

GRADUATION RATES BY TYPE OF DEGREE (2009)

Enrollment indicates a potential supply of workers with a post-secondary degree, 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 Central Mass (i.e., those who earned a Bachelor's Degree within six years) was 65.1 percent. This graduation rate was lower than the statewide rate but higher than the national rate. But the six-year Bachelor's Degree graduation rate at public institutions (48.1 percent) was lower than the graduation rate at public four-year institutions both in Massachusetts and in the United States. It was also much lower than the graduation rate at private institutions (71.6 percent) in the region. The three-year Associate's Degree graduation rate (32.7 percent) was higher in the region than in Massachusetts and United States, due to higher graduation rates at private institutions. The Certificate program graduation rate in Central Mass (74.2 percent) was also higher than it was statewide and nationally, with high private and public graduation rates.

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.

