

GRADUATION RATES BY TYPE OF DEGREE (2009)

Enrollment figures indicate a potential supply of post-secondary educated labor, but the actual supply depends on how many students complete their programs and earn a degree or a Certificate. In 2009, the graduation rate for first-time full-time students at four-year institutions in the Southeast region (i.e., those who earned a Bachelor's Degree within six years) was 55.6 percent. This was lower than the statewide rate but fairly similar to the national rate. The six-year Bachelor's Degree graduation rate at public institutions (50.4 percent) was lower than those at private institutions in the region and at public institutions in Massachusetts and the United States. The three-year Associate's Degree graduation rate (15.3 percent) was also lower in the region than in Massachusetts and United States, but the graduation rates for Associate's Degrees at private institutions exceeded their counterparts statewide and nationally. The Certificate program graduation rate in the Southeast region (69.2 percent) exceeded the rates statewide and nationally. In contrast with the findings for Bachelor's Degrees, the Certificate program graduation rate of public institutions was much higher than those of private ones in both the Southeast region and 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 (i.e., 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). Comparisons of graduation rates to enrollments or degree completions can be misleading as the first-time full-time students are a small subset of the student population, particularly for certain degrees/programs. Graduation rates do not include part-time students and are excluded when there is an inadequate sample size of first-time full-time entrants for the degree/program to calculate a graduation rate. See the on-line Methodological Appendix for further details.

