Global Competitiveness: What It Will Take for American Higher Education to Catch Up

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Differences in College Attainment (Associate and Higher) Between Younger and Older Adults—U.S. and OECD Countries, 2005

Differences in College Attainment (Associate and Higher) Between Younger and Older Adults—U.S., 2005

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey (ACS)
### Reaching Top Performance by 2025 (55%)—United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94,510,473</td>
<td>Number of Individuals to Match Best-Performing Countries (55%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>31,382,831</td>
<td>Number of Individuals (Age 25-44) Who Already Have Degrees</td>
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<tr>
<td>63,127,642</td>
<td>Additional Degree Production Needed (2005 to 2025)</td>
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<tr>
<td>40,605,747</td>
<td>Degrees Produced at Current Annual Rate of Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>7,045,932</td>
<td>Additional Residents with College Degrees from Net Migration</td>
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<td>15,626,080</td>
<td>Additional Degrees Needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>781,304</td>
<td>Additional Degrees Needed per Year (Currently Produce 2,135,924 in All Sectors)</td>
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<tr>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td>Increase in Annual Associate and Bachelor’s Degree Production Needed (in Public Sector Only)</td>
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</table>
How Can the U.S. Reach International Competitiveness?

Current Degree Production Combined with Population Growth and Migration and Improved Performance on the Student Pipeline Measures

- Degrees Produced 2005-25 with Current Rate of Production: 40,605,747
- Additional Degrees from Population Growth: 1,255,167
- Additional Degrees from Net Migration of College-Educated Residents: 7,045,932
- Reaching Best Performance in High School Graduation Rates by 2025: 1,265,118
- Reaching Best Performance in College-Going Rates by 2025: 3,270,900
- Reaching Best Performance in Rates of Degree Production per FTE Student: 7,347,209
- Total Degrees Produced 2005-25 If All of the Above: 60,790,073
- Degrees Needed to Meet Best Performance (55%): 63,127,642

Source: 2005 ACS, PUMS
Collective Cost to States, Assuming:  

*Tuition Stays the Same*

$31.0$ Billion = Annual Costs of Additional Students at Current $\$\text{per student}$

$78.2$ Billion = Current State Contribution

$39.7\%$ = Percent Increase in Annual State Support Needed
Average Cost to Students, Assuming: No Additional State Investment

$2,565 = Additional Annual Costs to Students at Public Four-Year Institutions

47.9% Increase in Tuition and Fees
(Currently $5,355)

$1,824 = Additional Annual Costs to Students at Public Two-Year Institutions

108.8% Increase in Tuition and Fees
(Currently $1,677)