

## GRADUATION RATES BY TYPE OF DEGREE (2009)

Enrollment indicates a potential supply of post-secondary educated labor, but the actual supply depends on how many students complete and earn a degree or receive a Certificate. In 2009, about 77 percent of first-time full-time students in Metro South/West institutions earned a Bachelor's Degree within six years. This rate is higher than the statewide rate and substantially higher than the national rate, reflecting the high graduation rates of private institutions in the region. The six-year Bachelor's Degree graduation rate at public institutions (52.2 percent) is lower than those at private institutions but fairly similar to those institutions in Massachusetts and the United States. The three-year Associate's Degree graduation rate (21.2 percent), on the other hand, is substantially lower in the region and in Massachusetts, as compared with national graduation rate. The Certificate program graduation rate is higher in Metro South/West (74.3 percent) than those statewide and nationally. In contrast with the findings for Bachelor's Degrees, the Certificate program graduation rate of public institutions is much higher than those of private ones in Massachusetts.

**Source:** National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System.

**Note:** Graduation rates are the number of first-time full-time students who completed their degree/program within 150 percent of the time expected to complete the degree/program as a share of the number of first-time full-time students that started the degree/program (e.g., a Bachelor's Degree is considered to have been earned on time if it is completed within six years or less, or 150 percent of four years).

