

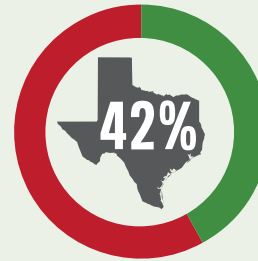
Pathways to Prosperity: What is needed for a successful career?



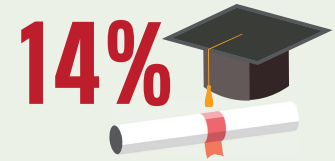
ARE OUR CENTRAL TEXAS STUDENTS PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE?



of jobs by 2020 will require some postsecondary credential, whether that's a workforce certificate, two- or four-year degree



of Texas young adults have some kind of postsecondary credential



of our low-income Central Texas students complete a postsecondary credential within six years of leaving high school



Young adults without a postsecondary credential within six years of leaving high school have just a 12% chance of earning a living wage

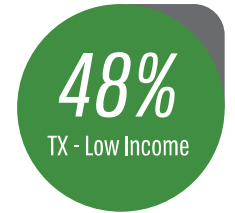
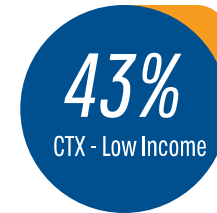
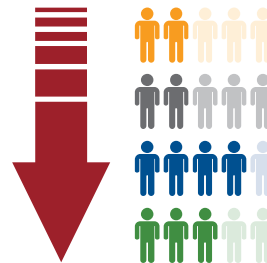


60x30TX

Texas has launched 60x30TX, the new higher education plan which aims to put Texas among the highest achieving states in the country and maintain its global competitiveness.

- 60% of Texas adults will have some type of postsecondary credential by 2030
- 550,000 students will complete a postsecondary degree by 2030
- 80% of postsecondary graduates will have a job within one year of completion by 2030

Higher Education Enrollment Decreased Since 2007 For All Groups



Higher Education Enrollment For Central Texas Low-Income Students Lags Behind The Rest of Texas



Many Paths to a College Credential

People still think about a four-year bachelor's degree when they hear "college," but this is not true! A broad range of pathways are available to achieve a postsecondary credential with value in the workplace.

- 55% of low-income Central Texas graduates attend a two-year school
- 14% of low-income Central Texas graduates complete college within six years
- 29% of adults planning to return to school say they would choose a community college
- 2/3 of jobs require a postsecondary credential
- 60% of employed Texans do not view their job as a career, and say they need more education and training

The pathways to a career with a living wage (\$40,000) are more accessible than ever.

- Most students can now take college classes in high school through free, or low-cost, **dual credit** classes
- Some **Early College High Schools** even allow students to gain an associate's degree while still in high school

The degrees that lead to a career in Central Texas include workforce certifications that demonstrate specific skills valued in the marketplace. For example:

The local Workforce Board reports 22,400 high demand jobs in our region paying, on average, more than \$33/hour. These jobs can be accessed with a locally-earned workforce certification

There are many roads that lead to a successful career and prosperous life.



Strategies to Invest in Your Education

While college is more expensive than ever, there are many options and ways to finance a degree or certificate. A postsecondary credential is still the biggest return on investment available to improve a student's future.

- 72% of Texans view U.S. student-loan debt as a major problem
- Total cost of Texas college increased ~\$650 for two- and four-year degrees (academic year 2016-17 to 2017-18)
- The average Texas college student borrows \$27,001, typically paid back over 10-20 years
- The median first-year earnings for a Texas student with a college credential is \$20,853 (academic associate's degree), \$39,725 (bachelor's degree), and \$50,827 (technical associate's degree)

We know that students who complete a FAFSA, seek other grants/scholarships, and have the necessary support, are more likely to complete their degree.

- 75% of Texans state that their investment in education has paid off when considering the value of a degree over a lifetime
- 87% of Texans agree that having a degree beyond high school will lead to a higher income

A student who does not complete a postsecondary credential of some kind earns less than \$30K/year, +seven years after high school.

- 81% of Texans said that their college education was somewhat to very useful in preparing them for a job or career

What is the best way to secure a degree without debt?

- Apply early, seek out all funding, including FAFSA and TASFA and secure a college coach/mentor
- Enroll full-time in a program that leads to high-wage, high-growth career

Education is an investment in one's own potential, and the benefits of completing a credential of any kind increase in value over a lifetime.



Education and Career Success is for Everyone

Higher education in the 21st century is more diverse than ever. In Texas, first-generation students make up about one-third of undergraduate enrollments.

- 75% of students in public institutions were not in the top 10% of their high school class
- Postsecondary completion rates increased 7% for low-income students and 10% for non-low-income students in the last decade

There is a pathway for everyone.

- 25% of undergraduates in Texas are over 25
- 329,700 new Hispanic students added to Texas public colleges (2000-2015)
- 97.7% increase in African-American enrollment (2008-2015)

Navigating postsecondary success requires these factors:

- Prep (career exploration; four years of math; campus visits; SAT/ACT/ TSI)
- Apply: online application platforms; deadlines; support
- Pay: FAFSA; scholarships; loans vs. grants

A crucial factor in a student's success is enrollment status: Part-time vs. full-time.

- Just six in 10 part-time enrollees return for second year of college, but more than nine in 10 full-time enrollees return for their second year
- One in five Central Texas high school graduates enroll in college part-time regardless of income
- 78% of ACC enrollees attend part-time

A student who does not complete a postsecondary credential within six years of high-school graduation, only has a 12% chance of earning a living wage.

Together, we have a unique opportunity to create a region where **every student finds a pathway to prosperity.**