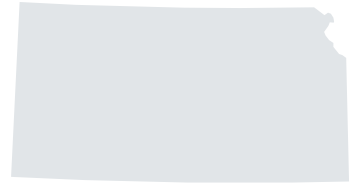




# A STRONGER NATION

In Kansas, postsecondary learning builds the talent that helps us rise

A policy brief from Lumina Foundation



# Kansas

The need to increase postsecondary attainment — the number of Americans who hold degrees and other high-quality credentials — has never been clearer. State leaders are responding to the growing global demand for talent by setting goals and enacting policies to increase attainment. Like Lumina Foundation, states have come to understand the scope of the effort required. Much is left to be done, but real progress is being made through the efforts of those who are committed to assuring that millions more Americans benefit from postsecondary education.

Lumina began reporting the attainment rate (associate degree and higher) in 2008. That year, the rate in Kansas stood at 40.5 percent. In 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, the rate reached 49.3 percent.

However, the degree attainment rate doesn't tell the whole story. Lumina has always said that other postsecondary credentials — including certificates and certifications — should count toward national and state goals for attainment, with one important caveat. To count, non-degree credentials should be of high quality, which we define as having clear and transparent learning outcomes leading to further education and employment.

This year, for the first time, we have nationally representative data on the number of Americans who hold high-quality postsecondary certificates; we now feel confident we can count these credentials toward attainment goals. In states, we are able to use estimates from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce on the number of residents who hold high-quality certificates as their highest earned credential. In Kansas, 7 percent of residents between the ages of 25 and 64 hold a high-quality certificate. This brings the state's overall postsecondary attainment rate to 49.3 percent.

As the data in this report make clear, increasing overall attainment is not the only challenge Kansas faces. There are also significant gaps in attainment that must be closed. While current systems work very well for many students, more postsecondary credentials must be earned by Americans who, by definition, are *post-traditional* learners. Compared with current students, they will be older; more will be African-American, Hispanic and Native American; and they will have lower incomes. Most will be first-generation students. The data in this report show the extent of the attainment gaps in Kansas by race and ethnicity.

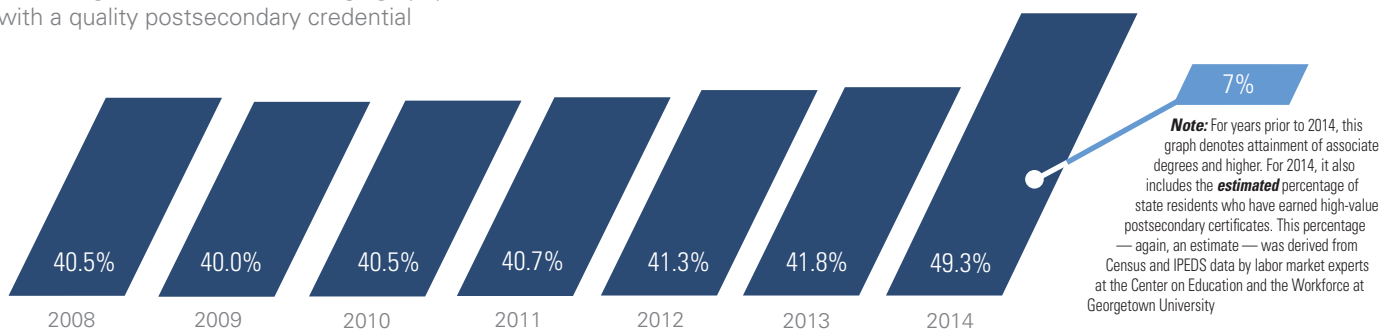
To date, 26 states have responded to the need to increase attainment by setting state attainment goals that meet Lumina's criteria for rigor and efficacy (i.e., the goal is quantifiable, challenging, long term, addresses gaps, and is in statute and/or a strategic plan). Kansas is one of those 26 states.

There is much more that states can do to increase attainment. It begins with assuring that all prospective students, including working adults, have access to affordable programs that lead to quality credentials. State policies such as outcomes-based funding can encourage colleges and universities to direct resources to approaches that increase student success. States can also help assure that students get full recognition for *all* of their learning — whether it was obtained in an institution, in the military or on the job — and can apply it to further education and credentials.

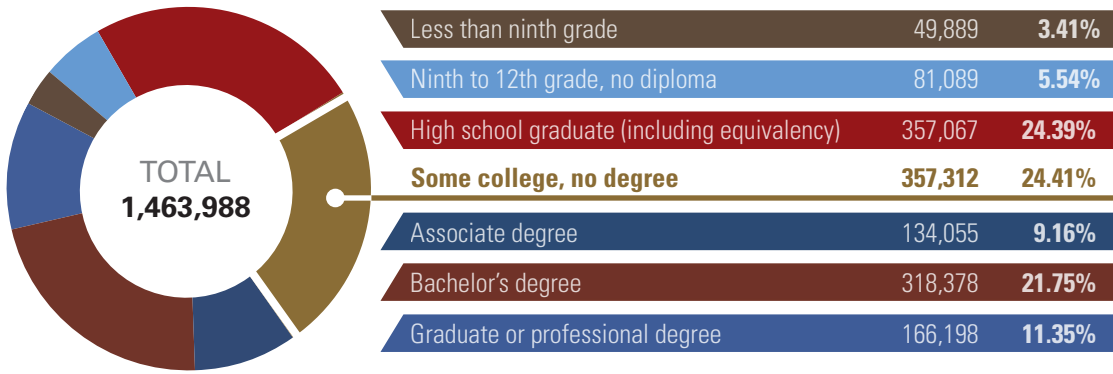
Lumina is working with state leaders from around the nation to expand postsecondary opportunity and success. More information on that work, including our full state policy agenda and additional data, is available on Lumina's Strategy Labs website (<http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/>).

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with a quality postsecondary credential



## Levels of education for Kansas residents, ages 25-64

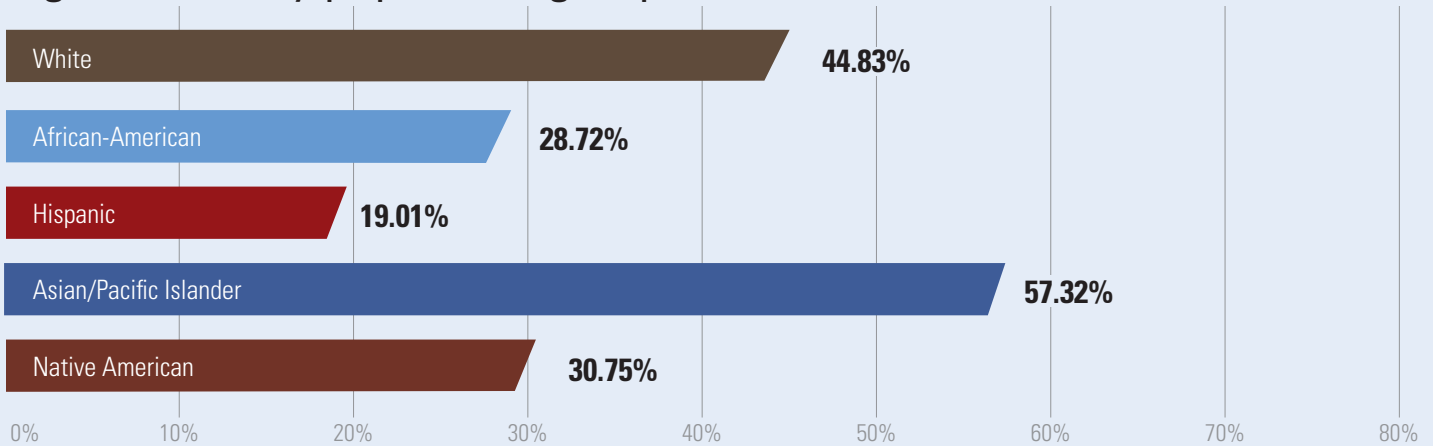


Estimated attainment of certificates: **7%**

**Note:** The accompanying pie chart does not account for residents who have earned high-value postsecondary certificates. The percentage above – admittedly, an *estimate* – aims to fill that gap. To calculate this percentage, labor market experts at the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce used Survey of Income Program Participation 2008 Wave 12 data (2012) and data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2014.

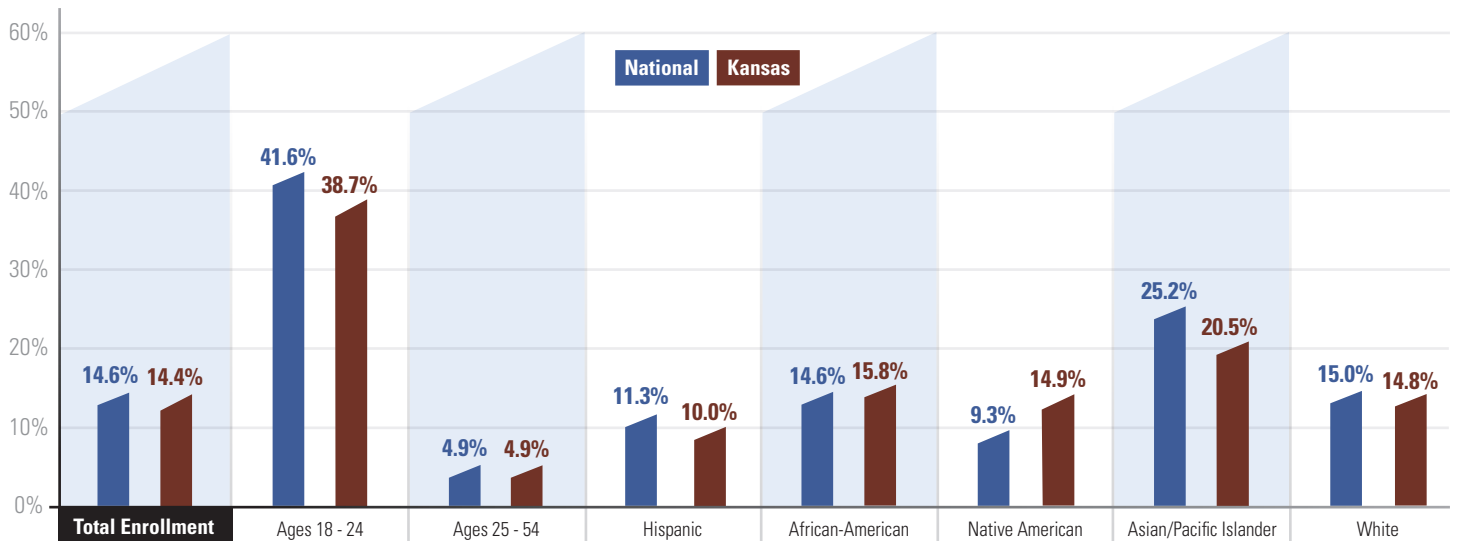
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

## Degree-attainment rates among Kansas residents (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012, 2013, and 2014 American Community Survey One-Year PUMS Files

## College enrollment among Kansas residents, ages 18-54



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey One-Year Public Use Microdata Sample

Note: These percentages reflect the enrollment of non-degree-holding students, ages 18-54, at public and private, two-year and four-year postsecondary institutions

## Percentage of Kansas residents (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Allen	30.01	Crawford	41.25	Greenwood	25.89	Logan	36.06	Pawnee	28.16	Sherman	33.24
Anderson	30.15	Decatur	37.67	Hamilton	24.37	Lyon	32.58	Phillips	37.34	Smith	35.03
Atchison	30.18	Dickinson	32.27	Harper	34.57	McPherson	37.32	Pottawatomie	44.25	Stafford	33.24
Barber	29.15	Doniphan	27.82	Harvey	36.89	Marion	31.65	Pratt	40.10	Stanton	28.19
Barton	30.01	Douglas	57.57	Haskell	26.18	Marshall	26.56	Rawlins	43.71	Stevens	22.74
Bourbon	33.89	Edwards	29.70	Hodgeman	35.12	Meade	32.01	Reno	31.27	Sumner	28.22
Brown	29.51	Elk	32.96	Jackson	31.33	Miami	36.74	Republic	37.97	Thomas	48.95
Butler	41.75	Ellis	43.15	Jefferson	31.93	Mitchell	39.72	Rice	29.68	Trego	36.09
Chase	31.97	Ellsworth	30.71	Jewell	35.50	Montgomery	30.60	Riley	54.16	Wabaunsee	36.10
Chautauqua	29.85	Finney	26.49	Johnson	62.43	Morris	24.44	Rooks	33.46	Wallace	37.99
Cherokee	27.71	Ford	24.03	Kearny	31.49	Morton	26.96	Rush	31.34	Washington	34.64
Cheyenne	38.57	Franklin	31.21	Kingman	28.40	Nemaha	34.46	Russell	36.32	Wichita	32.43
Clark	41.67	Geary	31.35	Kiowa	39.30	Neosho	33.78	Saline	32.94	Wilson	23.72
Clay	34.14	Gove	34.69	Labette	36.18	Ness	32.41	Scott	29.27	Woodson	27.40
Cloud	33.27	Graham	40.63	Lane	37.56	Norton	25.02	Sedgwick	38.66	Wyandotte	24.28
Coffey	31.82	Grant	24.95	Leavenworth	39.84	Osage	28.84	Seward	20.21		
Comanche	30.86	Gray	33.34	Lincoln	42.32	Osborne	34.65	Shawnee	38.27		
Cowley	32.68	Greeley	31.16	Linn	28.36	Ottawa	34.50	Sheridan	32.98		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-14 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with degrees, certificates and other high-quality credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina's outcomes-based approach focuses on helping to design and build an equitable, accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve Goal 2025.