



Summary of Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce's Pennsylvania Report

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Rising Demand for Postsecondary Education and Training

- By 2020 more than 60% of jobs in the state and nationally will require at least some postsecondary education, with over one-third of new job openings requiring a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- College graduates' share of Pennsylvania's prime-age workforce increased from 32% in 2009 to 35% in 2014, partly in response to increasing employer demand for educated workers.
- As a major producer of Bachelor's degrees in the state, Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (State System) is poised to be a key contributor to the Commonwealth's economic future.

Recent Bachelor's Degree Production by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

- Between academic years 2009 and 2014, the number of Bachelor's degrees conferred by State System institutions increased by 10%—a total that accounts for over one-fifth of those awarded in Pennsylvania.
- The growth of public colleges and universities in Pennsylvania has outpaced that of private colleges in recent years with over half of Bachelor's degrees in the state now awarded by public institutions.
- On average, State System universities cost residents receiving grant aid almost \$4,000 less annually than other public and around \$10,000 less than private Bachelor's degree-granting institutions.
- A higher percentage of State System graduates were Pell recipients (32%) than at other public institutions (28%) and private non-profit institutions (24%), but lower shares were underrepresented minorities (9%) than in these other sectors (12% and 11%, respectively).

College Majors and Economic Outcomes in Pennsylvania

- The highest earning majors in Pennsylvania are in areas related to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), health, and business. These were among the most popular State System majors and along with other top areas (education, humanities and liberal arts, and social sciences) account for more than 70% of the 14 universities' graduates.
- From 2009 to 2014, State System Bachelor's degrees awarded in STEM-H increased by 37% with this cluster comprising nearly a quarter of all graduates in 2014. However, the State System is still producing only 15% of all Pennsylvania Bachelor's degrees in STEM-H.
- Almost three-quarters of college-educated Pennsylvania workers live in the state's southeast or southwest regions, which comprise the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh metropolitan areas. Across major groups, the highest earnings in both absolute and relative terms are for those living in the southeast, where college-educated workers earn 93% more than their high school-educated peers and \$5,400 more than Bachelor's degree-holders statewide.
- Some popular majors tend to have strong links to specific occupational clusters, while others provide a more general education that prepares students for careers in a variety of areas. For example, more than half of education and health graduates work in an occupational area directly related to their majors, while humanities and liberal arts and social sciences majors were employed across a range of careers. Business majors fell somewhere in between with three-quarters working in a handful of associated occupational groups.

The report *Degrees of Value: College Majors and the Pennsylvania State System's Contribution to the Workforce* is available online at: <https://cew.georgetown.edu/states/pennsylvania/>.