North Carolina

PREPARATION

2008 Grade: B-  Change Over Time: Up
North Carolina has consistently improved its performance in preparing its young people for college.
- The proportion of 8th graders scoring well in math has almost tripled over the past 15 years, and the state is the top performer in enrolling high school students in upper-level math.
- About three-quarters of high school students are taught by qualified teachers, which compares well with top states.

PARTICIPATION

2008 Grade: D+  Change Over Time: Up
Despite improvements, college opportunities for North Carolina residents remain poor.
- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is fair, but has increased by 25% since the 1990s.
- Thirty-five percent of black young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 41% of whites.

AFFORDABILITY

2008 Grade: F  Change Over Time: Down
A fairly small proportion of residents have a bachelor’s degree, and this weakens the state economy.
- Sixteen percent of blacks have a bachelor’s degree, compared with 30% of whites.
- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about $18 billion higher.

COMPLETION

2008 Grade: B-  Change Over Time: Up
North Carolina performs fairly well in awarding certificates and degrees.
- Fifty-eight percent of college students complete a bachelor’s degree within six years.
- However, only 47% of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 62% of whites.

BENEFITS

2008 Grade: C+  Change Over Time: Up
A fairly small proportion of residents have a bachelor’s degree, and this weakens the state economy.
- Sixteen percent of blacks have a bachelor’s degree, compared with 30% of whites.
- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about $18 billion higher.

LEARNING

2008 Grade: I
Like all states, North Carolina receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?

State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.
State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

See back page for key indicator by category.

FOR THE COMPLETE STATE REPORT CARD AND MORE INFORMATION ON STATE GRADES GO TO WWW.HIGHEREDUCATION.ORG
This page reflects North Carolina’s performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

**PREPARATION**

The percentage of young adults in North Carolina who earn a high school diploma has increased since the early 1990s. High school completion is slightly below the U.S. average and below the top-performing states.

**PARTICIPATION**

College enrollment of young adults in North Carolina has improved since the early 1990s. The state is slightly below the national average and well below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor’s degree, has declined in North Carolina—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in North Carolina is slightly below the U.S. average and below the top states.

**AFFORDABILITY**

The share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen substantially. To attend public two- and four-year colleges in North Carolina, students and families pay less than the U.S. average but more than those in the best-performing states.

**COMPLETION**

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in North Carolina, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. North Carolina performs near the U.S. average but below the top states on this measure.

**BENEFITS**

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor’s degree has increased in North Carolina, but is below the U.S. average and well below the top states.

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**LEGEND:**

- North Carolina
- United States
- Median of Top Five States

*Key indicator for the category.*