

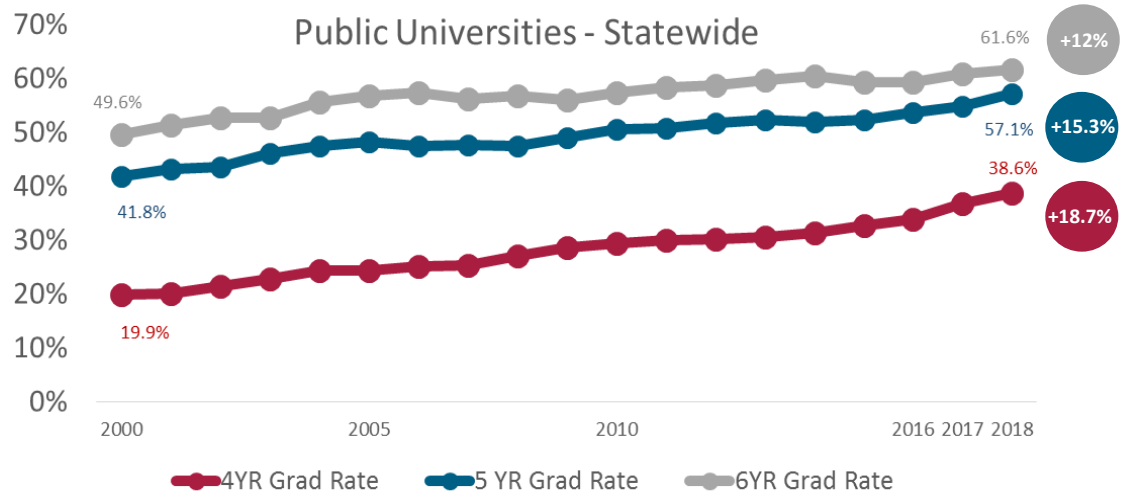
Graduation Rates in Higher Education Improve

February 2019

The completion goal in the 60x30TX strategic plan aims for the completion of 550,000 certificates or associate, bachelor's, or master's degrees in 2030. Increases in completions can stem from both growth in enrollment and improvements in graduation rates. Since 2000, Texas institutions have shown impressive increases in graduation rates. Further improvement, particularly in *on-time* graduation rates (four years at universities, two years at community and technical colleges), will be necessary to achieve the goals of 60x30TX.

University graduation rates: Public four-year institutions have demonstrated impressive gains in graduation rates, particularly four-year graduation rates, which have increased by nearly 19 percentage points since 2000. In 2000, fewer than 20 percent of first-time, full-time students graduated on-time. Five-year rates increased by 15 percentage points and six-year rates increased by 12 percentage points between 2000 and 2018.

A cohort of first-time, full-time students entering in a fall semester are tracked at four years, five years, and six years to determine graduation rates.

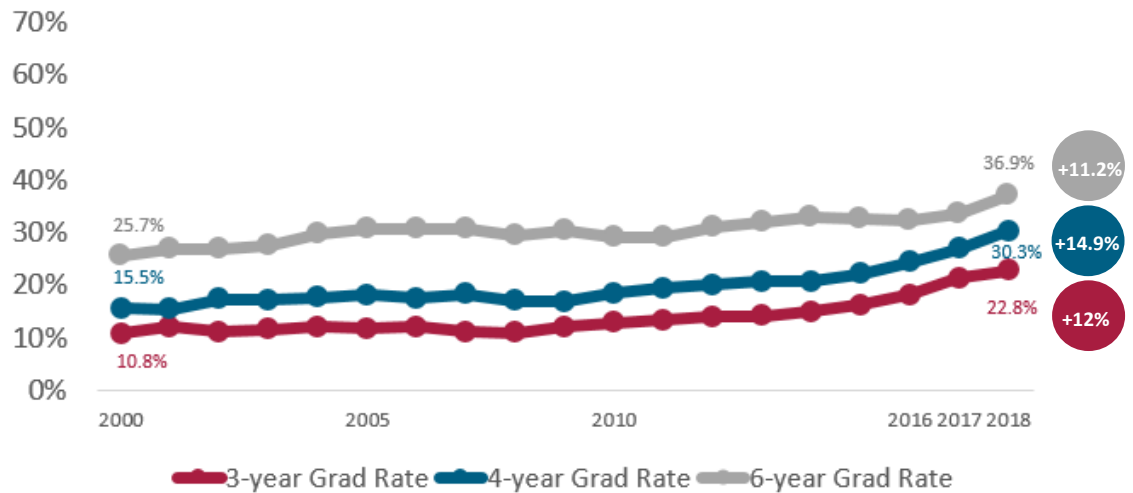


Since 2000, public universities in Texas have **increased** four-year graduation rates by **18.7 percentage points**.

Community College Graduation Rates: Community colleges have also shown gains in graduation rates. Three-year graduation rates have more than doubled since 2000 and four-year rates have increased 14.9 percentage points.

Public Community Colleges - Statewide

A cohort of first-time, full-time students entering in a fall semester are tracked at three years, four years, and six years to determine graduation rates.



Three-year graduation rates at public community colleges in Texas have **more than doubled** from 10.8 to 22.8 percent between 2000 and 2018.

Factors Influencing Graduation Rates

Full-time vs. Part-time: Graduation rates vary based on whether students are enrolled full-time or part-time. At four-year institutions, part-time students are much less likely than their full-time peers to graduate within four years (38.6% for full-time students and 26.4% for part-time). Six years following enrollment, the graduation rate for full-time students (61.6%) is more than 18 percentage points higher than part-time students (43.5%).

Transfer: Many students in Texas transfer, and statewide graduation rates shown above include both students who start and finish at one institution and students who complete after transferring. At universities, 53.3 percent of students started at and graduated from a single institution within six years of enrollment. An additional 8.3 percent of students graduated within six years after transfer.