



Education by the Numbers

Post Secondary Education

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Education has been an important part of the United States history. In the 17th century, the Puritans insisted that each town create a school. Thomas Jefferson advocated the idea that a democratic society needs educated residents. Education reform dates back to the 1800s when there was an increased demand for skilled workers. Education reformers have recently been pushing to provide educational opportunities for all citizens. It is documented that an educated citizenry is needed to help society thrive and improve social mobility, economic growth, and equity (Unauthored, 2010).

Tennessee Score (Mansouri, 2023) released data from a study advocating for training or education beyond a high school diploma. This report indicated that some education beyond high school is needed to prepare students for a career. Postsecondary education has become an important issue because of the growing need for competent workers for the job-market, for promotions or progress in a present role, and in general improving a person's quality of life (Rehman, 2022).

Postsecondary education refers to all education that takes place after completion of high school. This includes two-year or four- year universities and colleges, vocational, and trade schools. Postsecondary educational institutions can be privately funded, or state funded. Some institutions are small religious affiliate organizations while others could be secular, rural, urban, or suburban. Postsecondary education ends with a diploma, certification, or academic degree (Staff Writers, 2023).

Degrees Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions

Degrees conferred by postsecondary institutions, by control of institution, level of degree, and state or jurisdiction: Academic year 2020-21 (U.S. Department of Education, 2022).

Type	Public				Private non-profit				Private for Profit			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
United States	918,657	1,385,237	405,209	95,816	50,880	579,167	391,235	89,133	66,894	102,041	70,450	9,110
Alabama ^a	11,017	27,921	11,488	1,983	209	3,638	1,068	777	1,671	3,262	2,160	43
Arkansas ^a	9,363	14,500	5,255	1,118	286	2,585	521	229	25	16	18	0
Georgia ^a	17,879	43,382	14,787	2,789	993	11,244	5,015	1,873	1,094	1,888	1,442	240
Florida ^a	78,566	84,649	20,439	5,080	12,053	23,415	13,737	3,871	6,377	6,138	2,254	6
Kentucky ^a	10,827	18,351	6,009	1,898	297	5,038	8,104	773	1,046	862	157	70
Louisiana ^a	5,905	19,444	8,366	1,641	227	3,984	2,072	940	442	53	0	0
Mississippi ^a	13,326	14,803	3,531	1,156	34	2,500	2,075	401	11	16	12	0
N Carolina	32,969	44,349	13,306	2,810	664	14,132	6,992	2,479	318	404	266	15
S Carolina ^a	9,518	21,006	5,411	1,608	393	5,887	1,427	241	249	283	188	209
Tennessee ^a	13,532	23,135	6,041	1,949	1,161	11,762	5,903	2,420	1,614	629	294	182
Virginia ^a	18,927	40,302	11,768	3,450	1,549	18,289	13,491	3,217	3,272	3,020	1,347	23
W Virginia ^a	3,262	9,145	2,660	1,303	185	1,314	371	117	4,119	7,202	2,948	0

This data report postsecondary degrees conferred by institutions, level of degree, in the United States and the nine South East States.

Level of degree: Associate degree (1), Bachelor's Degree (2), Master's Degree (3) Doctor's degree (4). States represented in this sample are group as the Southeast Region of the United States (U.S. Department of Education, 2022).

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