

Washington's Higher Education Participation Compared to Other States

National Percentile and Rank,

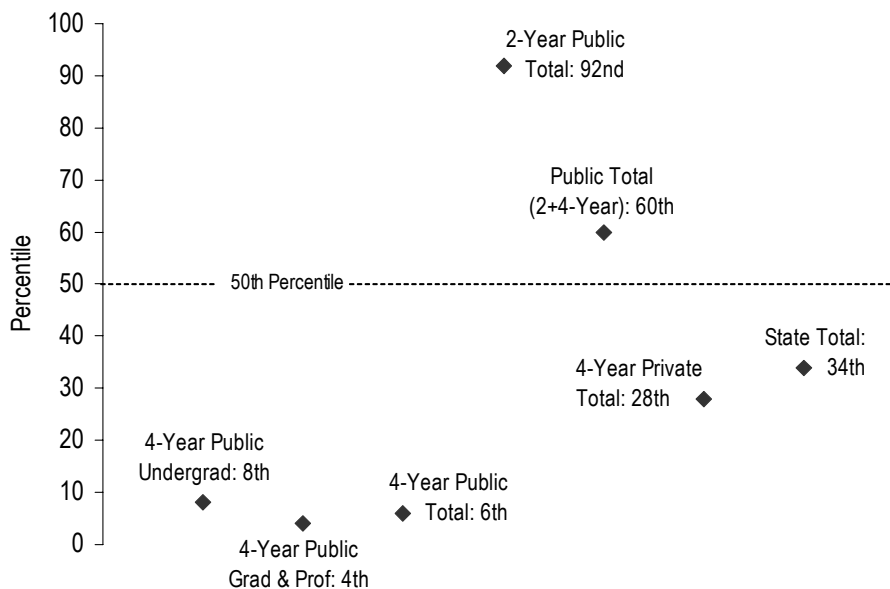
Participation Rates, Fall 2004

Institution Category	Washington Percentile	Washington Rank
Total	34	34
2- & 4- Yr. Public Undergraduate	60	21
Grad & Prof	74	14
2-Yr. Public	4	49
4-Yr. Public Undergraduate	92	5
Grad & Prof	6	48
4-Yr. Private Undergraduate	8	47
Grad & Prof	4	49
4-Yr. Private Undergraduate	28	37
Grad & Prof	30	36
4-Yr. Private Grad & Prof	40	31

- ▶ The National Center for Education Statistics publishes higher education enrollment data at the state level which allows for the calculation of state-level higher education participation rates. The participation rates calculated here are based on the population age 17 and over. The most recent enrollment data available are for Fall 2004.
- ▶ Overall, Washington's total system ranks 34th among the states in participation, while the public system ranks 21st. However, there are large differences in rank among parts of the system.
- ▶ Washington's public system of higher education is configured quite differently from those in most other states: Washington's public policy has been to fund a large number of two-year institutions widely dispersed across the state, while funding four-year institutions with main campuses in six locations plus six smaller branch campuses.
- ▶ Compared with other states, Washington's two-year public participation rate is high (ranked 5th), while its four-year public participation rate is low (ranked 48th).
- ▶ Although Washington ranks low in four-year enrollment, based on Census data, the state is ranked 10th in the percentage of its adult population with a bachelor's degree or higher. The migration to Washington of educated persons of working age to take advantage of economic opportunities in the state contributes to this high ranking.

Participation in Washington's Community & Technical College System Ranks High in Nation

Fall 2004 Percentiles



Sources:

NCES Digest of Education Statistics 2005, Table 197
 U.S. Census Bureau

Percent with Bachelor's or Higher Degree, 2005

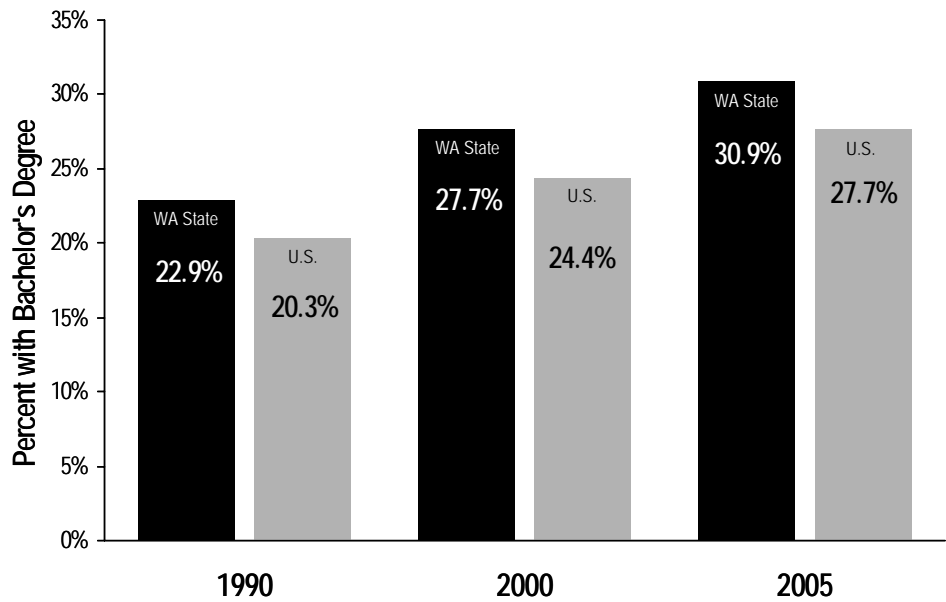
1. District of Columbia	46.9%
2. Connecticut	36.8%
3. Massachusetts	36.6%
4. Maryland	36.3%
4. New Jersey	36.3%
6. Colorado	35.5%
7. Vermont	34.4%
8. Minnesota	34.2%
9. New Hampshire	32.8%
10. Washington	30.9%
11. Virginia	30.6%
11. California	30.6%
13. New York	30.4%
13. Hawaii	30.4%
13. Kansas	30.4%
16. Utah	29.8%
17. Illinois	29.6%
18. Rhode Island	29.2%
19. Oregon	29.0%
20. Alaska	28.6%
21. Arizona	28.0%
22. New Mexico	27.4%
23. North Dakota	27.2%
24. Georgia	27.1%
25. Pennsylvania	26.0%
26. Idaho	25.9%
27. Delaware	25.6%
28. Texas	25.5%
29. Montana	25.4%
29. Nebraska	25.4%
29. Florida	25.4%
32. North Carolina	25.3%
33. Wisconsin	25.0%
33. Missouri	25.0%
33. South Dakota	25.0%
36. Michigan	24.6%
37. Iowa	24.5%
38. Maine	24.3%
39. South Carolina	24.2%
40. Oklahoma	24.0%
41. Nevada	23.4%
42. Ohio	23.0%
43. Indiana	22.6%
44. Wyoming	21.9%
45. Mississippi	21.8%
46. Tennessee	21.5%
47. Alabama	19.8%
48. Louisiana	19.6%
49. Kentucky	18.9%
50. Arkansas	17.5%
51. West Virginia	15.1%
U.S.	27.7%

Percent of Washington's Adult Population With a Bachelor's or Higher Degree

(Population Age 25+)

- ▶ Although Washington ranks low in the percentage of its population enrolled in four-year institutions, the state ranks high in educational attainment.
- ▶ In 2000, nearly 28 percent of Washington's adult population had earned a bachelor's degree or higher – the 10th highest rate among the 50 states.
- ▶ By 2005, over 30 percent of Washington adults had earned a bachelor's degree or higher and Washington maintained its 10th place ranking among the states.
- ▶ The Washington economy has usually outperformed the U.S. economy and provided relatively high wage job opportunities, attracting large numbers of well-educated migrants to the state. This contributes to Washington's overall high level of educational attainment.

Percent of Washingtonians with Bachelor's Degree or Higher Remains Higher than National Average



Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau: Educational Attainment 2000
 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (2005)