2012 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac

A public-private partnership to improve transparency, accountability, and value of higher education in Texas

In 2004, under a directive of Governor Rick Perry, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) launched an online Accountability System for public institutions of higher education. Since then, the THECB has continuously improved the system to include more data and information — achieving national recognition as a "best practice" model for collecting and disseminating higher education data.

The *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac* represents the next phase in promoting transparency, accountability, and the value of higher education to Texas taxpayers. The *Almanac* is designed to place the most relevant data and information on institutional performance in the hands of policymakers, students, parents, and the general public. This effort represents a working collaboration between a state agency and philanthropic organizations dedicated to improving higher education in Texas – a true model for public-private partnership.

Key Data and Information

- Enrollment in all Texas higher education institutions (two-year and four-year public, independent, and career institutions) has **increased 53 percent** since 2000. (p. 10)
- The annual number of degrees and certificates awarded at all Texas higher education institutions has increased by **61 percent** since 2000. (p. 11)
- Texas **ranks 28th nationally** in attainment of a Bachelor's as a terminal degree. (p. 7)
- Texas **ranks 44th nationally** in attainment of an Associate as a terminal degree. (p. 7)
- Texas **ranks 27th nationally** in average tuition at public, four-year institutions ($6,350). (p. 7)
- Texas **ranks 3rd nationally** in average tuition at public, two-year institutions ($1,512). (p. 7)
- **22.6 percent** of students enrolled at a public four-year university were enrolled part-time. (p.26)
- **70.8 percent** students enrolled at a public community college were enrolled part-time. (p. 48)
- Of every 100 students enrolled (full- or part-time) at a public university, **57** students earned a postsecondary degree within six years; **30** students were no longer enrolled at any institution and earned no degree at the six year mark. (p. 10)
- Of every 100 students enrolled (full- or part-time) at a public community college seeking a degree, **27** students earned postsecondary degree or certificate within six years; **59** students were no longer enrolled at any institution and earned no postsecondary award at the six year mark. (p. 10)
- On average, a full-time student needed **5.3 years** and **147 credit hours** to complete a Bachelor's degree that requires 4 years and 120 credit hours. (p. 10)

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2011 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac