

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

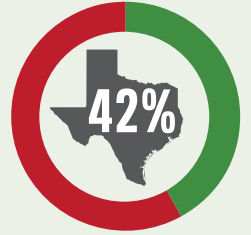


ARE CENTRAL TEXAS STUDENTS PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE?

HELP WANTED



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

14%



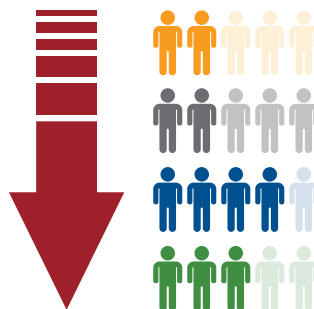
of our low-income Central Texas students complete a postsecondary credential within six years of leaving high school

12%



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

Higher Education Enrollment **Decreased** Since 2007 For All Groups



43%

CTX - Low Income

48%

TX - Low Income

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
- 29% of adults planning to return to school say they would choose a community college
- 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:

- Radiologic Technologist
- Associate's degree ~two years (63 credits); ~\$6,000 tuition/fees
- Salary: \$52,826; Annual job openings: 30
- 27 of 37 identified high-skill/high-growth jobs in Central Texas require a two-year degree or less.

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

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 TAFSA 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)

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.