

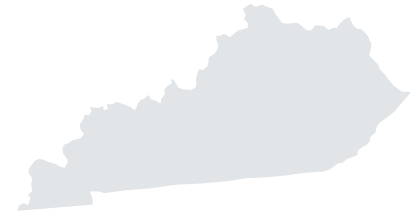


A STRONGER NATION

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

A policy brief from Lumina Foundation

Kentucky



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 Kentucky stood at 29.2 percent. In 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, the rate reached 32.5 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 Kentucky, 10 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 42.5 percent.

As the data in this report make clear, increasing overall attainment is not the only challenge Kentucky 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 Kentucky by race and ethnicity.

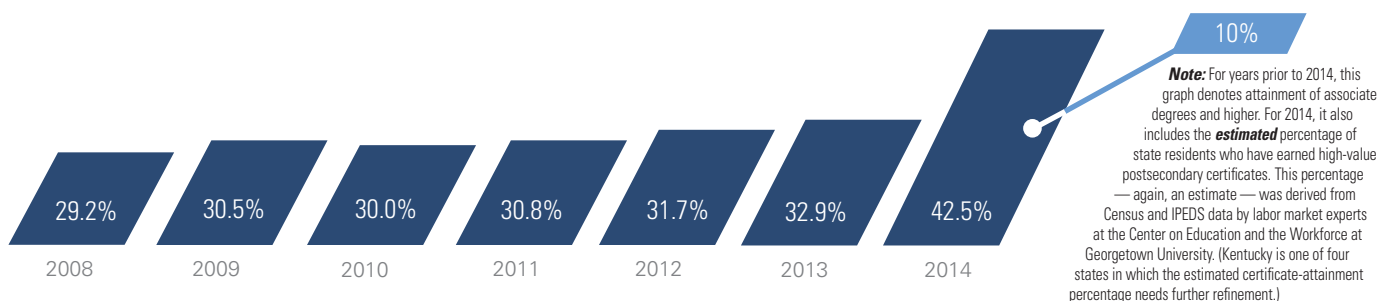
To date, 26 states have responded to the need to increase attainment by setting state attainment goals that meet Lumina's criteria for rigor and efficacy (i.e., the goal is quantifiable, challenging, long term, addresses gaps, and is in statute and/or a strategic plan). Kentucky is one of those 26 states.

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.

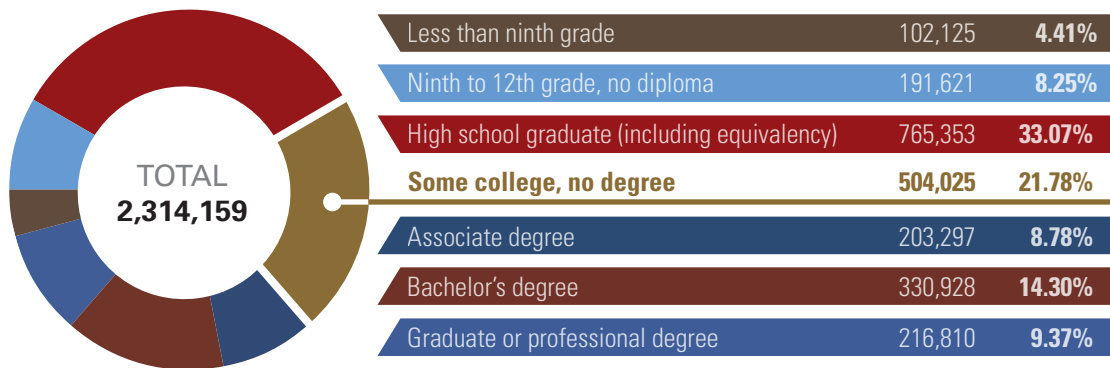
Lumina is working with state leaders from around the nation to expand postsecondary opportunity and success. More information on that work, including our full state policy agenda and additional data, is available on Lumina's Strategy Labs website (<http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/>).

Tracking the trend

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



Levels of education for Kentucky residents, ages 25-64

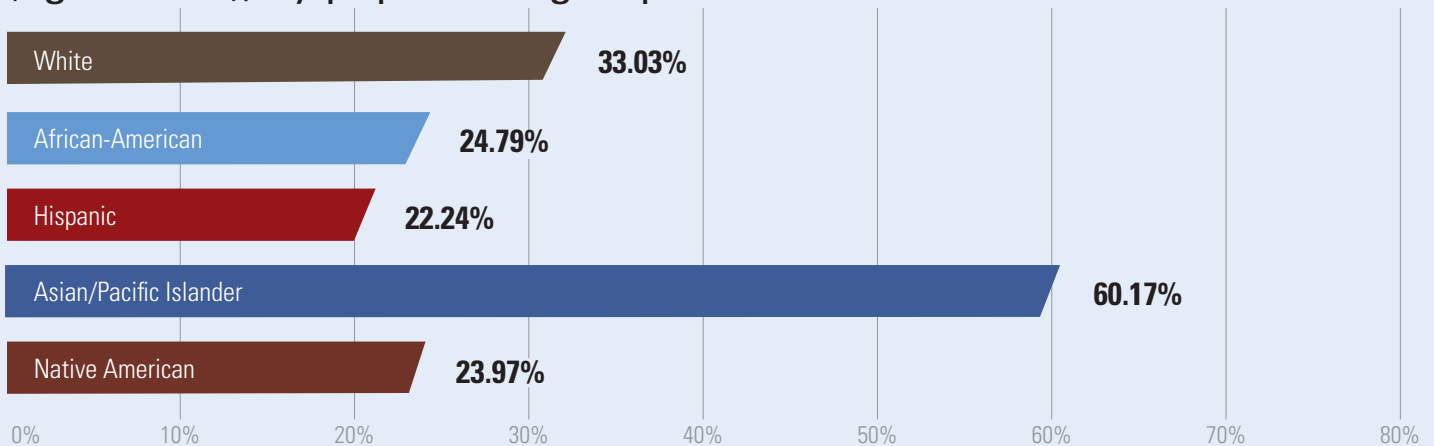


Estimated attainment of certificates: **10%**

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. Be aware that Kentucky is one of four states in which the estimated certificate-attainment percentage needs further refinement.

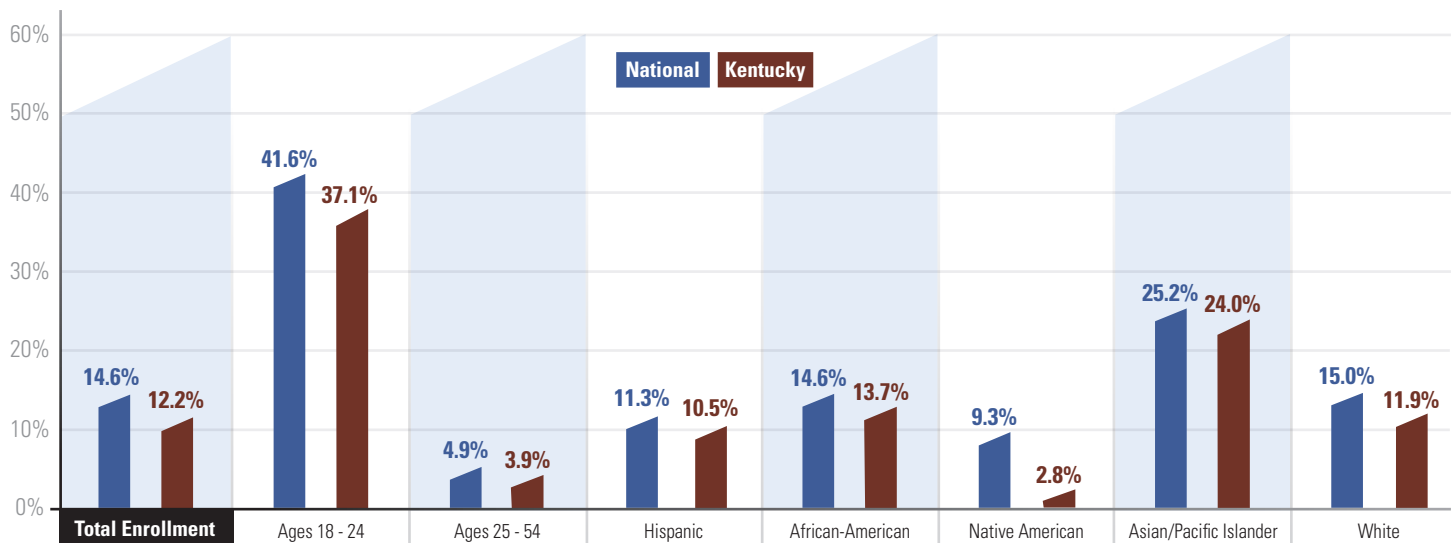
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Kentucky 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 Kentucky 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 Kentucky residents (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	25.17	Carroll	16.44	Grant	19.45	Knox	15.03	Mason	24.85	Robertson	23.75
Allen	23.56	Carter	19.13	Graves	27.97	Larue	22.31	Meade	22.92	Rockcastle	20.30
Anderson	25.81	Casey	17.60	Grayson	18.24	Laurel	19.56	Menifee	18.74	Rowan	36.17
Ballard	24.15	Christian	25.60	Green	16.96	Lawrence	20.56	Mercer	29.46	Russell	23.38
Barren	23.91	Clark	29.08	Greenup	27.71	Lee	13.25	Metcalfe	17.92	Scott	38.44
Bath	22.32	Clay	15.55	Hancock	20.73	Leslie	15.00	Monroe	20.78	Shelby	32.19
Bell	17.94	Clinton	15.47	Hardin	34.89	Letcher	23.68	Montgomery	25.44	Simpson	21.95
Boone	42.48	Crittenden	20.99	Harlan	21.03	Lewis	18.51	Morgan	18.74	Spencer	29.74
Bourbon	25.97	Cumberland	24.69	Harrison	22.23	Lincoln	17.43	Muhlenberg	21.41	Taylor	24.72
Boyd	29.82	Daviess	31.16	Hart	16.09	Livingston	16.78	Nelson	26.25	Todd	18.23
Boyle	33.42	Edmonson	22.18	Henderson	27.58	Logan	20.39	Nicholas	28.03	Trigg	28.11
Bracken	28.79	Elliott	10.61	Henry	19.23	Lyon	23.20	Ohio	16.30	Trimble	22.67
Breathitt	19.94	Estill	14.23	Hickman	23.01	McCracken	36.27	Oldham	51.16	Union	22.96
Breckinridge	18.12	Fayette	50.52	Hopkins	25.71	McCreary	16.22	Owen	21.24	Warren	37.25
Bullitt	24.16	Fleming	21.50	Jackson	13.35	McLean	22.31	Owsley	21.81	Washington	23.76
Butler	19.70	Floyd	21.47	Jefferson	40.91	Madison	36.76	Pendleton	23.63	Wayne	15.18
Caldwell	26.38	Franklin	32.73	Jessamine	36.96	Magoffin	14.90	Perry	23.17	Webster	17.22
Calloway	36.55	Fulton	18.87	Johnson	18.11	Marion	23.28	Pike	19.56	Whitley	18.62
Campbell	40.22	Gallatin	16.77	Kenton	38.67	Marshall	29.42	Powell	19.37	Wolfe	16.61
Carlisle	23.32	Garrard	24.54	Knott	21.23	Martin	14.96	Pulaski	25.55	Woodford	41.64

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.