

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 Pioneer Valley region (e.g., those who earned a Bachelor's Degree within six years) was 67.2 percent. This was slightly lower than the statewide rate but above the national rate. The six-year Bachelor's Degree graduation rate at public institutions (64.4 percent) was lower than those at private institutions in the region but higher than at public institutions in Massachusetts and the United States. The three-year Associate's Degree graduation rate (21.7 percent) was also fairly similar to the statewide rate but trailed that in the United States. The Certificate program graduation rate in Pioneer Valley (63.7 percent) was the only category in which the region trailed both statewide and national rates. Because there are no graduates from public institutions, the region's graduation rate for Certificates is based on private institutions. According to statewide data, private institutions granting Certificates tend to have slightly lower graduation rates than their public counterparts.

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

Note: Graduation rates reflect 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 enrollees 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.

