

**THECB Mission Statement**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board promotes access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency in the state's institutions of higher education, through *Closing the Gaps* and its successor plan, resulting in a globally competent workforce that positions Texas as an international leader in an increasingly complex world economy.

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## **2016 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac highlights successes as Texas enters new era in higher education**

**May 16, 2016 – Austin, Texas** – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board launched its sixth annual *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac* today as part of the agency's core function to promote transparency and accountability among Texas public institutions of higher education. The [2016 Almanac](#) provides higher education facts and performance data that allow users to compare Texas public higher education institutions. The data provide a snapshot of Texas' success in achieving the state's 2000-2015 higher education plan, [Closing the Gaps by 2015](#). The *Almanac* draws from data found in the agency's accountability system -- long recognized as a "best practice" national model for higher education performance data.

"The Almanac was originated by the Coordinating Board to more effectively communicate Texas higher education data," said Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes. "This data includes the many accomplishments achieved under *Closing the Gaps*. Now we have entered a new era under *60x30TX*, the state's new strategic plan that promotes innovative, student-centered goals of completion of high-quality credentials, identifiable marketable skills, and the ability to move students into the workforce without crushing loan debt. We won't reach our goals by doing business as usual."

The 2016 *Almanac* includes a statewide student debt profile. The amount of debt a student incurs can have a lasting impact on a student's life after college, and concerns about college costs and loan debt can impact the student's decision to attend and persist in higher education. The Almanac institutional profiles now include average student debt and percent of undergraduate students with debt. For public universities, the debt shown is for bachelor's graduates and is calculated by determining the average debt accumulated at all Texas institutions prior to graduation for those students with debt. All debt reported to the Coordinating Board is included, such as federal and state loans, parent Plus loans, and private educational loans. The average debt shown for public two-year college students includes these same loan categories and is an average for students with debt accumulated while earning an associate degree or certificate. Students reported with any debt in the categories noted above are included in the percent with debt calculation.

Also featured is an updated earnings profile with workforce earnings data highlighting individual first-year and long-term earnings for certain degree programs as well as a range of credential levels. Earnings data are derived from the Texas Unemployment Insurance Wage Record and include only those students who graduated from Texas higher education institutions and were subsequently employed in the state. The earnings data are intended to help illustrate the value of higher education, from marketable skills training and credentials to professional degrees.

To better help students and parents make informed decisions about the value of higher education, the THECB provides an online companion to the *Almanac* at [www.CompareCollegeTX.com](http://www.CompareCollegeTX.com). This interactive tool – funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation -- allows users to make side-by-side comparisons of Texas higher education institutions based on measures reported in the *Almanac*. Produced in collaboration with College Measures, this comprehensive, mobile-friendly tool also links to wage data for graduates by degree level and major for individual Texas public higher education institutions. The *Almanac* and [CompareCollegeTX.com](http://www.CompareCollegeTX.com) are designed to place the most relevant data and information on Texas public institutional performance in the hands of policymakers, students, parents and the general public. The THECB compiled and organized existing data for use in the almanac. Private funding paid for the design, printing and delivery.

## 2016 Key data and information

- Enrollment in all Texas higher education institutions (two-year and four-year public, independent, and career institutions) has **increased 58 percent** since 2000. (p. 17)
- The annual number of undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded at all Texas higher education institutions has increased by **122.6 percent** since 2000. (p. 17)
- Texas graduates who achieved a **bachelor's degree** in 2013, and were subsequently employed in Texas, earned an average of **\$41,464** during their first year after graduation; Texas graduates who achieved an **associate's degree** or **certificate** in 2013, and were subsequently employed in Texas, earned an average of **\$33,447** and **\$34,586** respectively during their first year after graduation. (p. 12)
- **Nationally, Texas has the third lowest average annual (?) tuition** at public, two-year institutions (\$1,898). (p. 6)
- Texas **ranks 20<sup>th</sup> nationally** in average annual (?) tuition at public, four-year institutions (\$7,476). (p. 6)
- Texas **ranks 28<sup>th</sup> nationally** in attainment of bachelor's degrees. (p. 6)
- Texas **ranks 44<sup>th</sup> nationally** in attainment of associate degrees. (p. 6)
- **59 percent** of full-time students enrolled at a public four-year university earned a postsecondary degree within six years. (p. 27)
- **23 percent** of students enrolled at a public four-year university attended part-time. (p. 27)
- **75 percent** of students enrolled at a public community college attended part-time. (p. 49)
- Of every 100 first-time degree seeking students enrolled (full- or part-time) at a public university, **58 students earned a postsecondary degree within six years; 31 students were no longer enrolled at any Texas institution and did not earn a degree at the six-year mark.** (p. 11)
- Of every 100 first-time degree seeking students enrolled (full- or part-time) at a public community college, **27 students earned a postsecondary degree or certificate within six years; 64 students were no longer enrolled at any Texas institution and did not earn a postsecondary credential at the six-year mark.** (p. 11)
- Of every 100 students who started at a two-year college and transferred to a university, **54** students earned a postsecondary degree within four years of transfer. (p. 15)
- On average, a full-time public university student needed **five years** and completed **138 credit hours** to attain a bachelor's degree that requires four years and 120 credit hours. (p. 13)
- Of every 100 students enrolled in the eighth grade in Texas in academic year 2004-05, **68** graduated from high school, **54** enrolled in higher education in Texas, and **20** received a higher education degree or certificate in Texas by August 2015. Within this group, only **11** percent of the economically disadvantaged students received a degree or certificate, compared to **30** percent of those not economically disadvantaged. (p. 14)