Male Completion in Texas Higher Education

The 60x30TX plan identifies males as a target population under its completion goal. In 2016, 135,849 males completed a certificate or associate, bachelor’s or master’s degree. By 2030, this number should reach at least 275,000.

Males are not completing credentials at the same rate as females in Texas higher education. In 2016, 58 percent of all certificates and associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees were completed by females, while only 42 percent were completed by males. This brief discusses the characteristics of the higher education gender gap in Texas.

2016 Completions by Gender

In 2016, females completed about 185,000 certificates and associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees, while males completed approximately 135,000. This 50,000-credential difference represents a 16 percentage-point gap.

The 60x30TX strategic plan identifies male students as a target population under its completion goal. In 2030, male completion should reach at least 275,000 out of 550,000 total certificates or associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees.

FY 2016 Public School Eighth-Grade Cohort Analysis (FY 2006-2016)

The eighth-grade cohort analysis shows there were more men than women enrolled in eighth grade in Texas public schools in 2006. The number of females began to surpass males in the completion pipeline by high school graduation. Seventy-six percent of females in the cohort graduated high school compared to 73 percent of males. By 2016, only 17 percent of males had completed a certificate or degree — 8 percentage points lower than females.
This graph displays the number of certificates and associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees completed in 2016 by race/ethnicity and gender. Males of all races and ethnicities were outpaced by their female counterparts in college completions, often by sizeable margins.

Both white and Hispanic females completed college in higher numbers than white males. The gap between male and female completion is highest among African American students. International students are the only category in which there are more completions among males than females.

The largest completion gaps by gender occur at the associate and bachelor’s levels, with 22 percentage-point and 18 percentage-point gaps respectively. The closest gender parity is observed at the certificate level — 51 percent of females and 49 percent of males completed a certificate.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board data indicate that, once enrolled, males and females exhibit different higher education consumption patterns. In 2016, males completed credentials within certain majors at higher rates than females. The charts below highlight selected programs with large gender disparities.

**Certificates and Associate, Bachelor’s, and Master’s Degree Completions**

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**Authors:** Joanna Warren, Intern, and Jenna Cullinane Hege, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Commissioner