

GRADUATION RATES BY TYPE OF DEGREE (2009)

Enrollment indicates a potential supply of workers with a post-secondary degree, but the actual supply depends on how many students complete their program and earn a degree or receive a Certificate. In 2009, about 75 percent of first-time full-time students in Boston/Metro North institutions earned a Bachelor's Degree within six years. This rate is higher than the statewide rate and substantially higher than the national rate, reflecting the high graduation rates of private institutions in the region. However, the six-year Bachelor's Degree graduation rate at public institutions (46.3 percent) is much lower than that in Massachusetts and in the United States. The three-year Associate's Degree graduation rate (18.6 percent) for public and private institutions is lower than the state's and nation's graduation rates. The Certificate program graduation rate is also lower in Boston/Metro North (60.8 percent) than it is statewide and nationally.

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 Methodological Appendix for further details.

