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

A policy brief from Lumina Foundation

Texas

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 Texas stood at 33.3 percent. In 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, the rate reached 35.8 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 Texas, 5 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 40.8 percent.

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

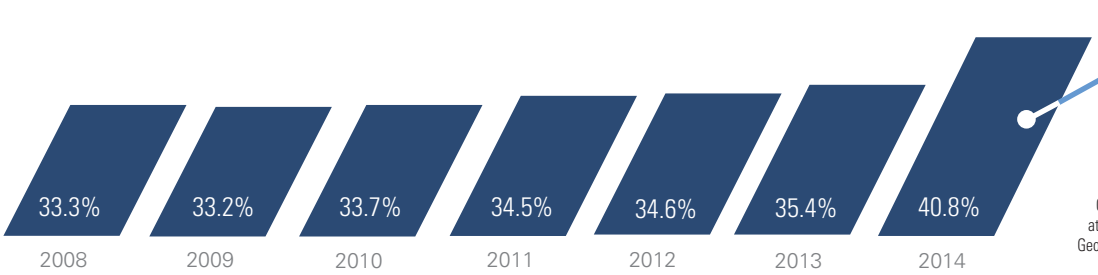
To date, 26 states have responded to the need to increase attainment by setting state attainment goals that meet Lumina's criteria for rigor and efficacy (i.e., the goal is quantifiable, challenging, long term, addresses gaps, and is in statute and/or a strategic plan). Texas is one of those 26 states.

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/).

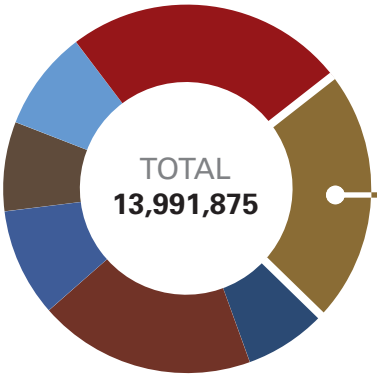
Tracking the trend

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



Note: For years prior to 2014, this graph denotes attainment of associate degrees and higher. For 2014, it also includes the ***estimated*** percentage of state residents who have earned high-value postsecondary certificates. This percentage — again, an estimate — was derived from Census and IPEDS data by labor market experts at the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University.

Levels of education for Texas residents, ages 25-64



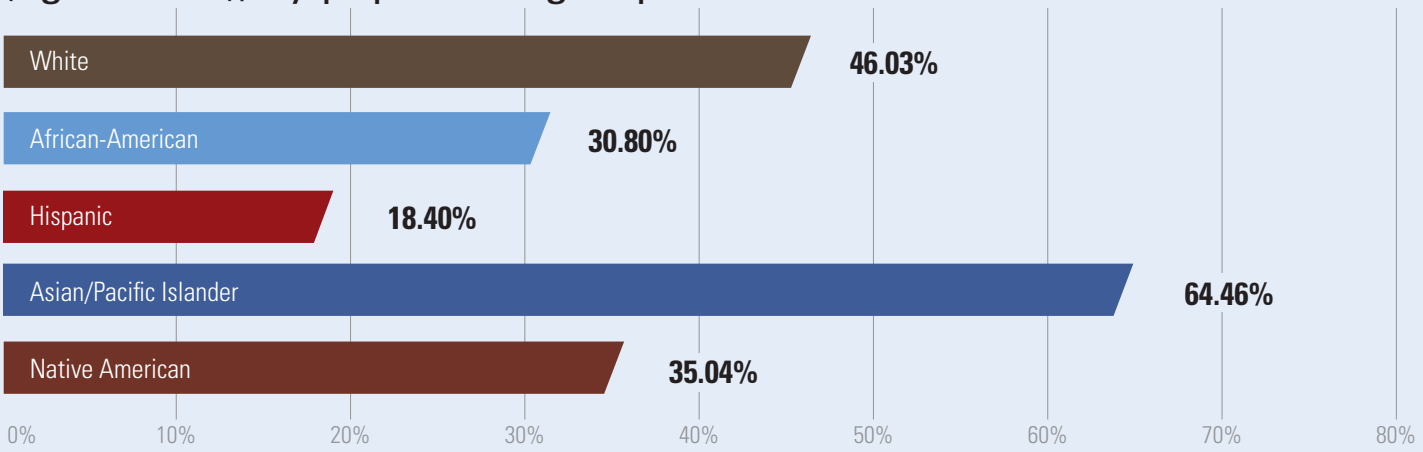
Less than ninth grade	1,098,615	7.85%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	1,228,741	8.78%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	3,470,600	24.80%
Some college, no degree	**3,190,903**	**22.81%**
Associate degree	1,006,051	7.91%
Bachelor's degree	2,666,791	19.06%
Graduate or professional degree	1,330,174	9.51%

Estimated attainment of certificates: **5%**

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.

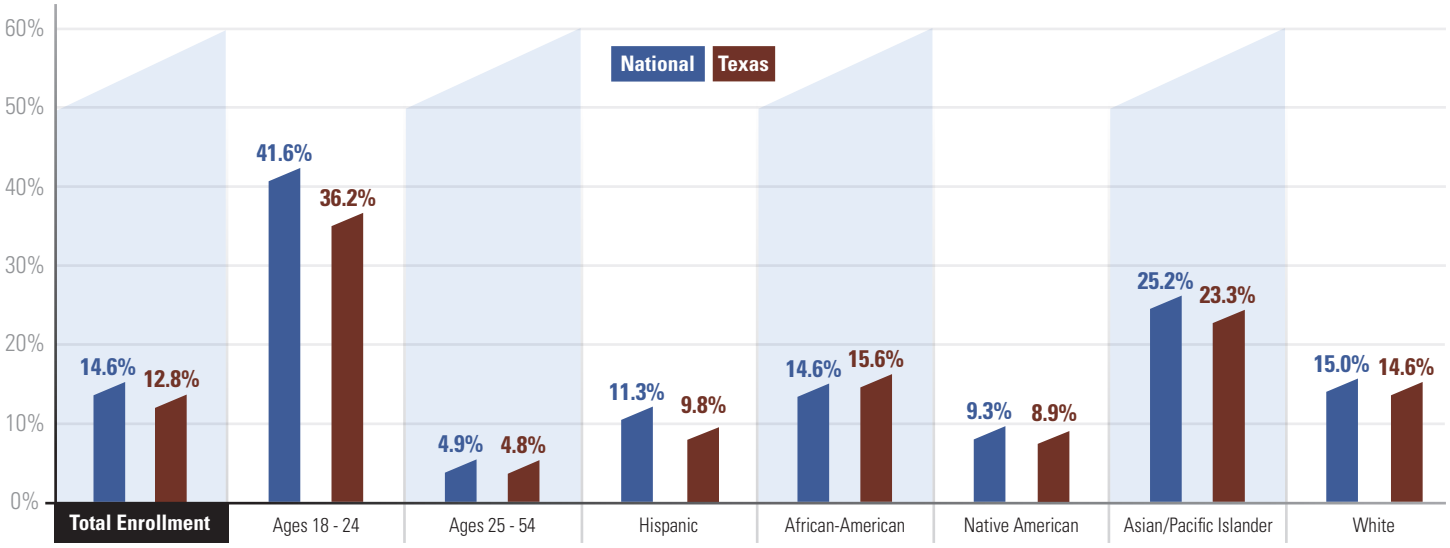
Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey*

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



Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2012, 2013, and 2014American Community Survey One PUMS File*

College enrollment among Texas 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 Texas residents (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Anderson	16.74	Collingsworth	25.67	Glasscock	32.57	Kendall	50.90	Motley	29.88	Sterling	31.65
Andrews	20.99	Colorado	24.89	Goliad	30.52	Kenedy	19.26	Nacogdoches	30.99	Stonewall	25.78
Angelina	22.77	Comal	41.92	Gonzales	18.18	Kent	36.48	Navarro	24.33	Sutton	22.86
Aransas	22.75	Comanche	26.46	Gray	24.41	Kerr	32.58	Newton	12.75	Swisher	21.89
Archer	30.81	Concho	12.84	Grayson	29.62	Kimble	21.02	Nolan	24.68	Tarrant	37.66
Armstrong	33.12	Cooke	27.73	Gregg	28.54	King	28.11	Nueces	28.55	Taylor	31.95
Atascosa	19.71	Coryell	25.42	Grimes	17.77	Kinney	16.34	Ochiltree	19.77	Terrell	22.39
Austin	30.04	Cottle	20.93	Guadalupe	35.96	Kleberg	33.62	Oldham	37.87	Terry	20.60
Bailey	15.99	Crane	16.13	Hale	19.90	Knox	20.44	Orange	23.05	Throckmorton	29.91
Bandera	31.02	Crockett	20.11	Hall	20.64	Lamar	25.02	Palo Pinto	19.31	Titus	21.61
Bastrop	24.78	Crosby	17.04	Hamilton	29.32	Lamb	20.25	Panola	19.23	Tom Green	29.43
Baylor	30.28	Culberson	16.03	Hansford	28.09	Lampasas	30.77	Parker	35.48	Travis	51.60
Bee	15.14	Dallam	19.08	Hardeman	25.17	La Salle	11.76	Parmer	20.82	Trinity	14.98
Bell	33.26	Dallas	34.69	Hardin	25.41	Lavaca	24.70	Pecos	16.36	Tyler	18.58
Bexar	35.28	Dawson	14.15	Harris	35.39	Lee	24.31	Polk	16.01	Upshur	22.94
Blanco	32.07	Deaf Smith	20.05	Harrison	28.28	Leon	21.70	Potter	22.38	Upton	17.09
Borden	55.16	Delta	22.00	Hartley	25.04	Liberty	13.80	Presidio	28.46	Uvalde	27.69
Bosque	20.85	Denton	50.45	Haskell	21.17	Limestone	20.20	Rains	18.76	Val Verde	25.38
Bowie	25.28	DeWitt	21.73	Hays	44.18	Lipscomb	25.09	Randall	41.55	Van Zandt	21.75
Brazoria	37.74	Dickens	22.76	Hemphill	25.75	Live Oak	23.95	Reagan	13.61	Victoria	27.20
Brazos	44.22	Dimmit	16.87	Henderson	22.73	Llano	32.14	Real	30.66	Walker	22.92
Brewster	43.33	Donley	30.56	Hidalgo	22.58	Loving	5.71	Red River	20.58	Waller	24.31
Briscoe	30.49	Duval	13.67	Hill	22.94	Lubbock	35.33	Reeves	14.67	Ward	20.11
Brooks	12.02	Eastland	20.45	Hockley	23.85	Lynn	21.15	Refugio	20.30	Washington	34.71
Brown	22.09	Ector	20.43	Hood	30.45	McCulloch	18.33	Roberts	40.30	Webb	24.91
Burleson	19.24	Edwards	29.25	Hopkins	22.68	McLennan	32.46	Robertson	21.55	Wharton	22.50
Burnet	27.66	Ellis	29.80	Houston	19.23	McMullen	10.88	Rockwall	46.05	Wheeler	24.35
Caldwell	21.84	El Paso	30.19	Howard	21.16	Madison	14.31	Runnels	19.83	Wichita	29.44
Calhoun	25.79	Erath	32.54	Hudspeth	10.52	Marion	21.06	Rusk	20.18	Wilbarger	27.48
Callahan	21.09	Falls	16.72	Hunt	24.48	Martin	22.64	Sabine	16.21	Willacy	13.43
Cameron	23.11	Fannin	22.60	Hutchinson	21.06	Mason	29.41	San Augustine	15.33	Williamson	48.21
Camp	22.11	Fayette	21.94	Irion	20.68	Matagorda	22.45	San Jacinto	13.45	Wilson	28.47
Carson	32.27	Fisher	26.52	Jack	14.43	Maverick	20.60	San Patricio	22.58	Winkler	17.22
Cass	19.34	Floyd	27.15	Jackson	24.35	Medina	27.68	San Saba	17.24	Wise	23.07
Castro	16.72	Foard	30.47	Jasper	16.86	Menard	16.49	Schleicher	25.32	Wood	22.55
Chambers	27.94	Fort Bend	50.59	Jeff Davis	37.60	Midland	32.51	Scurry	23.32	Yoakum	24.66
Cherokee	21.82	Franklin	26.93	Jefferson	25.85	Milam	23.81	Shackelford	32.56	Young	22.97
Childress	29.46	Freestone	20.71	Jim Hogg	16.83	Mills	34.18	Shelby	18.29	Zapata	15.12
Clay	26.78	Frio	12.99	Jim Wells	17.25	Mitchell	18.46	Sherman	27.55	Zavala	19.57
Cochran	18.48	Gaines	17.07	Johnson	25.01	Montague	22.02	Smith	35.80		
Coke	31.34	Galveston	38.47	Jones	11.85	Montgomery	39.74	Somervell	37.63		
Coleman	19.70	Garza	12.11	Karnes	18.63	Moore	18.16	Starr	13.75		
Collin	59.10	Gillespie	39.93	Kaufman	26.52	Morris	25.80	Stephens	22.89		

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

Lumina 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.

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