

GRADUATION RATES BY TYPE OF DEGREE (2009)

Enrollment figures indicate 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, 63.9 percent of the first-time full-time students in the Cape & Islands who enrolled in Bachelor's Degree programs in 2003 had earned that degree within six years. The rate reflected only public institutions and exceeded both the statewide and national graduation rates at public institutions. In contrast, the three-year Associate's Degree graduation rate from public institutions (9.2 percent) was much lower than the rate in Massachusetts (16.6 percent) and the United States (22.1 percent). The Certificate program graduation rate in the Cape & Islands (78.8 percent) exceeded both state and national rates, with higher graduation rates from both private and public institutions.

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

Note: Graduation rates reflect 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 enrollees 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.

