

## GRADUATION RATES BY TYPE OF DEGREE (2009)

Enrollment indicates a potential supply of post-secondary-educated labor, but the actual supply depends on how many students complete their programs and earn a degree or a Certificate. In 2009, 81.9 percent of Berkshire's first-time full-time students who enrolled in Bachelor's Degree programs in 2003 had earned a Bachelor's Degree within six years, exceeding both the statewide and national graduation rates. But the six-year Bachelor's Degree graduation rate at public institutions (50.0 percent) was lower than at private institutions in the region, as well as lower than at public institutions in Massachusetts and the United States. The three-year Associate's Degree graduation rate at public institutions (18.3 percent) was fairly similar to the statewide rate but trailed that of the United States. The Certificate program graduation rate in Berkshire (75.8 percent) was based solely on private institutions and exceeded both statewide and national rates.

**Source:** National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System.

**Note:** Graduation rates are the number of first-time full-time students who completed their degree/program within 150 percent of the time expected to complete the degree/program as a share of the number of first-time full-time students that started the degree/program (e.g., a Bachelor's Degree is considered to have been earned on time if it is completed within six years or less, or 150 percent of four years). Comparisons of graduation rates to enrollments or degree completions can be misleading as the first-time full-time students are a small subset of the student population, particularly for certain degrees/programs. Graduation rates do not include part-time students and are excluded when there is an inadequate sample size of first-time full-time entrants for the degree/program to calculate a graduation rate. See the on-line Methodological Appendix for further details.

