

Tennessee

Alliance of States

Tennessee lawmakers capped a year-long effort to comprehensively restructure their state's system of colleges and universities with the January passage of the "Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010."

For more information on Tennessee's leadership in improving college completion, see:

www.tn.gov/thec

The early efforts of Gov. Phil Bredesen and other state policymakers positioned Tennessee to be among the first to sign on to Complete College America's reform agenda, and the bill signed into law on Jan. 26 can be a model for other states.

Big Changes

Among the reform's most sweeping changes is how Tennessee will fund its higher education system. Like most colleges and universities elsewhere, those in Tennessee receive state funding based on their enrollments. The new law changes that.

Within five years, Tennessee colleges and universities will receive state funding based on how many graduates they produce and how well their students are progressing toward their degrees. This funding system is unique and will make the state a much-watched test-case for accountability in higher education.

Bold Leadership

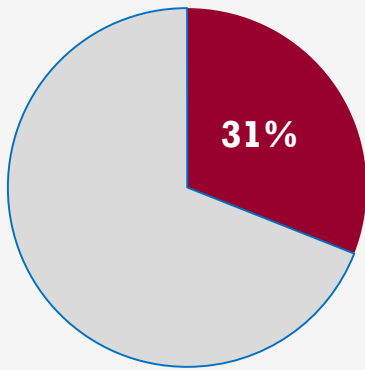
Another bold element of the Tennessee reforms includes the elimination of remedial programs at the state's nine public colleges and universities. Instead, all remediation will be conducted at the state's 13 community colleges through new dual-enrollment guarantees.

To facilitate those new partnerships, the state will develop statewide master plan for Tennessee's system of higher education. This will include bringing together the state's 13 community colleges together in a unified system with common and congruent courses.

Tennessee's completion strategies are a natural extension of its K-12 reform efforts. However, few states have taken such bold steps to focus their higher education institutions on successfully graduating more students, faster and at a lower cost.

Tennessee

By the end of this decade, more than 60% of jobs will require college education.¹



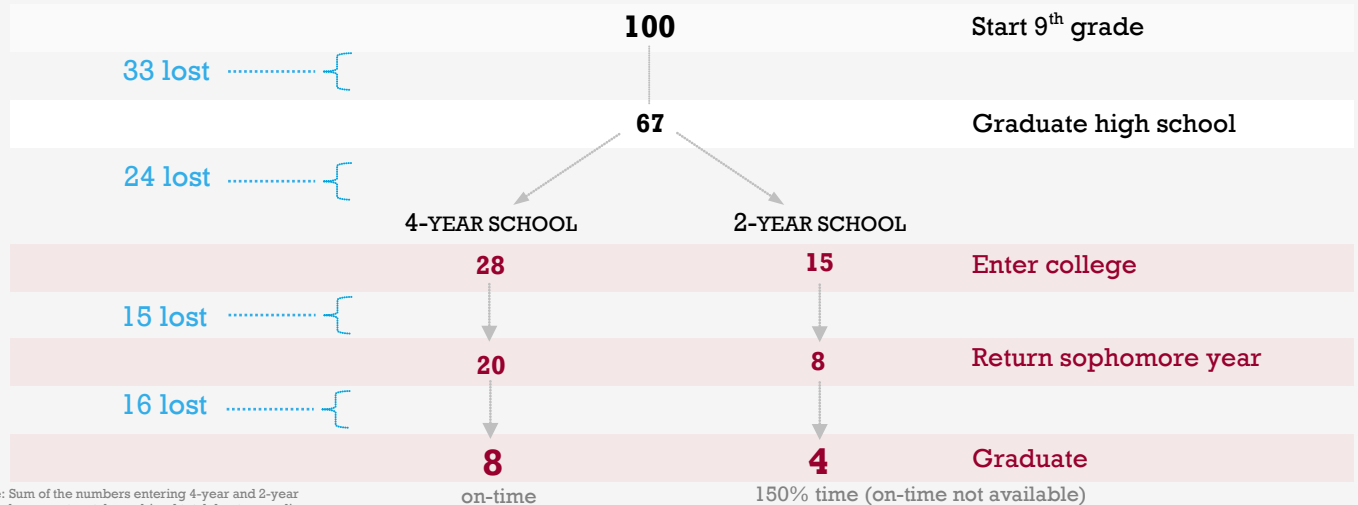
Today, 31% of Tennessee's adults aged 25-34 have a college degree.²

Job growth across the U.S., 2010-2020:

High-growth jobs	Required education
Dental hygienist	Associate degree
Computer software engineer	Bachelor's degree
HVAC/refrigeration mechanic	Certificate
Physical therapist assistant	Associate degree
Network systems analyst	Bachelor's degree
Licensed practical nurse	Certificate

Too many students get lost along the way, hindering Tennessee's economic growth.³

(This chart models how success rates at each stage impact overall educational attainment. It is not based on longitudinal data, but is an attempt—using a collection of available data—to illustrate the challenges states face.)



Note: Sum of the numbers entering 4-year and 2-year schools may not match combined total due to rounding.

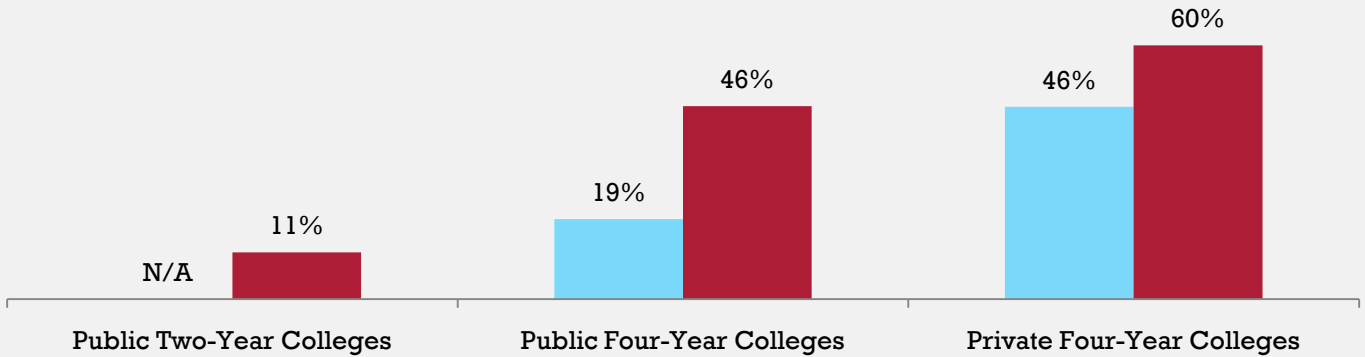
Tennessee

Graduation Rates

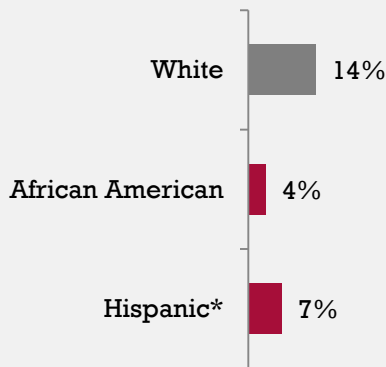
Tennessee must raise completion rates overall and place extra focus on closing the college attainment gap for underrepresented students. ⁴

Graduation Rates by Institution Type

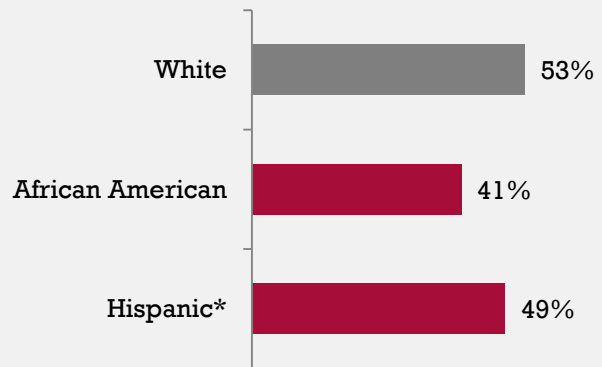
■ On-Time ■ Within 150% of time



Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity: Public 2-Year Colleges (150% time)



Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity: Public & Private 4-Year Colleges (150% time)

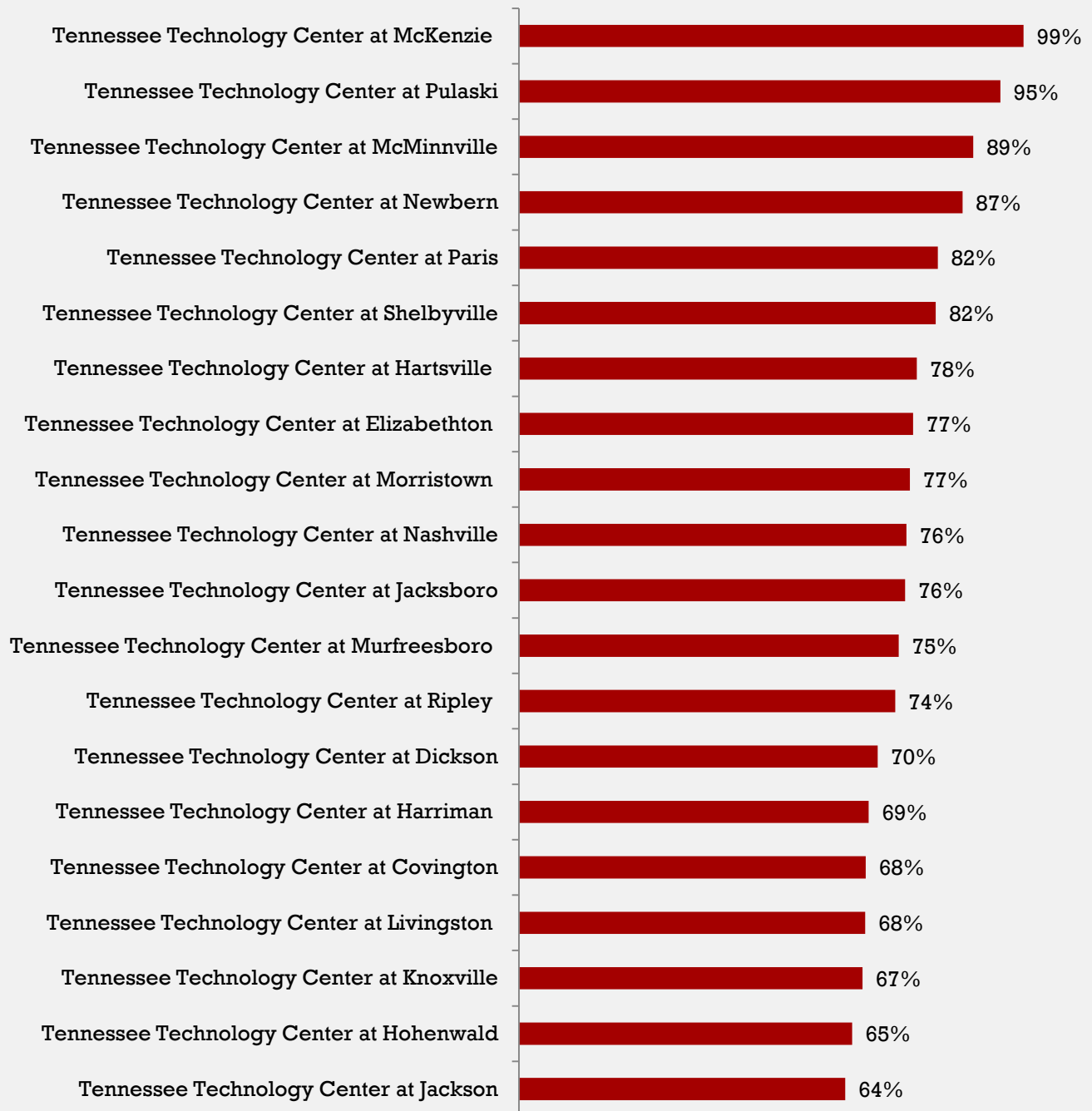


* less than 3% of entering cohort

Tennessee

Graduation Rates by Campus

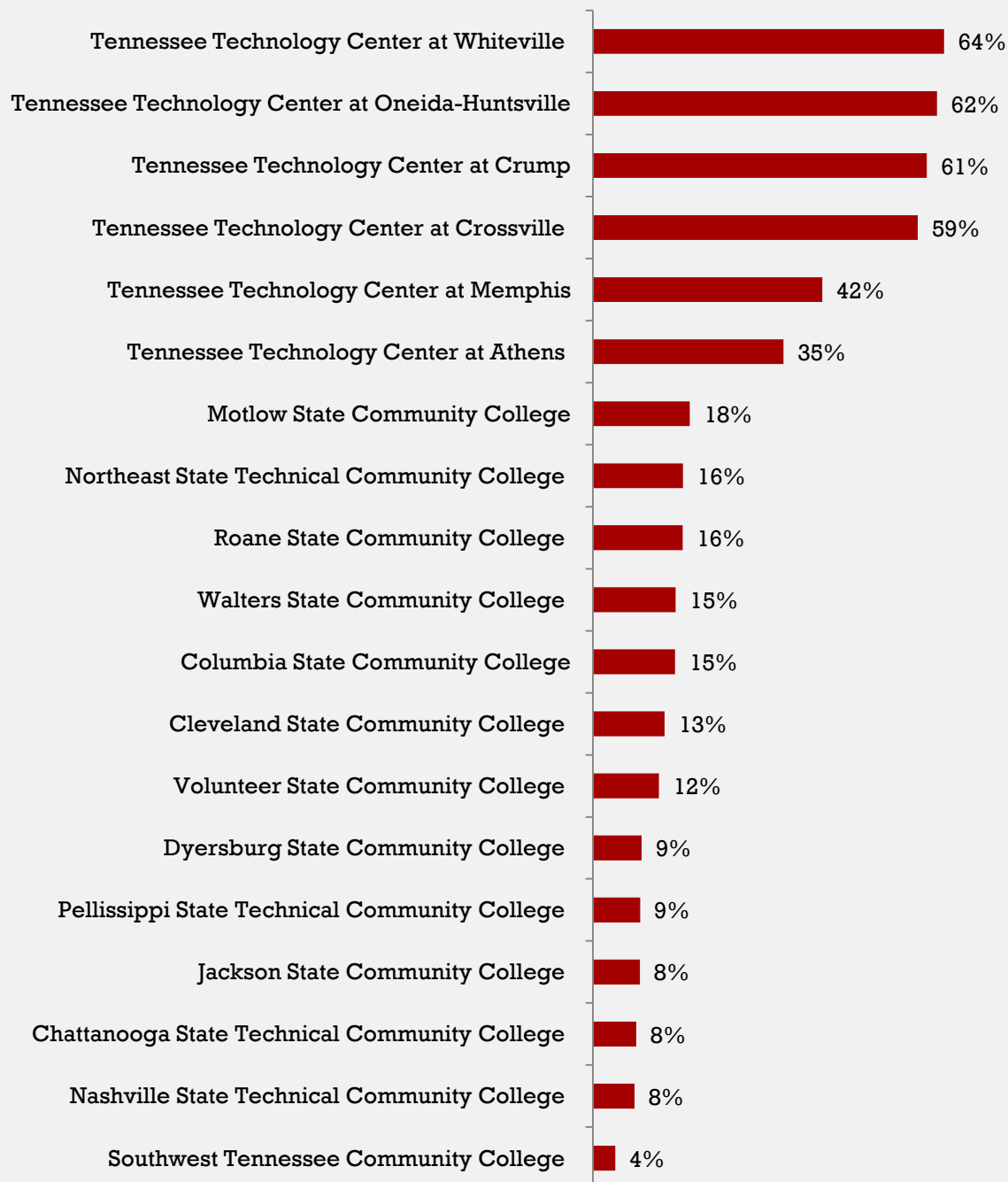
Public Two-Year Colleges (150% time)



Tennessee

Graduation Rates by Campus

Public Two-Year Colleges, Cont.

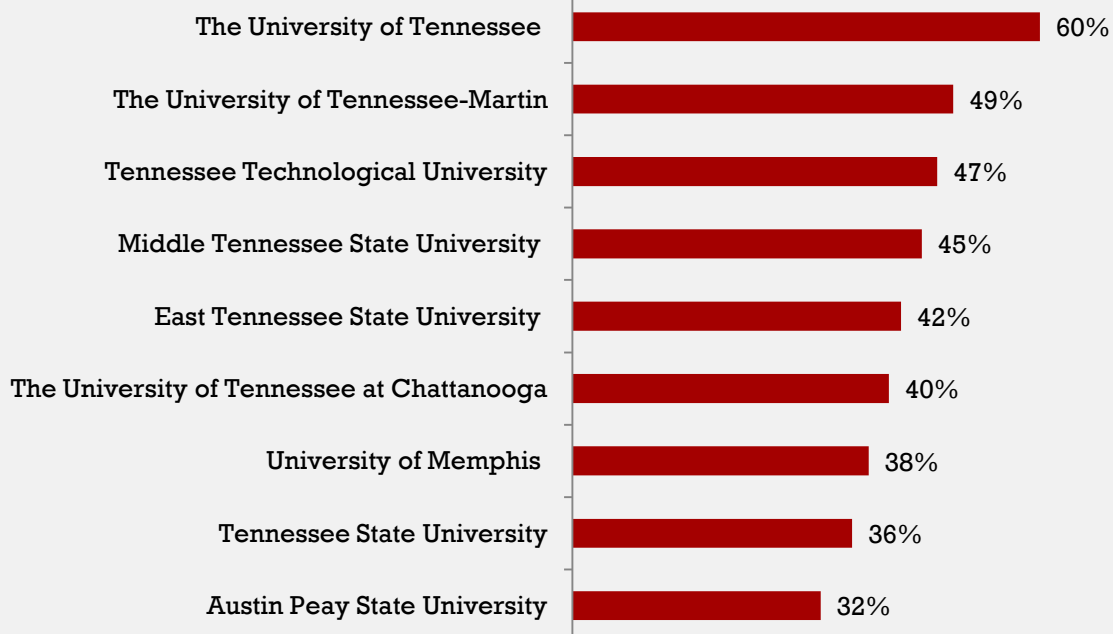


Reported by institutions to NCES Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Graduation rates for two-year colleges are for first-time, full-time students completing certificate or degree within 150% of normal program time. Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS 2007-08 Graduation Rate File; gr2008 Early Release Data File Downloaded 11-05-09; aggregated by NCHEMS.

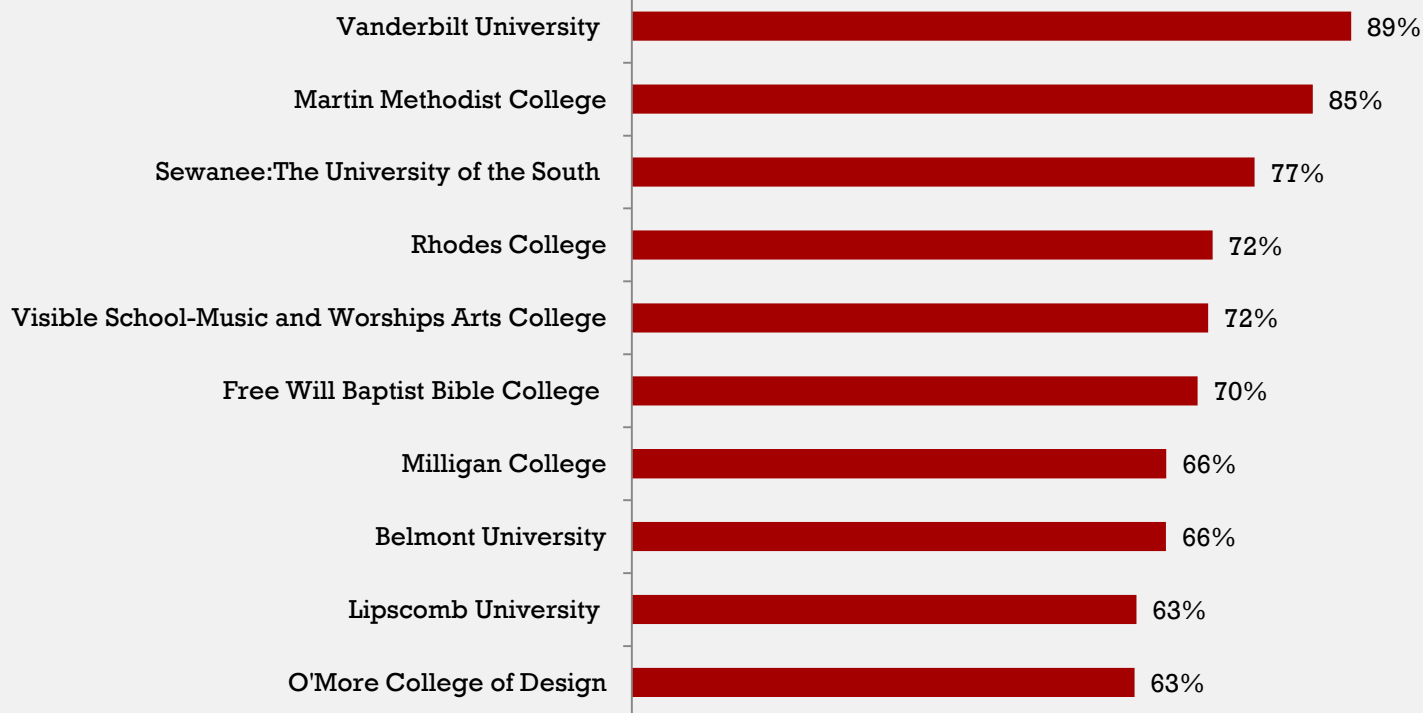
Tennessee

Graduation Rates by Campus

Public Four-Year Colleges (150% time)



Private Four-Year Colleges (150% time)

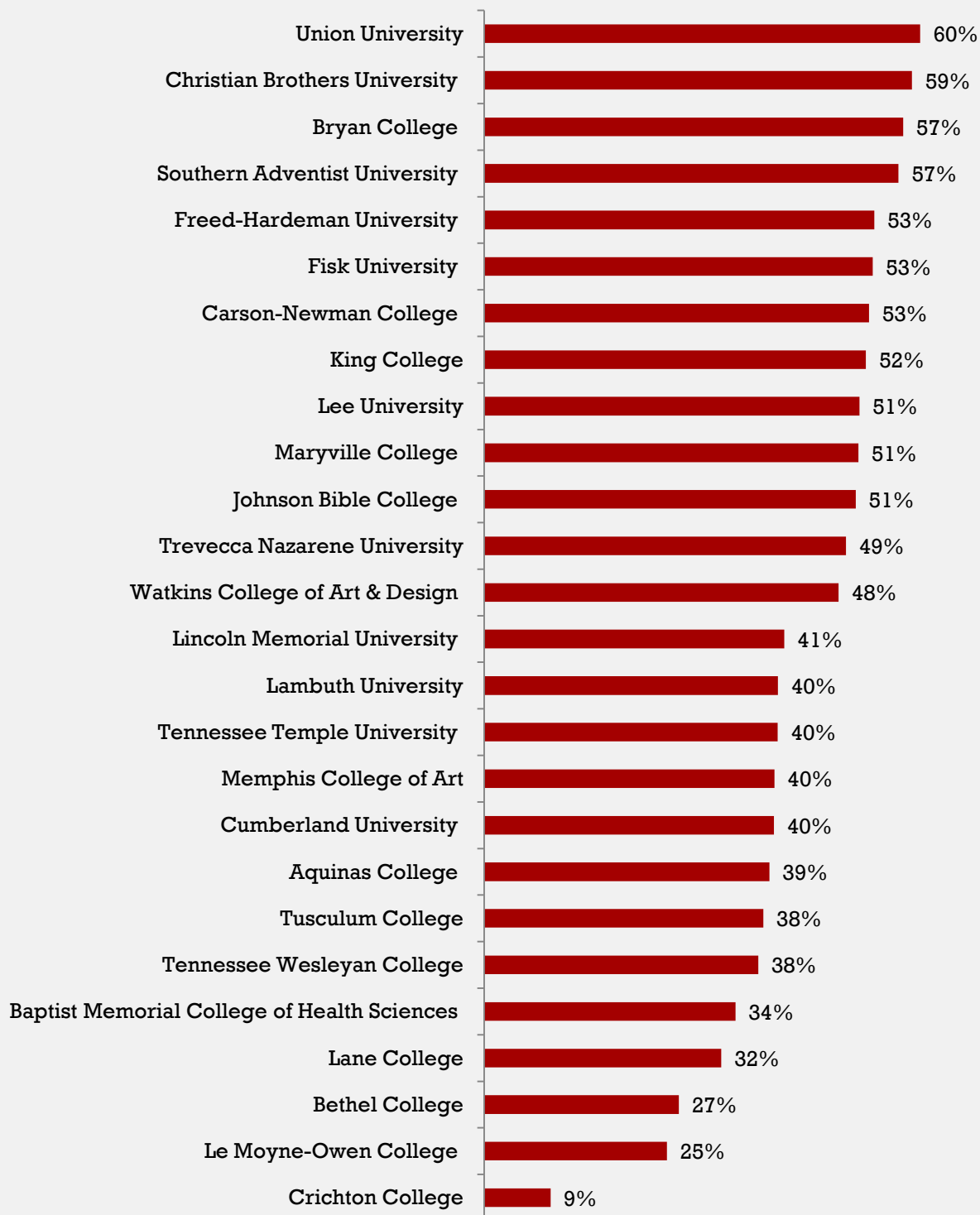


Reported by institutions to NCEIS Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Graduation rates are for first-time, full-time students completing a bachelor's or equivalent degree within six years. Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS 2007-08 Graduation Rate File; gr2008 Early Release Data File Downloaded 11-05-09; aggregated by NCHEMS.

Tennessee

Graduation Rates by Campus

Private Four-Year Colleges, Cont.



Reported by institutions to NCES Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Graduation rates are for first-time, full-time students completing a bachelor's or equivalent degree within six years. Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS 2007-08 Graduation Rate File; gr2008 Early Release Data File Downloaded 11-05-09; aggregated by NCHEMS.

Tennessee

A Note about Graduation Rates

The graduation rates presented here are based on data reported by institutions to the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). These rates reflect the percentage of first-time, full-time students who complete within 150% of normal program time. (Graduation rates for part-time students are typically much lower.) These data do not capture the graduation rates of transfer students—including those who begin at colleges with some credits already accumulated—or part-time students. Many states have or are developing longitudinal data systems that would be able to measure the graduation rates of all students, including part-time and transfer students.

The IPEDS data are presented here because they are the only nationally available and comparable graduation rates. Complete College America believes that states should make the improvement of data systems to more accurately measure completion rates—and the annual public reporting of those rates—a top priority.

ENDNOTES

¹ Carnevale, T., Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2009. High-growth fields based on national projections of total new and replacement jobs. <http://cew.georgetown.edu/research/jobs/79012.html>

² "College degree" means an associate degree, bachelor's degree, or higher. National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), 2008 (from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample File.) <http://www.higheredinfo.org/>

³ **The pipeline is a model for illustrative purposes and is not based on longitudinal data.** Pipeline data aggregated by NCHEMS: reflects high school graduation rates, college-going rates, college retention rates, and college graduation rates (using the most recent data available for each metric). For the high school graduation rate, NCHEMS uses NCES Common Core Data and divides high school graduates into 9th graders four years earlier. Future revisions will incorporate the cohort-based HS graduation rates that conform to the definitions of the NGA Graduation Compact (for states where those data are available), which are more accurate than the current ratio. The pipeline represents the number of students who graduate from high school within four years, enter college the immediate following fall, return for their sophomore year the following year, and graduate from college. Two-year college graduation rates reflect credentials earned within 150% of expected program time, and include certificates awarded for programs of less than two years; two years but less than four years; and associate degrees. Four-year graduation rates reflect **on-time completers** of bachelor's or equivalent degrees (**within four years**). The data do not account for transfers across institutions. <http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/index.php?measure=72>

⁴ Aggregated by NCHEMS from IPEDS 2007-08 Graduation Rate File; gr2008 Early Release Data File, downloaded 11-05-09. Graduation rates are reported by institutions to NCES based on adjusted cohort of first-time, full-time students. Two-year graduation rates include certificates completed within 150% of normal program time in addition to associate degrees completed within three years. IPEDS does not report two-year (or "on-time") completion rates for two-year colleges. Graduation rates by race aggregated by NCHEMS from IPEDS 2006-07 Graduation Rate File. Graduation rates for Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native students are included only if those populations represent greater than 5% of the adjusted cohort. Disaggregated graduation rates are excluded for populations with an adjusted revised cohort size of less than 30, even if that cohort represents greater than 5% of the total entering cohort. Note that 2008 overall graduation rates may be higher than rates reflected in the disaggregated data from 2007 based on differences in graduation rates between years. In each instance, "Private" refers to private not-for-profit institutions only. Graduation rates by campus are presented for Title IV, degree-granting institutions with an adjusted revised cohort greater than 30.