidoka	18.57	Twin Falls	29.25
Bannock	38.51	Boundary	17.61	Custer	30.08	Jerome	18.97	Nez Perce	32.64	Valley	42.58
Bear Lake	24.39	Butte	28.36	Elmore	28.23	Kootenai	35.65	Oneida	28.92	Washington	24.18
Benewah	18.82	Camas	26.81	Franklin	26.61	Latah	52.15	Owyhee	18.06		
Bingham	26.29	Canyon	25.66	Fremont	30.56	Lemhi	34.43	Payette	24.57		
Blaine	46.93	Caribou	31.57	Gem	22.32	Lewis	31.78	Power	27.69		
Boise	31.34	Cassia	26.25	Gooding	18.92	Lincoln	19.21	Shoshone	18.96		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

ILLINOIS

In Illinois, 41.3 percent of the state's 6.8 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Illinois are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 44.4 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Illinois and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 49 percent of Illinois' adult population — nearly 3.3 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Illinois will need to add slightly more than 710,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 64 percent of Illinois' jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Illinois will need to fill 2 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 1.3 million will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Illinois' economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Illinois can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, 1.5 million Illinois adults — 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Illinois reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Illinois develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Illinois communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Illinois must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Illinois' economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

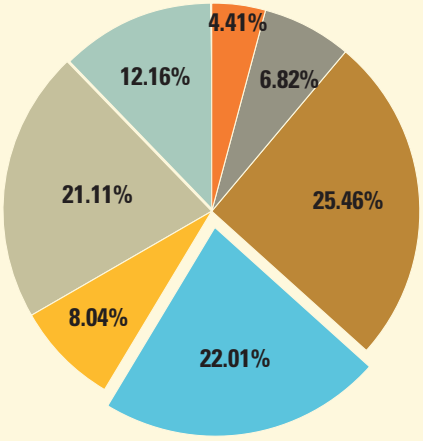
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 40.8%

2009 – 41.4%

2010 – 41.3%

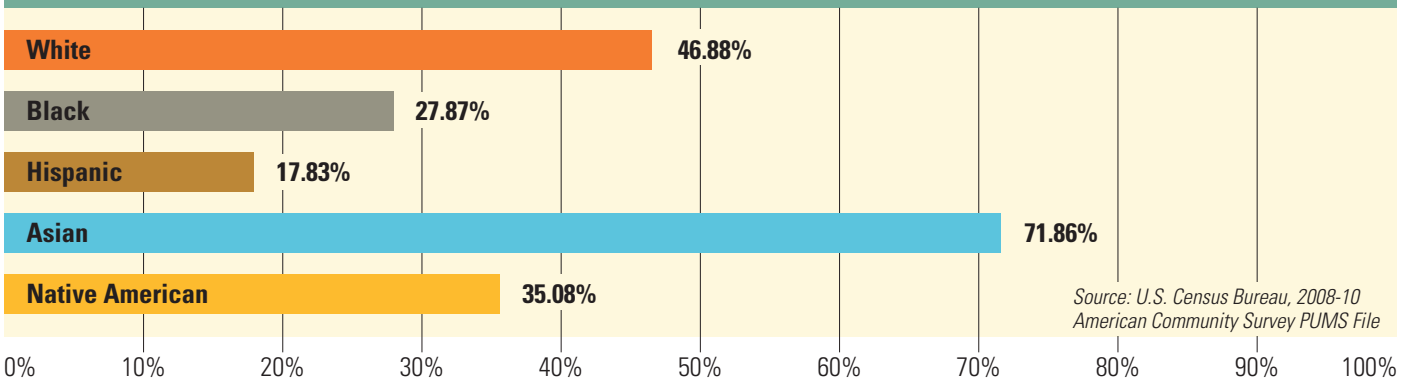
Levels of education for Illinois residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	301,928	4.41%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	467,136	6.82%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,744,545	25.46%
Some college, no degree	**1,507,642**	**22.01%**
Associate degree	550,984	8.04%
Bachelor's degree	1,445,933	21.11%
Graduate or professional degree	832,772	12.16%
TOTAL	6,850,940	100%

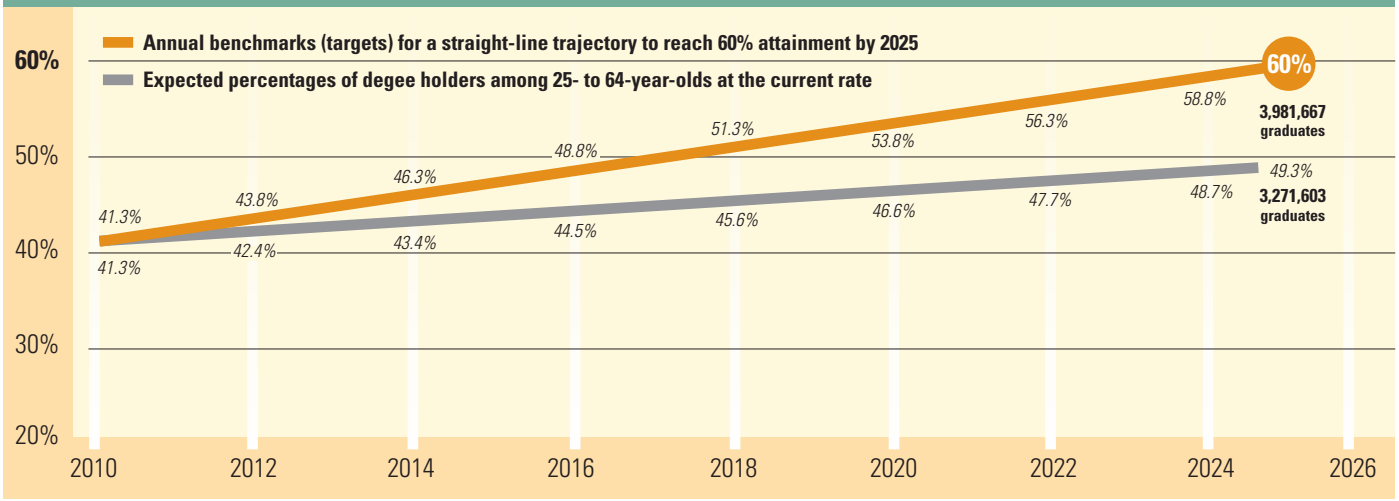
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Illinois adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Illinois



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Illinois adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	33.45	Cumberland	28.12	Hardin	22.86	Lee	28.18	Morgan	29.69	Scott	28.18
Alexander	21.17	DeKalb	40.06	Henderson	26.55	Livingston	23.61	Moultrie	28.08	Shelby	29.49
Bond	37.02	De Witt	24.79	Henry	34.51	Logan	25.96	Ogle	29.75	Stark	30.31
Boone	30.23	Douglas	24.16	Iroquois	25.31	McDonough	45.21	Peoria	40.39	Stephenson	29.80
Brown	20.37	DuPage	56.16	Jackson	46.17	McHenry	42.51	Perry	27.07	Tazewell	37.56
Bureau	27.08	Edgar	28.43	Jasper	31.73	McLean	50.89	Piatt	37.82	Union	29.71
Calhoun	28.66	Edwards	37.28	Jefferson	25.98	Macon	30.53	Pike	23.80	Vermilion	25.35
Carroll	26.74	Effingham	38.32	Jersey	29.48	Macoupin	26.77	Pope	20.41	Wabash	35.87
Cass	18.64	Fayette	26.77	Jo Daviess	34.14	Madison	35.04	Pulaski	26.37	Warren	30.25
Champaign	53.15	Ford	29.28	Johnson	23.77	Marion	27.75	Putnam	30.59	Washington	34.38
Christian	22.22	Franklin	27.26	Kane	41.07	Marshall	29.79	Randolph	21.18	Wayne	30.82
Clark	32.72	Fulton	26.78	Kankakee	29.19	Mason	27.47	Richland	38.71	White	31.21
Clay	29.17	Gallatin	20.73	Kendall	43.26	Massac	27.90	Rock Island	33.76	Whiteside	28.85
Clinton	35.09	Greene	23.39	Knox	28.66	Menard	36.79	St. Clair	36.98	Will	41.63
Coles	35.89	Grundy	29.98	Lake	49.82	Mercer	29.65	Saline	29.78	Williamson	34.63
Cook	42.71	Hamilton	28.79	LaSalle	28.82	Monroe	40.20	Sangamon	43.30	Winnebago	31.47
Crawford	31.74	Hancock	30.57	Lawrence	28.66	Montgomery	24.02	Schuyler	25.26	Woodford	42.08

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

INDIANA

In Indiana, 33.2 percent of the state's 3.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Indiana are essentially stable. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 35.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Indiana and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 41 percent of Indiana's adult population — 1.3 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Indiana will need to add nearly 633,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 55 percent of Indiana's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Indiana will need to fill 930,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 506,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Indiana's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Indiana can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, about 747,000 Indiana adults — 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Indiana reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Indiana develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Indiana communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Indiana must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Indiana's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

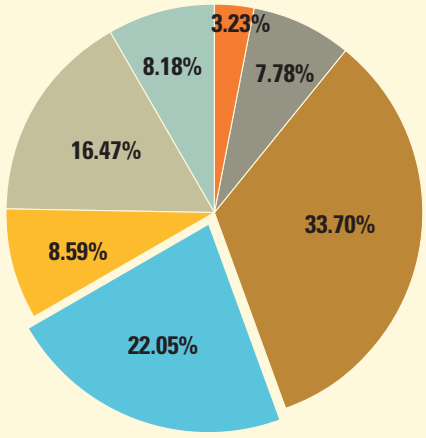
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 33.4%

2009 – 33.0%

2010 – 33.2%

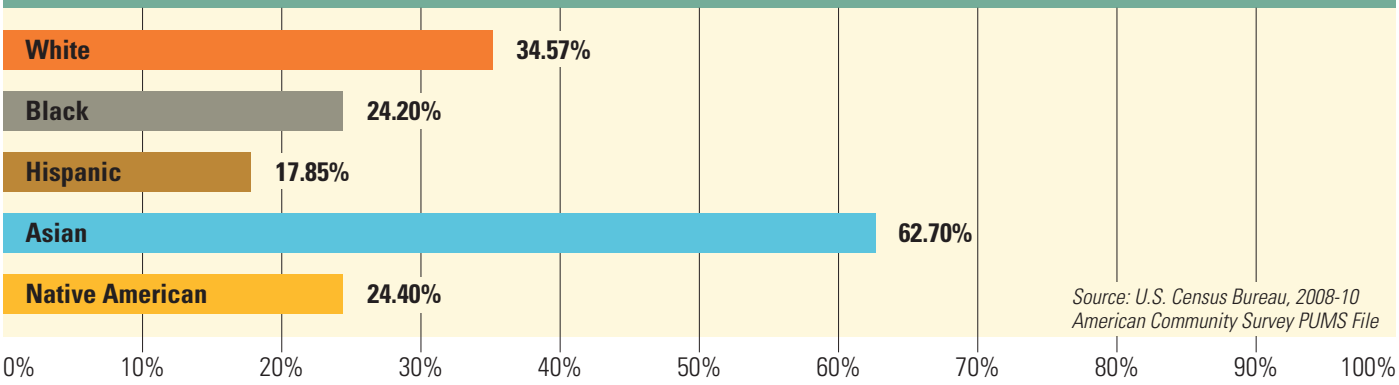
Levels of education for Indiana residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	109,304	3.23%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	263,645	7.78%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,141,236	33.70%
Some college, no degree	**746,807**	**22.05%**
Associate degree	290,963	8.59%
Bachelor's degree	557,704	16.47%
Graduate or professional degree	277,148	8.18%
TOTAL	3,386,807	100%

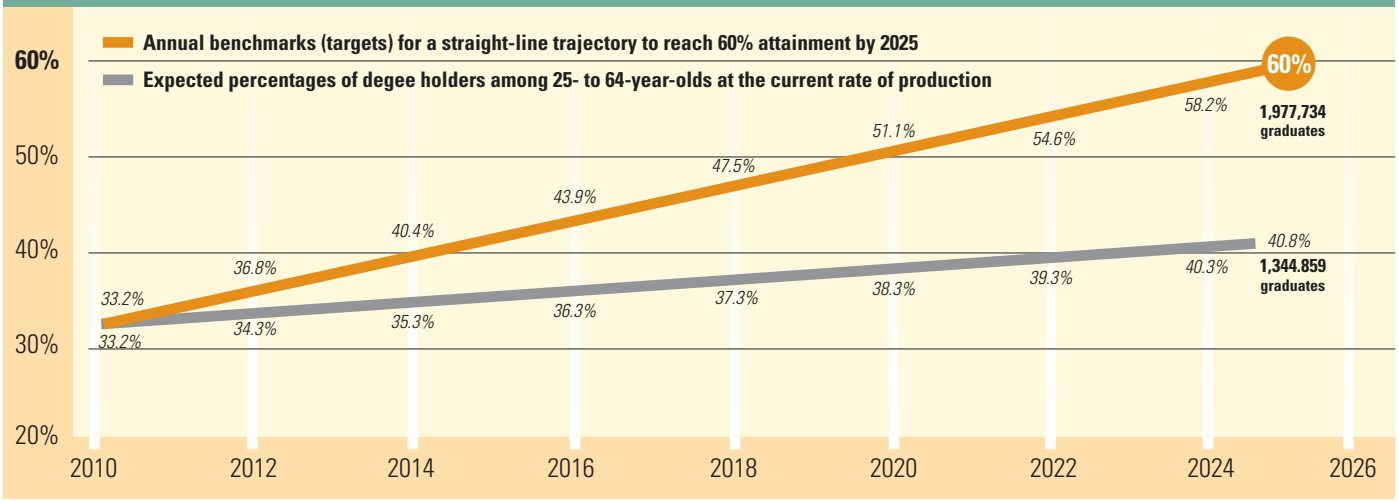
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Indiana adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Indiana



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Indiana adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	23.13	DeKalb	26.63	Henry	22.74	Marion	36.02	Posey	31.53	Union	24.80
Allen	37.94	Delaware	32.15	Howard	28.30	Marshall	25.84	Pulaski	22.61	Vanderburgh	32.90
Bartholomew	38.24	Dubois	31.86	Huntington	25.53	Martin	22.98	Putnam	26.83	Vermillion	24.55
Benton	23.79	Elkhart	25.13	Jackson	23.05	Miami	20.36	Randolph	21.05	Vigo	31.27
Blackford	20.32	Fayette	17.09	Jasper	24.47	Monroe	51.71	Ripley	25.58	Wabash	24.86
Boone	49.40	Floyd	33.29	Jay	21.42	Montgomery	25.32	Rush	19.86	Warren	23.51
Brown	28.31	Fountain	23.34	Jefferson	24.94	Morgan	24.85	St. Joseph	35.79	Warrick	40.63
Carroll	24.25	Franklin	28.18	Jennings	16.18	Newton	20.99	Scott	18.97	Washington	18.26
Cass	20.40	Fulton	22.95	Johnson	37.89	Noble	23.13	Shelby	26.59	Wayne	25.75
Clark	28.29	Gibson	28.22	Knox	33.09	Ohio	22.94	Spencer	27.33	Wells	28.19
Clay	28.67	Grant	25.85	Kosciusko	28.02	Orange	19.92	Starke	18.79	White	26.60
Clinton	21.50	Greene	22.88	LaGrange	16.05	Owen	16.20	Steuben	28.28	Whitley	29.73
Crawford	20.62	Hamilton	63.72	Lake	29.04	Parke	21.31	Sullivan	26.73		
Daviess	22.96	Hancock	36.53	LaPorte	26.92	Perry	17.97	Switzerland	17.06		
Dearborn	26.63	Harrison	23.77	Lawrence	21.79	Pike	20.28	Tippecanoe	45.17		
Decatur	23.40	Hendricks	44.16	Madison	26.44	Porter	36.01	Tipton	23.65		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

IOWA

In Iowa, 39.7 percent of the state's 1.6 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Iowa are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 45.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Iowa and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, nearly 50 percent of Iowa's adult population — about 714,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Iowa will need to add more than 151,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 62 percent of Iowa's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Iowa will need to fill 527,100 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 319,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Iowa's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Iowa can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 360,000 Iowa adults — 23 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Iowa reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Iowa develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Iowa communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Iowa must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Iowa's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

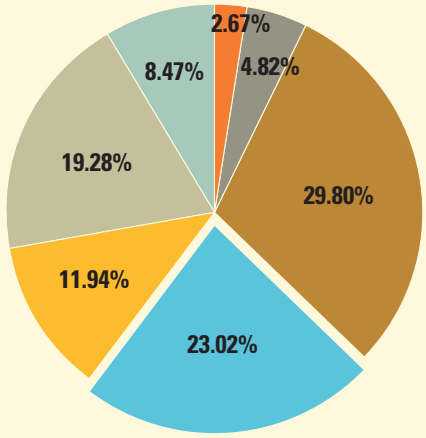
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 38.8%

2009 – 40.1%

2010 – 39.7%

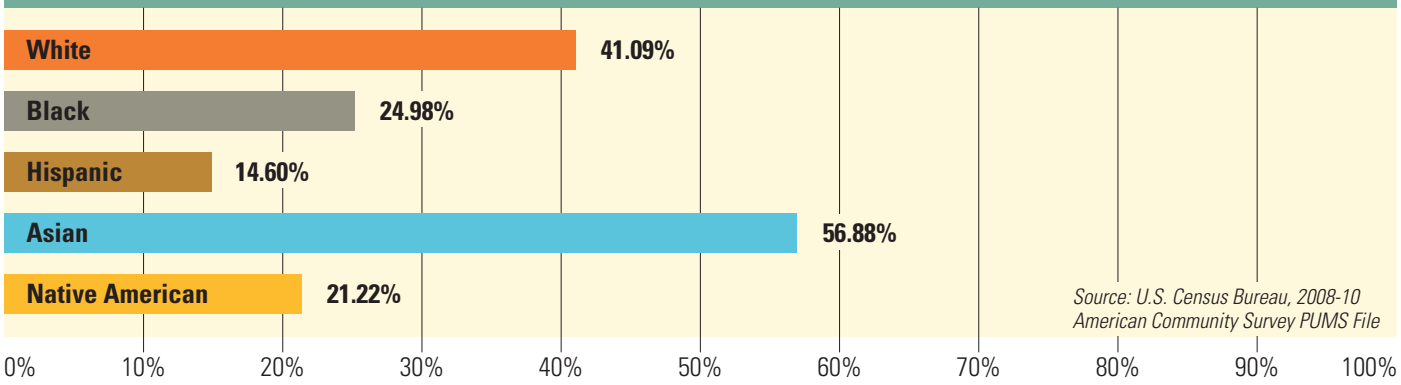
Levels of education for Iowa residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	41,888	2.67%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	75,436	4.82%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	466,729	29.80%
Some college, no degree	**360,481**	**23.02%**
Associate degree	186,915	11.94%
Bachelor's degree	301,909	19.28%
Graduate or professional degree	132,604	8.47%
TOTAL	1,565,962	100%

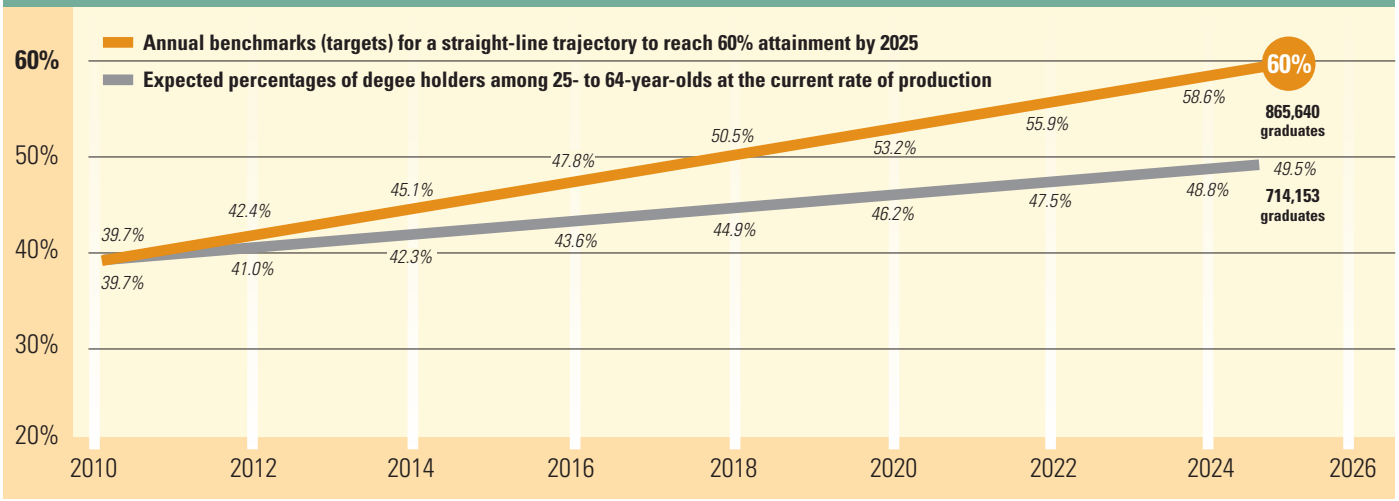
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Iowa adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Iowa



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Iowa adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	31.07	Cherokee	35.75	Franklin	29.85	Johnson	62.72	Montgomery	33.08	Tama	31.93
Adams	27.97	Chickasaw	28.43	Fremont	27.48	Jones	29.03	Muscatine	33.13	Taylor	29.71
Allamakee	25.78	Clarke	25.01	Greene	35.96	Keokuk	27.43	O'Brien	35.62	Union	28.53
Appanoose	30.83	Clay	33.79	Grundy	40.56	Kossuth	35.32	Osceola	29.48	Van Buren	24.35
Audubon	32.54	Clayton	26.77	Guthrie	33.92	Lee	26.04	Page	28.19	Wapello	26.59
Benton	32.17	Clinton	32.21	Hamilton	34.39	Linn	45.67	Palo Alto	33.60	Warren	41.71
Black Hawk	38.69	Crawford	23.21	Hancock	33.25	Louisa	24.17	Plymouth	34.85	Washington	31.89
Boone	34.33	Dallas	55.32	Hardin	40.59	Lucas	19.64	Pocahontas	32.49	Wayne	25.66
Bremer	43.71	Davis	33.18	Harrison	29.91	Lyon	31.38	Polk	45.81	Webster	33.35
Buchanan	34.49	Decatur	27.93	Henry	33.07	Madison	32.31	Pottawattamie	30.40	Winnebago	34.73
Buena Vista	33.26	Delaware	30.31	Howard	25.83	Mahaska	30.15	Poweshiek	34.62	Winneshiek	41.78
Butler	29.66	Des Moines	30.86	Humboldt	32.54	Marion	38.59	Ringgold	41.46	Woodbury	31.24
Calhoun	33.84	Dickinson	42.48	Ida	31.19	Marshall	32.92	Sac	32.70	Worth	34.93
Carroll	34.54	Dubuque	37.78	Iowa	35.50	Mills	37.83	Scott	43.26	Wright	29.04
Cass	26.37	Emmet	35.80	Jackson	25.60	Mitchell	33.61	Shelby	32.92		
Cedar	34.72	Fayette	30.29	Jasper	28.62	Monona	26.85	Sioux	36.35		
Cerro Gordo	41.76	Floyd	30.82	Jefferson	45.08	Monroe	30.96	Story	60.09		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

KANSAS

In Kansas, 40.5 percent of the state's 1.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Kansas are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 42.2 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Kansas and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 48 percent of Kansas' adult population — about 671,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Kansas will need to add nearly 168,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 64 percent of Kansas' jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Kansas will need to fill more than 482,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 301,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Kansas' economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Kansas can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 365,000 Kansas adults — 25 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Kansas reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Kansas develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Kansas communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Kansas must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Kansas' economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

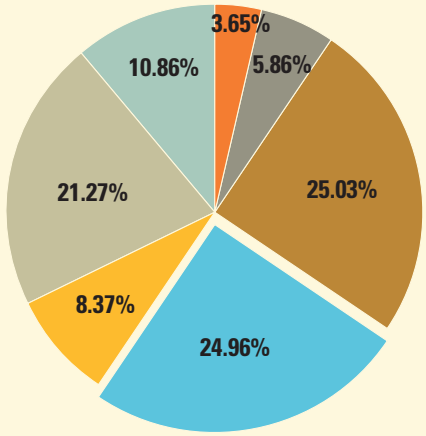
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 40.5%

2009 – 40.0%

2010 – 40.5%

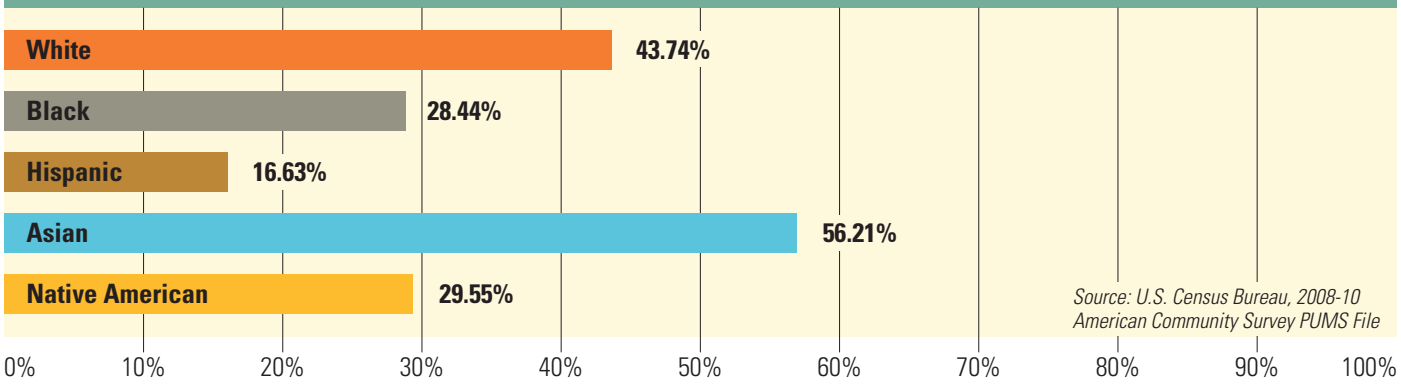
Levels of education for Kansas residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	53,353	3.65%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	85,622	5.86%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	365,889	25.03%
Some college, no degree	**364,855**	**24.96%**
Associate degree	122,409	8.37%
Bachelor's degree	310,825	21.27%
Graduate or professional degree	158,693	10.86%
TOTAL	1,461,646	100%

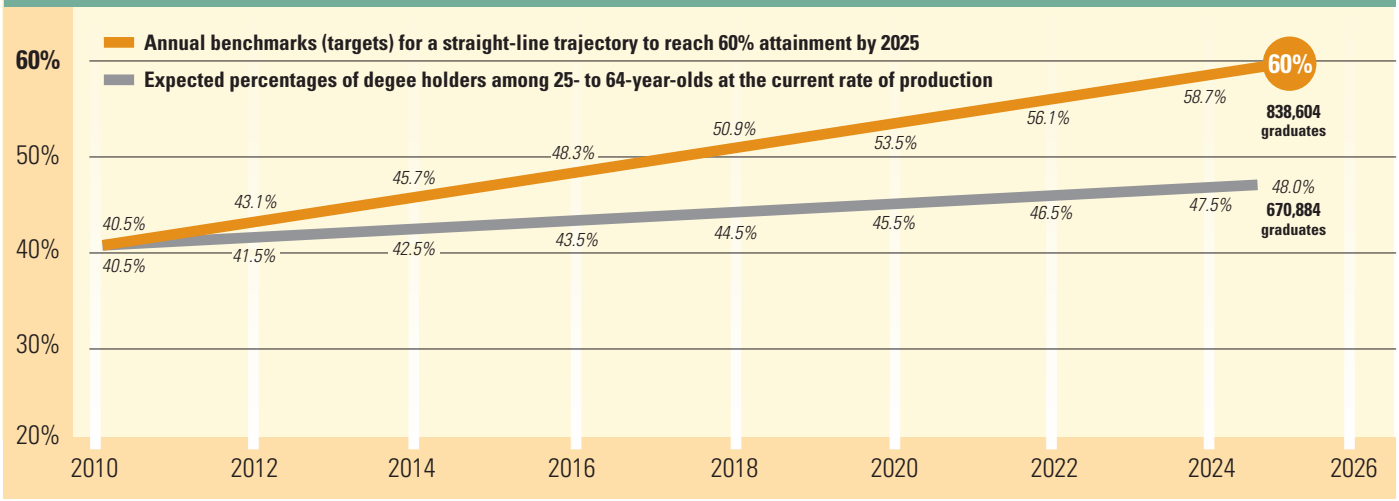
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Kansas adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Kansas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Kansas adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Allen	31.59	Crawford	36.52	Greenwood	24.32	Logan	34.29	Pawnee	25.09	Sherman	33.87
Anderson	27.19	Decatur	30.13	Hamilton	26.67	Lyon	29.86	Phillips	32.55	Smith	33.83
Atchison	28.12	Dickinson	30.10	Harper	29.15	McPherson	35.05	Pottawatomie	40.85	Stafford	33.60
Barber	32.24	Doniphan	24.94	Harvey	37.30	Marion	30.48	Pratt	35.71	Stanton	21.54
Barton	32.44	Douglas	57.28	Haskell	23.01	Marshall	26.41	Rawlins	36.52	Stevens	26.00
Bourbon	39.29	Edwards	32.74	Hodgeman	40.68	Meade	32.38	Reno	30.72	Sumner	29.78
Brown	26.15	Elk	33.11	Jackson	27.86	Miami	33.39	Republic	34.54	Thomas	41.46
Butler	38.43	Ellis	46.41	Jefferson	31.41	Mitchell	37.14	Rice	29.27	Trego	38.06
Chase	21.92	Ellsworth	28.91	Jewell	33.63	Montgomery	30.77	Riley	51.17	Wabaunsee	32.04
Chautauqua	28.90	Finney	26.64	Johnson	61.34	Morris	26.37	Rooks	33.46	Wallace	35.47
Cherokee	25.55	Ford	25.62	Kearny	26.84	Morton	33.61	Rush	26.38	Washington	34.16
Cheyenne	26.26	Franklin	27.62	Kingman	33.68	Nemaha	29.22	Russell	33.91	Wichita	30.65
Clark	36.05	Geary	31.47	Kiowa	35.63	Neosho	30.25	Saline	33.90	Wilson	22.10
Clay	36.42	Gove	33.36	Labette	30.25	Ness	31.83	Scott	32.11	Woodson	20.50
Cloud	32.18	Graham	34.14	Lane	34.67	Norton	28.90	Sedgwick	36.56	Wyandotte	23.29
Coffey	33.44	Grant	28.71	Leavenworth	39.38	Osage	29.03	Seward	21.58		
Comanche	23.80	Gray	31.05	Lincoln	34.99	Osborne	33.66	Shawnee	38.01		
Cowley	32.83	Greeley	32.61	Linn	25.88	Ottawa	29.33	Sheridan	35.36		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

KENTUCKY

In Kentucky, 30 percent of the state's 2.3 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Kentucky are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 33.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Kentucky and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 38 percent of Kentucky's adult population — nearly 863,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Kentucky will need to add more than 485,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 54 percent of Kentucky's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Kentucky will need to fill 617,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 330,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Kentucky's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Kentucky can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 499,000 Kentucky adults — more than 21 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Kentucky reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Kentucky develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Kentucky communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Kentucky must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Kentucky's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

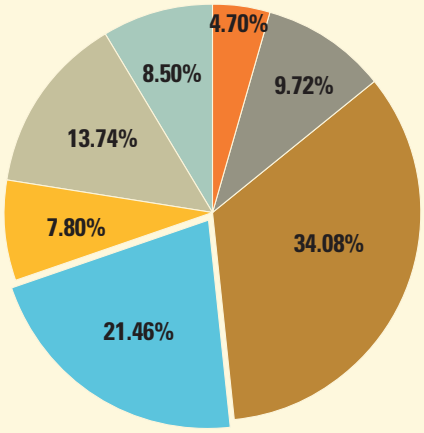
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 29.2%

2009 – 30.5%

2010 – 30.0%

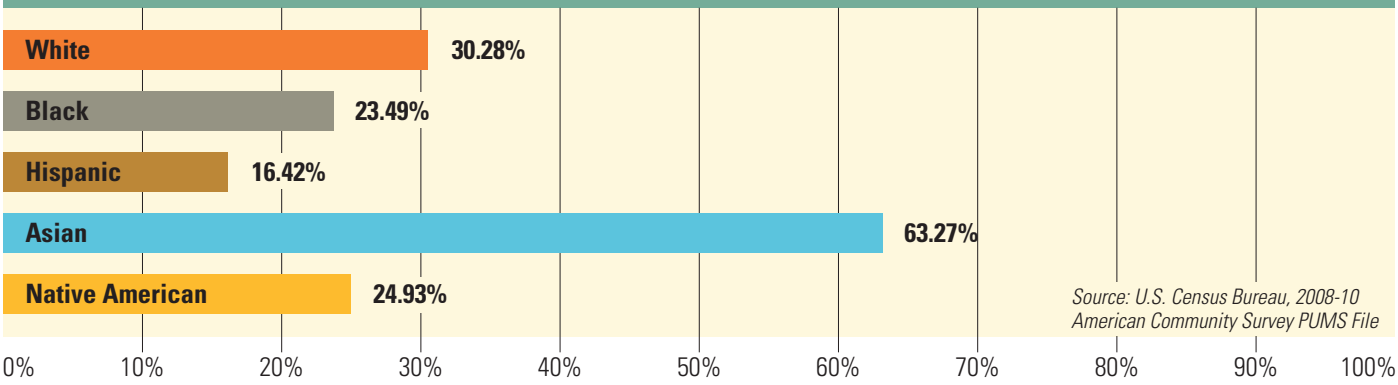
Levels of education for Kentucky residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	109,298	4.70%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	225,822	9.72%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	791,985	34.08%
Some college, no degree	**498,673**	**21.46%**
Associate degree	181,248	7.80%
Bachelor's degree	319,335	13.74%
Graduate or professional degree	197,426	8.50%
TOTAL	2,323,787	100%

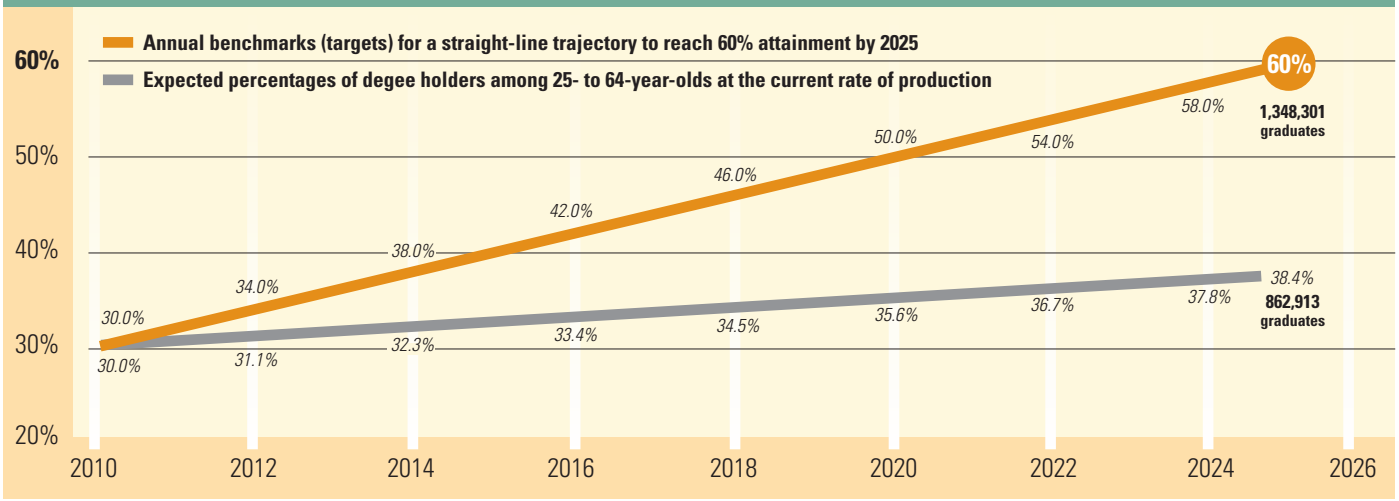
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Kentucky adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Kentucky



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Kentucky adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	22.24	Carroll	14.51	Grant	15.81	Knox	10.65	Mason	25.63	Robertson	8.68
Allen	18.30	Carter	17.76	Graves	24.75	Larue	21.31	Meade	22.42	Rockcastle	20.09
Anderson	26.61	Casey	16.76	Grayson	14.80	Laurel	21.89	Menifee	15.58	Rowan	33.11
Ballard	20.20	Christian	23.38	Green	20.88	Lawrence	18.02	Mercer	24.71	Russell	24.61
Barren	24.10	Clark	27.53	Greenup	26.65	Lee	9.83	Metcalfe	12.50	Scott	35.37
Bath	22.39	Clay	10.82	Hancock	18.91	Leslie	12.13	Monroe	19.21	Shelby	30.49
Bell	18.52	Clinton	10.22	Hardin	30.71	Letcher	19.16	Montgomery	21.99	Simpson	24.08
Boone	40.14	Crittenden	18.14	Harlan	20.56	Lewis	19.13	Morgan	17.81	Spencer	25.83
Bourbon	25.80	Cumberland	15.73	Harrison	21.49	Lincoln	16.85	Muhlenberg	19.22	Taylor	21.77
Boyd	27.04	Daviess	28.38	Hart	15.23	Livingston	20.34	Nelson	25.16	Todd	17.81
Boyle	32.32	Edmonson	15.96	Henderson	28.57	Logan	16.97	Nicholas	18.84	Trigg	26.18
Bracken	20.38	Elliott	12.19	Henry	20.41	Lyon	21.26	Ohio	17.54	Trimble	21.77
Breathitt	15.83	Estill	13.75	Hickman	27.49	McCracken	35.36	Oldham	46.74	Union	28.58
Breckinridge	16.42	Fayette	48.97	Hopkins	23.86	McCreary	14.79	Owen	23.63	Warren	37.06
Bullitt	22.09	Fleming	26.05	Jackson	11.51	McLean	19.04	Owsley	11.79	Washington	21.62
Butler	17.87	Floyd	18.31	Jefferson	38.43	Madison	37.55	Pendleton	20.11	Wayne	15.18
Caldwell	23.02	Franklin	33.77	Jessamine	35.75	Magoffin	16.26	Perry	18.83	Webster	16.46
Calloway	37.54	Fulton	13.56	Johnson	15.43	Marion	21.12	Pike	18.89	Whitley	17.39
Campbell	36.97	Gallatin	15.39	Kenton	37.80	Marshall	24.46	Powell	16.35	Wolfe	14.82
Carlisle	21.16	Garrard	21.78	Knott	19.41	Martin	14.08	Pulaski	25.09	Woodford	43.51

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

LOUISIANA

In Louisiana, 28.2 percent of the state's nearly 2.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Louisiana are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 31.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Louisiana and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, nearly 35 percent of Louisiana's adult population — about 790,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Louisiana will need to add nearly 584,000 more degrees to that total. That's a tall order, but it is far from impossible.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 51 percent of Louisiana's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Louisiana will need to fill more than 634,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 316,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Louisiana's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Louisiana can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 530,000 Louisiana adults — 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Louisiana reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Louisiana develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each parish. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural parishes. Assuring that all Louisiana communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Louisiana must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Louisiana's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

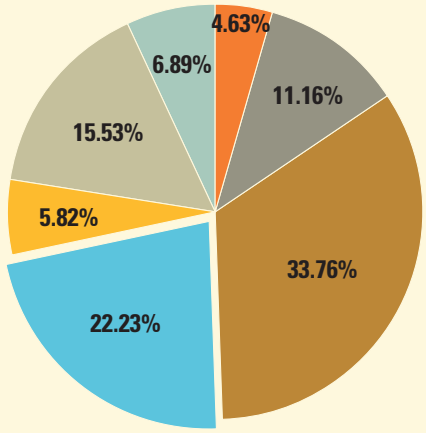
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 27.0%

2009 – 28.1%

2010 – 28.2%

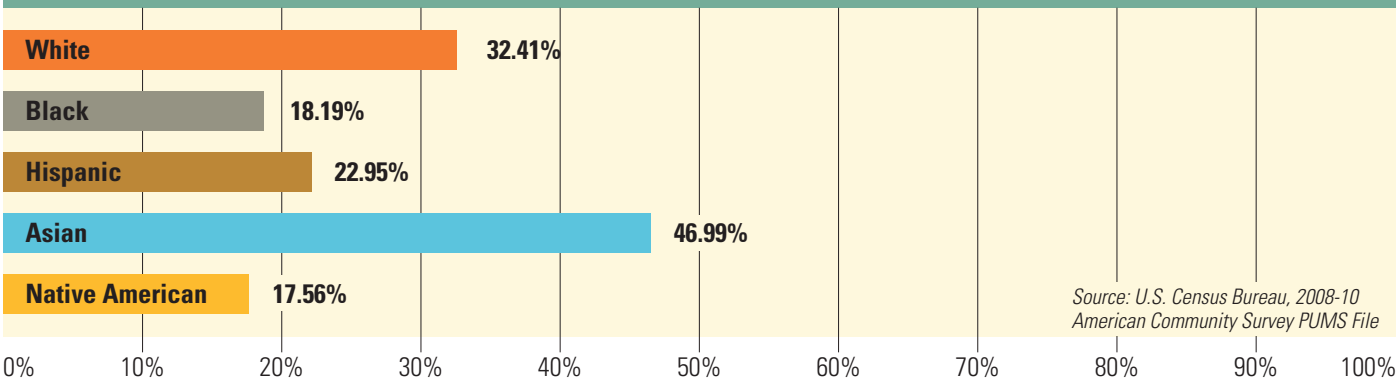
Levels of education for Louisiana residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	110,395	4.63%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	266,341	11.16%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	805,573	33.76%
Some college, no degree	**530,370**	**22.23%**
Associate degree	138,856	5.82%
Bachelor's degree	370,483	15.53%
Graduate or professional degree	164,300	6.89%
TOTAL	2,386,318	100%

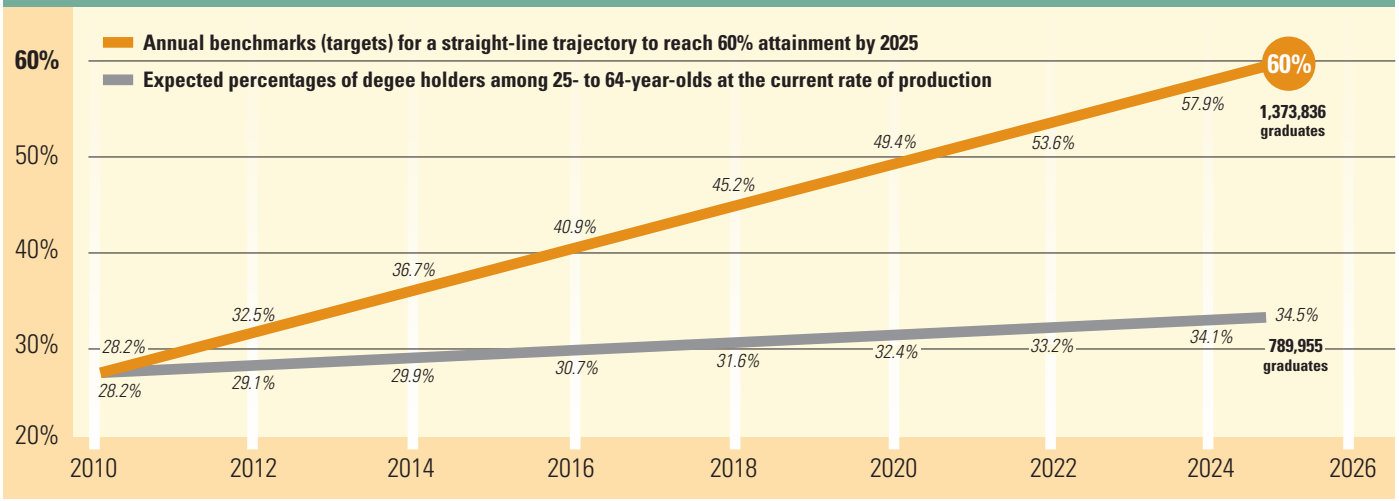
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Louisiana adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Louisiana



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Louisiana adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by parish

Acadia	17.98	Iberia	17.93	St. Charles	28.90
Allen	15.16	Iberville	15.14	St. Helena	11.05
Ascension	28.52	Jackson	17.35	St. James	19.08
Assumption	12.89	Jefferson	30.84	St. John the Baptist	22.38
Avoyelles	15.90	Jefferson Davis	17.64	St. Landry	18.81
Beauregard	20.40	Lafayette	34.48	St. Martin	15.85
Bienville	17.31	Lafourche	19.81	St. Mary	14.59
Bossier	31.43	La Salle	16.96	St. Tammany	38.81
Caddo	29.24	Lincoln	38.40	Tangipahoa	25.37
Calcasieu	27.89	Livingston	21.71	Tensas	14.61
Caldwell	16.40	Madison	14.01	Terrebonne	18.01
Cameron	19.20	Morehouse	15.50	Union	20.29
Catahoula	14.34	Natchitoches	26.66	Vermilion	17.58
Claiborne	13.92	Orleans	37.78	Vernon	22.99
Concordia	15.68	Ouachita	29.80	Washington	17.44
De Soto	19.36	Plaquemines	24.18	Webster	19.30
East Baton Rouge	38.94	Pointe Coupee	19.88	West Baton Rouge	22.54
East Carroll	11.89	Rapides	26.86	West Carroll	12.56
East Feliciana	18.75	Red River	18.70	West Feliciana	15.76
Evangeline	17.63	Richland	17.69	Winn	15.15
Franklin	13.72	Sabine	14.79		
Grant	15.76	St. Bernard	16.07		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MAINE

In Maine, 38.8 percent of the state's 726,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Maine are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 38.4 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Maine and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 47 percent of Maine's adult population — nearly 339,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Maine will need to add more than 95,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 59 percent of Maine's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Maine will need to fill 196,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 115,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Maine's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Maine can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 154,000 Maine adults — 21 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Maine reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Maine develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Maine communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Maine must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Maine's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

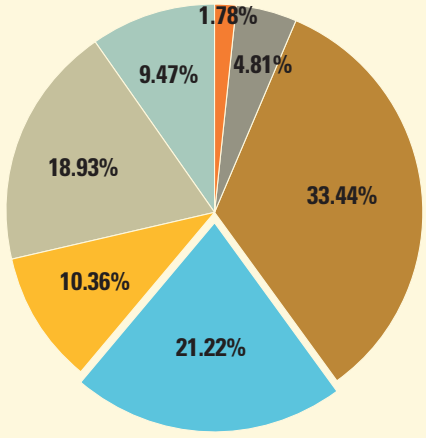
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 36.8%

2009 – 38.6%

2010 – 38.8%

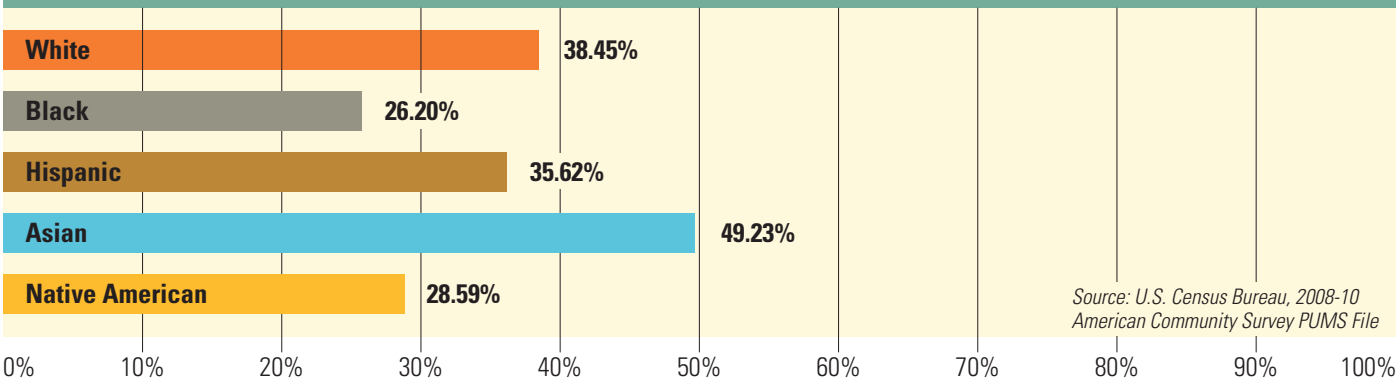
Levels of education for Maine residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	12,942	1.78%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	34,907	4.81%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	242,823	33.44%
Some college, no degree	**154,088**	**21.22%**
Associate degree	75,207	10.36%
Bachelor's degree	137,446	18.93%
Graduate or professional degree	68,759	9.47%
TOTAL	726,172	100%

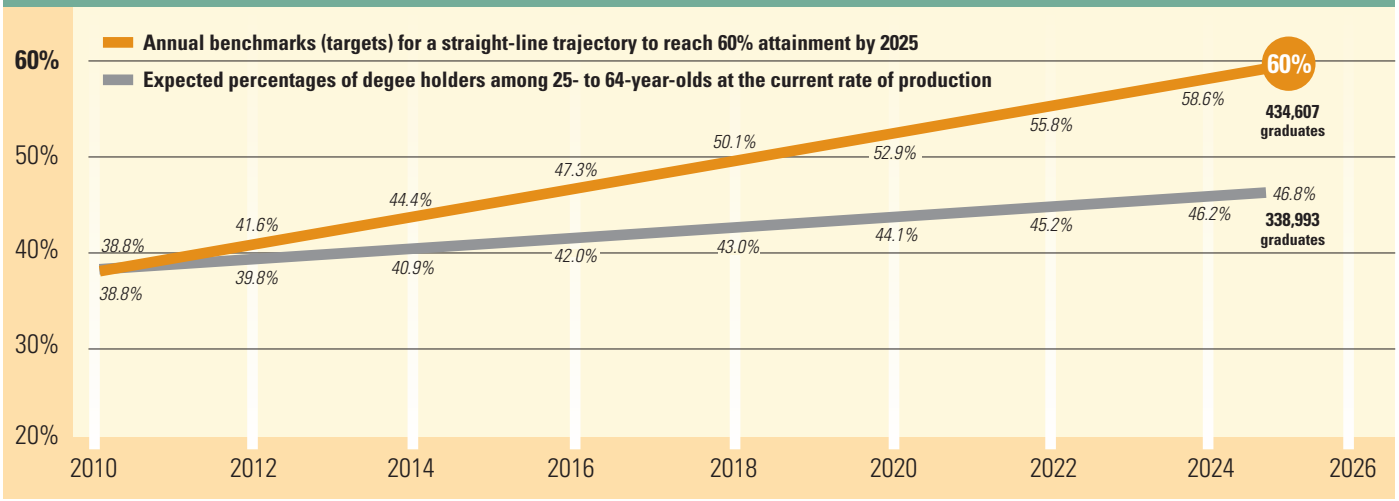
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Maine adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Maine



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Maine adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Androscoggin	30.07	Franklin	35.94	Knox	38.18	Penobscot	36.54	Somerset	26.58	York	38.71
Aroostook	28.94	Hancock	39.46	Lincoln	39.99	Piscataquis	27.49	Waldo	31.30		
Cumberland	51.65	Kennebec	36.93	Oxford	28.83	Sagadahoc	38.77	Washington	28.67		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MARYLAND

In Maryland, 44.7 percent of the state's nearly 3.2 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Maryland are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 44.8 percent, essentially equal to that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Maryland and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, 52 percent of Maryland's adult population — about 1.8 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Maryland will need to add nearly 272,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 66 percent of Maryland's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Maryland will need to fill more than 908,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 569,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Maryland's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Maryland can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 651,000 Maryland adults — about 21 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Maryland reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Maryland develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Maryland communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Maryland must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Maryland's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

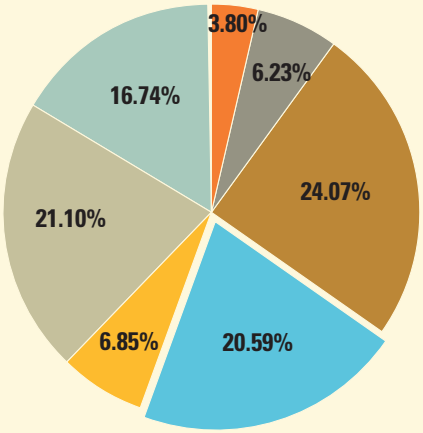
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 43.9%

2009 – 44.4%

2010 – 44.7%

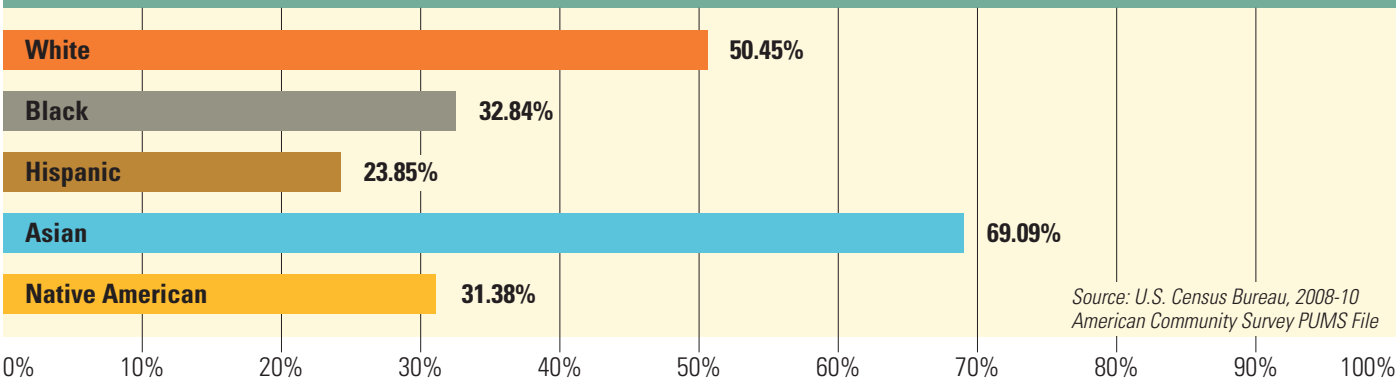
Levels of education for Maryland residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	120,046	3.80%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	197,207	6.23%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	781,354	24.70%
Some college, no degree	**651,319**	**20.59%**
Associate degree	216,564	6.85%
Bachelor's degree	667,313	21.10%
Graduate or professional degree	529,419	16.74%
TOTAL	3,163,222	100%

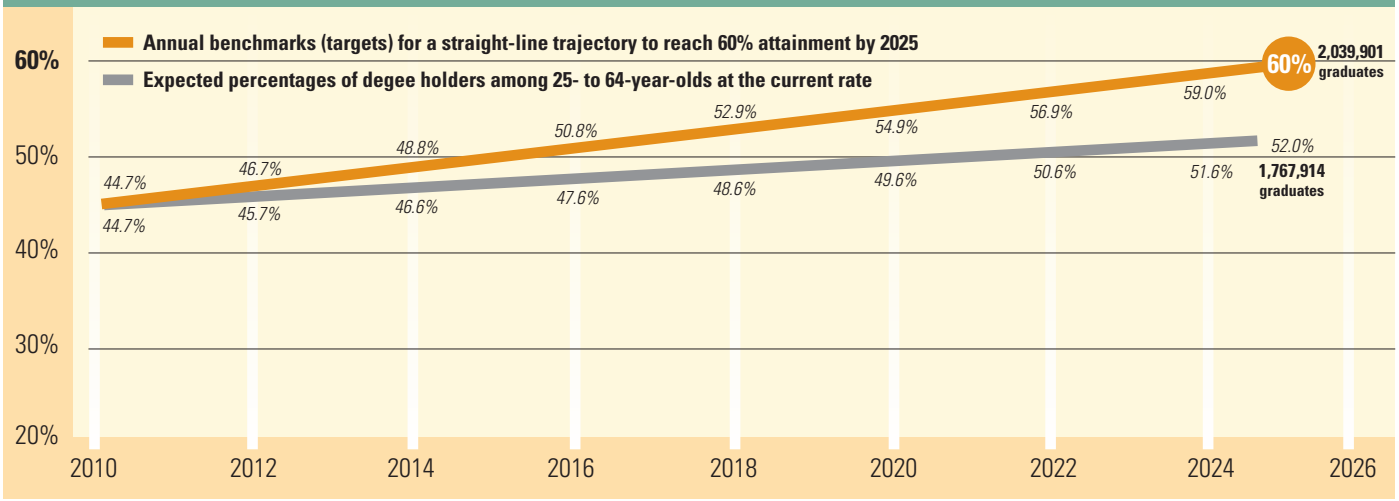
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Maryland adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Maryland



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Maryland adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Allegany	26.72	Caroline	23.24	Dorchester	22.71	Howard	67.04	Queen Anne's	38.42	Washington	29.29
Anne Arundel	45.30	Carroll	42.97	Frederick	46.78	Kent	37.13	St. Mary's	37.01	Wicomico	34.07
Baltimore	44.92	Cecil	30.40	Garrett	28.75	Montgomery	63.98	Somerset	20.22	Worcester	37.30
Calvert	38.79	Charles	36.39	Harford	42.84	Prince George's	37.33	Talbot	39.51	Baltimore city	32.28

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MASSACHUSETTS

In Massachusetts, 50.5 percent of the state's nearly 3.6 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Massachusetts are increasing slightly. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 53.9 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Massachusetts and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 58 percent of Massachusetts' adult population — 2 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Massachusetts will need to add nearly 56,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 68 percent of Massachusetts' jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Massachusetts will need to fill more than 1 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 707,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Massachusetts' economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Massachusetts can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 596,000 Massachusetts adults — about 17 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Massachusetts reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Massachusetts develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Massachusetts communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Massachusetts must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Massachusetts' economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

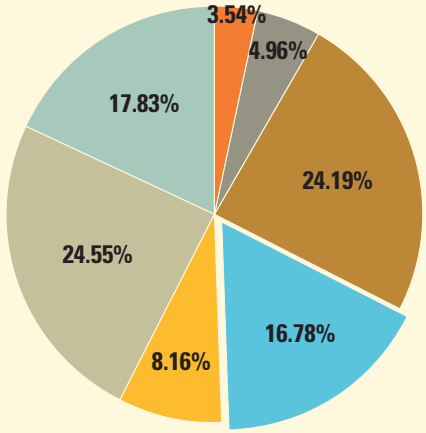
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 49.6%

2009 – 50.2%

2010 – 50.5%

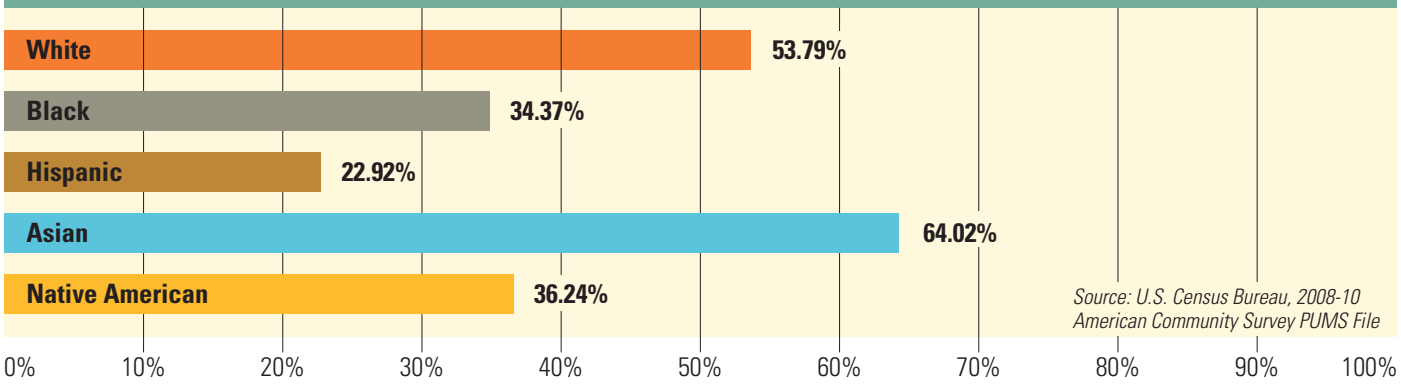
Levels of education for Massachusetts residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	125,721	3.54%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	176,102	4.96%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	859,381	24.19%
Some college, no degree	**596,096**	**16.78%**
Associate degree	289,963	8.16%
Bachelor's degree	872,209	24.55%
Graduate or professional degree	633,310	17.83%
TOTAL	3,552,782	100%

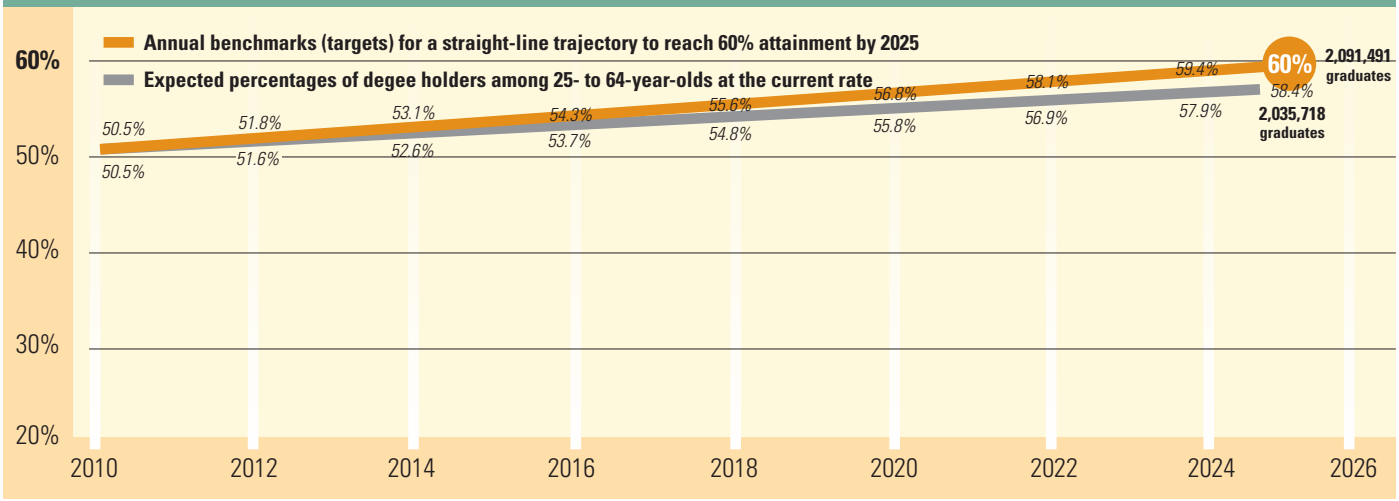
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Massachusetts adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Massachusetts



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Massachusetts adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Barnstable	51.11	Dukes	43.36	Hampden	35.99	Nantucket	48.03	Suffolk	47.74
Berkshire	41.15	Essex	48.52	Hampshire	54.67	Norfolk	60.89	Worcester	45.86
Bristol	37.55	Franklin	44.94	Middlesex	60.29	Plymouth	45.21		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MICHIGAN

In Michigan, 36.4 percent of the state's 5.2 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Michigan are increasing slightly. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 37 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Michigan and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 43 percent of Michigan's adult population — 2.3 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Michigan will need to add more than 928,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 62 percent of Michigan's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Michigan will need to fill 1.3 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 836,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Michigan's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Michigan can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 1.3 million Michigan adults — nearly 26 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Michigan reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Michigan develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Michigan communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Michigan must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Michigan's economy and ensure a bright future for the state

Tracking the trend

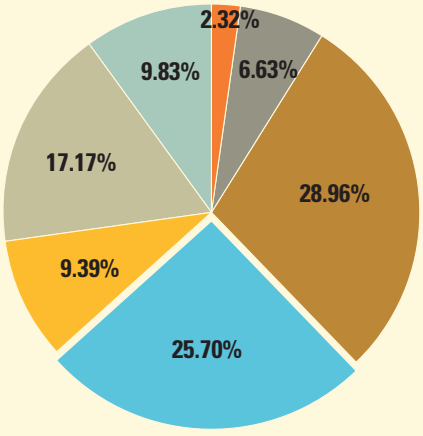
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 35.7%

2009 – 35.8%

2010 – 36.4%

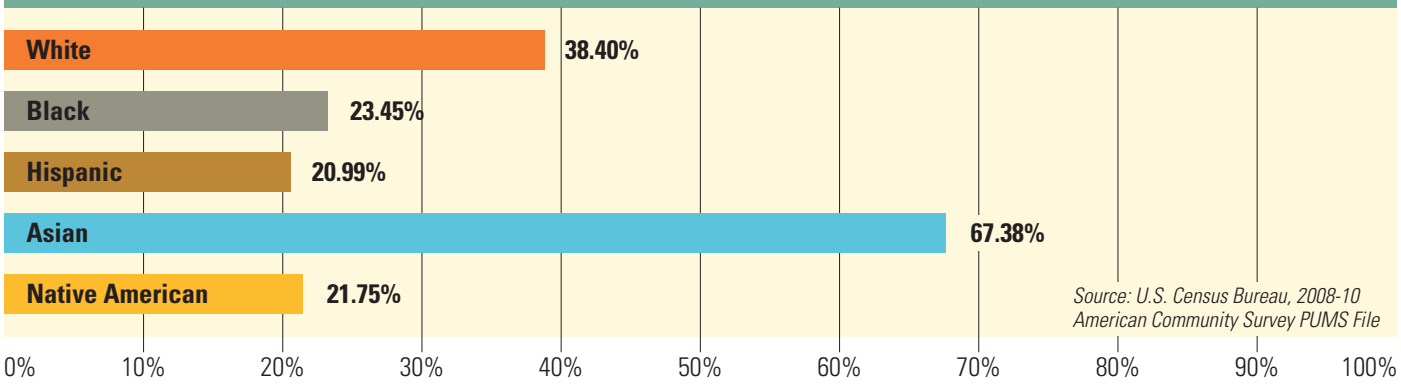
Levels of education for Michigan residents, ages 25-64



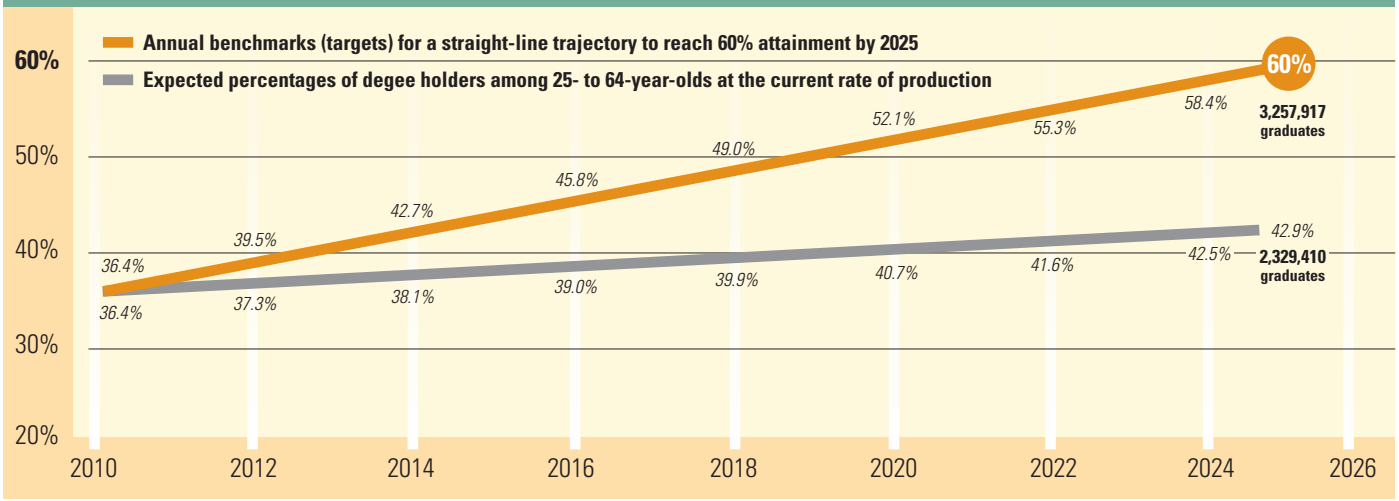
Less than ninth grade	120,921	2.32%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	344,915	6.63%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,507,410	28.96%
Some college, no degree	**1,337,753**	**25.70%**
Associate degree	488,458	9.39%
Bachelor's degree	893,350	17.17%
Graduate or professional degree	511,489	9.83%
TOTAL	5,204,296	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Michigan adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in Michigan



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Michigan adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Alcona	20.72	Charlevoix	33.35	Gratiot	22.33	Lake	15.76	Missaukee	22.45	Presque Isle	24.66
Alger	25.74	Cheboygan	27.73	Hillsdale	22.34	Lapeer	28.10	Monroe	28.82	Roscommon	25.35
Allegan	29.09	Chippewa	25.73	Houghton	39.92	Leelanau	48.77	Montcalm	23.04	Saginaw	30.33
Alpena	33.09	Clare	20.08	Huron	26.42	Lenawee	29.08	Montmorency	22.84	St. Clair	27.29
Antrim	30.74	Clinton	40.55	Ingham	46.10	Livingston	43.78	Muskegon	28.60	St. Joseph	23.94
Arenac	20.35	Crawford	25.90	Ionia	23.82	Luce	20.21	Newaygo	22.84	Sanilac	20.88
Baraga	19.84	Delta	33.80	Iosco	23.88	Mackinac	28.56	Oakland	53.43	Schoolcraft	24.41
Barry	27.97	Dickinson	29.44	Iron	26.48	Macomb	34.76	Oceana	23.17	Shiawassee	27.57
Bay	31.86	Eaton	38.20	Isabella	36.36	Manistee	28.63	Ogemaw	21.56	Tuscola	23.87
Benzie	34.53	Emmet	40.42	Jackson	28.71	Marquette	42.00	Ontonagon	30.26	Van Buren	28.32
Berrien	34.72	Genesee	30.23	Kalamazoo	44.13	Mason	30.85	Osceola	23.27	Washtenaw	60.37
Branch	23.19	Gladwin	20.19	Kalkaska	18.20	Mecosta	30.54	Oscoda	17.99	Wayne	29.49
Calhoun	29.89	Gogebic	33.35	Kent	41.42	Menominee	25.96	Otsego	27.25	Wexford	25.94
Cass	25.89	Grand Traverse	41.47	Keweenaw	30.65	Midland	45.84	Ottawa	39.87		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MINNESOTA

In Minnesota, 45.8 percent of the state's 2.8 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Minnesota are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 49.9 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Minnesota and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 55 percent of Minnesota's adult population — nearly 1.7 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Minnesota will need to add more than 140,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 70 percent of Minnesota's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Minnesota will need to fill 902,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 620,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Minnesota's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Minnesota can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 669,000 Minnesota adults — nearly 24 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Minnesota reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Minnesota develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Minnesota communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Minnesota must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Minnesota's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

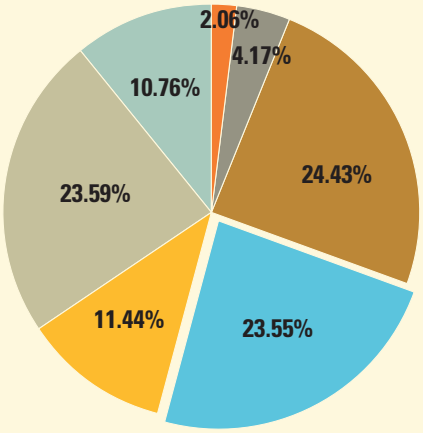
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 45.1%

2009 – 45.2%

2010 – 45.8%

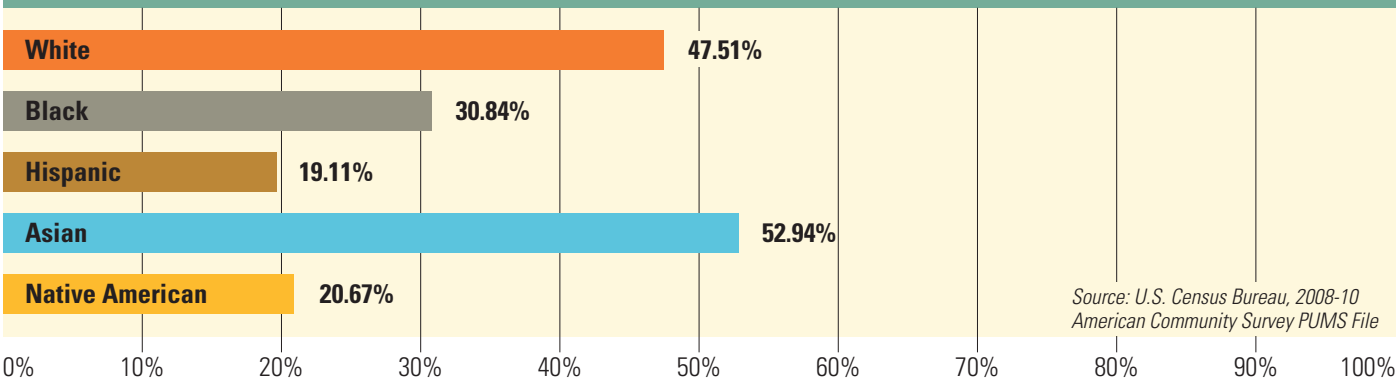
Levels of education for Minnesota residents, ages 25-64



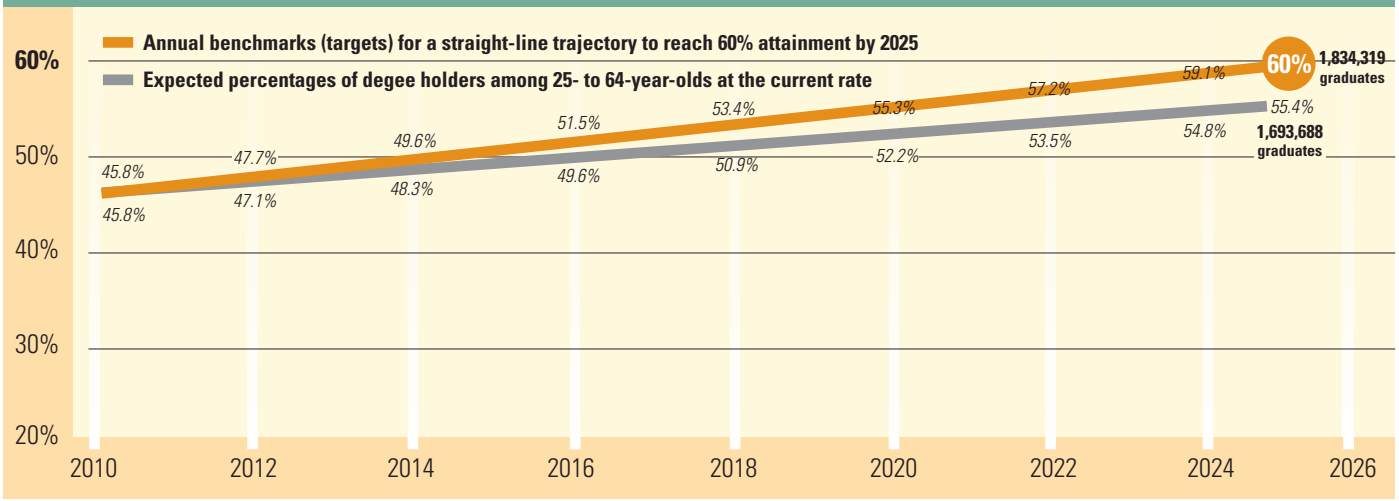
Less than ninth grade	58,519	2.06%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	118,623	4.17%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	694,132	24.43%
Some college, no degree	**669,136**	**23.55%**
Associate degree	324,934	11.44%
Bachelor's degree	670,248	23.59%
Graduate or professional degree	305,810	10.76%
TOTAL	2,841,402	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Minnesota adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Minnesota adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Aitkin	27.75	Cook	38.25	Itasca	36.55	Martin	32.35	Pope	36.31	Swift	29.56
Anoka	39.73	Cottonwood	29.42	Jackson	37.45	Meeker	30.86	Ramsey	49.45	Todd	24.99
Becker	35.24	Crow Wing	37.99	Kanabec	25.28	Mille Lacs	27.03	Red Lake	28.54	Traverse	37.63
Beltrami	41.10	Dakota	51.70	Kandiyohi	37.78	Morrison	26.57	Redwood	29.98	Wabasha	33.42
Benton	34.66	Dodge	37.52	Kittson	35.00	Mower	32.32	Renville	30.83	Wadena	32.21
Big Stone	32.75	Douglas	41.46	Koochiching	27.88	Murray	29.31	Rice	36.95	Waseca	30.87
Blue Earth	43.68	Faribault	30.55	Lac qui Parle	35.80	Nicollet	47.53	Rock	34.94	Washington	53.19
Brown	31.27	Fillmore	35.07	Lake	33.08	Nobles	28.46	Roseau	27.94	Watonwan	28.41
Carlton	36.49	Freeborn	28.65	Lake of the Woods	27.85	Norman	32.11	St. Louis	40.90	Wilkin	41.11
Carver	56.36	Goodhue	38.88	Le Sueur	33.36	Olmsted	53.61	Scott	50.10	Winona	41.50
Cass	31.20	Grant	37.30	Lincoln	34.62	Otter Tail	36.14	Sherburne	37.88	Wright	38.90
Chippewa	33.11	Hennepin	55.21	Lyon	40.59	Pennington	33.45	Sibley	25.76	Yellow Medicine	34.60
Chisago	30.40	Houston	41.79	McLeod	35.75	Pine	22.42	Stearns	38.33		
Clay	48.15	Hubbard	37.25	Mahnomen	26.77	Pipestone	30.46	Steele	35.86		
Clearwater	28.88	Isanti	27.90	Marshall	33.89	Polk	35.99	Stevens	39.53		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MISSISSIPPI

In Mississippi, 29.9 percent of the state's 1.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Mississippi are stable or increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 31.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Mississippi and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 37 percent of Mississippi's adult population — 561,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Mississippi will need to add more than 339,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 54 percent of Mississippi's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Mississippi will need to fill more than 398,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 214,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Mississippi's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Mississippi can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 361,000 Mississippi adults — nearly 24 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Mississippi reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Mississippi develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Mississippi communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Mississippi must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Mississippi's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

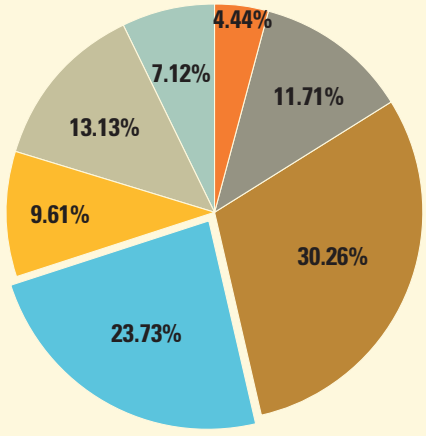
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 29.3%

2009 – 28.9%

2010 – 29.9%

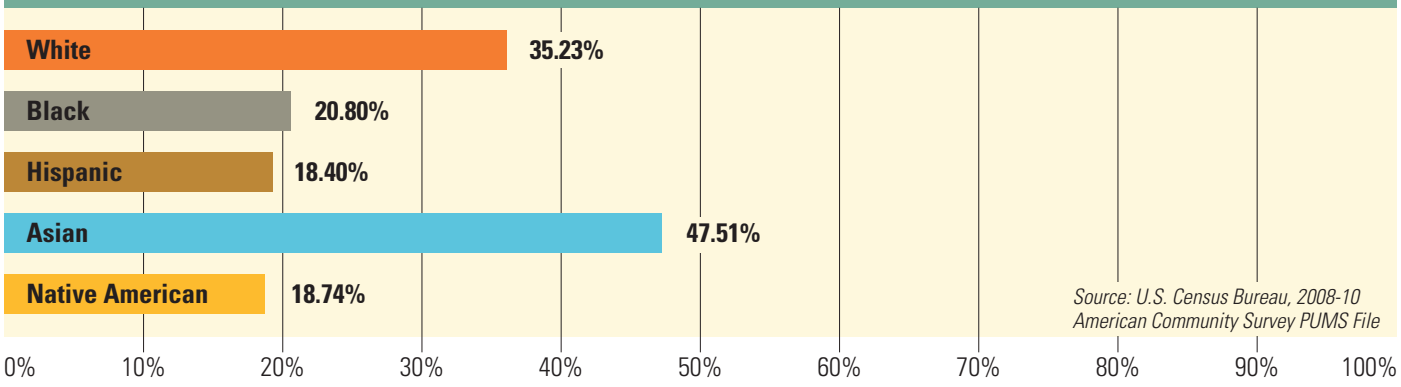
Levels of education for Mississippi residents, ages 25-64



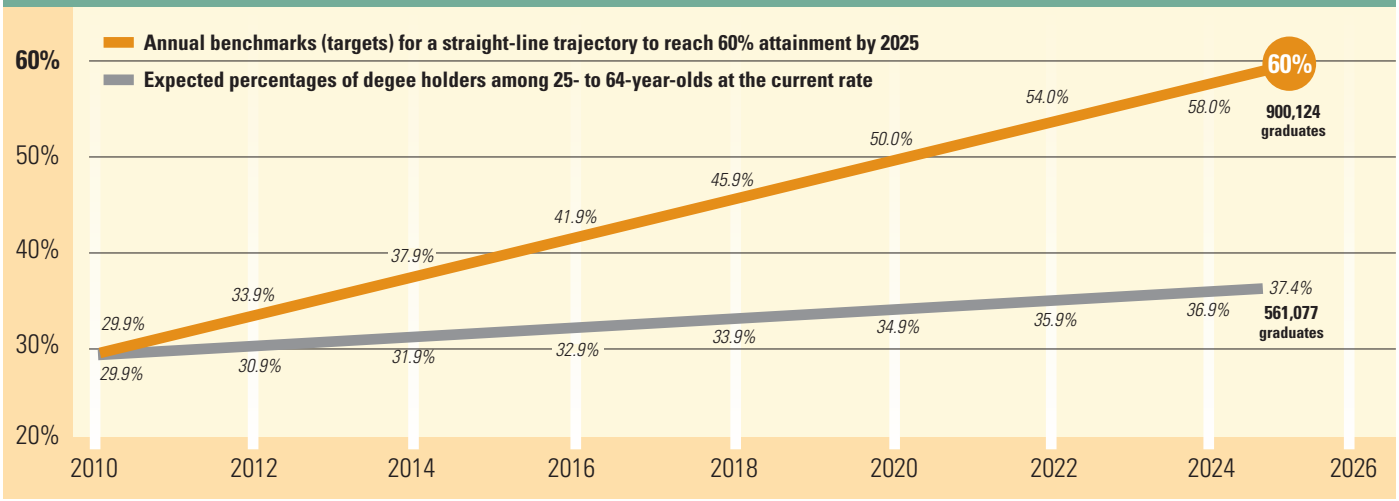
Less than ninth grade	67,535	4.44%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	178,224	11.71%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	460,480	30.26%
Some college, no degree	**361,058**	**23.73%**
Associate degree	146,253	9.61%
Bachelor's degree	199,736	13.13%
Graduate or professional degree	108,364	7.12%
TOTAL	1,521,650	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Mississippi adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in Mississippi



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Mississippi adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	29.40	Copiah	25.48	Itawamba	23.99	Lincoln	27.66	Pike	24.96	Tishomingo	20.32
Alcorn	26.91	Covington	24.69	Jackson	29.09	Lowndes	29.04	Pontotoc	21.03	Tunica	28.70
Amite	15.25	DeSoto	32.58	Jasper	21.63	Madison	53.47	Prentiss	25.50	Union	22.73
Attala	23.85	Forrest	34.81	Jefferson	22.17	Marion	20.36	Quitman	18.90	Walthall	26.50
Benton	17.20	Franklin	19.66	Jefferson Davis	20.74	Marshall	15.88	Rankin	39.64	Warren	34.31
Bolivar	28.28	George	19.02	Jones	27.28	Monroe	21.28	Scott	18.09	Washington	24.66
Calhoun	17.58	Greene	13.63	Kemper	14.71	Montgomery	24.67	Sharkey	26.68	Wayne	19.17
Carroll	26.36	Grenada	28.31	Lafayette	48.11	Neshoba	22.55	Simpson	21.23	Webster	22.21
Chickasaw	16.64	Hancock	30.48	Lamar	44.38	Newton	25.47	Smith	23.05	Wilkinson	13.94
Choctaw	22.61	Harrison	29.76	Lauderdale	29.42	Noxubee	21.65	Stone	23.57	Winston	24.69
Claiborne	26.31	Hinds	36.68	Lawrence	22.08	Oktibbeha	47.02	Sunflower	19.81	Yalobusha	20.52
Clarke	16.44	Holmes	17.01	Leake	18.26	Panola	23.61	Tallahatchie	18.34	Yazoo	17.40
Clay	25.42	Humphreys	17.82	Lee	31.44	Pearl River	25.93	Tate	25.32		
Coahoma	27.26	Issaquena	6.78	Leflore	21.77	Perry	24.56	Tippah	20.15		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MISSOURI

In Missouri, 35.8 percent of the state's 3.1 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Missouri are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 39.5 percent higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Missouri and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 44 percent of Missouri's adult population — nearly 1.4 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Missouri will need to add more than 482,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 59 percent of Missouri's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Missouri will need to fill more than 898,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 523,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Missouri's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Missouri can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 739,000 Missouri adults — nearly 24 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Missouri reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Missouri develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Missouri communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Missouri must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Missouri's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

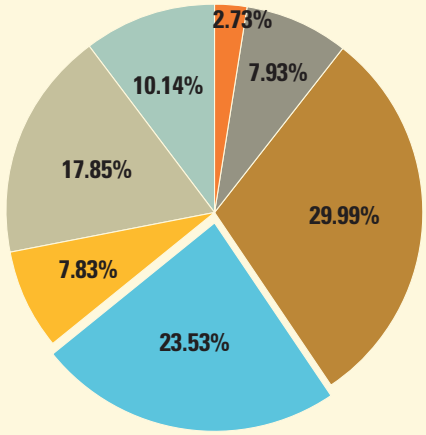
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 34.9%

2009 – 34.9%

2010 – 35.8%

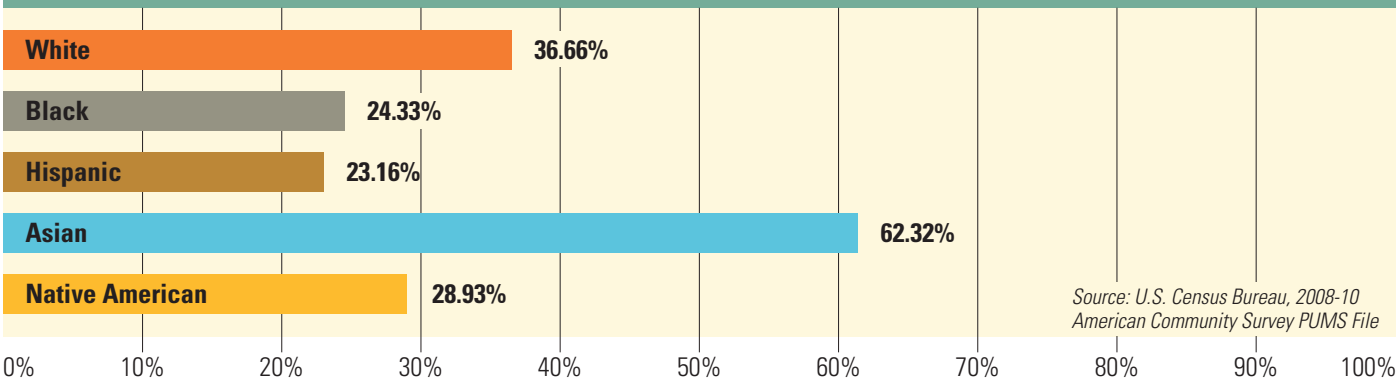
Levels of education for Missouri residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	85,688	2.73%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	249,230	7.93%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	942,239	29.99%
Some college, no degree	**739,249**	**23.53%**
Associate degree	245,968	7.83%
Bachelor's degree	560,896	17.85%
Graduate or professional degree	318,694	10.14%
TOTAL	3,141,964	100%

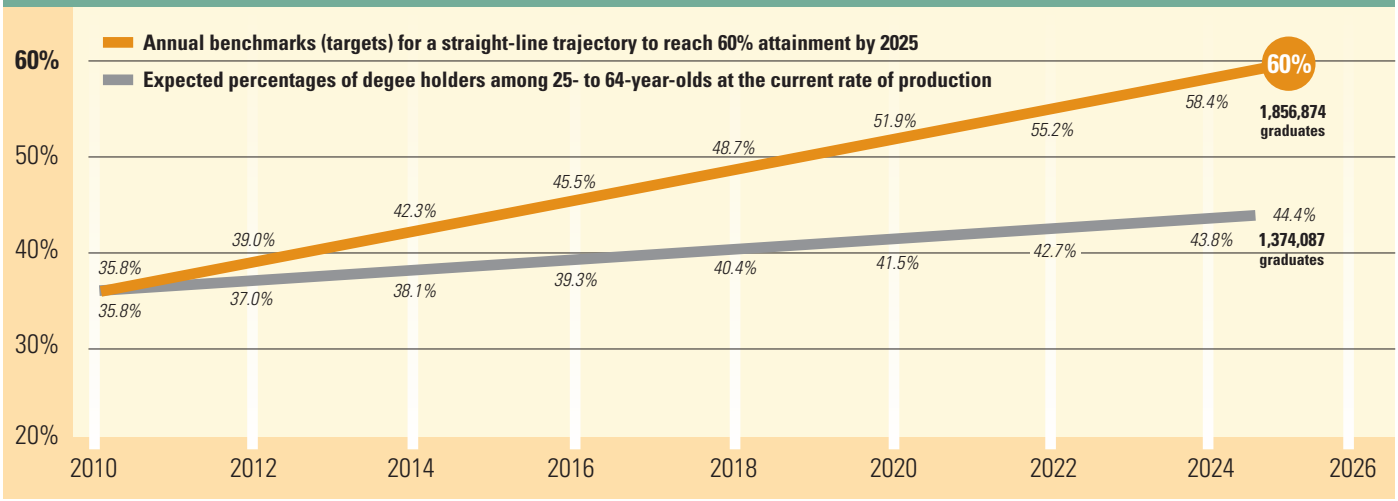
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Missouri adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Missouri



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Missouri adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	36.74	Chariton	25.71	Harrison	16.82	Macon	24.88	Phelps	34.04	Shannon	18.49
Andrew	28.45	Christian	37.96	Henry	21.67	Madison	19.88	Pike	18.70	Shelby	23.35
Atchison	31.60	Clark	23.78	Hickory	15.09	Maries	24.20	Platte	47.78	Stoddard	19.77
Audrain	19.24	Clay	41.70	Holt	22.56	Marion	25.41	Polk	24.55	Stone	22.59
Barry	18.51	Clinton	27.67	Howard	28.88	Mercer	26.53	Pulaski	31.25	Sullivan	18.40
Barton	22.97	Cole	40.15	Howell	21.07	Miller	17.82	Putnam	27.47	Taney	27.15
Bates	20.82	Cooper	25.27	Iron	15.93	Mississippi	15.30	Ralls	22.99	Texas	18.77
Benton	20.50	Crawford	18.03	Jackson	35.96	Moniteau	24.29	Randolph	20.50	Vernon	22.29
Bollinger	16.94	Dade	15.52	Jasper	26.81	Monroe	21.65	Ray	22.15	Warren	26.64
Boone	53.70	Dallas	17.12	Jefferson	28.44	Montgomery	21.42	Reynolds	13.38	Washington	12.66
Buchanan	26.79	Daviess	24.30	Johnson	34.59	Morgan	20.91	Ripley	17.71	Wayne	18.63
Butler	23.44	DeKalb	19.55	Knox	21.69	New Madrid	16.93	St. Charles	45.57	Webster	22.16
Caldwell	21.64	Dent	20.76	Laclede	19.71	Newton	28.61	St. Clair	22.91	Worth	21.05
Callaway	29.38	Douglas	15.98	Lafayette	25.16	Nodaway	32.94	Ste. Genevieve	23.18	Wright	19.69
Camden	29.64	Dunklin	15.44	Lawrence	20.52	Oregon	17.05	St. Francois	24.67	St. Louis city	35.98
Cape Girardeau	35.45	Franklin	27.84	Lewis	20.62	Osage	28.07	St. Louis	50.29		
Carroll	26.06	Gasconade	25.60	Lincoln	20.50	Ozark	16.60	Saline	25.78		
Carter	22.21	Gentry	20.94	Linn	22.30	Pemiscot	17.00	Schuyler	23.08		
Cass	31.85	Greene	36.29	Livingston	28.65	Perry	21.66	Scotland	29.46		
Cedar	21.41	Grundy	24.69	McDonald	11.95	Pettis	28.43	Scott	18.47		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MONTANA

In Montana, 40 percent of the state's 525,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Montana are increasing. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 39.3 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Montana and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, nearly 50 percent of Montana's adult population — about 250,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Montana will need to add nearly 52,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 62 percent of Montana's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Montana will need to fill 155,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 96,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Montana's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Montana can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 135,000 Montana adults — nearly 26 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Montana reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Montana develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Montana communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Montana must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Montana's economy and ensure a bright future for the state

Tracking the trend

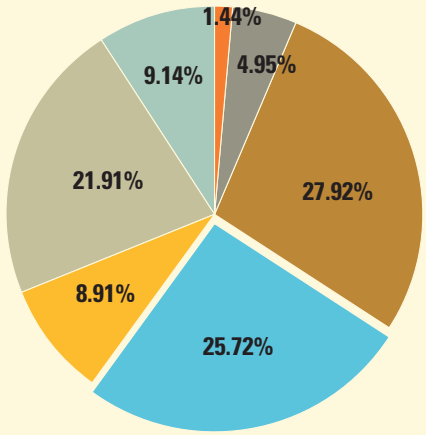
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 37.7%

2009 – 38.3%

2010 – 40.0%

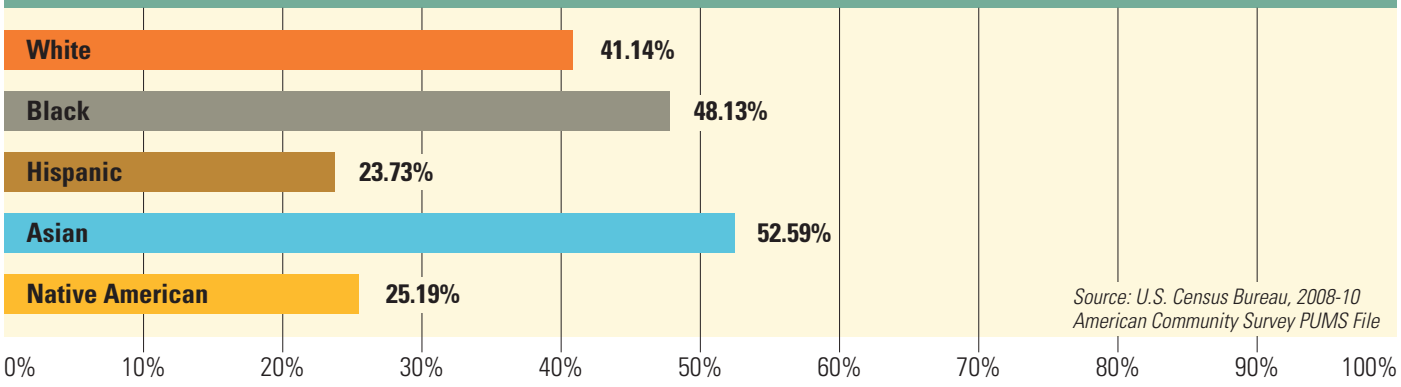
Levels of education for Montana residents, ages 25-64



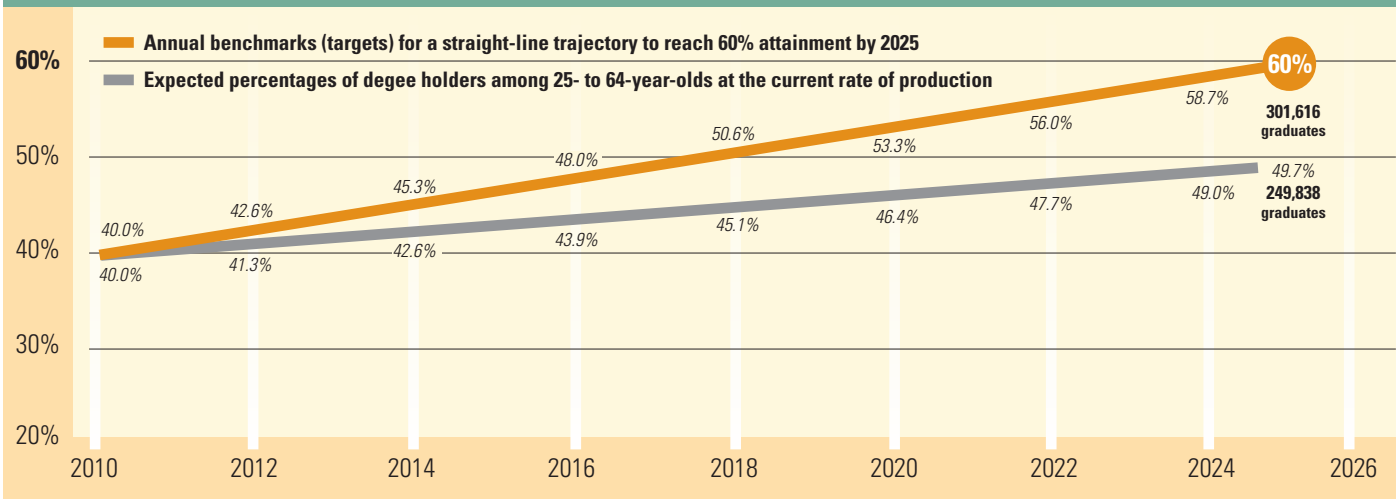
Less than ninth grade	7,560	1.44%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	26,007	4.95%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	146,726	27.92%
Some college, no degree	**135,172**	**25.72%**
Associate degree	46,837	8.91%
Bachelor's degree	115,122	21.91%
Graduate or professional degree	48,034	9.14%
TOTAL	525,458	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Montana adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in Montana



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Montana adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Beaverhead	39.02	Dawson	39.94	Hill	33.11	Mineral	20.56	Ravalli	34.34	Toole	29.58
Big Horn	21.04	Deer Lodge	29.44	Jefferson	41.71	Missoula	47.82	Richland	28.63	Treasure	27.87
Blaine	29.36	Fallon	28.80	Judith Basin	36.14	Musselshell	23.80	Roosevelt	27.30	Valley	33.00
Broadwater	21.56	Fergus	36.32	Lake	33.24	Park	40.70	Rosebud	28.28	Wheatland	21.93
Carbon	38.50	Flathead	36.51	Lewis and Clark	46.55	Petroleum	21.99	Sanders	23.07	Wibaux	37.22
Carter	26.49	Gallatin	53.41	Liberty	24.35	Phillips	29.82	Sheridan	29.08	Yellowstone	40.11
Cascade	36.38	Garfield	24.17	Lincoln	27.85	Pondera	32.67	Silver Bow	33.27		
Chouteau	32.67	Glacier	28.93	McCone	31.16	Powder River	27.24	Stillwater	31.08		
Custer	33.11	Golden Valley	32.84	Madison	43.13	Powell	25.91	Sweet Grass	36.48		
Daniels	40.44	Granite	33.41	Meagher	24.56	Prairie	34.08	Teton	33.89		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

NEBRASKA

In Nebraska, 42 percent of the state's 936,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Nebraska are increasing. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 44.4 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Nebraska and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 51 percent of Nebraska's adult population — 429,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Nebraska will need to add nearly 75,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 66 percent of Nebraska's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Nebraska will need to fill 321,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 207,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Nebraska's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Nebraska can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 236,000 Nebraska adults — 25 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Nebraska reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Nebraska develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Nebraska communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Nebraska must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Nebraska's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

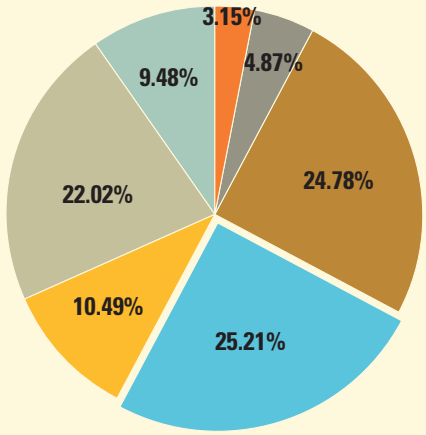
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 40.5%

2009 – 41.2%

2010 – 42.0%

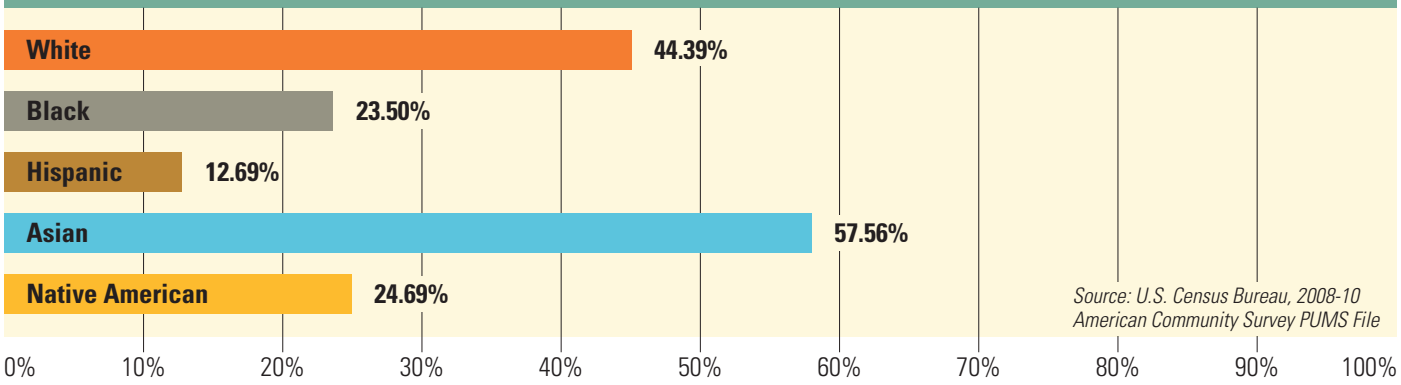
Levels of education for Nebraska residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	29,540	3.15%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	45,619	4.87%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	232,026	24.78%
Some college, no degree	**236,063**	**25.21%**
Associate degree	98,233	10.49%
Bachelor's degree	206,227	22.02%
Graduate or professional degree	88,778	9.48%
TOTAL	936,486	100%

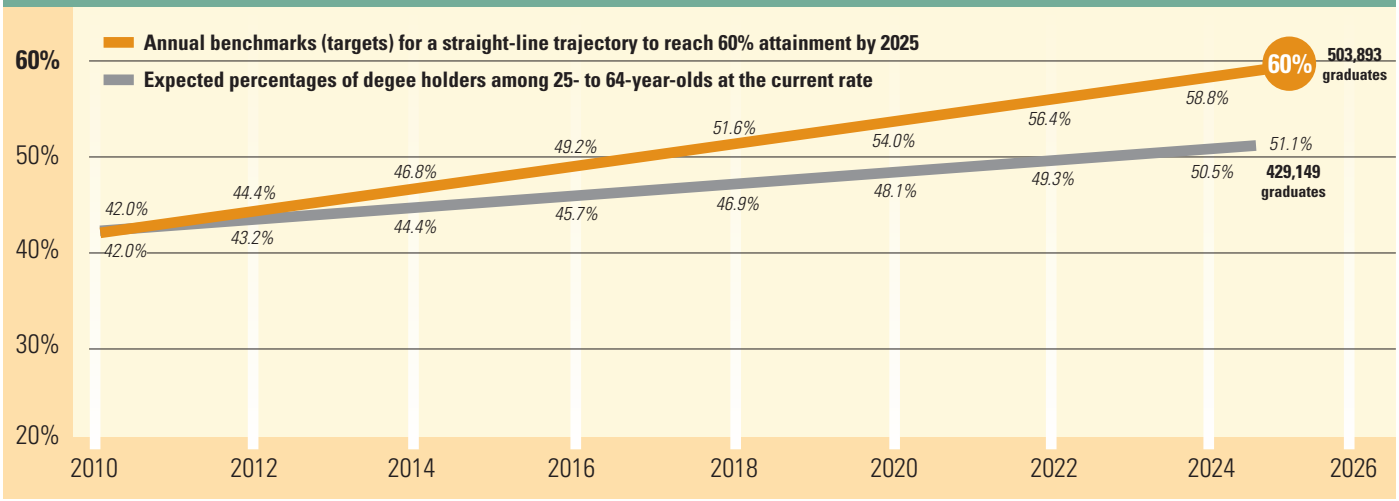
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Nebraska adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Nebraska



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Nebraska adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	37.07	Cheyenne	40.90	Furnas	29.39	Johnson	20.87	Nuckolls	26.12	Sheridan	33.31
Antelope	32.84	Clay	34.45	Gage	33.86	Kearney	37.20	Otoe	38.17	Sherman	29.17
Arthur	40.19	Colfax	21.97	Garden	33.79	Keith	33.03	Pawnee	28.57	Sioux	39.86
Banner	47.73	Cuming	33.94	Garfield	23.55	Keya Paha	36.31	Perkins	35.10	Stanton	34.59
Blaine	39.73	Custer	34.98	Gosper	30.63	Kimball	29.72	Phelps	38.19	Thayer	36.95
Boone	31.69	Dakota	21.29	Grant	27.98	Knox	33.48	Pierce	33.61	Thomas	36.54
Box Butte	31.13	Dawes	48.03	Greeley	31.66	Lancaster	49.52	Platte	33.75	Thurston	32.00
Boyd	26.06	Dawson	21.57	Hall	27.73	Lincoln	34.21	Polk	32.41	Valley	30.69
Brown	33.13	Deuel	33.43	Hamilton	35.21	Logan	26.11	Red Willow	38.56	Washington	42.83
Buffalo	44.57	Dixon	27.51	Harlan	35.24	Loup	22.48	Richardson	23.89	Wayne	46.38
Burt	35.86	Dodge	29.78	Hayes	38.45	McPherson	35.69	Rock	38.25	Webster	28.47
Butler	34.14	Douglas	45.80	Hitchcock	32.38	Madison	38.26	Saline	29.57	Wheeler	39.67
Cass	37.27	Dundy	53.09	Holt	32.77	Merrick	24.84	Sarpy	48.08	York	36.80
Cedar	32.28	Fillmore	39.87	Hooker	46.20	Morrill	31.32	Saunders	39.94		
Chase	33.35	Franklin	33.27	Howard	26.19	Nance	24.74	Scotts Bluff	33.52		
Cherry	38.46	Frontier	40.55	Jefferson	35.42	Nemaha	35.25	Seward	48.26		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

NEVADA

In Nevada, 29.5 percent of the state's nearly 1.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Nevada are decreasing slightly. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 27.5 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Nevada and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, 35 percent of Nevada's adult population — about 677,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Nevada will need to add nearly 477,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 54 percent of Nevada's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Nevada will need to fill 511,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 272,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Nevada's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Nevada can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 390,000 Nevada adults — nearly 27 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Nevada reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Nevada develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Nevada communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Nevada must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Nevada's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

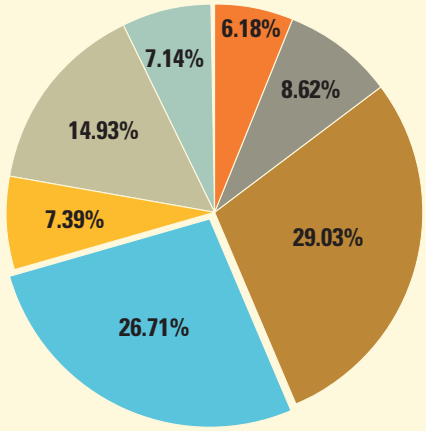
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 30.1%

2009 – 30.4%

2010 – 29.5%

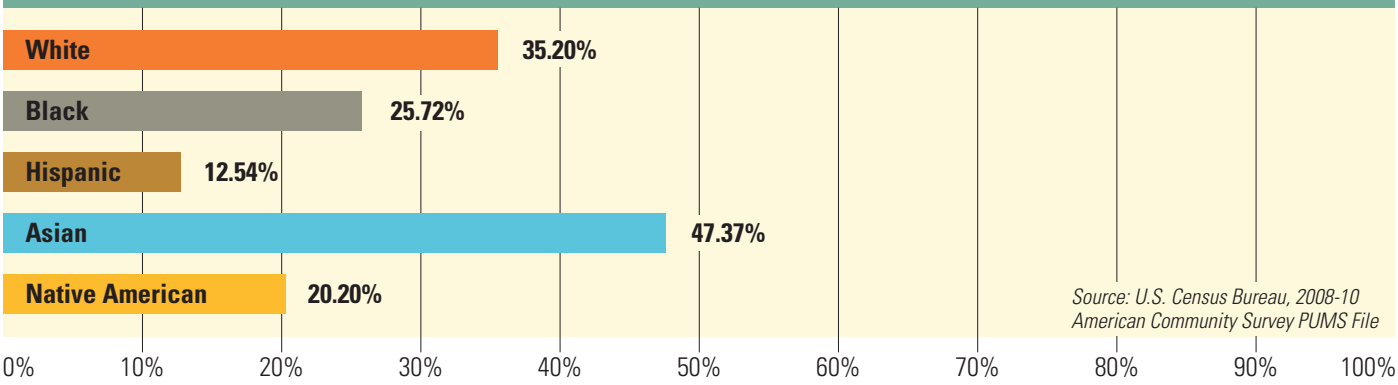
Levels of education for Nevada residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	90,342	6.18%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	126,099	8.62%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	424,561	29.03%
Some college, no degree	**390,623**	**26.71%**
Associate degree	108,057	7.39%
Bachelor's degree	218,365	14.93%
Graduate or professional degree	104,350	7.14%
TOTAL	1,462,397	100%

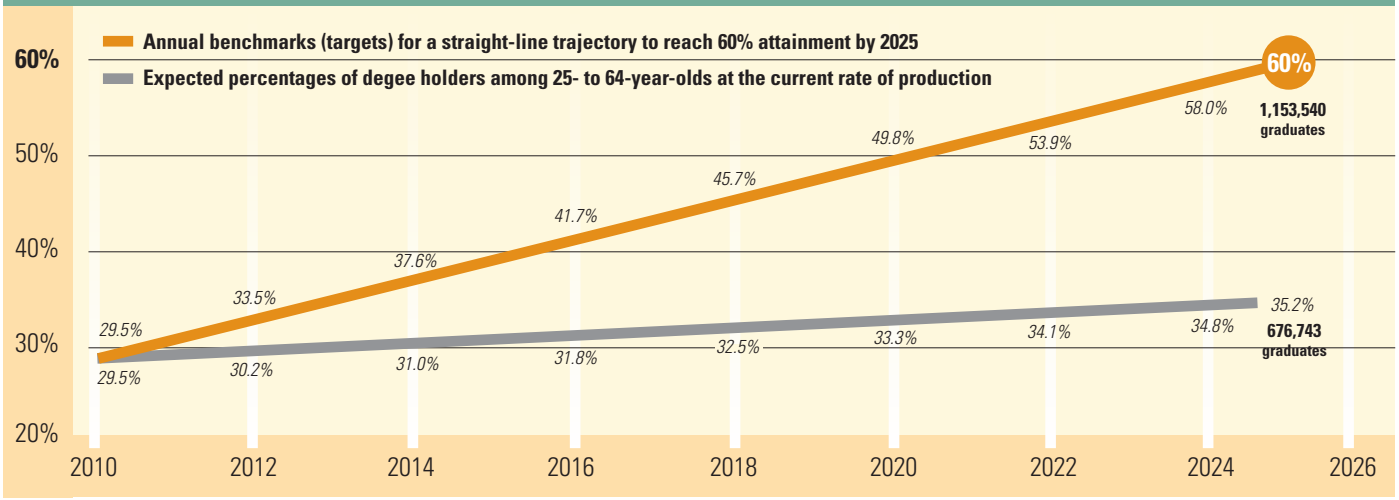
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Nevada adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Nevada



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Nevada adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Churchill	27.68	Elko	25.31	Humboldt	19.69	Lyon	22.39	Pershing	18.92	White Pine	20.52
Clark	29.63	Esmeralda	31.21	Lander	18.81	Mineral	17.56	Storey	24.23	Carson City	29.88
Douglas	36.80	Eureka	30.52	Lincoln	22.43	Nye	16.30	Washoe	35.35		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

NEW HAMPSHIRE

In New Hampshire, 45.8 percent of the state's 728,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in New Hampshire are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 46.2 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In New Hampshire and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 54 percent of New Hampshire's adult population — 441,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, New Hampshire will need to add nearly 51,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 64 percent of New Hampshire's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, New Hampshire will need to fill 223,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 141,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, New Hampshire's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

New Hampshire can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 141,000 New Hampshire adults — 19 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping New Hampshire reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help New Hampshire develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all New Hampshire communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, New Hampshire must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build New Hampshire's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

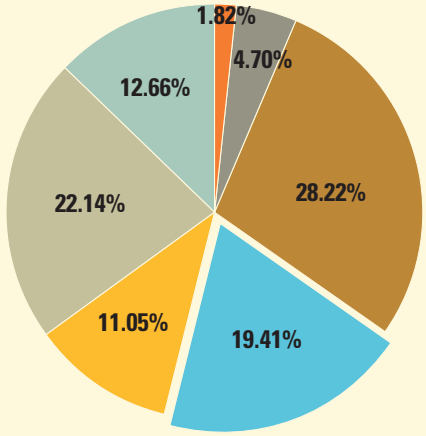
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 46.0%

2009 – 44.6%

2010 – 45.8%

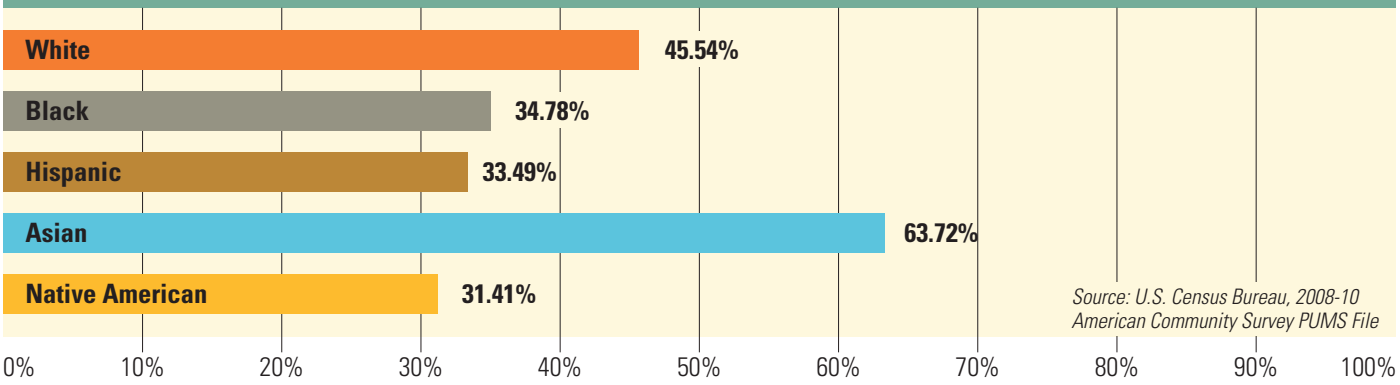
Levels of education for New Hampshire residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	13,287	1.82%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	34,200	4.70%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	205,457	28.22%
Some college, no degree	**141,355**	**19.41%**
Associate degree	80,420	11.05%
Bachelor's degree	161,193	22.14%
Graduate or professional degree	92,194	12.66%
TOTAL	728,106	100%

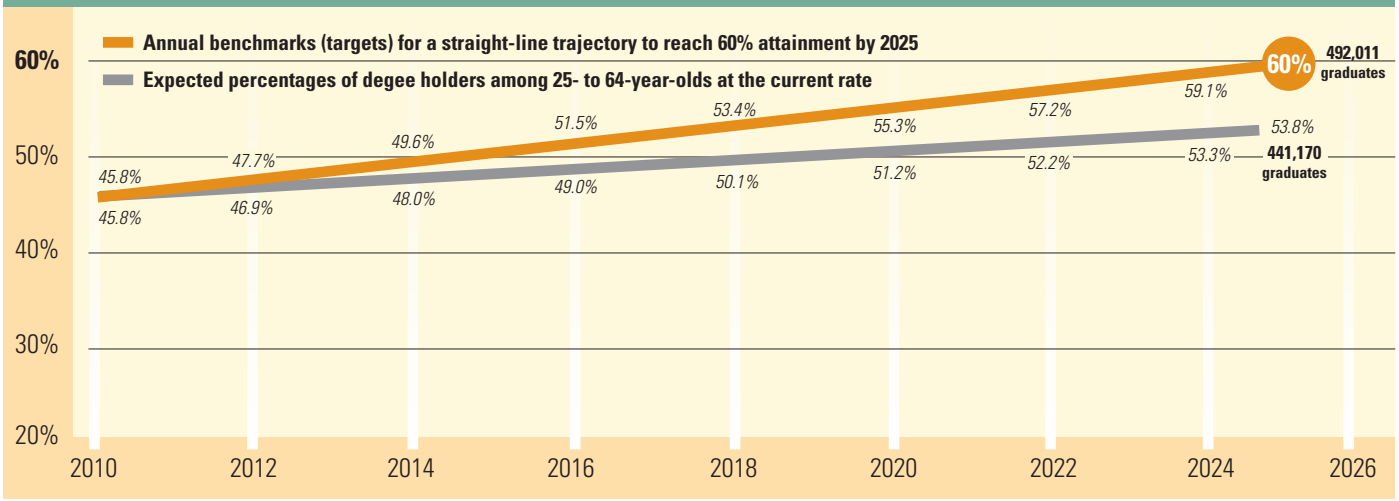
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among New Hampshire adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in New Hampshire



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of New Hampshire adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Belknap	39.02	Cheshire	40.66	Grafton	44.74	Merrimack	45.23	Strafford	44.33
Carroll	40.80	Coos	28.64	Hillsborough	47.33	Rockingham	50.24	Sullivan	36.17

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

NEW JERSEY

In New Jersey, 45.3 percent of the state's nearly 4.8 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in New Jersey are increasing slightly. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 47.9 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In New Jersey and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 54 percent of New Jersey's adult population — 2.7 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, New Jersey will need to add more than 283,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 64 percent of New Jersey's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, New Jersey will need to fill 1.3 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 794,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, New Jersey's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

New Jersey can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 852,000 New Jersey adults — almost 18 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping New Jersey reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help New Jersey develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all New Jersey communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, New Jersey must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build New Jersey's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

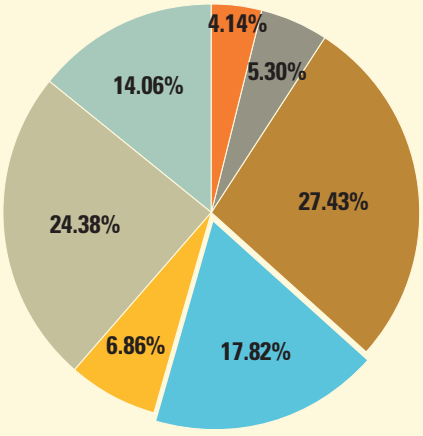
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 44.6%

2009 – 44.5%

2010 – 45.3%

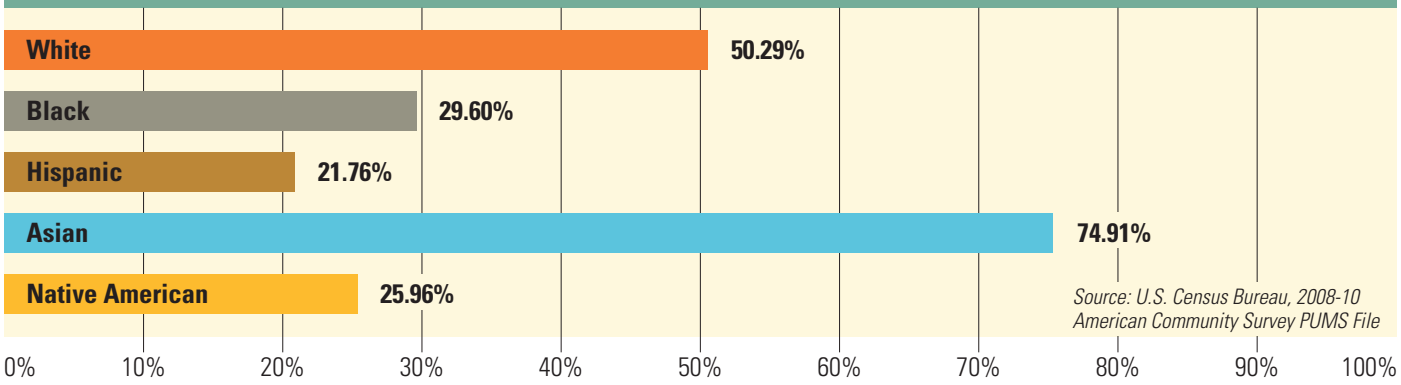
Levels of education for New Jersey residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	198,058	4.14%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	253,519	5.30%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,311,288	27.43%
Some college, no degree	**851,810**	**17.82%**
Associate degree	327,692	6.86%
Bachelor's degree	1,165,568	24.38%
Graduate or professional degree	671,939	14.06%
TOTAL	4,779,874	100%

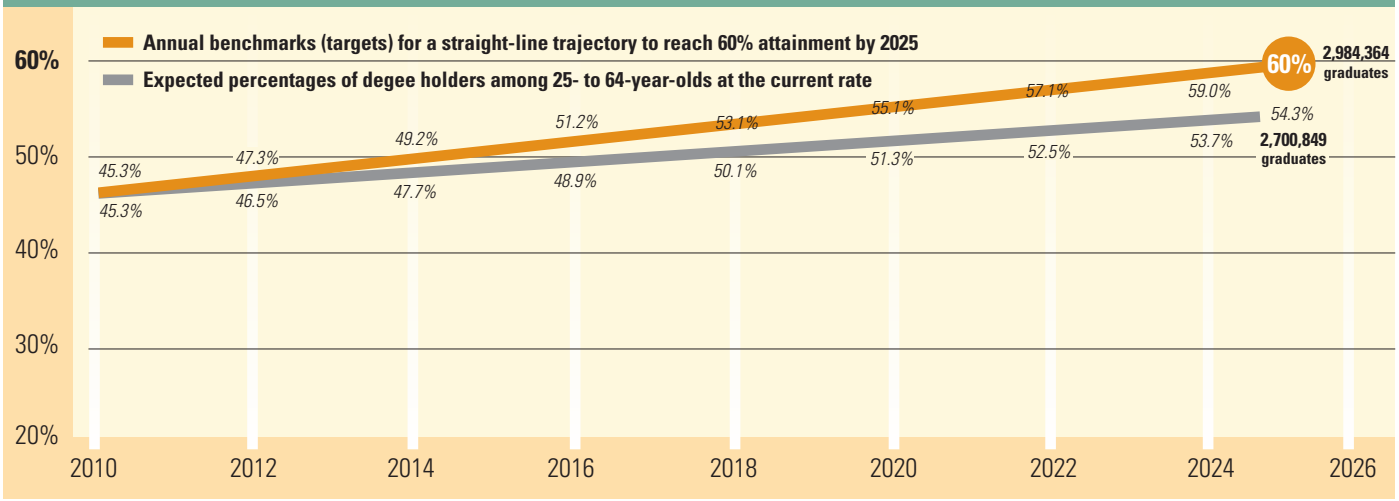
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among New Jersey adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in New Jersey



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of New Jersey adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Atlantic	33.06	Cape May	36.40	Hudson	42.69	Monmouth	50.67	Salem	29.31	Warren	40.39
Bergen	55.32	Cumberland	20.61	Hunterdon	59.25	Morris	59.16	Somerset	60.75		
Burlington	45.33	Essex	39.28	Mercer	47.66	Ocean	36.26	Sussex	42.00		
Camden	37.19	Gloucester	38.76	Middlesex	49.29	Passaic	33.31	Union	39.88		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

NEW MEXICO

In New Mexico, 33.1 percent of the state's nearly 1.1 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in New Mexico are decreasing slightly. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 27.6 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In New Mexico and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 36 percent of New Mexico's adult population — 347,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, New Mexico will need to add nearly 235,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 58 percent of New Mexico's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, New Mexico will need to fill 292,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 166,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, New Mexico's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

New Mexico can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 277,000 New Mexico adults — 26 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping New Mexico reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help New Mexico develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all New Mexico communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, New Mexico must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build New Mexico's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

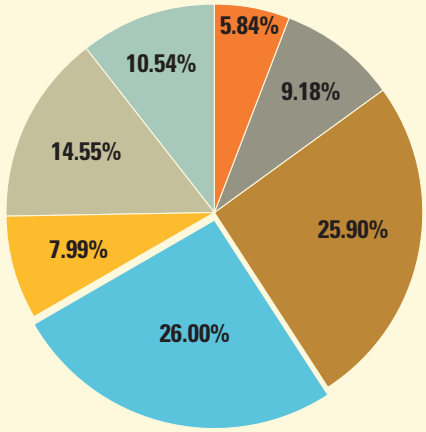
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 33.4%

2009 – 33.9%

2010 – 33.1%

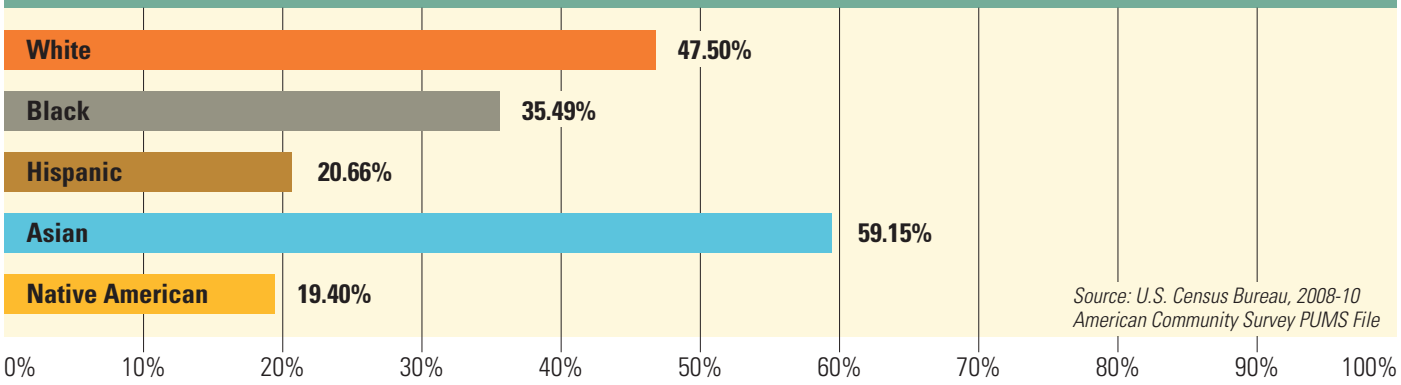
Levels of education for New Mexico residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	62,277	5.84%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	97,828	9.18%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	276,077	25.90%
Some college, no degree	**277,102**	**26.00%**
Associate degree	85,180	7.99%
Bachelor's degree	155,146	14.55%
Graduate or professional degree	112,332	10.54%
TOTAL	1,065,942	100%

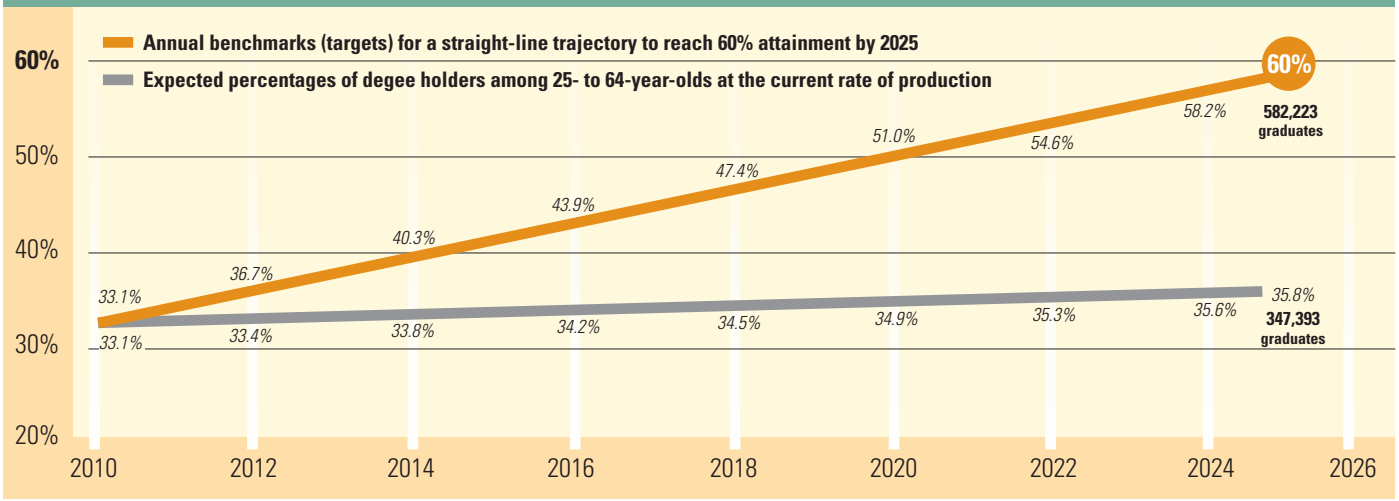
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among New Mexico adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in New Mexico



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of New Mexico adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Bernalillo	39.79	De Baca	31.35	Hidalgo	22.65	Mora	25.48	San Juan	25.53	Torrance	22.01
Catron	31.27	Doña Ana	32.98	Lea	21.54	Otero	30.12	San Miguel	31.01	Union	22.56
Chaves	24.35	Eddy	25.18	Lincoln	33.40	Quay	22.68	Santa Fe	45.25	Valencia	25.05
Cibola	20.17	Grant	35.81	Los Alamos	72.81	Rio Arriba	25.07	Sierra	23.52		
Colfax	27.56	Guadalupe	18.70	Luna	16.75	Roosevelt	29.16	Socorro	28.65		
Curry	28.35	Harding	26.60	McKinley	19.63	Sandoval	38.19	Taos	38.13		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

NEW YORK

In New York, 44.1 percent of the state's nearly 10.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in New York are decreasing slightly. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 49.9 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In New York and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 53 percent of New York's adult population — 5.2 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, New York will need to add nearly 701,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 63 percent of New York's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, New York will need to fill 2.8 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 1.8 million will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, New York's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

New York can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 1.8 million New York adults — 17 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping New York reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help New York develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all New York communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, New York must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build New York's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

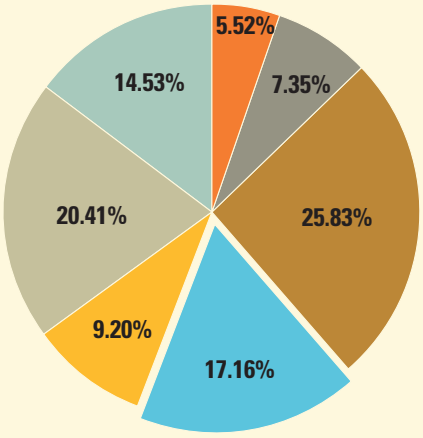
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 43.8%

2009 – 44.6%

2010 – 44.1%

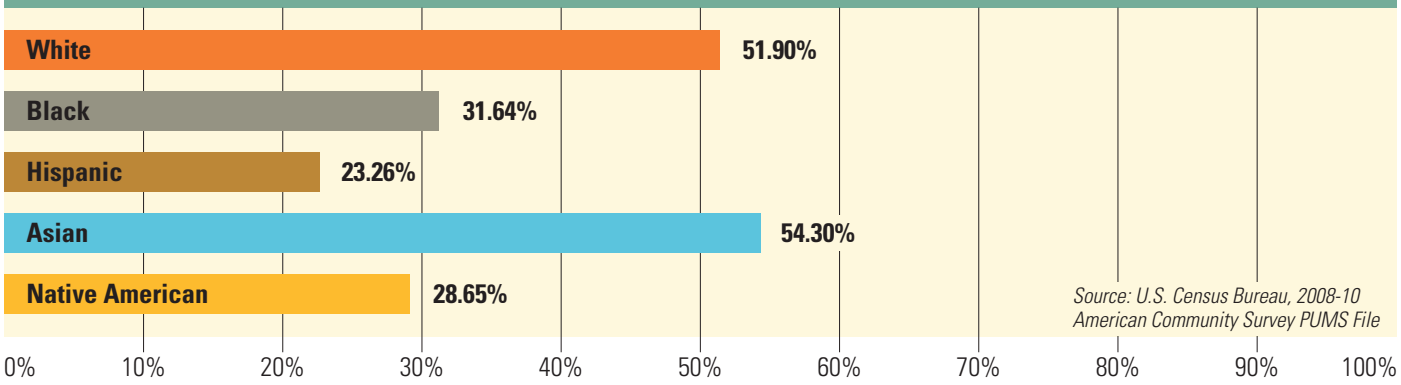
Levels of education for New York residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	577,559	5.52%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	768,849	7.35%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,703,461	25.83%
Some college, no degree	**1,795,575**	**17.16%**
Associate degree	962,749	9.20%
Bachelor's degree	2,136,548	20.41%
Graduate or professional degree	1,521,059	14.53%
TOTAL	10,465,800	100%

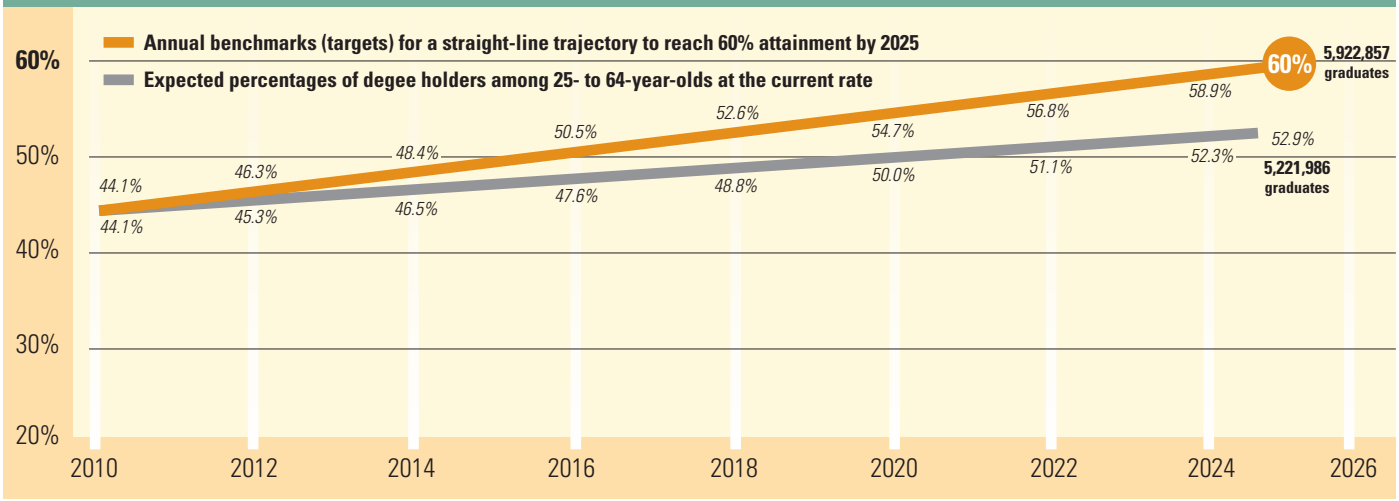
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among New York adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in New York



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of New York adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Albany	52.48	Cortland	40.28	Jefferson	33.53	Onondaga	47.50	St. Lawrence	33.91	Ulster	42.05
Allegany	34.47	Delaware	32.90	Kings	38.42	Ontario	47.80	Saratoga	50.67	Warren	41.28
Bronx	26.24	Dutchess	45.57	Lewis	26.47	Orange	39.73	Schenectady	44.20	Washington	28.76
Broome	41.65	Erie	45.15	Livingston	37.93	Orleans	26.47	Schoharie	36.77	Wayne	36.83
Cattaraugus	32.04	Essex	37.33	Madison	40.65	Oswego	27.88	Schuyler	31.69	Westchester	54.74
Cayuga	33.81	Franklin	29.87	Monroe	49.51	Otsego	39.02	Seneca	33.05	Wyoming	29.58
Chautauqua	36.32	Fulton	28.20	Montgomery	31.92	Putnam	49.36	Steuben	36.88	Yates	32.69
Chemung	35.19	Genesee	36.60	Nassau	53.80	Queens	40.11	Suffolk	44.34		
Chenango	30.55	Greene	30.49	New York	64.83	Rensselaer	43.18	Sullivan	32.58		
Clinton	33.15	Hamilton	39.03	Niagara	36.17	Richmond	39.77	Tioga	38.50		
Columbia	43.11	Herkimer	35.51	Oneida	36.51	Rockland	51.83	Tompkins	60.83		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

NORTH CAROLINA

In North Carolina, 37.6 percent of the state's nearly 5.1 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in North Carolina are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 37.2 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In North Carolina and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 46 percent of North Carolina's adult population — nearly 2.6 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, North Carolina will need to add more than 768,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 59 percent of North Carolina's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, North Carolina will need to fill 1.4 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 833,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, North Carolina's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

North Carolina can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 1.2 million North Carolina adults — 23 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping North Carolina reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help North Carolina develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all North Carolina communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, North Carolina must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build North Carolina's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

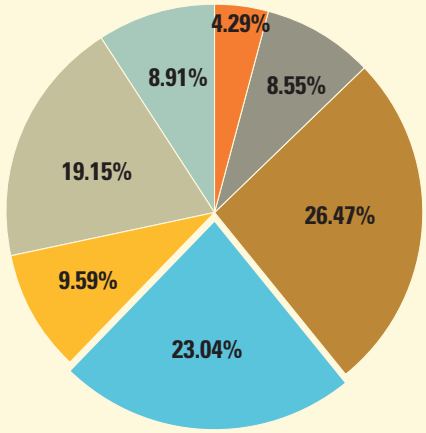
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 36.9%

2009 – 37.9%

2010 – 37.6%

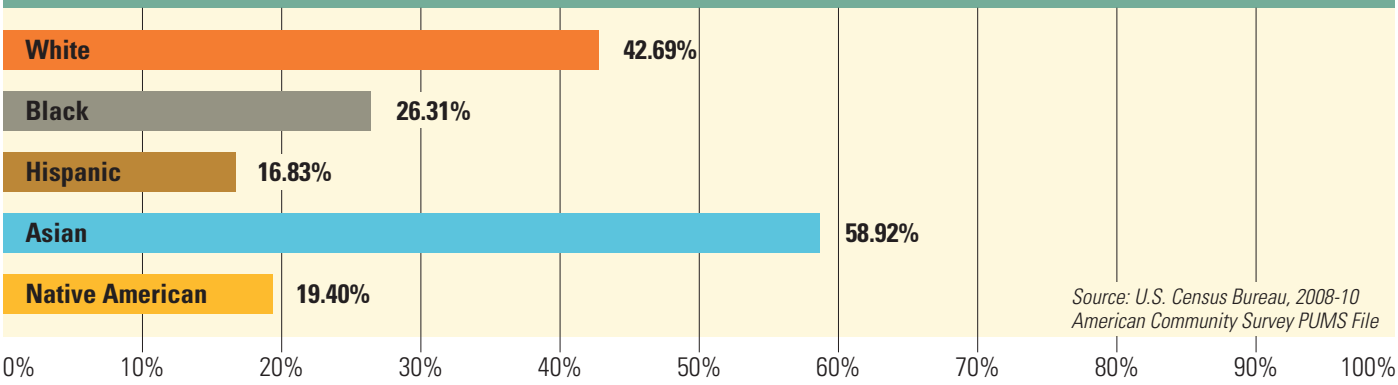
Levels of education for North Carolina residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	217,964	4.29%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	435,059	8.55%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,346,472	26.47%
Some college, no degree	**1,171,873**	**23.04%**
Associate degree	487,492	9.59%
Bachelor's degree	974,014	19.15%
Graduate or professional degree	453,028	8.91%
TOTAL	5,085,902	100%

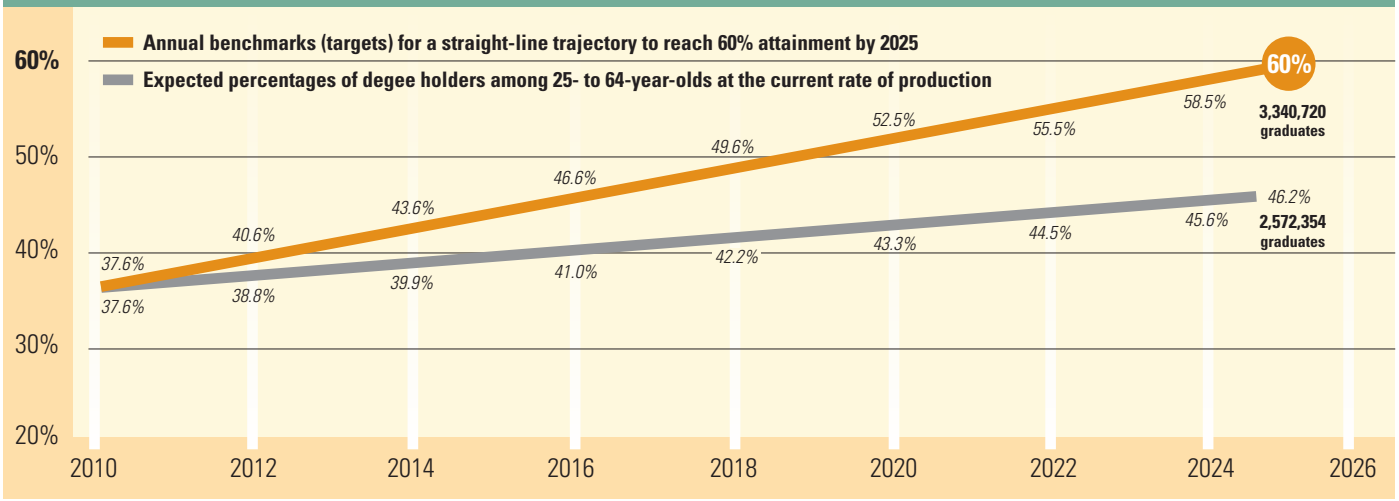
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among North Carolina adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in North Carolina



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of North Carolina adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Alamance	32.39	Catawba	30.88	Franklin	27.08	Jones	20.09	Pamlico	29.50	Surry	26.80
Alexander	21.68	Chatham	42.71	Gaston	29.51	Lee	29.51	Pasquotank	30.03	Swain	33.50
Alleghany	25.10	Cherokee	28.80	Gates	21.09	Lenoir	25.57	Pender	28.36	Transylvania	35.15
Anson	17.44	Chowan	23.15	Graham	22.94	Lincoln	28.66	Perquimans	24.88	Tyrrell	16.90
Ashe	25.94	Clay	29.23	Granville	24.88	McDowell	27.21	Person	26.17	Union	40.15
Avery	28.02	Cleveland	26.76	Greene	19.82	Macon	29.34	Pitt	40.43	Vance	18.40
Beaufort	29.62	Columbus	24.16	Guilford	41.93	Madison	29.45	Polk	33.66	Wake	58.07
Bertie	17.38	Craven	32.34	Halifax	20.95	Martin	24.50	Randolph	22.38	Warren	24.67
Bladen	20.27	Cumberland	34.25	Harnett	29.40	Mecklenburg	50.11	Richmond	20.16	Washington	22.27
Brunswick	33.06	Currituck	24.91	Haywood	35.13	Mitchell	24.68	Robeson	19.39	Watauga	46.04
Buncombe	42.44	Dare	39.94	Henderson	37.20	Montgomery	24.71	Rockingham	21.88	Wayne	28.02
Burke	27.07	Davidson	28.05	Hertford	26.12	Moore	41.71	Rowan	27.03	Wilkes	23.59
Cabarrus	37.46	Davie	35.03	Hoke	27.03	Nash	29.33	Rutherford	26.89	Wilson	27.79
Caldwell	23.14	Duplin	20.02	Hyde	18.88	New Hanover	48.36	Sampson	22.53	Yadkin	24.54
Camden	32.05	Durham	53.13	Iredell	33.02	Northampton	20.44	Scotland	22.33	Yancey	24.21
Carteret	34.51	Edgecombe	19.06	Jackson	36.34	Onslow	29.23	Stanly	27.15		
Caswell	20.57	Forsyth	41.40	Johnston	31.52	Orange	62.55	Stokes	19.35		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

NORTH DAKOTA

In North Dakota, 44.9 percent of the state's nearly 345,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in North Dakota are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 50.1 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In North Dakota and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 57 percent of North Dakota's adult population — nearly 163,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, North Dakota will need to add more than 10,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 70 percent of North Dakota's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, North Dakota will need to fill 120,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 80,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, North Dakota's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

North Dakota can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 86,000 North Dakota adults — 25 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping North Dakota reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help North Dakota develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all North Dakota communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, North Dakota must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build North Dakota's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

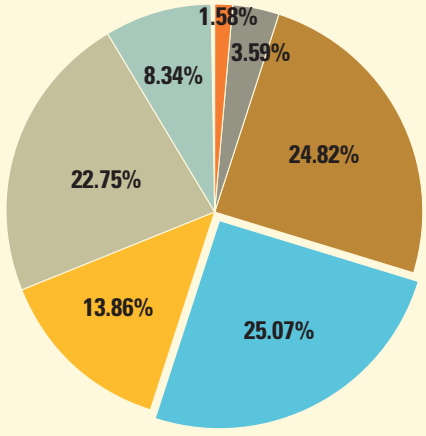
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 45.2%

2009 – 43.7%

2010 – 44.9%

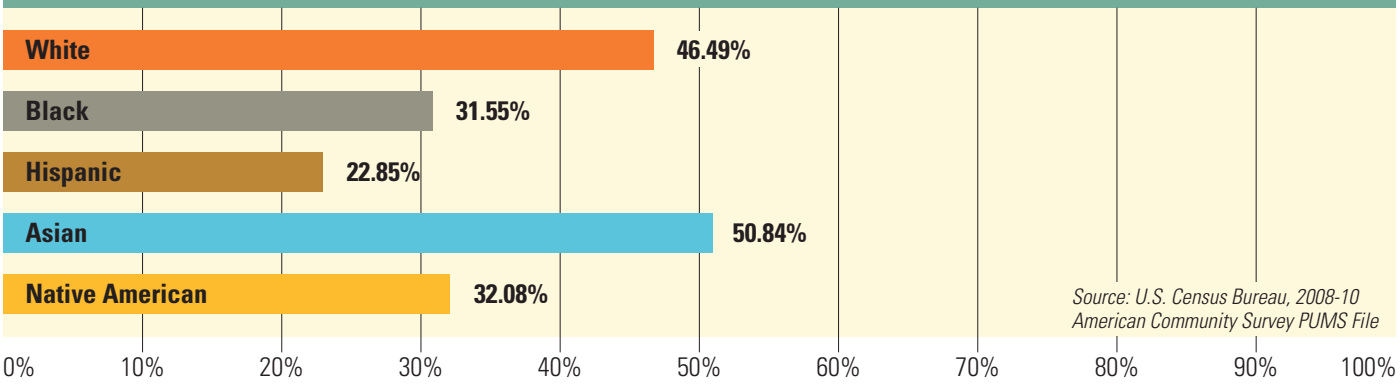
Levels of education for North Dakota residents, ages 25-64



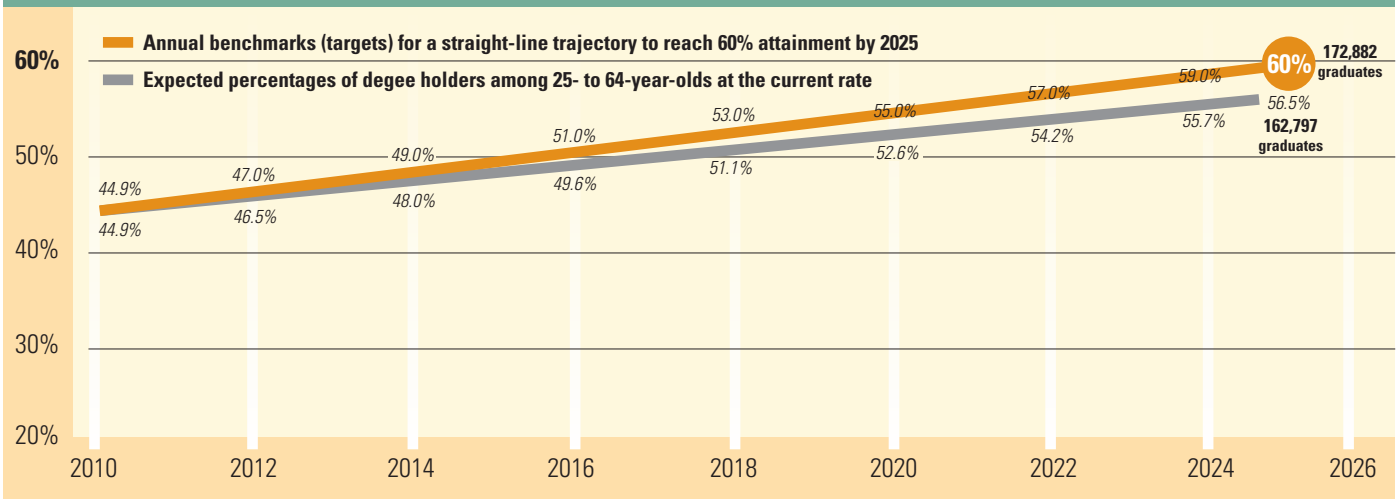
Less than ninth grade	5,447	1.58%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	12,375	3.59%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	85,612	24.82%
Some college, no degree	**86,444**	**25.07%**
Associate degree	47,788	13.86%
Bachelor's degree	78,445	22.75%
Graduate or professional degree	28,760	8.34%
TOTAL	344,871	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among North Dakota adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in North Dakota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of North Dakota adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	31.98	Cavalier	42.84	Grant	35.75	McLean	37.70	Ransom	31.48	Steele	37.21
Barnes	40.69	Dickey	40.59	Griggs	33.15	Mercer	42.61	Renville	37.99	Stutsman	37.72
Benson	25.03	Divide	42.94	Hettinger	36.49	Morton	38.14	Richland	45.41	Towner	39.87
Billings	35.41	Dunn	31.95	Kidder	30.90	Mountrail	34.19	Rolette	36.36	Traill	48.07
Bottineau	44.58	Eddy	36.99	LaMoure	40.48	Nelson	44.82	Sargent	32.26	Walsh	29.84
Bowman	37.31	Emmons	33.29	Logan	28.04	Oliver	37.41	Sheridan	25.48	Ward	41.85
Burke	38.65	Foster	44.22	McHenry	26.14	Pembina	34.43	Sioux	25.80	Wells	40.87
Burleigh	51.03	Golden Valley	41.50	McIntosh	35.18	Pierce	29.51	Slope	43.18	Williams	40.66
Cass	52.30	Grand Forks	48.76	McKenzie	42.67	Ramsey	39.90	Stark	40.47		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

OHIO

In Ohio, 35.8 percent of the state's nearly 6.1 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Ohio are increasing slightly. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 38.5 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Ohio and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 44 percent of Ohio's adult population — 2.5 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Ohio will need to add nearly 919,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 57 percent of Ohio's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Ohio will need to fill 1.7 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 967,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Ohio's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Ohio can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 1.3 million Ohio adults — nearly 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Ohio reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Ohio develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Ohio communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Ohio must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Ohio's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

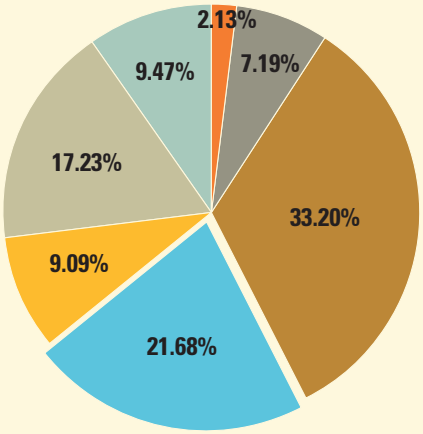
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 34.9%

2009 – 34.7%

2010 – 35.8%

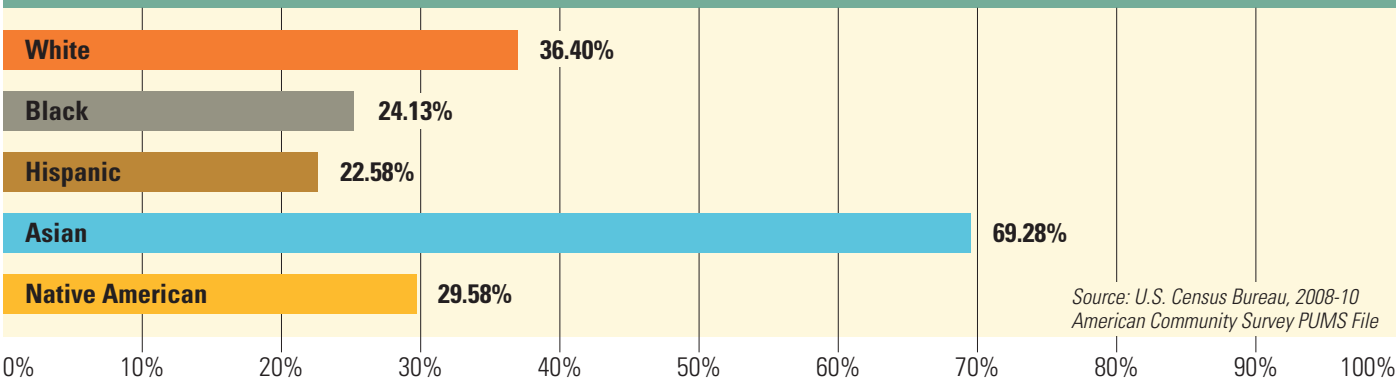
Levels of education for Ohio residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	130,077	2.13%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	438,532	7.19%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,023,731	33.20%
Some college, no degree	**1,321,348**	**21.68%**
Associate degree	553,785	9.09%
Bachelor's degree	1,050,246	17.23%
Graduate or professional degree	577,352	9.47%
TOTAL	6,095,071	100%

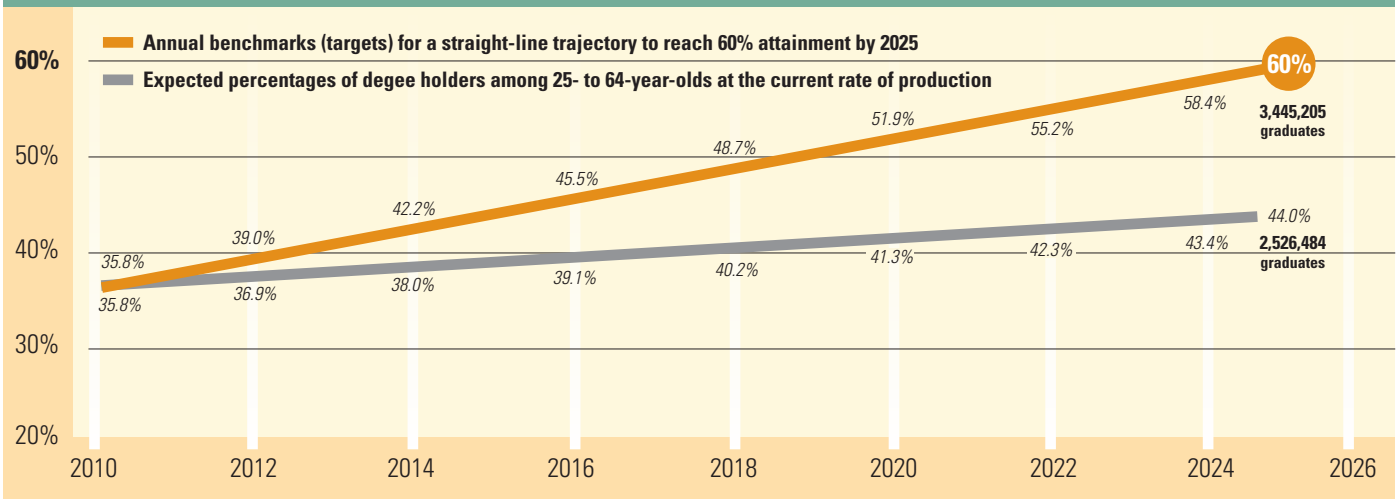
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Ohio adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Ohio



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Ohio adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	17.91	Coshocton	20.83	Hamilton	43.16	Logan	22.36	Noble	17.21	Stark	30.98
Allen	27.80	Crawford	21.89	Hancock	36.72	Lorain	32.25	Ottawa	32.30	Summit	40.77
Ashland	27.71	Cuyahoga	38.97	Hardin	23.48	Lucas	33.96	Paulding	21.72	Trumbull	25.81
Ashtabula	21.36	Darke	22.13	Harrison	19.92	Madison	25.61	Perry	17.45	Tuscarawas	23.40
Athens	38.34	Defiance	26.89	Henry	24.11	Mahoning	30.46	Pickaway	21.15	Union	37.45
Auglaize	27.95	Delaware	60.74	Highland	18.16	Marion	20.81	Pike	20.38	Van Wert	24.94
Belmont	27.33	Erie	31.68	Hocking	20.61	Medina	41.31	Portage	33.75	Vinton	16.65
Brown	18.96	Fairfield	36.27	Holmes	14.95	Meigs	23.09	Preble	20.68	Warren	47.09
Butler	35.75	Fayette	20.60	Huron	21.86	Mercer	28.33	Putnam	34.75	Washington	26.60
Carroll	20.32	Franklin	44.22	Jackson	21.31	Miami	30.93	Richland	25.75	Wayne	27.45
Champaign	22.92	Fulton	25.98	Jefferson	27.42	Monroe	20.76	Ross	21.77	Williams	24.13
Clark	27.39	Gallia	25.06	Knox	26.67	Montgomery	35.82	Sandusky	26.74	Wood	42.81
Clermont	35.11	Geauga	45.63	Lake	36.46	Morgan	18.72	Scioto	22.21	Wyandot	25.44
Clinton	23.93	Greene	47.74	Lawrence	22.58	Morrow	22.42	Seneca	27.26		
Columbiana	24.13	Guernsey	22.13	Licking	32.23	Muskingum	24.23	Shelby	24.26		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

OKLAHOMA

In Oklahoma, 31.7 percent of the state's 1.9 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Oklahoma are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 30.4 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Oklahoma and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 37 percent of Oklahoma's adult population — nearly 667,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Oklahoma will need to add more than 414,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 57 percent of Oklahoma's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Oklahoma will need to fill 541,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 308,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Oklahoma's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Oklahoma can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 491,000 Oklahoma adults — 25 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Oklahoma reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Oklahoma develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Oklahoma communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Oklahoma must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Oklahoma's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

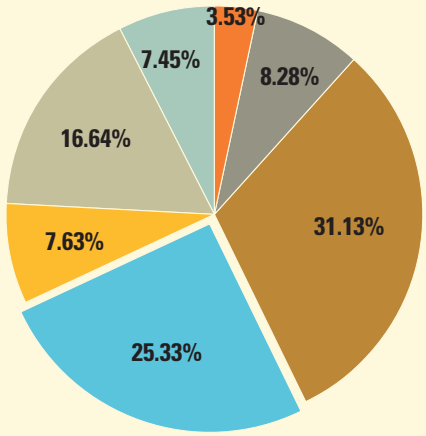
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 31.3%

2009 – 31.7%

2010 – 31.7%

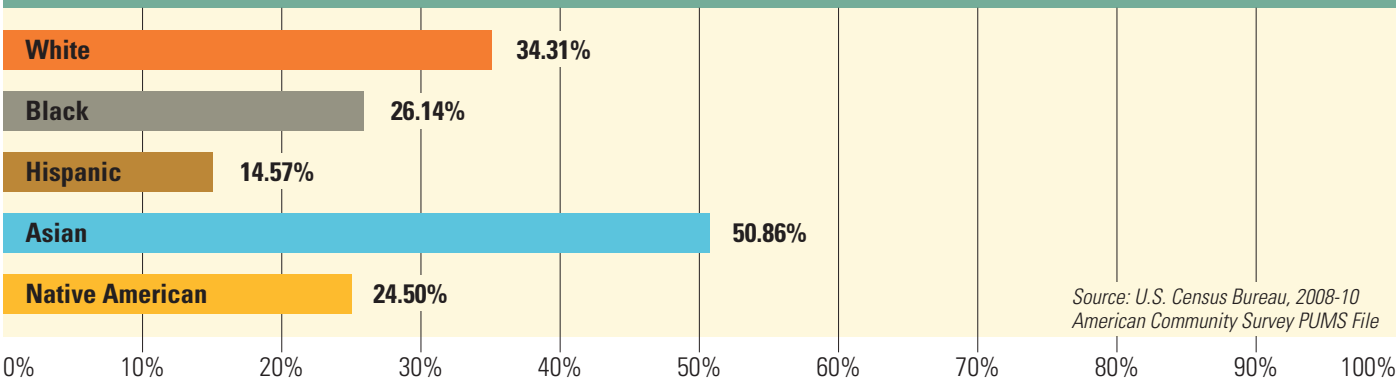
Levels of education for Oklahoma residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	68,471	3.53%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	160,488	8.28%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	603,789	31.13%
Some college, no degree	**491,323**	**25.33%**
Associate degree	148,073	7.63%
Bachelor's degree	322,744	16.64%
Graduate or professional degree	144,536	7.45%
TOTAL	1,939,424	100%

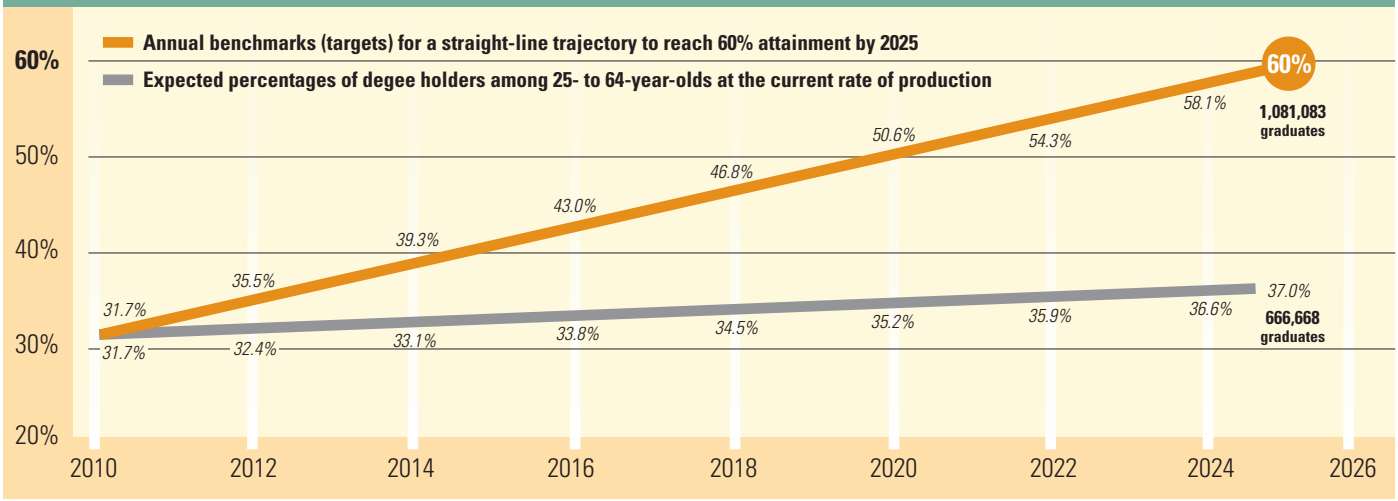
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Oklahoma adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Oklahoma



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Oklahoma adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	15.13	Cleveland	40.87	Grant	31.21	Le Flore	21.17	Nowata	21.35	Rogers	33.33
Alfalfa	22.94	Coal	15.66	Greer	18.26	Lincoln	21.32	Okfuskee	21.29	Seminole	22.21
Atoka	17.97	Comanche	27.64	Harmon	19.46	Logan	30.09	Oklahoma	35.70	Sequoyah	21.77
Beaver	27.02	Cotton	29.10	Harper	25.01	Love	20.87	Okmulgee	25.81	Stephens	22.43
Beckham	25.38	Craig	21.89	Haskell	24.47	McClain	26.65	Osage	28.75	Texas	25.53
Blaine	25.73	Creek	23.35	Hughes	17.99	McCurtain	19.38	Ottawa	25.20	Tillman	23.13
Bryan	29.80	Custer	31.20	Jackson	33.01	McIntosh	18.73	Pawnee	24.38	Tulsa	38.99
Caddo	19.89	Delaware	20.76	Jefferson	15.81	Major	20.93	Payne	42.19	Wagoner	30.74
Canadian	35.01	Dewey	26.40	Johnston	30.49	Marshall	22.00	Pittsburg	26.08	Washington	34.41
Carter	23.59	Ellis	30.03	Kay	29.97	Mayes	19.89	Pontotoc	32.51	Washita	21.25
Cherokee	29.35	Garfield	30.41	Kingfisher	26.82	Murray	23.67	Pottawatomie	25.22	Woods	35.68
Choctaw	18.57	Garvin	21.16	Kiowa	22.63	Muskogee	27.20	Pushmataha	20.49	Woodward	22.84
Cimarron	29.29	Grady	25.42	Latimer	28.96	Noble	26.63	Roger Mills	26.63		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

OREGON

In Oregon, 38.6 percent of the state's nearly 2.1 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Oregon are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 37.7 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly but steadily. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Oregon and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, nearly 45 percent of Oregon's adult population —1 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Oregon will need to add more than 354,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 64 percent of Oregon's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Oregon will need to fill 591,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 377,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Oregon's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Oregon can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 579,000 Oregon adults — nearly 28 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Oregon reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Oregon develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Oregon communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Oregon must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Oregon's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

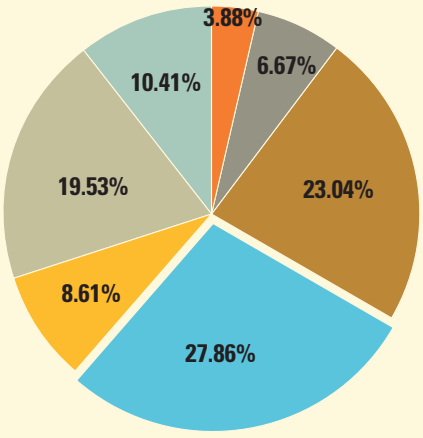
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 38.6%

2009 – 39.8%

2010 – 38.6%

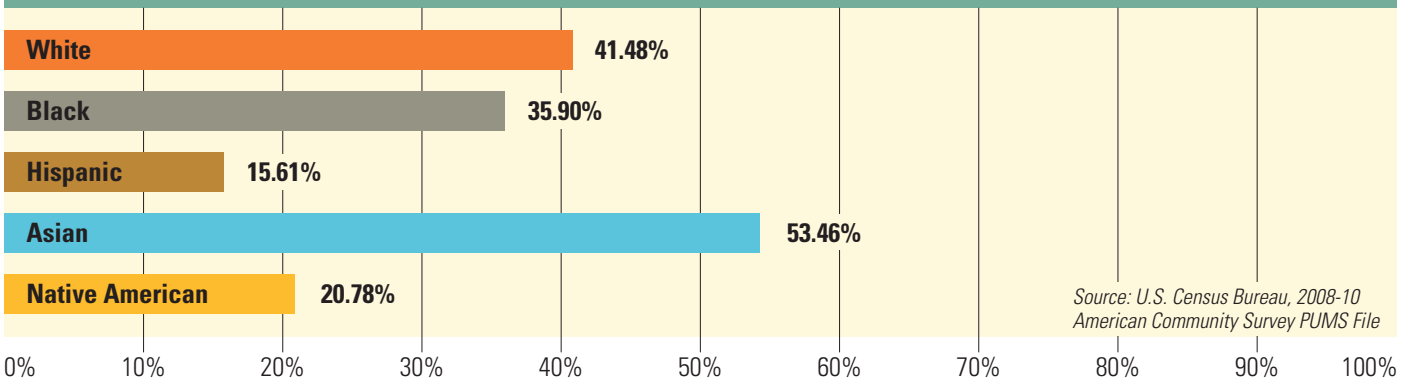
Levels of education for Oregon residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	80,721	3.88%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	138,795	6.67%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	479,137	23.04%
Some college, no degree	**579,411**	**27.86%**
Associate degree	179,108	8.61%
Bachelor's degree	406,272	19.53%
Graduate or professional degree	216,549	10.41%
TOTAL	2,079,993	100%

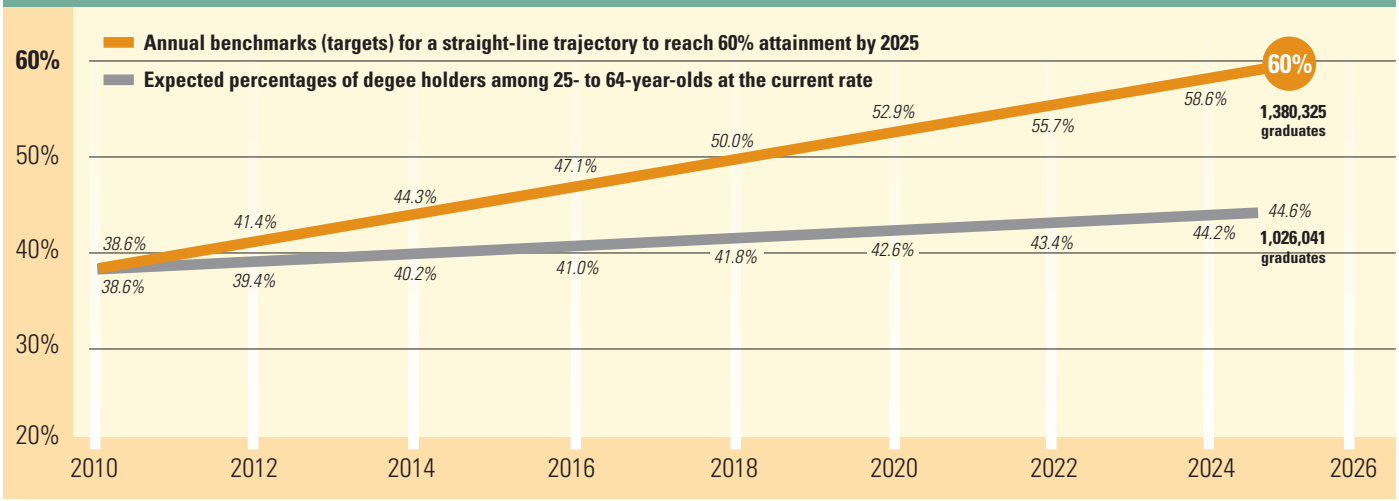
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Oregon adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Oregon



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Oregon adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Baker	32.42	Crook	24.42	Harney	24.74	Lake	25.73	Morrow	21.13	Union	33.25
Benton	58.22	Curry	24.20	Hood River	35.19	Lane	38.65	Multnomah	46.76	Wallowa	33.00
Clackamas	41.47	Deschutes	40.94	Jackson	32.69	Lincoln	30.47	Polk	38.95	Wasco	32.53
Clatsop	31.01	Douglas	26.06	Jefferson	23.65	Linn	27.00	Sherman	33.12	Washington	49.19
Columbia	29.06	Gilliam	33.76	Josephine	29.03	Malheur	22.00	Tillamook	26.29	Wheeler	28.81
Coos	27.44	Grant	32.08	Klamath	29.69	Marion	31.10	Umatilla	25.46	Yamhill	31.87

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

PENNSYLVANIA

In Pennsylvania, 38.6 percent of the state's nearly 6.7 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Pennsylvania are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 43.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Pennsylvania and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, nearly 48 percent of Pennsylvania's adult population — 3 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Pennsylvania will need to add nearly 790,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 57 percent of Pennsylvania's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Pennsylvania will need to fill 1.8 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 1 million will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Pennsylvania's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Pennsylvania can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 1.2 million Pennsylvania adults — more than 17 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Pennsylvania reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Pennsylvania develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Pennsylvania communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Pennsylvania must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Pennsylvania's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

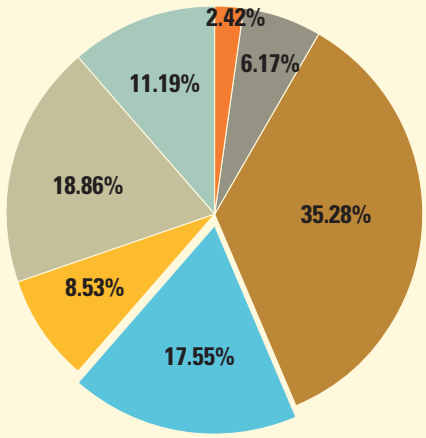
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 37.9%

2009 – 37.8%

2010 – 38.6%

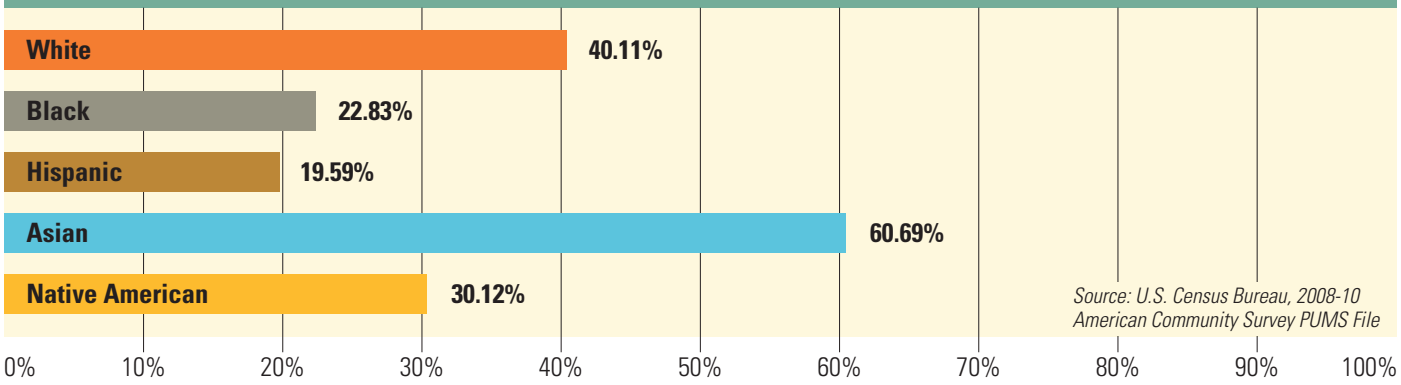
Levels of education for Pennsylvania residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	162,196	2.42%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	412,477	6.17%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,359,940	35.28%
Some college, no degree	**1,174,146**	**17.55%**
Associate degree	570,475	8.53%
Bachelor's degree	1,261,796	18.86%
Graduate or professional degree	748,294	11.19%
TOTAL	6,689,324	100%

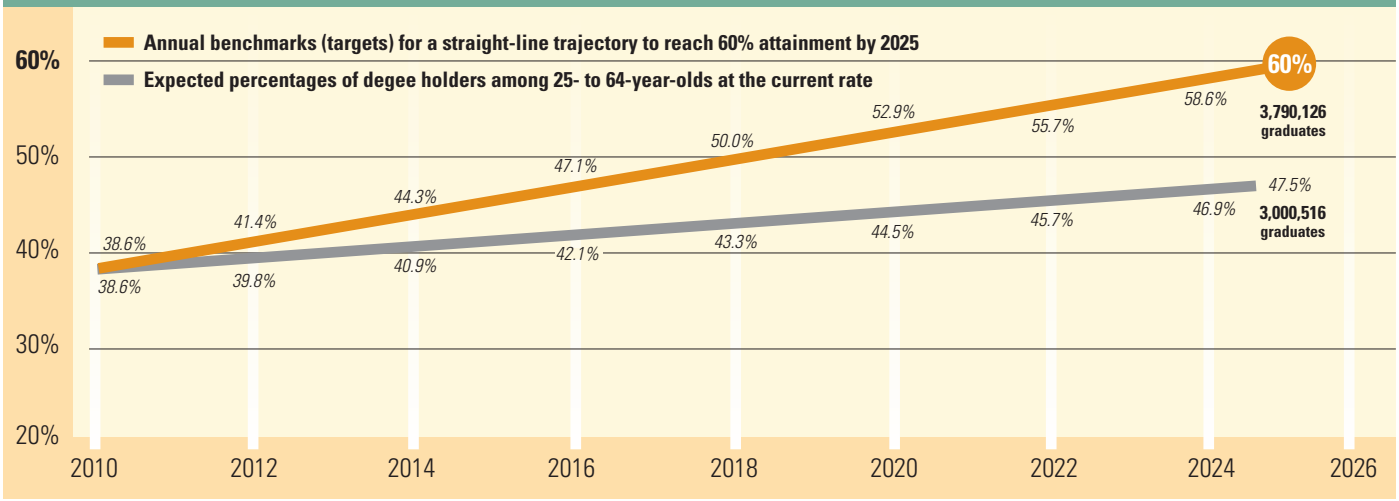
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Pennsylvania adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Pennsylvania



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Pennsylvania adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	27.98	Carbon	27.27	Erie	33.87	Lawrence	31.40	Northumberland	23.47	Venango	26.62
Allegheny	49.18	Centre	50.19	Fayette	24.71	Lebanon	27.46	Perry	22.79	Warren	28.72
Armstrong	25.72	Chester	57.69	Forest	16.21	Lehigh	39.74	Philadelphia	30.56	Washington	39.47
Beaver	34.54	Clarion	28.01	Franklin	28.16	Luzerne	33.07	Pike	32.64	Wayne	28.26
Bedford	23.03	Clearfield	24.02	Fulton	18.19	Lycoming	32.60	Potter	24.14	Westmoreland	39.57
Berks	31.90	Clinton	28.76	Greene	24.55	McKean	26.11	Schuylkill	25.56	Wyoming	27.46
Blair	29.81	Columbia	28.38	Huntingdon	22.88	Mercer	29.93	Snyder	26.91	York	32.46
Bradford	26.43	Crawford	26.89	Indiana	30.36	Mifflin	19.93	Somerset	24.75		
Bucks	46.14	Cumberland	43.82	Jefferson	23.19	Monroe	34.97	Sullivan	23.23		
Butler	43.82	Dauphin	38.53	Juniata	20.71	Montgomery	55.36	Susquehanna	26.49		
Cambria	31.38	Delaware	46.37	Lackawanna	37.71	Montour	37.07	Tioga	29.67		
Cameron	26.55	Elk	29.73	Lancaster	31.70	Northampton	39.13	Union	29.49		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

RHODE ISLAND

In Rhode Island, 41.2 percent of the state's nearly 558,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Rhode Island are decreasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 43.6 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Rhode Island and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 47 percent of Rhode Island's adult population — nearly 272,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Rhode Island will need to add more than 74,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 61 percent of Rhode Island's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Rhode Island will need to fill 153,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 93,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Rhode Island's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Rhode Island can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 111,000 Rhode Island adults — almost 20 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Rhode Island reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Rhode Island develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Rhode Island communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Rhode Island must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Rhode Island's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

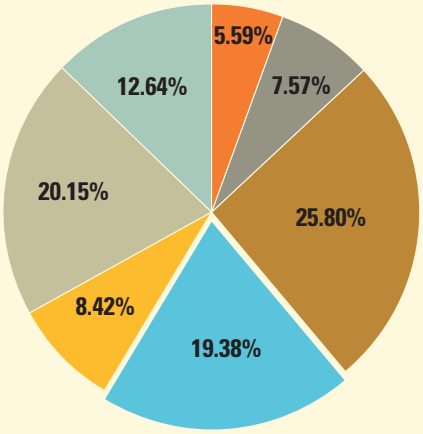
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 41.4%

2009 – 42.6%

2010 – 41.2%

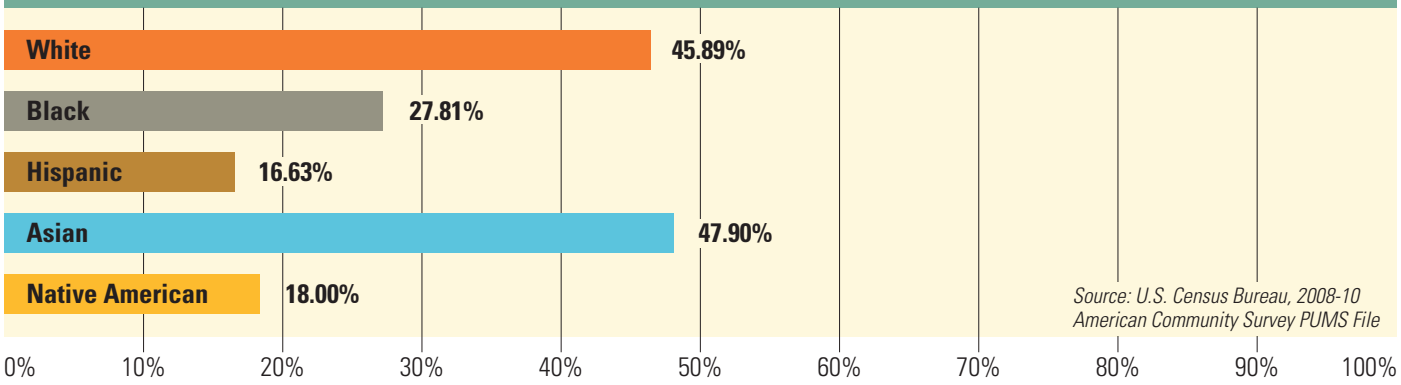
Levels of education for Rhode Island residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	31,158	5.59%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	42,216	7.57%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	143,891	25.80%
Some college, no degree	**110,614**	**19.83%**
Associate degree	46,994	8.42%
Bachelor's degree	112,395	20.15%
Graduate or professional degree	70,528	12.64%
TOTAL	557,796	100%

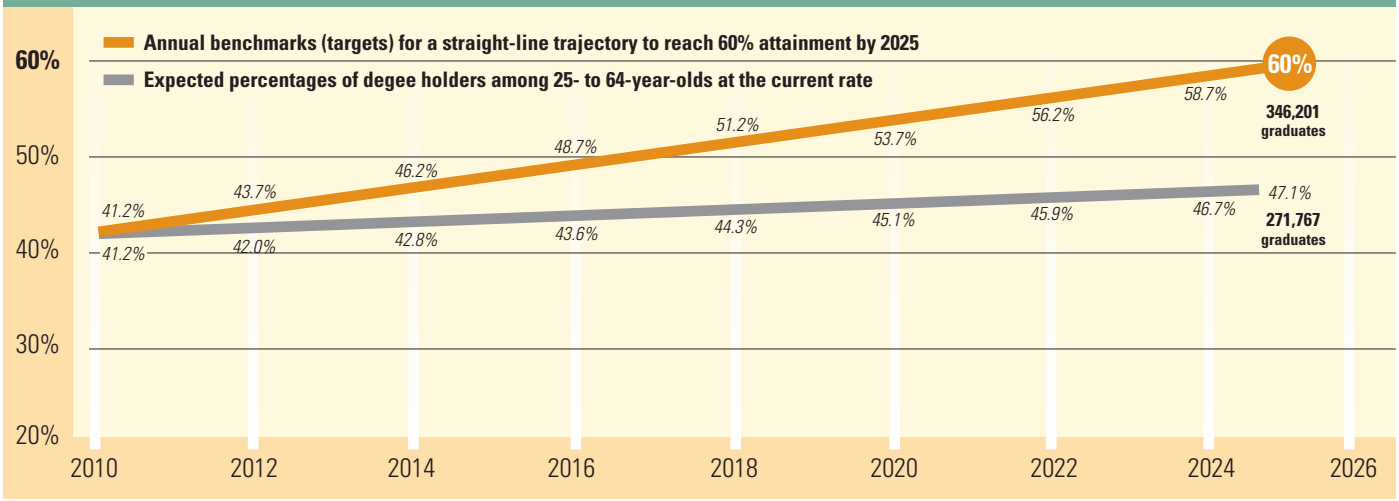
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Rhode Island adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Rhode Island



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Rhode Island adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Bristol	53.81	Kent	43.15	Newport	54.60	Providence	36.46	Washington	52.87

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

SOUTH CAROLIINA

In South Carolina, 34.8 percent of the state's 2.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in South Carolina are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 35.4 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In South Carolina and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 43 percent of South Carolina's adult population — 1 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, South Carolina will need to add more than 404,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 56 percent of South Carolina's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, South Carolina will need to fill 630,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 349,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, South Carolina's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

South Carolina can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 531,000 South Carolina adults — almost 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping South Carolina reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help South Carolina develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all South Carolina communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, South Carolina must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build South Carolina's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

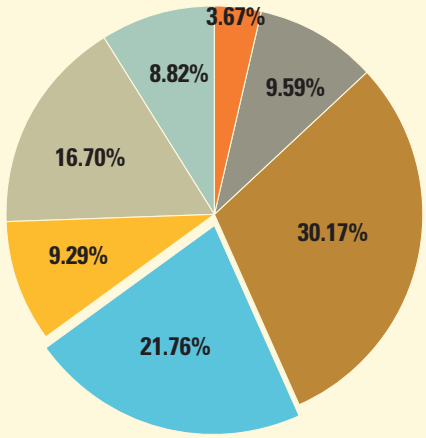
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 34.4%

2009 – 34.9%

2010 – 34.8%

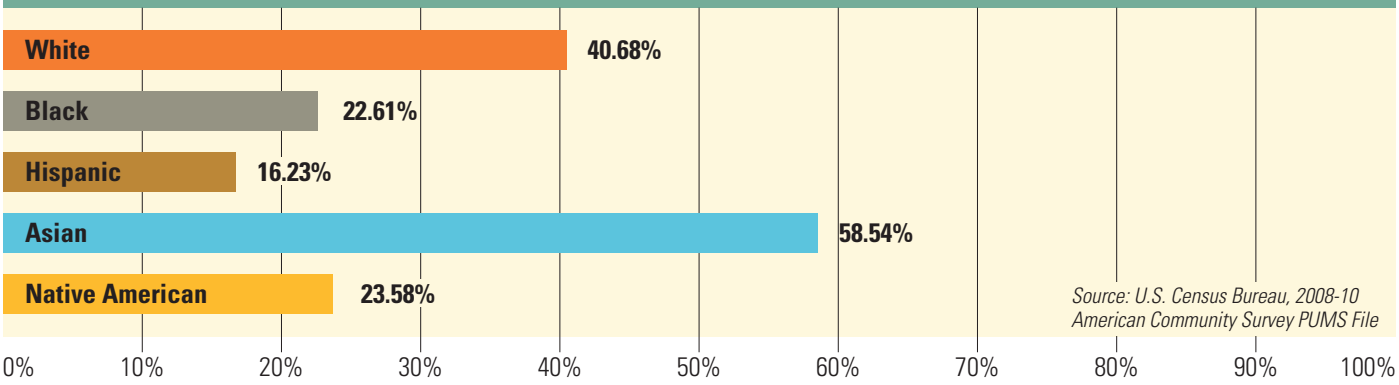
Levels of education for South Carolina residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	89,495	3.67%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	233,919	9.59%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	735,950	30.17%
Some college, no degree	**530,911**	**21.76%**
Associate degree	226,646	9.29%
Bachelor's degree	407,459	16.70%
Graduate or professional degree	215,047	8.82%
TOTAL	2,439,427	100%

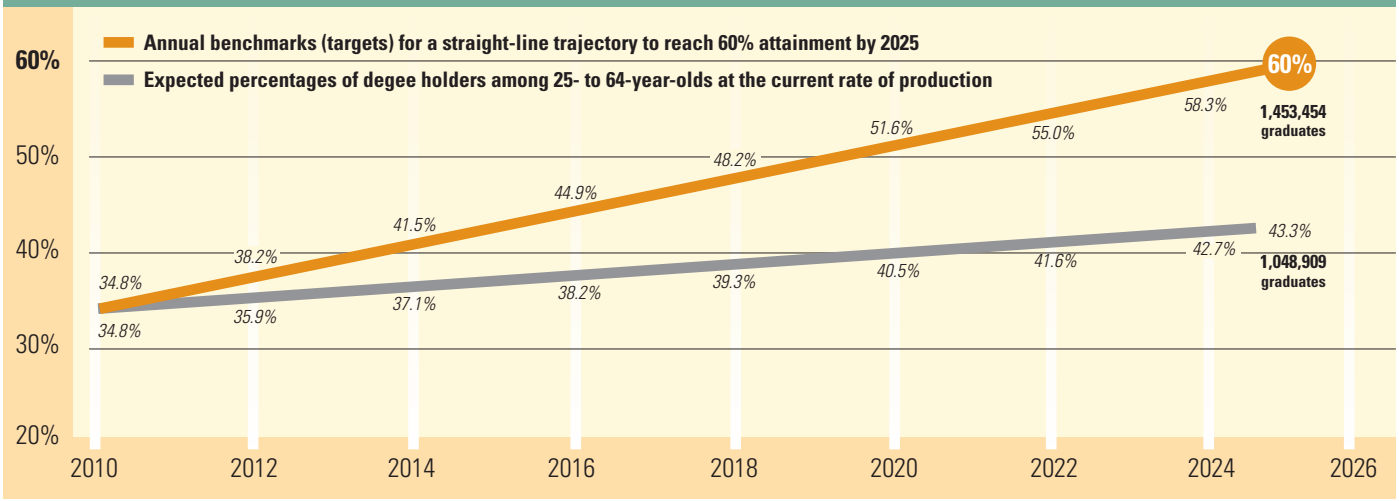
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among South Carolina adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in South Carolina



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of South Carolina adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Abbeville	27.58	Calhoun	30.63	Dillon	17.07	Hampton	18.58	McCormick	26.58	Saluda	21.96
Aiken	32.42	Charleston	47.56	Dorchester	36.66	Horry	33.18	Marion	22.21	Spartanburg	32.00
Allendale	19.06	Cherokee	19.30	Edgefield	23.95	Jasper	14.30	Marlboro	13.07	Sumter	28.91
Anderson	29.72	Chester	21.31	Fairfield	25.41	Kershaw	29.16	Newberry	29.33	Union	23.53
Bamberg	35.13	Chesterfield	20.39	Florence	31.28	Lancaster	26.51	Oconee	32.04	Williamsburg	18.24
Barnwell	21.55	Clarendon	20.44	Georgetown	31.09	Laurens	23.59	Orangeburg	25.08	York	38.70
Beaufort	42.36	Colleton	20.07	Greenville	40.86	Lee	14.20	Pickens	34.64		
Berkeley	29.13	Darlington	24.50	Greenwood	33.51	Lexington	38.57	Richland	46.72		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

SOUTH DAKOTA

In South Dakota, 40.8 percent of the state's 414,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in South Dakota are increasing. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 42.5 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In South Dakota and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 52 percent of South Dakota's adult population — 193,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, South Dakota will need to add nearly 29,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 62 percent of South Dakota's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, South Dakota will need to fill 141,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 85,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, South Dakota's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

South Dakota can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 93,000 South Dakota adults — 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping South Dakota reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attaiment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help South Dakota develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all South Dakota communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, South Dakota must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build South Dakota's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

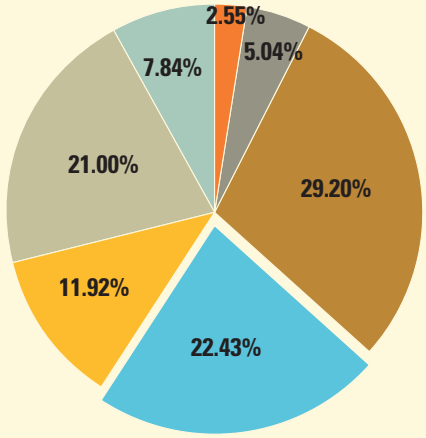
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 39.4%

2009 – 38.6%

2010 – 40.8%

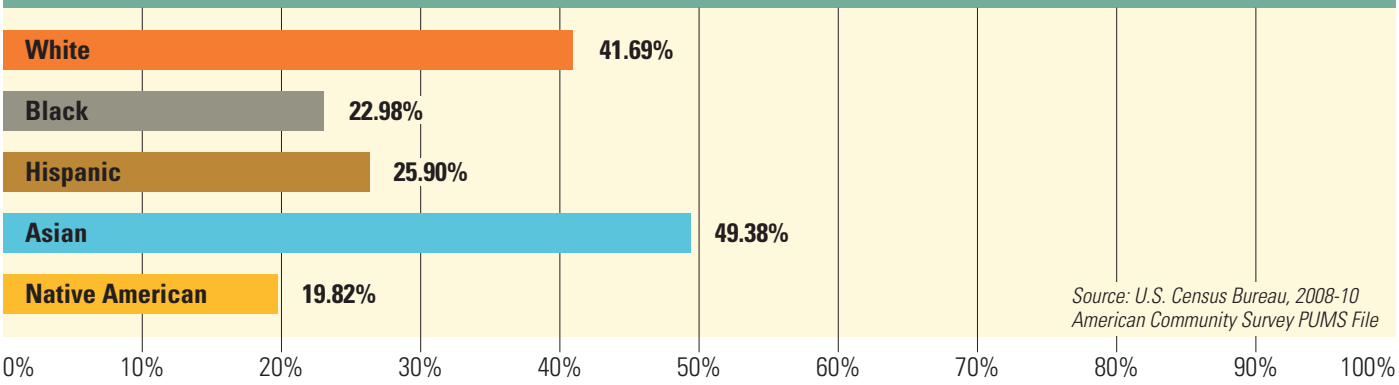
Levels of education for South Dakota residents, ages 25-64



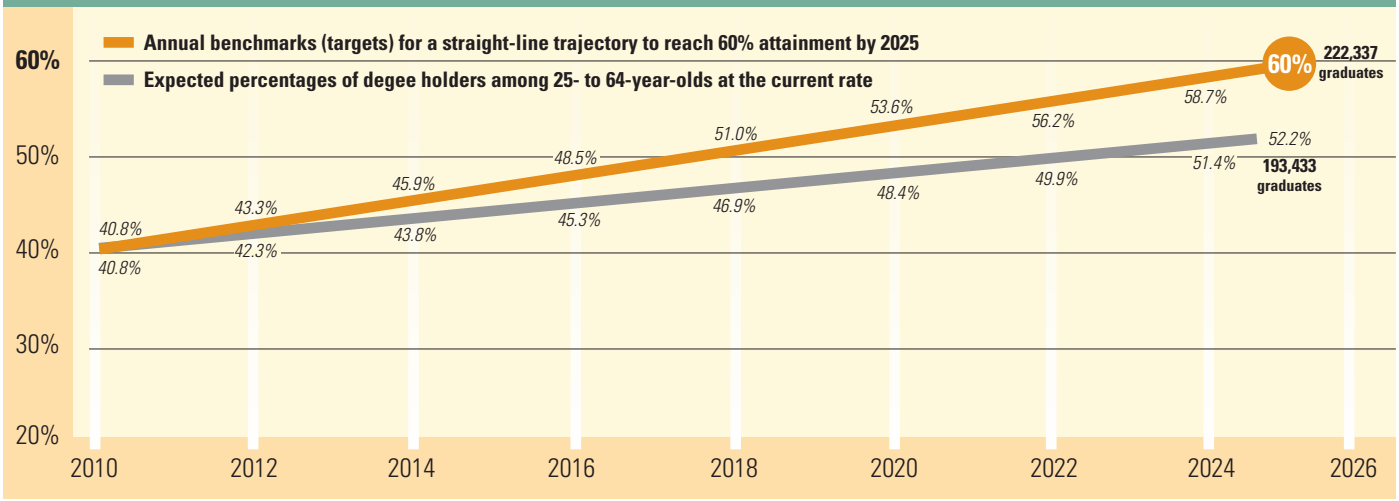
Less than ninth grade	10,577	2.55%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	20,906	5.04%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	121,041	29.20%
Some college, no degree	**92,985**	**22.43%**
Associate degree	49,419	11.92%
Bachelor's degree	87,053	21.00%
Graduate or professional degree	32,491	7.84%
TOTAL	414,472	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among South Dakota adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in South Dakota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of South Dakota adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Aurora	27.37	Clark	25.92	Fall River	33.38	Hyde	30.88	Marshall	35.46	Shannon	26.15
Beadle	31.47	Clay	52.85	Faulk	33.45	Jackson	31.75	Meade	32.92	Spink	27.24
Bennett	31.33	Codington	36.18	Grant	27.26	Jerauld	19.30	Mellette	29.50	Stanley	39.79
Bon Homme	27.42	Corson	25.85	Gregory	30.69	Jones	30.52	Miner	33.20	Sully	33.93
Brookings	50.92	Custer	40.64	Haakon	35.63	Kingsbury	36.62	Minnehaha	42.54	Todd	30.00
Brown	40.88	Davison	39.87	Hamlin	32.00	Lake	36.09	Moody	34.28	Tripp	31.12
Brule	41.05	Day	31.68	Hand	32.44	Lawrence	42.04	Pennington	40.85	Turner	37.15
Buffalo	17.36	Deuel	28.07	Hanson	36.00	Lincoln	52.25	Perkins	33.00	Union	43.77
Butte	30.29	Dewey	21.83	Harding	41.17	Lyman	27.95	Potter	36.20	Walworth	34.39
Campbell	40.53	Douglas	35.24	Hughes	46.31	McCook	37.55	Roberts	31.98	Yankton	34.68
Charles Mix	30.60	Edmunds	33.19	Hutchinson	37.35	McPherson	23.26	Sanborn	29.00	Ziebach	21.44

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

TENNESSEE

In Tennessee, 31.9 percent of the state's nearly 3.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Tennessee are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 33.5 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly but steadily. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Tennessee and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, 39 percent of Tennessee's adult population — about 1.4 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Tennessee will need to add more than 714,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 54 percent of Tennessee's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Tennessee will need to fill 967,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 516,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Tennessee's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Tennessee can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 732,000 Tennessee adults — nearly 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Tennessee reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Tennessee develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Tennessee communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Tennessee must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Tennessee's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

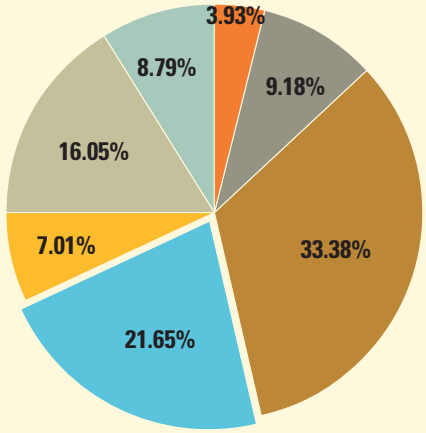
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 31.3%

2009 – 31.8%

2010 – 31.9%

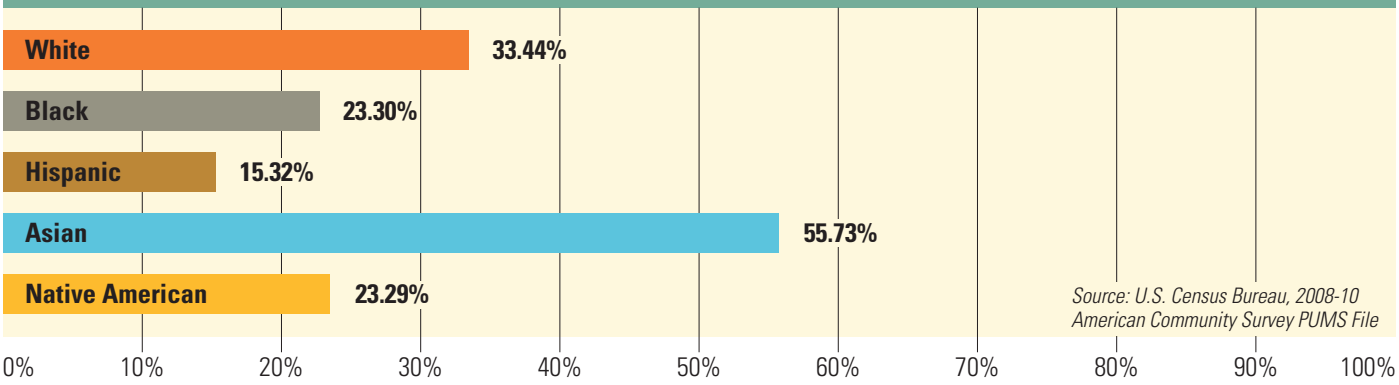
Levels of education for Tennessee residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	132,894	3.93%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	310,487	9.18%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,129,152	33.38%
Some college, no degree	**732,421**	**21.65%**
Associate degree	237,050	7.01%
Bachelor's degree	543,038	16.05%
Graduate or professional degree	297,427	8.79%
TOTAL	3,382,469	100%

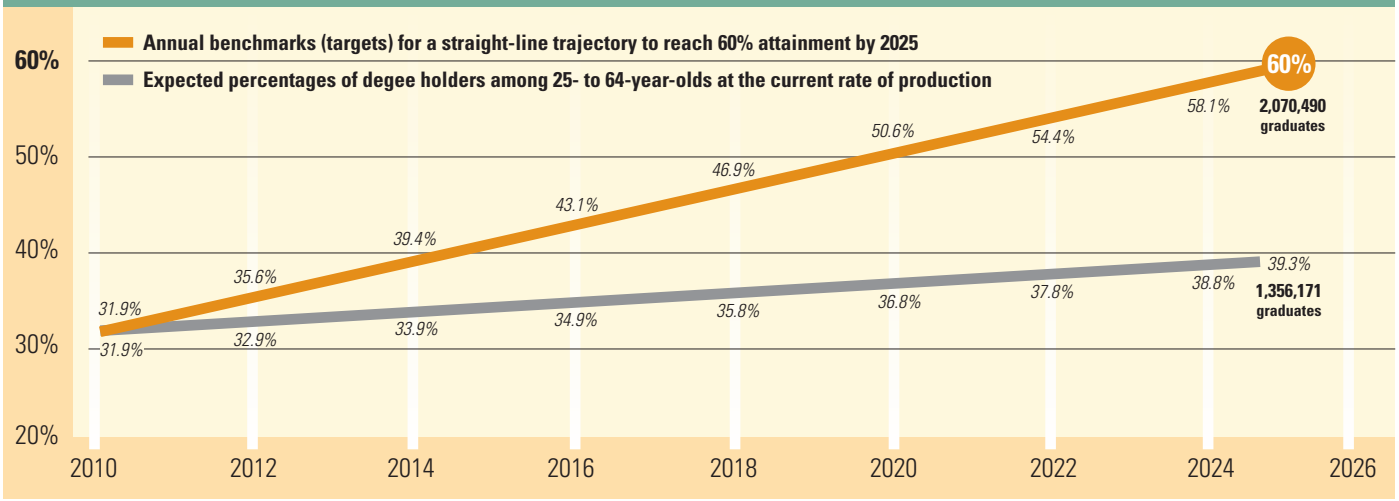
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Tennessee adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Tennessee



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Tennessee adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Anderson	30.87	Crockett	18.51	Hamilton	36.95	Lauderdale	13.52	Morgan	12.20	Stewart	20.53
Bedford	19.99	Cumberland	21.93	Hancock	8.51	Lawrence	18.34	Obion	17.65	Sullivan	30.85
Benton	18.84	Davidson	42.51	Hardeman	14.90	Lewis	17.60	Overton	16.11	Sumner	33.36
Bledsoe	12.10	Decatur	15.73	Hardin	13.88	Lincoln	23.79	Perry	13.30	Tipton	22.86
Blount	28.93	DeKalb	15.05	Hawkins	20.11	Loudon	28.65	Pickett	17.88	Trousdale	15.50
Bradley	28.00	Dickson	21.38	Haywood	17.65	McMinn	22.30	Polk	18.13	Unicoi	19.04
Campbell	13.84	Dyer	22.06	Henderson	19.90	McNairy	18.60	Putnam	28.65	Union	12.51
Cannon	15.84	Fayette	27.84	Henry	20.70	Macon	14.65	Rhea	16.49	Van Buren	12.44
Carroll	20.67	Fentress	17.60	Hickman	15.54	Madison	33.06	Roane	25.60	Warren	17.57
Carter	21.81	Franklin	23.93	Houston	12.84	Marion	20.25	Robertson	21.62	Washington	36.60
Cheatham	26.73	Gibson	22.38	Humphreys	19.34	Marshall	19.40	Rutherford	34.96	Wayne	16.35
Chester	19.83	Giles	19.06	Jackson	15.54	Maury	25.92	Scott	17.82	Weakley	25.82
Claiborne	17.71	Grainger	13.58	Jefferson	23.36	Meigs	13.84	Sequatchie	19.56	White	16.28
Clay	18.84	Greene	19.72	Johnson	17.76	Monroe	16.16	Sevier	22.03	Williamson	61.78
Cocke	14.50	Grundy	10.89	Knox	44.98	Montgomery	32.27	Shelby	35.72	Wilson	34.97
Coffee	26.97	Hamblen	23.23	Lake	7.45	Moore	14.34	Smith	19.09		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

TEXAS

In Texas, 33.7 percent of the state's nearly 13.2 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Texas are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 32.8 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly but steadily. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Texas and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 38 percent of Texas' adult population — 5.7 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Texas will need to add more than 3.2 million degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 56 percent of Texas' jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Texas will need to fill 4 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 2.2 million will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Texas' economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Texas can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 3.1 million Texas adults — more than 23 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Texas reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Texas develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Texas communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Texas must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Texas' economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

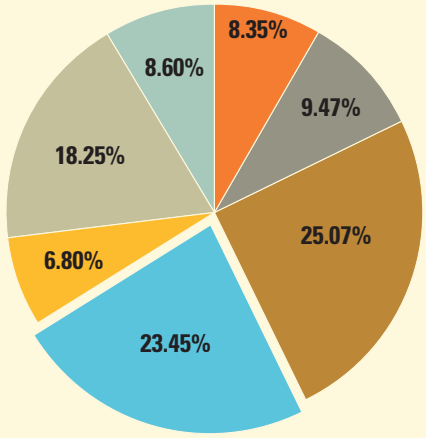
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 33.3%

2009 – 33.2%

2010 – 33.7%

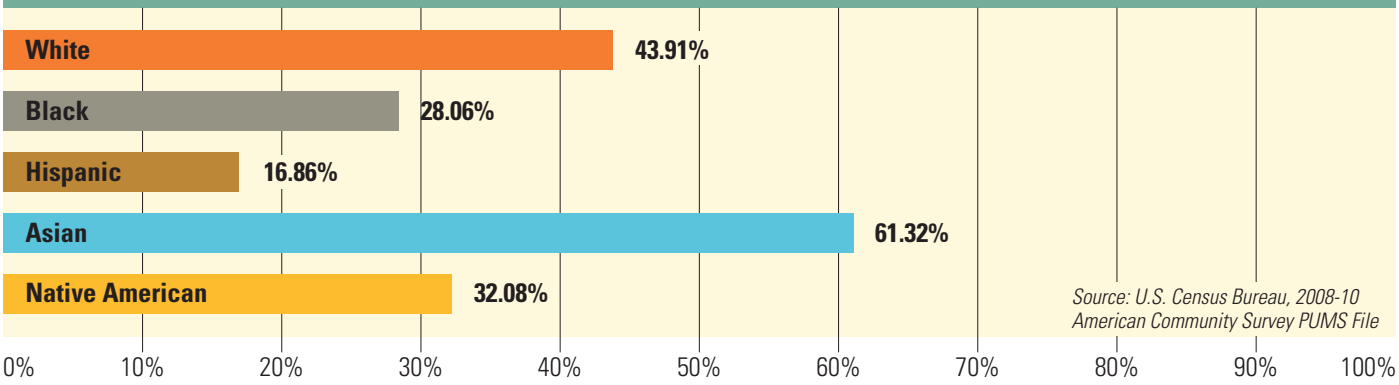
Levels of education for Texas residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	1,098,575	8.35%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	1,245,067	9.47%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	3,297,825	25.07%
Some college, no degree	**3,084,925**	**23.45%**
Associate degree	895,017	6.80%
Bachelor's degree	2,401,095	18.25%
Graduate or professional degree	1,130,675	8.60%
TOTAL	13,153,179	100%

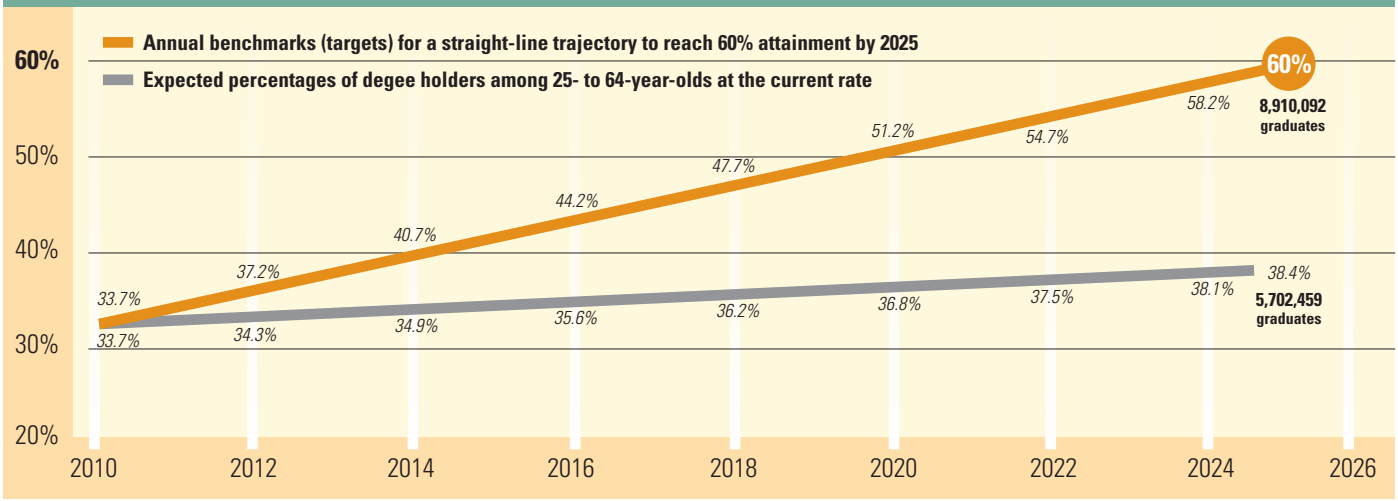
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Texas adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Texas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Texas adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Anderson	18.30	Collingsworth	24.25	Glasscock	28.91	Kendall	46.61	Motley	26.63	Sterling	31.29
Andrews	16.73	Colorado	24.54	Goliad	28.91	Kenedy	35.07	Nacogdoches	30.18	Stonewall	35.43
Angelina	24.17	Comal	41.21	Gonzales	16.51	Kent	28.92	Navarro	23.44	Sutton	15.80
Aransas	31.66	Comanche	27.54	Gray	20.03	Kerr	33.83	Newton	14.48	Swisher	22.58
Archer	25.61	Concho	13.86	Grayson	29.04	Kimble	24.14	Nolan	27.68	Tarrant	37.05
Armstrong	40.83	Cooke	28.29	Gregg	29.73	King	45.03	Nueces	27.70	Taylor	31.97
Atascosa	18.05	Coryell	26.58	Grimes	18.04	Kinney	21.78	Ochiltree	19.84	Terrell	25.81
Austin	25.50	Cottle	26.98	Guadalupe	33.63	Kleberg	28.54	Oldham	34.69	Terry	19.35
Bailey	30.00	Crane	21.18	Hale	20.18	Knox	21.76	Orange	22.44	Throckmorton	25.69
Bandera	33.04	Crockett	14.74	Hall	23.83	Lamar	27.74	Palo Pinto	17.59	Titus	18.85
Bastrop	25.68	Crosby	17.74	Hamilton	30.90	Lamb	22.99	Panola	20.68	Tom Green	30.14
Baylor	35.87	Culberson	14.68	Hansford	28.42	Lampasas	30.23	Parker	31.48	Travis	50.60
Bee	15.86	Dallam	13.51	Hardeman	22.16	La Salle	13.45	Parmer	21.79	Trinity	14.48
Bell	32.24	Dallas	34.33	Hardin	24.98	Lavaca	21.54	Pecos	14.76	Tyler	17.42
Bexar	33.80	Dawson	11.98	Harris	33.92	Lee	23.40	Polk	15.20	Upshur	23.34
Blanco	32.02	Deaf Smith	16.32	Harrison	24.37	Leon	15.92	Potter	21.03	Upton	15.78
Borden	30.92	Delta	19.15	Hartley	22.96	Liberty	15.29	Presidio	22.54	Uvalde	24.23
Bosque	22.09	Denton	48.45	Haskell	17.81	Limestone	17.78	Rains	17.65	Val Verde	24.91
Bowie	25.18	DeWitt	20.12	Hays	42.68	Lipscomb	31.65	Randall	40.66	Van Zandt	19.61
Brazoria	35.74	Dickens	17.06	Hemphill	22.77	Live Oak	22.53	Reagan	15.40	Victoria	26.29
Brazos	45.72	Dimmit	17.16	Henderson	22.96	Llano	30.86	Real	24.22	Walker	21.54
Brewster	35.80	Donley	25.82	Hidalgo	20.94	Loving	17.95	Red River	15.24	Waller	23.78
Briscoe	26.31	Duval	15.26	Hill	24.14	Lubbock	35.11	Reeves	13.60	Ward	16.10
Brooks	18.32	Eastland	22.14	Hockley	27.13	Lynn	21.06	Refugio	17.12	Washington	34.15
Brown	20.25	Ector	20.16	Hood	30.75	McCulloch	28.42	Roberts	35.82	Webb	24.72
Burleson	15.05	Edwards	27.81	Hopkins	23.19	McLennan	30.80	Robertson	23.44	Wharton	25.22
Burnet	26.31	Ellis	29.64	Houston	18.80	McMullen	11.63	Rockwall	43.80	Wheeler	25.09
Caldwell	18.92	El Paso	27.84	Howard	16.91	Madison	15.54	Runnels	21.50	Wichita	27.84
Calhoun	22.37	Erath	30.89	Hudspeth	14.60	Marion	18.01	Rusk	21.65	Wilbarger	23.28
Callahan	27.85	Falls	16.92	Hunt	22.87	Martin	21.38	Sabine	18.92	Willacy	14.82
Cameron	22.18	Fannin	21.79	Hutchinson	21.61	Mason	33.20	San Augustine	14.72	Williamson	46.88
Camp	18.21	Fayette	26.78	Irion	24.72	Matagorda	22.69	San Jacinto	14.36	Wilson	27.83
Carson	33.41	Fisher	22.83	Jack	15.31	Maverick	20.59	San Patricio	22.91	Winkler	13.18
Cass	20.16	Floyd	24.75	Jackson	25.98	Medina	27.63	San Saba	25.19	Wise	23.20
Castro	19.32	Foard	24.69	Jasper	21.78	Menard	11.93	Schleicher	24.07	Wood	21.07
Chambers	26.01	Fort Bend	48.83	Jeff Davis	38.07	Midland	31.67	Scurry	23.34	Yoakum	22.68
Cherokee	18.49	Franklin	26.33	Jefferson	25.57	Milam	19.98	Shackelford	33.92	Young	22.01
Childress	21.94	Freestone	24.94	Jim Hogg	12.07	Mills	26.35	Shelby	19.37	Zapata	13.50
Clay	27.92	Frio	10.69	Jim Wells	17.68	Mitchell	15.56	Sherman	24.71	Zavala	13.38
Cochran	17.54	Gaines	18.24	Johnson	23.33	Montague	23.14	Smith	34.98		
Coke	23.90	Galveston	36.58	Jones	14.51	Montgomery	38.62	Somervell	38.44		
Coleman	19.43	Garza	11.22	Karnes	15.66	Moore	20.29	Starr	14.33		
Collin	58.02	Gillespie	33.42	Kaufman	25.20	Morris	30.07	Stephens	17.73		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

UTAH

In Utah, 39.7 percent of the state's 1.3 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Utah are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 38.8 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly but steadily. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Utah and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 45 percent of Utah's adult population — nearly 652,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Utah will need to add more than 217,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 66 percent of Utah's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Utah will need to fill 477,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 308,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Utah's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Utah can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 373,000 Utah adults — almost 28 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Utah reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Utah develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Utah communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

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Tracking the trend

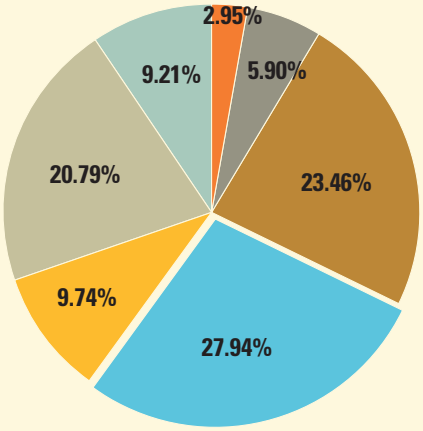
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 40.3%

2009 – 39.2%

2010 – 39.7%

Levels of education for Utah residents, ages 25-64



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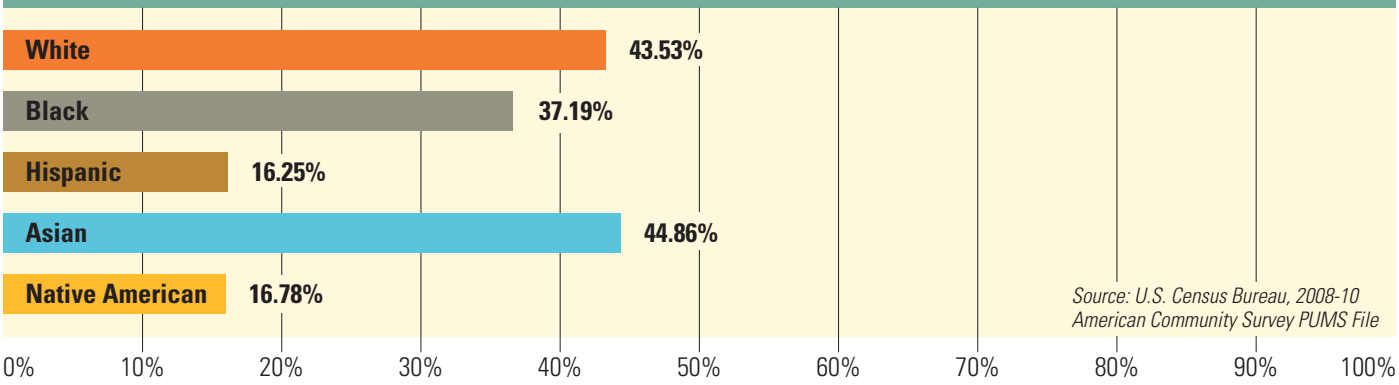
High school graduate (including equivalency)	312,963	23.46%
Some college, no degree	**372,768**	**27.94%**
Associate degree	129,978	9.74%
Bachelor's degree	277,404	20.79%
Graduate or professional degree	122,829	9.21%
TOTAL	1,334,024	100%

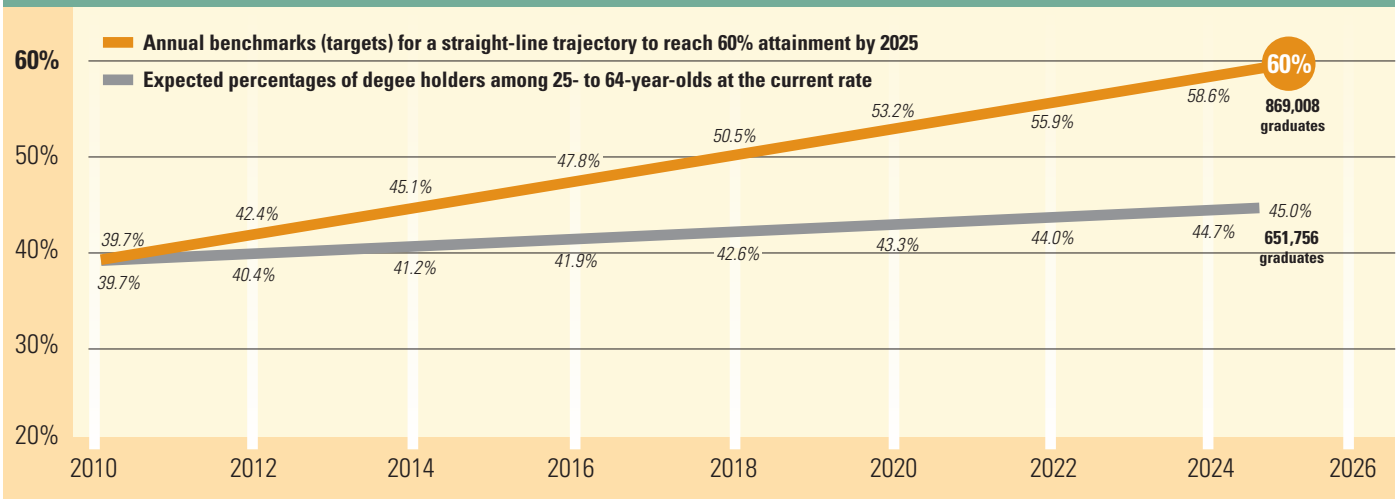
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Utah adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Utah



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Utah adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Beaver	19.71	Davis	45.65	Iron	37.54	Piute	23.59	Sevier	28.41	Wasatch	42.16
Box Elder	32.23	Duchesne	24.60	Juab	24.28	Rich	32.93	Summit	59.54	Washington	33.71
Cache	44.50	Emery	27.25	Kane	34.32	Salt Lake	40.06	Tooele	31.02	Wayne	33.67
Carbon	28.35	Garfield	31.08	Millard	30.66	San Juan	31.94	Uintah	21.11	Weber	33.20
Daggett	32.81	Grand	31.43	Morgan	39.28	Sanpete	31.40	Utah	47.87		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

VERMONT

In Vermont, 44.1 percent of the state's nearly 340,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Vermont are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 42.2 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly but steadily. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Vermont and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 50 percent of Vermont's adult population — roughly 176,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Vermont will need to add nearly 37,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 62 percent of Vermont's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Vermont will need to fill 100,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 62,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Vermont's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Vermont can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, nearly 64,000 Vermont adults — almost 19 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Vermont reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Vermont develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Vermont communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Vermont must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Vermont's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

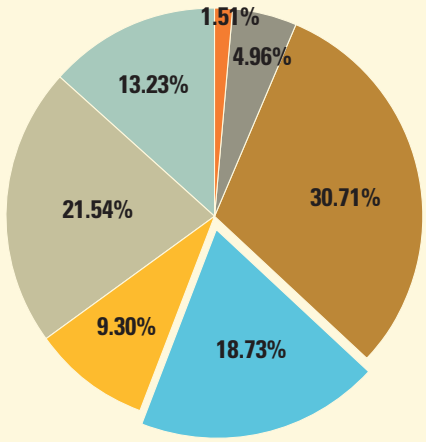
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 43.6%

2009 – 44.2%

2010 – 44.1%

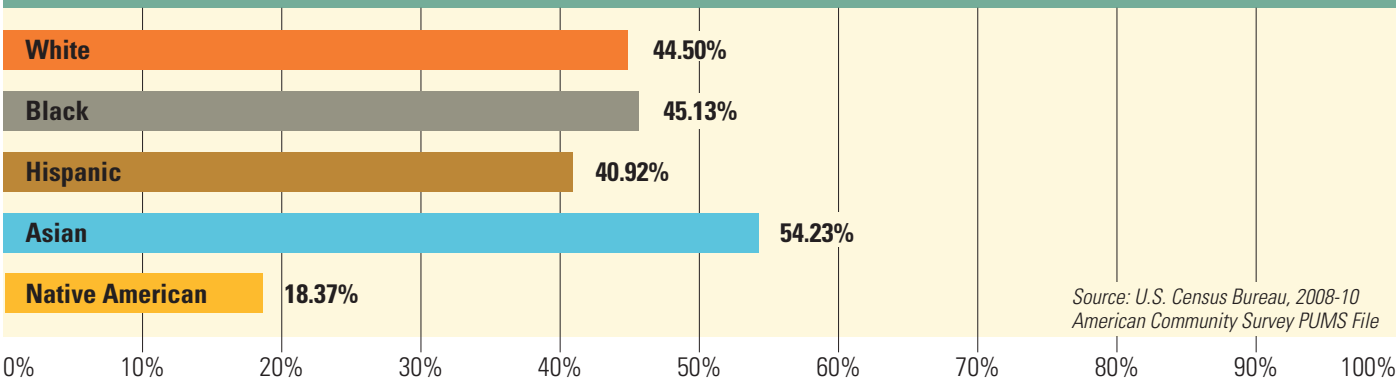
Levels of education for Vermont residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	5,135	1.51%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	16,859	4.96%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	104,363	30.71%
Some college, no degree	**63,662**	**18.73%**
Associate degree	31,616	9.30%
Bachelor's degree	73,206	21.54%
Graduate or professional degree	44,970	13.23%
TOTAL	339,811	100%

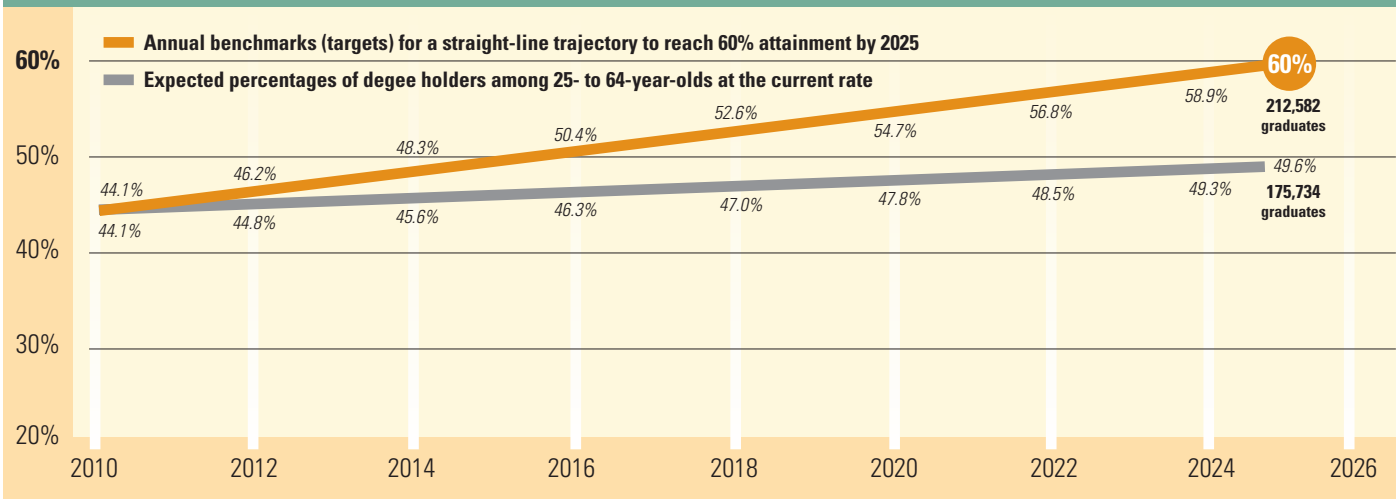
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Vermont adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Vermont



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Vermont adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Addison	40.71	Chittenden	57.35	Grand Isle	38.94	Orleans	28.40	Windham	43.00
Bennington	40.61	Essex	26.40	Lamoille	46.18	Rutland	35.64	Windsor	44.16
Caledonia	38.66	Franklin	34.11	Orange	42.05	Washington	48.84		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

VIRGINIA

In Virginia, 43.9 percent of the state's nearly 4.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Virginia are stable or increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 44.8 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Virginia and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, nearly 53 percent of Virginia's adult population — 2.4 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Virginia will need to add more than 346,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 64 percent of Virginia's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Virginia will need to fill 1.3 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 820,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Virginia's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Virginia can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 908,000 Virginia adults — nearly 21 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Virginia reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Virginia develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Virginia communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Virginia must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Virginia's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

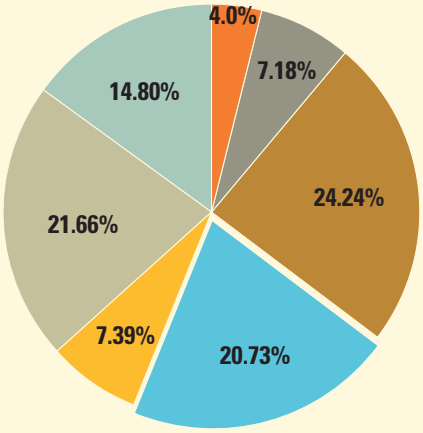
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 43.4%

2009 – 43.4%

2010 – 43.9%

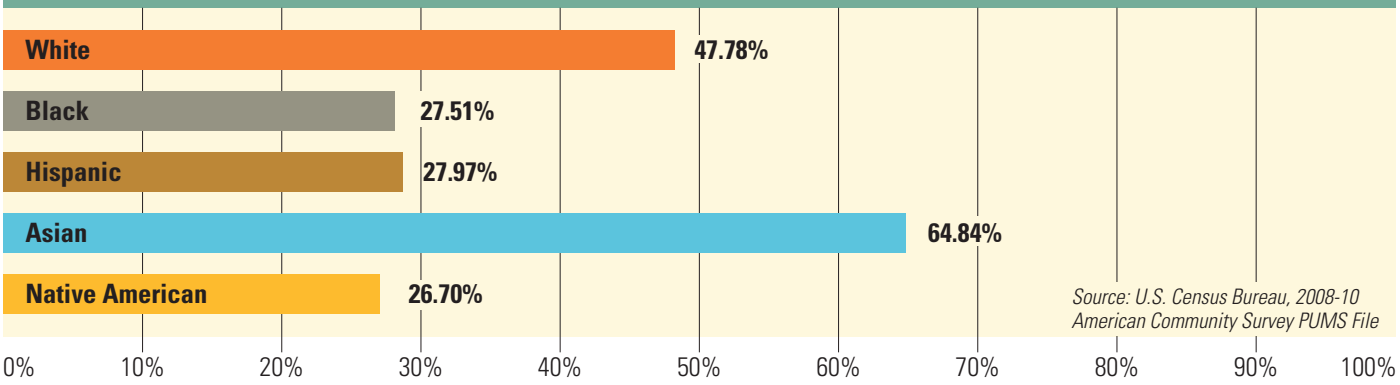
Levels of education for Virginia residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	175,425	4.00%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	314,386	7.18%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,061,917	24.24%
Some college, no degree	**908,214**	**20.73%**
Associate degree	323,857	7.39%
Bachelor's degree	948,895	21.66%
Graduate or professional degree	648,332	14.80%
TOTAL	4,381,026	100%

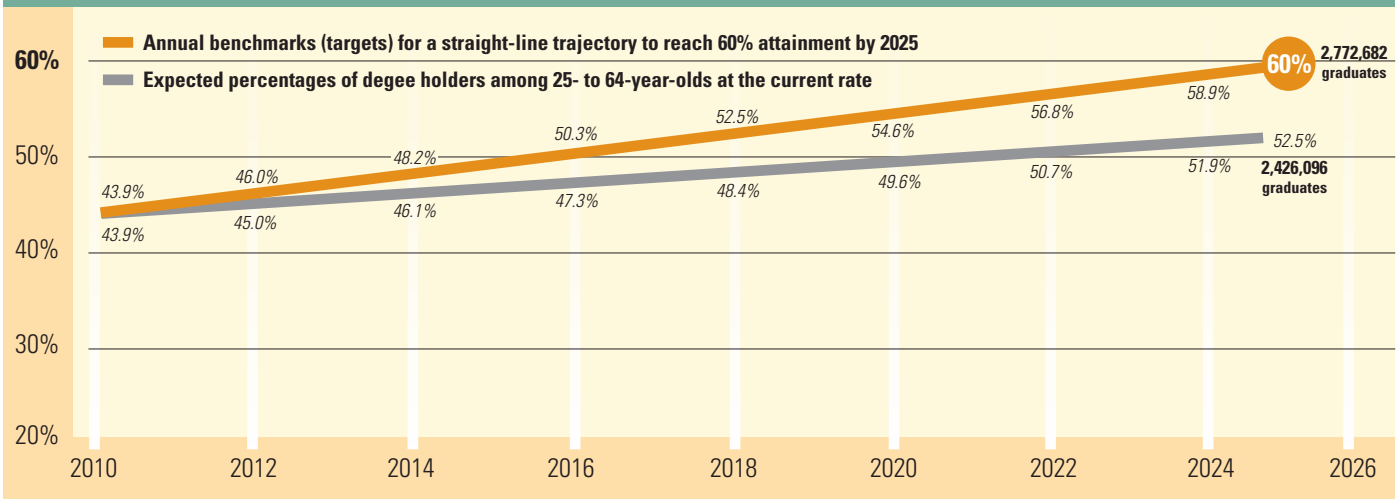
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Virginia adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Virginia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Virginia adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Accomack	25.00	Cumberland	19.83	King George	40.52	Prince William	45.63	CITIES		Newport News	34.60
Albemarle	60.21	Dickenson	14.56	King William	27.83	Pulaski	26.67	Alexandria	66.93	Norfolk	32.15
Alleghany	30.23	Dinwiddie	20.93	Lancaster	33.80	Rappahannock	43.86	Bedford	33.98	Norton	35.10
Amelia	18.02	Essex	23.99	Lee	22.65	Richmond	17.63	Bristol	31.84	Petersburg	20.33
Amherst	25.79	Fairfax	65.29	Loudoun	65.09	Roanoke	46.37	Buena Vista	25.92	Poquoson	51.28
Appomattox	18.52	Fauquier	40.08	Louisa	26.08	Rockbridge	30.78	Charlottesville	53.02	Portsmouth	29.00
Arlington	77.00	Floyd	30.85	Lunenburg	18.47	Rockingham	29.22	Chesapeake	39.92	Radford	50.80
Augusta	25.80	Fluvanna	34.31	Madison	29.03	Russell	21.78	Colonial Hgts	27.63	Richmond	39.94
Bath	12.68	Franklin	23.39	Mathews	24.16	Scott	23.20	Covington	21.29	Roanoke	31.22
Bedford	33.43	Frederick	31.98	Mecklenburg	21.46	Shenandoah	24.03	Danville	29.07	Salem	42.95
Bland	28.73	Giles	25.66	Middlesex	36.34	Smyth	26.82	Emporia	20.48	Staunton	36.64
Botetourt	36.66	Gloucester	27.26	Montgomery	50.30	Southampton	22.12	Fairfax	61.64	Suffolk	35.29
Brunswick	18.61	Goochland	35.61	Nelson	30.58	Spotsylvania	38.57	Falls Church	78.22	Virginia Beach	43.59
Buchanan	16.98	Grayson	21.90	New Kent	32.80	Stafford	46.26	Franklin	23.93	Waynesboro	26.93
Buckingham	15.84	Greene	27.47	Northampton	26.55	Surry	20.01	Fredericksburg	39.55	Williamsburg	49.78
Campbell	28.20	Greensville	8.82	Northumberland	26.54	Sussex	14.84	Galax	24.86	Winchester	36.73
Caroline	21.21	Halifax	24.46	Nottoway	19.84	Tazewell	24.83	Hampton	31.92		
Carroll	21.54	Hanover	44.30	Orange	29.80	Warren	27.73	Harrisonburg	40.75		
Charles City	15.80	Henrico	48.17	Page	17.18	Washington	32.22	Hopewell	16.44		
Charlotte	24.30	Henry	23.49	Patrick	20.64	Westmoreland	22.00	Lexington	55.21		
Chesterfield	44.83	Highland	25.36	Pittsylvania	23.36	Wise	19.12	Lynchburg	36.55		
Clarke	40.86	Isle of Wight	37.43	Powhatan	28.88	Wythe	26.33	Manassas	33.91		
Craig	24.01	James City	52.07	Prince Edward	24.28	York	55.35	Manassas Park	33.47		
Culpeper	29.92	King and Queen	12.78	Prince George	24.16			Martinsville	31.52		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

WASHINGTON

In Washington, 42.5 percent of the state's nearly 3.7 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Washington are essentially stable. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 40.7 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Washington and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, nearly 49 percent of Washington's adult population — about 2 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Washington will need to add more than 471,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 67 percent of Washington's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Washington will need to fill more than 1 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 677,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Washington's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Washington can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 942,000 Washington adults — more than 25 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Washington reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Washington develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Washington communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Washington must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Washington's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

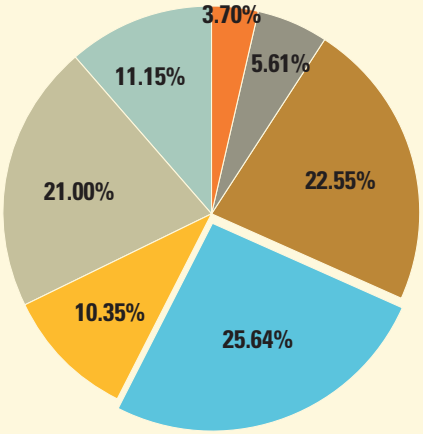
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 42.0%

2009 – 42.3%

2010 – 42.5%

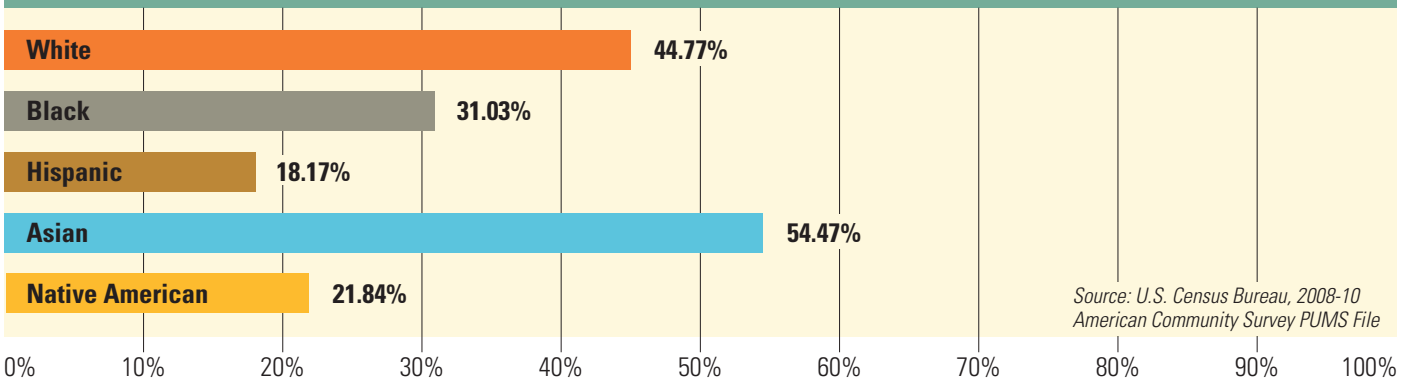
Levels of education for Washington residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	135,864	3.70%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	206,364	5.61%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	828,755	22.55%
Some college, no degree	**942,193**	**25.64%**
Associate degree	380,225	10.35%
Bachelor's degree	771,976	21.00%
Graduate or professional degree	409,902	11.15%
TOTAL	3,675,279	100%

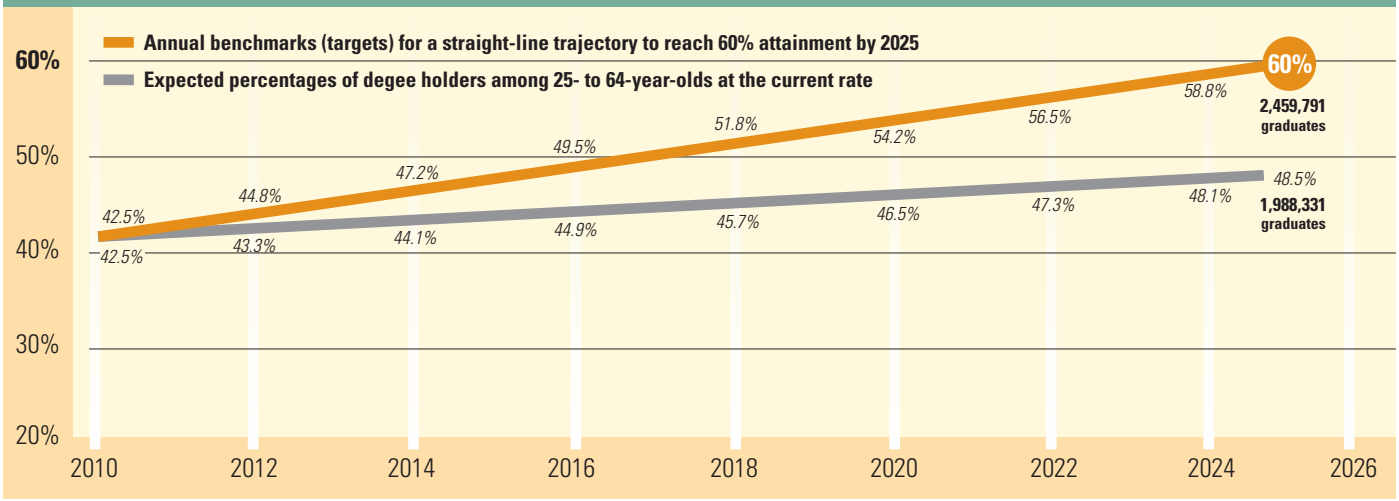
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Washington adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Washington



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Washington adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	24.72	Cowlitz	27.56	Island	39.62	Lincoln	37.11	Skagit	36.17	Walla Walla	36.72
Asotin	30.32	Douglas	29.18	Jefferson	41.39	Mason	26.09	Skamania	31.30	Whatcom	43.89
Benton	38.87	Ferry	30.89	King	56.00	Okanogan	30.63	Snohomish	40.44	Whitman	60.78
Chelan	34.01	Franklin	22.32	Kitsap	40.17	Pacific	28.85	Spokane	42.55	Yakima	22.50
Clallam	34.15	Garfield	29.38	Kittitas	41.91	Pend Oreille	28.28	Stevens	31.92		
Clark	37.28	Grant	24.10	Klickitat	28.10	Pierce	34.73	Thurston	43.57		
Columbia	32.23	Grays Harbor	25.21	Lewis	26.50	San Juan	46.14	Wahkiakum	25.55		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

WEST VIRGINIA

In West Virginia, 26.1 percent of the state's 996,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in West Virginia are essentially stable. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 29.9 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In West Virginia and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 33 percent of West Virginia's adult population — 289,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, West Virginia will need to add nearly 243,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 49 percent of West Virginia's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, West Virginia will need to fill 234,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 115,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, West Virginia's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

West Virginia can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 199,000 West Virginia adults — nearly 20 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping West Virginia reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help West Virginia develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all West Virginia communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, West Virginia must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build West Virginia's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

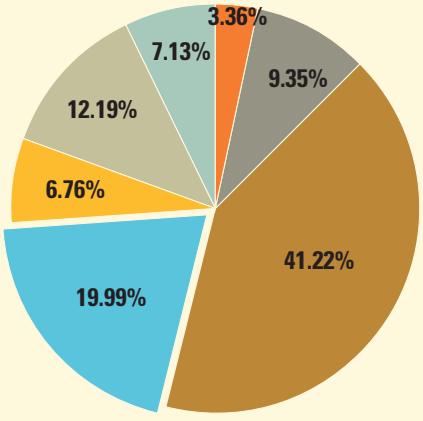
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 25.6%

2009 – 26.4%

2010 – 26.1%

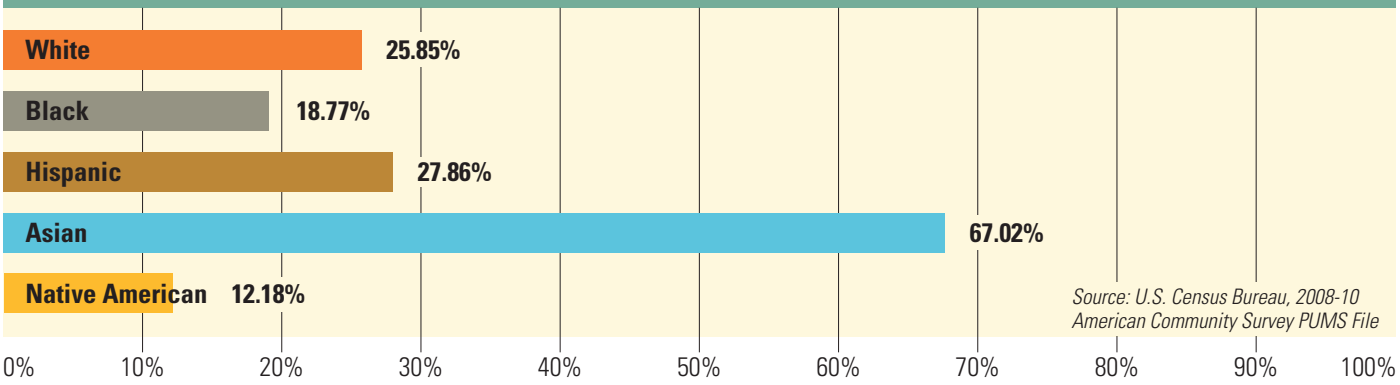
Levels of education for West Virginia residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	33,510	3.36%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	93,128	9.35%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	410,572	41.22%
Some college, no degree	**199,109**	**19.99%**
Associate degree	67,343	6.76%
Bachelor's degree	121,409	12.19%
Graduate or professional degree	71,070	7.13%
TOTAL	996,141	100%

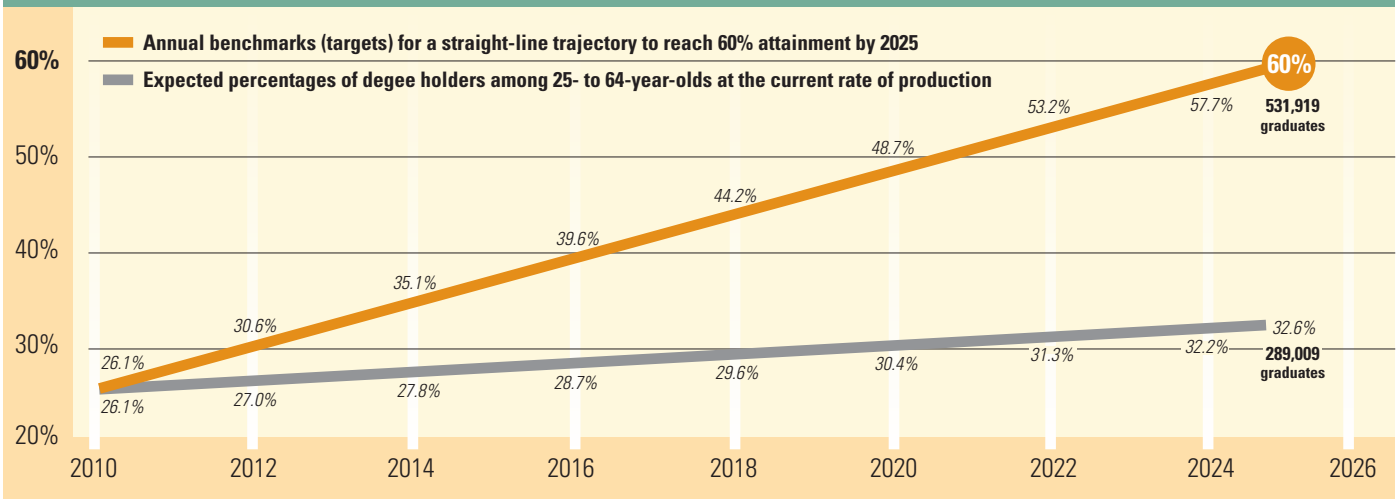
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among West Virginia adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in West Virginia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of West Virginia adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Barbour	18.95	Gilmer	17.43	Lewis	19.56	Monongalia	44.43	Raleigh	23.26	Webster	13.41
Berkeley	26.87	Grant	17.65	Lincoln	13.01	Monroe	19.65	Randolph	25.55	Wetzel	21.70
Boone	14.36	Greenbrier	24.54	Logan	17.71	Morgan	18.60	Ritchie	19.39	Wirt	21.52
Braxton	17.99	Hampshire	14.33	McDowell	10.40	Nicholas	19.34	Roane	14.06	Wood	30.72
Brooke	28.60	Hancock	28.51	Marion	28.67	Ohio	37.32	Summers	17.38	Wyoming	15.46
Cabell	33.34	Hardy	16.14	Marshall	23.00	Pendleton	20.37	Taylor	21.60		
Calhoun	15.00	Harrison	26.61	Mason	19.24	Pleasants	18.76	Tucker	19.79		
Clay	15.30	Jackson	26.28	Mercer	23.97	Pocahontas	21.47	Tyler	14.07		
Doddridge	11.82	Jefferson	36.49	Mineral	22.52	Preston	17.74	Upshur	22.56		
Fayette	16.21	Kanawha	32.80	Mingo	15.35	Putnam	34.78	Wayne	22.73		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

WISCONSIN

In Wisconsin, 39.1 percent of the state's 3 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Wisconsin are increasing slightly. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 41.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Wisconsin and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, 47 percent of Wisconsin's adult population — roughly 1.4 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Wisconsin will need to add more than 395,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 61 percent of Wisconsin's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Wisconsin will need to fill 925,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 558,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Wisconsin's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Wisconsin can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 677,000 Wisconsin adults — 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Wisconsin reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Wisconsin develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Wisconsin communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Wisconsin must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Wisconsin's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

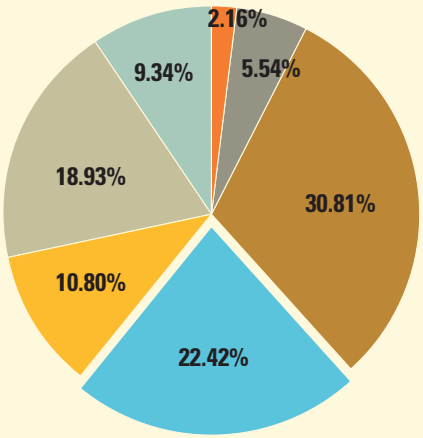
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 38.0%

2009 – 38.2%

2010 – 39.1%

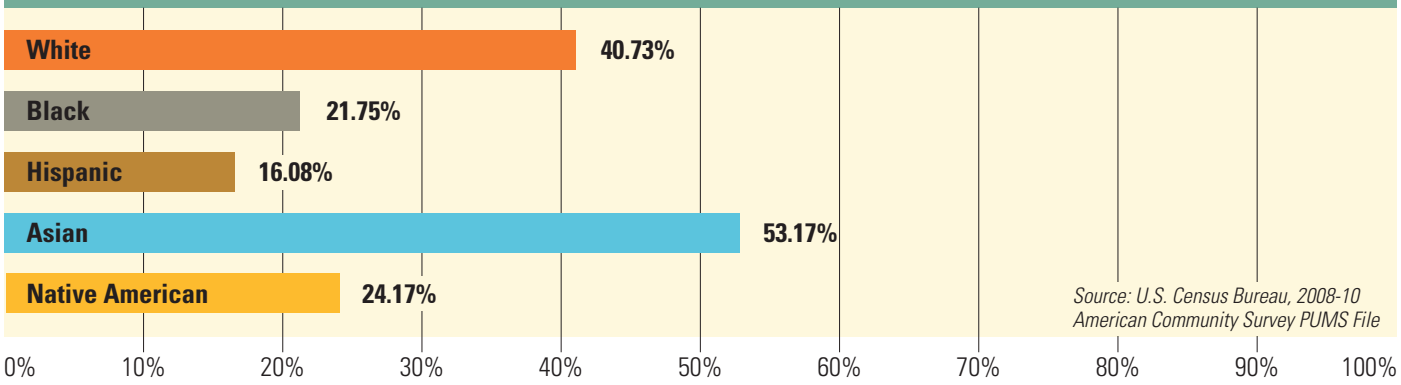
Levels of education for Wisconsin residents, ages 25-64



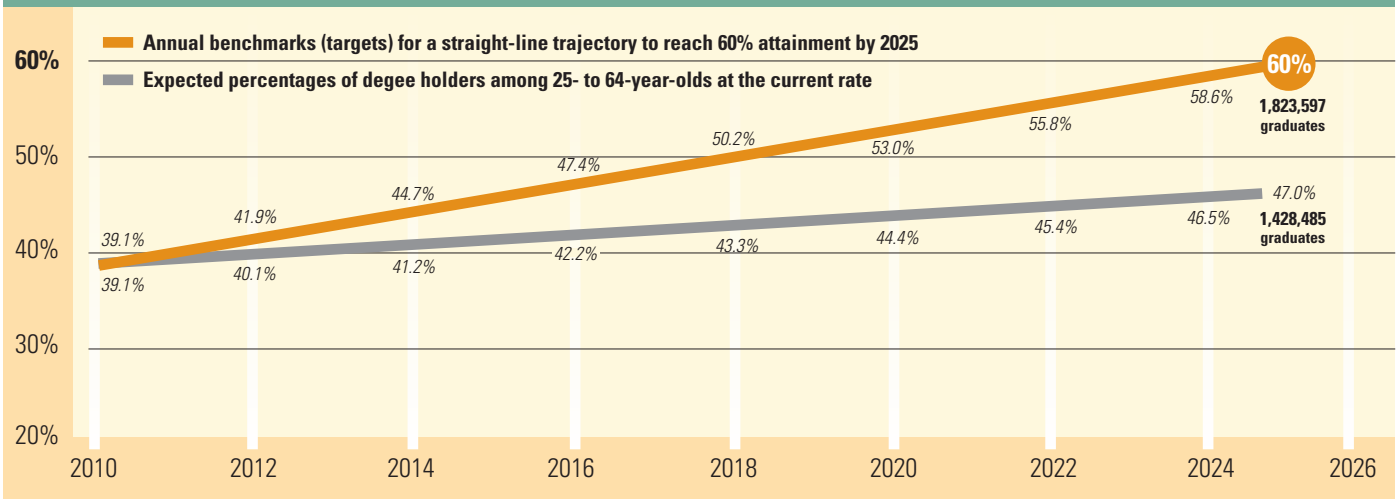
Less than ninth grade	65,109	2.16%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	167,317	5.54%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	930,765	30.81%
Some college, no degree	**677,379**	**22.42%**
Associate degree	326,279	10.80%
Bachelor's degree	571,894	18.93%
Graduate or professional degree	282,042	9.34%
TOTAL	3,020,785	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Wisconsin adults (ages 25-64), by population group



The path to 60% degree attainment in Wisconsin



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Wisconsin adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	20.70	Dane	58.13	Iowa	35.82	Marathon	35.84	Polk	30.91	Taylor	24.04
Ashland	37.97	Dodge	26.22	Iron	36.49	Marinette	26.24	Portage	39.07	Trempealeau	30.63
Barron	31.96	Door	35.13	Jackson	27.47	Marquette	23.11	Price	27.78	Vernon	31.47
Bayfield	40.42	Douglas	37.07	Jefferson	34.51	Menominee	18.52	Racine	33.52	Vilas	33.93
Brown	39.09	Dunn	37.28	Juneau	24.28	Milwaukee	36.45	Richland	24.50	Walworth	34.94
Buffalo	31.24	Eau Claire	47.07	Kenosha	34.89	Monroe	29.94	Rock	31.33	Washburn	30.88
Burnett	26.47	Florence	23.57	Kewaunee	26.26	Oconto	27.59	Rusk	27.22	Washington	39.96
Calumet	40.83	Fond du Lac	30.76	La Crosse	46.38	Oneida	35.76	St. Croix	45.25	Waukesha	52.47
Chippewa	34.07	Forest	20.60	Lafayette	28.40	Outagamie	39.93	Sauk	31.41	Waupaca	27.14
Clark	22.02	Grant	33.98	Langlade	22.99	Ozaukee	55.87	Sawyer	28.81	Waushara	22.94
Columbia	32.76	Green	33.09	Lincoln	28.53	Pepin	31.19	Shawano	25.39	Winnebago	36.37
Crawford	25.83	Green Lake	27.52	Manitowoc	30.00	Pierce	38.86	Sheboygan	33.62	Wood	35.15

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

WYOMING

In Wyoming, 37.3 percent of the state's nearly 301,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Wyoming are increasing. The higher education attainment rate of young adults — those 25 to 34 years old — is 37.7 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Wyoming and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 45 percent of Wyoming's adult population — 114,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Wyoming will need to add more than 39,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 62 percent of Wyoming's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Wyoming will need to fill 108,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 65,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Wyoming's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Wyoming can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 85,000 Wyoming adults — 28 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Wyoming reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Wyoming develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Wyoming communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Wyoming must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Wyoming's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

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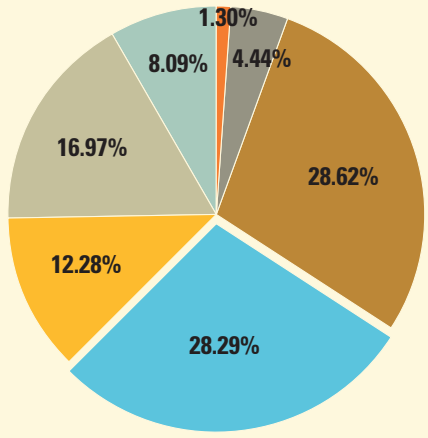
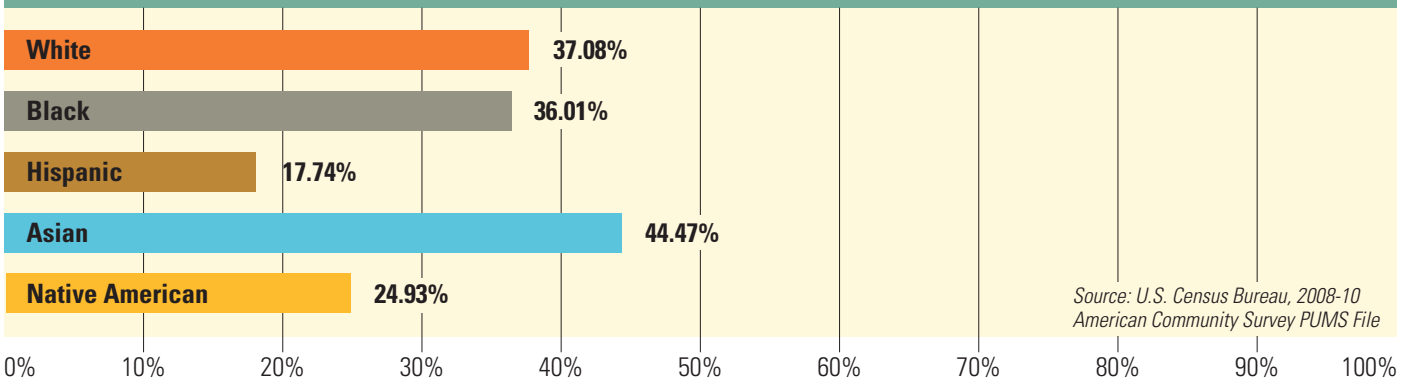


Less than ninth grade	3,908	1.30%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	13,368	4.44%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	86,091	28.62%
Some college, no degree	**85,073**	**28.29%**
Associate degree	36,940	12.28%
Bachelor's degree	51,046	16.97%
Graduate or professional degree	24,339	8.09%
TOTAL	300,765	100%

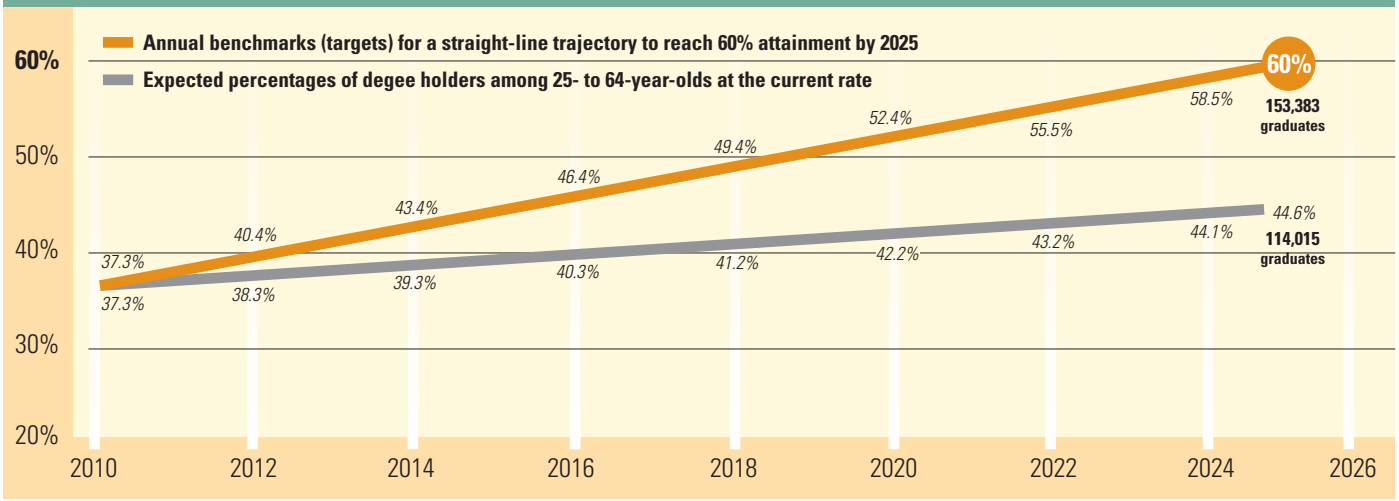
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Wyoming adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Wyoming



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Wyoming adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Albany	58.06	Converse	28.84	Hot Springs	30.19	Natrona	34.00	Sheridan	36.10	Uinta	27.02
Big Horn	32.02	Crook	37.30	Johnson	36.95	Niobrara	28.14	Sublette	39.72	Washakie	33.36
Campbell	27.86	Fremont	35.78	Laramie	36.58	Park	40.40	Sweetwater	28.91	Weston	28.40
Carbon	28.94	Goshen	33.29	Lincoln	28.47	Platte	29.96	Teton	53.63		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

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About Lumina Foundation

Lumina Foundation, an Indianapolis-based private foundation, is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college — especially 21st century students: low-income students, students of color, first-generation students and adult learners. Lumina's goal is to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina pursues this goal in three ways: by identifying and supporting effective practice, through public policy advocacy, and by using communications and convening power to build public will for change.

Online access: This report and all of its elements are available at www.luminafoundation.org/stronger_nation. From there, you can:

- Navigate through the full report, including the metro-area attainment data, and compare data dynamically among all states.
- Download a printable version of the full report.
- Download individual policy briefs that present the data specific to each state.
- Download the *Stronger Nation* mobile application for use on your iPhone or iPad.

Twitter: @luminafound, @Goal2025

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