Montana University System

Educational Attainment

Percentage of population (ages 25 to 64 years of age) with an associate’s degree or higher

College attainment rates are rising in almost every industrialized county in the world, except for the United States.

Montana must do its part to help ensure the U.S. remains competitive.

College!Now

The following are broad strategies designed to help Montana increase degree attainment.

Increase utilization of two-year colleges
- Only 28% of MUS undergraduates take advantage of lower cost 2-year colleges

Target non-traditional students
- 135,000 working age adults in Montana have some college credit, but no degree

Ensure ease of student transferability
- To increase transparency and ease of transfer, a common course numbering system is being implemented

Expand early college access
- Increase dual credit/enrollment opportunities for Montana high school students

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Degree Production in the MUS

MUS Degrees & Certificates Awarded, 2008-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree/Certificate Type</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of Applied</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degrees</td>
<td>1327</td>
<td>1352</td>
<td>1514</td>
<td>1797</td>
<td>2087</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baccalaureate Degrees</td>
<td>4554</td>
<td>4662</td>
<td>4672</td>
<td>4829</td>
<td>4703</td>
<td>4924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters Degrees</td>
<td>1007</td>
<td>1086</td>
<td>1059</td>
<td>1166</td>
<td>1221</td>
<td>1217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Degrees</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Degrees</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>256</td>
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<td>297</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7461</td>
<td>7706</td>
<td>7928</td>
<td>8525</td>
<td>8701</td>
<td>8888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Growth (num) -85 245 222 597 176 187
Annual Growth (%) -1.1% 3.3% 2.9% 7.5% 2.1% 2.1%

Source: 2012-13 MUS Data Warehouse (Including CC’s)

- If Montana continues to increase attainment at the rate it did over the last decade, the state is projected to have a college-attainment rate of 47 percent in 2025. (Source: A Stronger Nation 2014)
- By 2018, it is projected that 62% of Montana’s jobs will require some form of postsecondary education. 155,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors will need to be filled, 96,000 will require postsecondary credentials. (Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce)

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Updated: 5-19-14