



2019 PROGRESS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Making Progress

- Kentucky is on track to reach our 60x30 educational attainment goal. In 2017-18, the total number of undergraduate degrees and credentials increased 2.9% over the prior year. An average annual increase of 1.7% is needed.
 - KCTCS conferred 9,649 associate degrees in 2017-18, a 3% decrease over 2016-17.
 - Total bachelor's degrees grew by 2% to 23,666, with an 2.5% increase in degrees conferred to minority students and a 5% increase in STEM+H degrees.
 - Short-term certificates grew by 8%. This represents 541 additional students who completed a short-term certificate at KCTCS.
- Total master's, professional, and doctoral degrees increased by 9.4% to 11,640. Graduate degrees at public universities rose 1.4%, and independent institutions increased graduate degree production by 27%.
- The six-year graduation rate for public four-year institutions rose to 54.5% (up from 51.3%), while the three-year rate at KCTCS rose to 31% (up from 27.1%). While achievement gaps still exist, they narrowed for low-income and underrepresented minority students.
- KCTCS's completion rate exceeds the national average by 2.8 percentage points. The completion rate of Kentucky's four-year public universities (62.2%) is approaching the national average (65.6%).
- More developmental students are completing gatekeeper courses in English and math within a year of entry. Statewide, 45.4% of developmental students passed a credit-bearing course in English and 25.6% in math, up from 40.8% and 24.2% respectively.

Holding Steady

- First-year to second-year retention remained unchanged at public four-year universities (76.9%), and decreased slightly at KCTCS (from 54% to 53.3%).
- 63.9% of high school graduates entering KCTCS were college ready, the same percentage as last year. The percentage of college-ready students entering public universities declined slightly, from 88.8% to 84.9%.
- The average credit hours earned at graduation at public four-year universities remained around 138, higher than the national average of 135.
- The percentage of KCTCS associate degree graduates who transferred to a four-year institution increased from 38.8% in 2016-17 to 38.9% in 2017-18.

Challenges Ahead

- Kentucky's in-state college-going rate fell from 53.5% in 2016 to 53% in 2017, marking the third consecutive decline.
- Over the next few years, the number of high school graduates is projected to remain static, but by 2030, a 7% decrease in high school graduates is expected, which will hurt Kentucky's ability to reach the 60x30 goal. Enrolling and graduating a greater percentage of non-traditional adult students (25 and older) will be essential.
- Currently, about 1.2 million working-age Kentuckians do not have a college degree. Enrolling more of these students will be challenging, as the percentage of adult students enrolled has fallen from 4% in fall 2013 to 2.8% in fall 2017.
- State funding per full-time student fell to \$5,941 in 2017-18 and has declined 36% since 2007-08, the start of the Great Recession.
- Average net price continues to climb at Kentucky's public research universities, up from \$17,049 in 2015-16 to \$18,176 in 2016-17, the most current year available. Net price at comprehensive universities increased from \$10,298 to \$11,246.