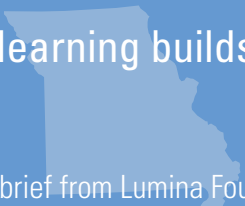




A STRONGER NATION

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



A policy brief from Lumina Foundation



Missouri

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 Missouri stood at 34.9 percent. In 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, the rate reached 38.1 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 Missouri, 4 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 42.1 percent.

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

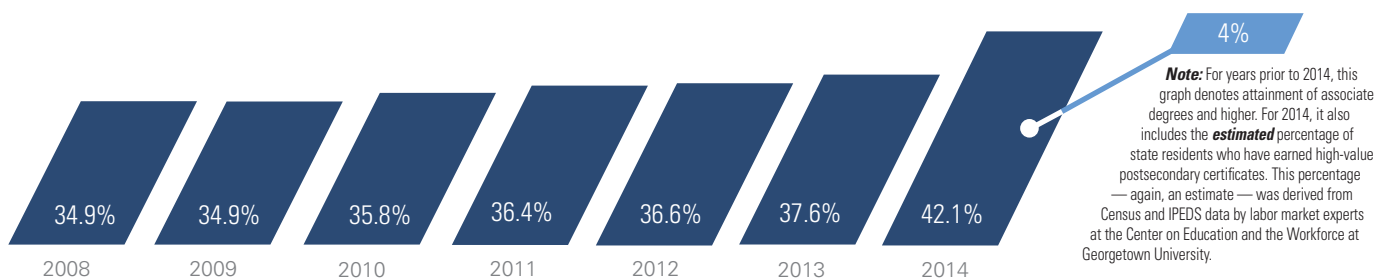
To date, 26 states have responded to the need to increase attainment by setting state attainment goals that meet Lumina's criteria for rigor and efficacy (i.e., the goal is quantifiable, challenging, long term, addresses gaps, and is in statute and/or a strategic plan). Missouri is one of those 26 states.

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.

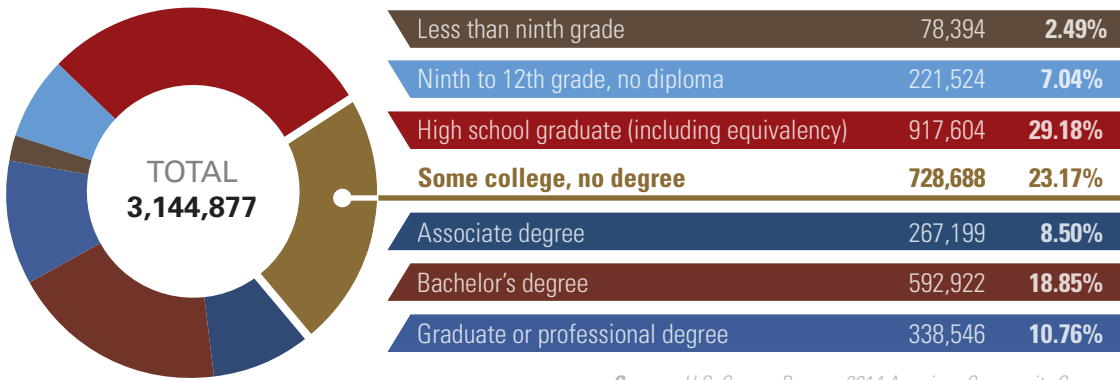
Lumina is working with state leaders from around the nation to expand postsecondary opportunity and success. More information on that work, including our full state policy agenda and additional data, is available on Lumina's Strategy Labs website (<http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/>).

Tracking the trend

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



Levels of education for Missouri residents, ages 25-64

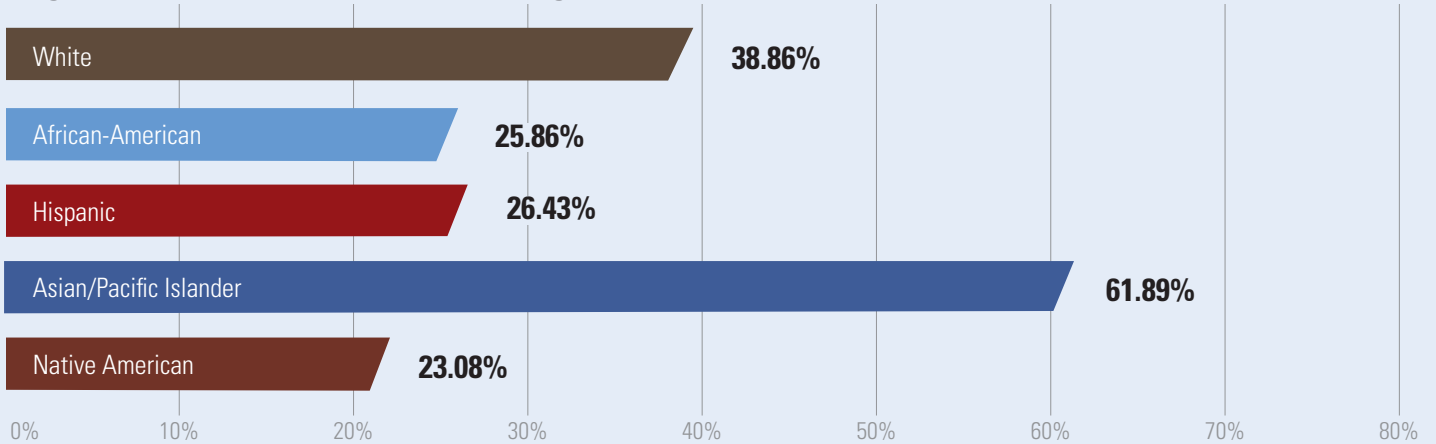


Estimated attainment of certificates: **4%**

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.

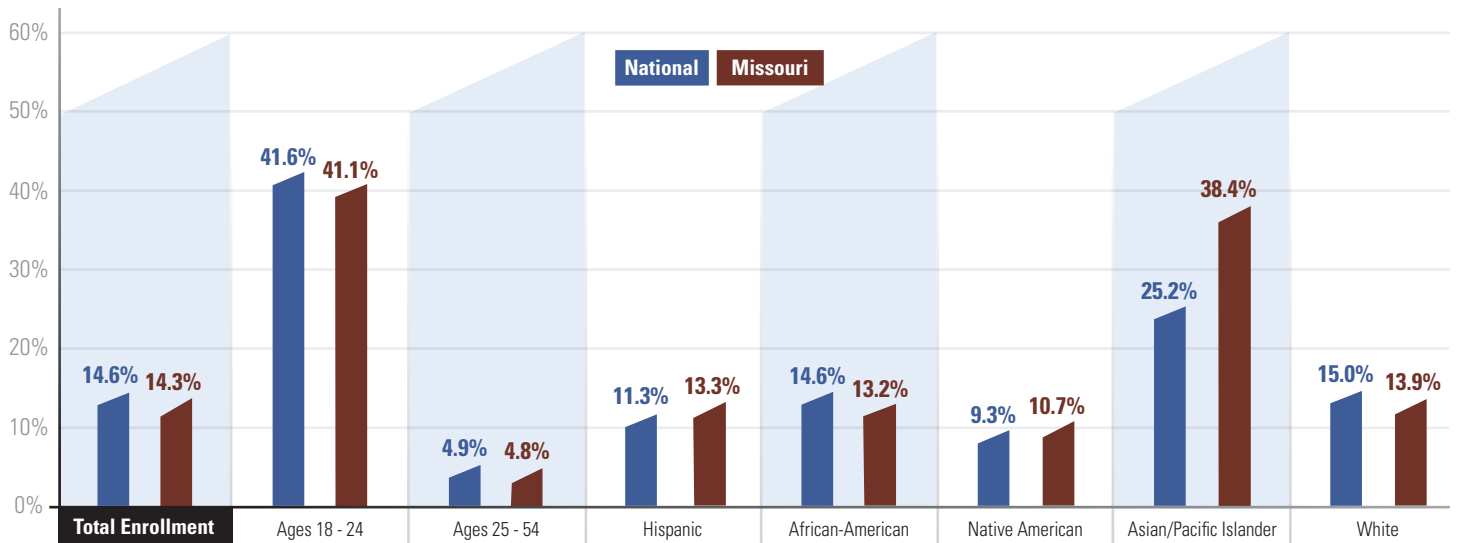
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

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

Adair	38.26	Chariton	23.84	Harrison	22.51	Macon	26.17	Phelps	36.41	Shannon	22.42
Andrew	30.10	Christian	37.37	Henry	25.00	Madison	18.30	Pike	17.18	Shelby	23.58
Atchison	34.28	Clark	24.84	Hickory	19.85	Maries	23.96	Platte	50.12	Stoddard	23.84
Audrain	20.90	Clay	42.34	Holt	26.77	Marion	26.92	Polk	25.02	Stone	21.79
Barry	21.63	Clinton	26.01	Howard	31.35	Mercer	26.75	Pulaski	36.30	Sullivan	21.62
Barton	26.46	Cole	41.20	Howell	25.94	Miller	21.82	Putnam	24.64	Taney	24.70
Bates	19.20	Cooper	29.87	Iron	18.56	Mississippi	14.84	Ralls	24.00	Texas	17.51
Benton	22.58	Crawford	21.54	Jackson	37.19	Moniteau	24.25	Randolph	25.71	Vernon	24.92
Bollinger	17.06	Dade	25.75	Jasper	30.12	Monroe	23.53	Ray	22.60	Warren	27.95
Boone	57.05	Dallas	23.54	Jefferson	30.96	Montgomery	23.44	Reynolds	10.34	Washington	13.78
Buchanan	26.66	Daviess	25.82	Johnson	38.57	Morgan	18.72	Ripley	18.84	Wayne	17.21
Butler	25.10	DeKalb	18.99	Knox	21.82	New Madrid	19.08	St. Charles	48.82	Webster	24.65
Caldwell	26.99	Dent	20.85	Laclede	22.20	Newton	29.89	St. Clair	19.41	Worth	26.33
Callaway	29.92	Douglas	17.59	Lafayette	28.03	Nodaway	31.20	Ste. Genevieve	24.68	Wright	18.70
Camden	32.43	Dunklin	18.39	Lawrence	22.65	Oregon	18.04	St. Francois	24.17	St. Louis City	39.57
Cape Girardeau	36.44	Franklin	30.36	Lewis	22.93	Osage	31.06	St. Louis	52.68		
Carroll	25.32	Gasconade	25.55	Lincoln	24.59	Ozark	21.83	Saline	25.90		
Carter	28.59	Gentry	25.78	Linn	20.44	Pemiscot	18.30	Schuyler	20.80		
Cass	34.82	Greene	38.59	Livingston	25.53	Perry	25.64	Scotland	27.00		
Cedar	22.16	Grundy	30.74	McDonald	19.73	Pettis	29.72	Scott	20.01		

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



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FOUNDATION

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.