



2013 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.

Although the system has been nationally recognized as a “best practice” model for providing robust data about our public institutions, the current Accountability System is passive. Users must know where the data is and what data they want. In response to this challenge, the THECB launched the *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac* in 2011 as an effort to make the data more interactive and promote a higher degree of transparency to a larger audience. Additionally, it is designed to provide an annual status of gains made relative to the state’s higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. This is the 3rd annual edition of the *Almanac*.

This year, the THECB is providing an online companion to the *Almanac*, Compare College TX (www.CompareCollegeTX.com). Funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the interactive tool allows users to compare Texas public higher education institutions side by side on a wide variety of facts and performance measures reported in the *Almanac*. Produced in collaboration with College Measures, the tool also provides first-year earnings data for graduates by degree level and major for every Texas public institution of higher education. Texas is the first state to compile such an extensive set of data and turn it into an interactive and engaging resource for families and education advisors as well as legislators and policymakers. Most importantly, this comprehensive, mobile-friendly tool allows users to have easy access to the information from their smart phones and other mobile devices.

The *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac* and *CompareCollegeTX.com* represent the next phase in promoting transparency, accountability, and the value of higher education to Texas taxpayers. The *Almanac* and *CompareCollegeTX.com* are designed to place the most relevant data and information on institutional performance in the hands of policymakers, students, parents, and the general public. These efforts represent 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. 15)
- The annual number of degrees and certificates awarded at all Texas higher education institutions has increased by **69 percent** since 2000. (p. 16)
- Texas **ranks 25th nationally** in attainment of Bachelor’s degrees. (p. 7)
- Texas **ranks 44th nationally** in attainment of Associate degrees. (p. 7)

- Texas **ranks 25th nationally** in average tuition at public, four-year institutions (\$6,742). (p. 7)
- Texas **ranks 3rd nationally** in average tuition at public, two-year institutions (\$1,585). (p. 7)
- **22 percent** of students enrolled at a public four-year university were enrolled part-time. (p.26)
- **72 percent** students enrolled at a public community college were enrolled part-time. (p. 48)
- Of every 100 students who enrolled in a Texas 8th grade classroom in 2001, **19** eventually earned a higher education degree or certificate.
- 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, **28** students earned postsecondary degree or certificate within six years; **60** 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 years** and **142 credit hours** to complete a Bachelor's degree that requires 4 years and 120 credit hours. (p. 10)