

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 their programs and earn a degree or a certificate. In 2009, about 58 percent of first-time, full-time students at institutions in the Northeast region earned a Bachelor's Degree within six years. This rate was lower than the statewide rate but similar to the national rate. The six-year Bachelor's Degree graduation rate at public institutions (48.1 percent) was lower than that of private institutions in the region and public institutions in Massachusetts and the United States. The three-year Associate's Degree graduation rate (16.9 percent) was also lower in the region than in Massachusetts and United States, and the graduation rate for Associate's Degrees at private institutions was much lower than statewide and national rates. The Certificate program graduation rate in the Northeast region (67.8 percent) was similar to such programs statewide and nationally. In contrast to the findings for Bachelor's Degrees, the Certificate program graduation rate for public institutions was much higher than those for private ones in both the Northeast 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 (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). 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 Methodological Appendix for further details.

