
MEASURING UP

2006

**THE STATE REPORT CARD
ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

NORTH DAKOTA



**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION**

WHAT IS MEASURING UP?

The purpose of this state report card is to provide the general public and policymakers with information they can use to assess and improve postsecondary education in each state. *Measuring Up 2006* is the fourth in a series of biennial report cards.

Measuring Up 2006 evaluates states on their performance in higher education because it is the states that are primarily responsible for educational access and quality in the United States. In this report card, “higher education” refers to all education and training beyond high school, including all public and private, two- and four-year, for-profit and nonprofit institutions.

The report card grades states in six overall performance categories:

- **Preparation:** How adequately does the state prepare students for education and training beyond high school?
- **Participation:** Do state residents have sufficient opportunities to enroll in education and training beyond high school?
- **Affordability:** How affordable is higher education for students and their families?
- **Completion:** Do students make progress toward and complete their certificates or degrees in a timely manner?
- **Benefits:** What benefits does the state receive from having a highly educated population?
- **Learning:** What is known about student learning as a result of education and training beyond high school?

Each state receives a letter grade in each performance category. Each grade is based on the state’s performance on several indicators, or quantitative measures, in that category.

Measuring Up 2006 is the first edition that includes data in the Learning category for all 50 states on the extent to which colleges and universities prepare students to contribute to the workforce.

As in *Measuring Up 2004*, most states in 2006 receive an “Incomplete” in Learning due to the lack of reported information.

This year, however, nine states (Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, and South Carolina) receive a “Plus.” For more information on these states and the Learning category, see page 12 of this state report card.

In four of the performance categories—Preparation, Participation, Completion, and Benefits—grades are calculated by comparing each state’s current performance to that of the best-performing states. This comparison provides a basis for evaluating each state’s performance within a national context and encourages each state to “measure up” to the highest-performing states.

In the Affordability category, however, the United States as a whole is “measuring down.” That is, even in the best-performing states, higher education has become *less* rather than *more* affordable when the costs of attending college are considered relative to family income. As a result, state grades in the Affordability category are calculated by comparing each state’s current performance with the performance of the best states in the early 1990s. This comparison allows policymakers to examine their state’s results relative to other states, while also encouraging improved performance over time. The Affordability category is the only one in which no state receives an A—the highest grade is a C—.

Measuring Up 2006 also compares each state’s current performance with its own performance in the early 1990s. Although this historical comparison is not graded, it is offered so that states can examine their trends in performance—both improvements and declines—over time. All data are drawn from reliable national sources. (For more information, please see the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006* at www.highereducation.org.)

Measuring Up 2006 is the first edition that offers international comparisons that provide essential information on how well the United States and each of the 50 states are preparing residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete effectively in a global economy. Every state is compared with nations associated with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

A Snapshot of Change Over Time

Academic preparation for college has continued to improve since the early 1990s, which is approximately when the most reliable data became available for meaningful comparisons. High school graduates are, in general, better prepared for college today than their peers were about a decade ago, as indicated by a greater proportion of high school students enrolled in a college-preparatory curriculum and scoring higher on national assessment examinations. Most states, however, and the United States as a whole, continue to show little progress in translating these gains into improvements at the college level.

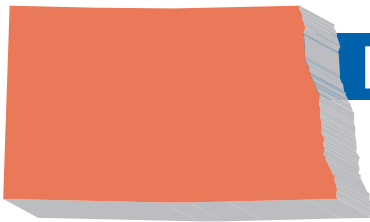
Preparation: 45 states improved on more than half of the indicators; 5 improved on some of the indicators.

Participation: 8 states improved on more than half of the indicators; 28 improved on some of the indicators; 14 declined on most or all of the indicators.

Affordability: 1 state improved on more than half of the indicators; 32 improved on some of the indicators; 17 declined on most or all of the indicators.

Completion: 35 states improved on more than half of the indicators; 13 improved on some of the indicators; 2 declined on most or all of the indicators.

Benefits: 40 states improved on more than half of the indicators; 8 improved on some of the indicators; 2 declined on most or all of the indicators.



NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota compares well with most states in preparing students for and enrolling them in college. However, the state is not as successful in providing college-level education and training opportunities for working-age adults. Since the early 1990s, colleges and universities in North Dakota have become significantly less affordable for students and their families. If these trends are not addressed, they could limit the state's access to an educated, competitive workforce and weaken its economy over time.

Strengths

Preparation

■ North Dakota's 8th graders are well prepared to succeed in challenging high school courses. They have consistently performed well on national assessments in math, science, and reading.

■ Low-income 8th graders have consistently performed very well on national assessments in math. However, North Dakota is one of only five states to show a decline on this measure over the past nine years.

■ Large proportions of high school students take upper-level math and science courses compared with other states.

■ About three-quarters of secondary school students are taught by teachers with an undergraduate or graduate major in the subject they are teaching, which compares very well with leading states.

Participation

■ North Dakota is the top-performing state in the chance that a 9th grader will enroll in college within four years, and has consistently performed very well on this measure over the past decade.



Change in North Dakota Since 1992



Preparation



Participation



Affordability



Completion



Benefits



Learning

What do the arrows mean?



The state has improved on more than half of the indicators in the category.



The state has improved on some, but no more than half, of the indicators in the category.



The state has declined on most or all indicators.

Completion

■ The percentage of first-year community college students returning for their second year has increased substantially over the past 15 years, resulting in the largest gains of any state on this measure.

■ A high percentage of freshmen at public four-year institutions return for their sophomore year. However, state performance on this measure has dropped over the past 15 years.

■ A large proportion of students complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled. Over the past 12 years, however, North Dakota has been one of only four states to decline on this measure.

Weaknesses

Preparation

■ A very small percentage of 8th graders take algebra. North Dakota has shown one of the steepest declines in the nation on this measure over the past 12 years.

■ Very small proportions of 11th and 12th graders take and score well on Advanced Placement tests, even though these proportions have more than tripled over the past 12 years.

Participation

■ A very low percentage of working-age adults enroll part-time in college-level education or training, despite substantial improvement on this measure over the past decade.

Affordability

■ Net college costs for low- and middle-income students to attend public four-year colleges and universities represent nearly 41% of their annual family income, and this percentage has increased since 1992. (Net college costs equal tuition, room, and board after financial aid.) These institutions enroll about two-thirds of college students in the state.

■ The state makes a very low investment in need-based financial aid compared with top-performing states, and North Dakota offers no low-tuition college opportunities.

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time

B-



North Dakota has made little progress in preparing students to succeed in college. This year North Dakota receives a B- in preparation.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

■ Large proportions of high school students in North Dakota are enrolled in upper-level math (53%) and upper-level science (34%).

■ A very small proportion (16%) of 8th graders take algebra.

■ Eighth graders perform very well on national assessments in math, science, and reading, indicating that they are well prepared to succeed in challenging high school courses. North Dakota is the top-performing state in science. However, 8th graders perform very poorly on national assessments in writing.

■ Low-income 8th graders perform very well on national assessments in math.

■ Very small proportions of 11th and 12th graders score well on Advanced Placement tests, and fairly small proportions score well on college entrance exams.

■ About three-quarters of secondary school students are taught by qualified teachers, which compares very well with top-performing states.

Change in Graded Measures

■ Over the past 12 years, the percentage of 8th graders taking algebra has decreased substantially—one of the sharpest declines in the country on this measure.

PREPARATION	NORTH DAKOTA		Top States 2006
	1992*	2006	
High School Completion (20%)			
18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential	97%	95%†	94%
K-12 Course Taking (35%)			
9th to 12th graders taking at least one upper-level math course	52%	53%	64%
9th to 12th graders taking at least one upper-level science course	34%	34%	40%
8th grade students taking algebra	20%	16%	35%
12th graders taking at least one upper-level math course	n/a	58%	66%
K-12 Student Achievement (35%)			
8th graders scoring at or above "proficient" on the national assessment exam:			
in math	29%	35%	38%
in reading	n/a	37%	38%
in science	41%	43%	41%
in writing	n/a	24%	41%
Low-income 8th graders scoring at or above "proficient" on the national assessment exam in math	22%	20%	22%
Number of scores in the top 20% nationally on SAT/ACT college entrance exam per 1,000 high school graduates	166	170	237
Number of scores that are 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement subject test per 1,000 high school juniors and seniors	14	54	217
Teacher Quality (10%)			
7th to 12th graders taught by teachers with a major in their subject	64%	73%	81%

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

†Ninety-one percent of 18-24-year-olds have a regular high school diploma; 4% have a GED. The numbers shown for a regular high school diploma and a GED may not exactly equal the number for a high school credential due to rounding.

■ The state has consistently performed very well on national assessments in math over the past 13 years, and in science over the past nine years.

■ The performance of low-income 8th graders on national assessments in math has decreased substantially over the past nine years, and North Dakota is one of only five states to decline on this measure. Nonetheless, low-income 8th graders in this state have consistently performed very well in math.

■ The proportions of 11th and 12th graders taking and scoring well on Advanced Placement tests have more than tripled over the past 12 years, although the state's current performance on this measure is very low compared with other states.

Other Key Facts

■ About 16% of children under age 18 live in poverty, compared with a national rate of 18%.

Note

North Dakota has a large concurrent enrollment program through which high school students can accumulate college course credits.

The preparation category measures how well a state's K–12 schools prepare students for education and training beyond high school. The opportunities that residents have to enroll in and benefit from higher education depend heavily on the performance of their state's K–12 educational system.

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time

A



North Dakota has shown notable improvement in its already strong performance in enrolling students in higher education. This year North Dakota receives an A in participation.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

■ North Dakota is the best-performing state in the chance of high school students enrolling in college by age 19.

■ However, a very small percentage of working-age adults (ages 25 to 49) are enrolled part-time in college-level education or training.

Change in Graded Measures

Over the past decade:

■ North Dakota has consistently performed very well in the chance of high school students enrolling in college by age 19.

■ The percentage of working-age adults who are enrolled part-time in college-level education or training has increased by 16%, which is among the largest increases in the nation. Nonetheless, the state's current performance on this measure remains very low compared with other states.

PARTICIPATION	NORTH DAKOTA		Top States 2006
	1992*	2006	
Young Adults (60%)			
Chance for college by age 19	58%	62%	53%
18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college	39%	41%	41%
Working-Age Adults (40%)			
25- to 49-year-olds enrolled part-time in any type of postsecondary education	2.5%	2.9%	5.1%

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

Other Key Facts

■ The state's population is projected to decrease by 1% from 2005 to 2020, in contrast to a national increase of 14%. During approximately the same period, the number of high school graduates is projected to decline by 31%.

■ About 11% of the adult population has less than a high school diploma or its equivalent, compared with 14% of adults nationwide.

■ In North Dakota, 1,766 more students are entering the state than are leaving to attend college.

The participation category addresses the opportunities for state residents to enroll in higher education. A strong grade in participation generally indicates that state residents have high individual expectations for education and that the state provides enough spaces and types of educational programs for its residents.

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time



North Dakota has lost considerable ground in making higher education affordable. North Dakota receives an F in affordability this year.

Graded Information

■ Compared with top-performing states, families in North Dakota devote a very large share of family income, even after financial aid, to attend public four-year colleges and universities, which enroll 66% of college students in the state.

■ The state's investment in need-based financial aid is very low when compared with top-performing states, and North Dakota does not offer low-priced college opportunities.

■ Undergraduate students borrowed on average \$3,110 in 2005, one of the lowest amounts in the nation.

Change in Graded Measures

■ Over the past several years, the share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college expenses at public four-year institutions has increased from 19% to 28%.

Other Key Facts

■ In North Dakota, 66% of students are enrolled in public four-year colleges and universities.

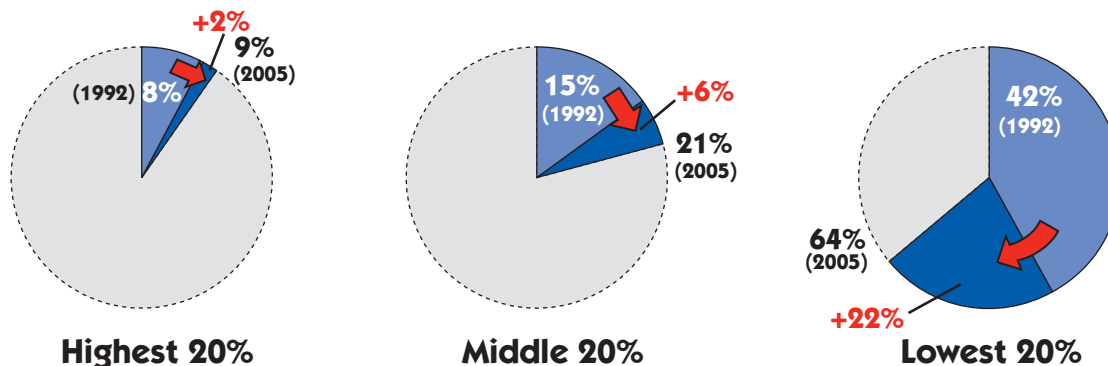
AFFORDABILITY	NORTH DAKOTA		Top States In Early 1990s
	1992*	2006	
Family Ability to Pay (50%)			
Percent of income (average of all income groups) needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid:			
at community colleges	20%	24%	15%
at public 4-year colleges/universities	19%	28%	16%
at private 4-year colleges/universities	24%	31%	32%
Strategies for Affordability (40%)			
State investment in need-based financial aid as compared to the federal investment	8%	4%	89%
At lowest-priced colleges, the share of income that the poorest families need to pay for tuition	20%	25%	7%
Reliance on Loans (10%)			
Average loan amount that undergraduate students borrow each year	\$2,596	\$3,110	\$2,619

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

Note: In the affordability category, the lower the figures the better the performance for all indicators except for "State investment in need-based financial aid."

The affordability category measures whether students and families can afford to pay for higher education, given income levels, financial aid, and the types of colleges and universities in the state.

College in North Dakota Has Become Less Affordable, Particularly for Low-Income Families (1992–2005)



Net costs to attend public 4-year colleges as a share of income for different income families.

Financial Burden to Pay for College Varies Widely Among Different Income Families in the State

Those who are striving to reach or stay in the middle class—the 40% of the population with the lowest incomes—earn on average \$19,959 each year.

Note

The numbers shown for tuition, room, and board minus financial aid may not exactly equal net college cost due to rounding.

■ If a student from such a family were to attend a public four-year college in the state, their net cost to attend college would represent about 41% of their income annually:

Tuition, room, and board:	\$9,850
Financial aid received:	−\$1,717
Net college cost:	\$8,133
Percent of income:	41%

A CLOSER LOOK AT FAMILY ABILITY TO PAY	Average family income	Community colleges		Public 4-year colleges/universities		Private 4-year colleges/universities	
		Net college cost*	Percent of income needed to pay net college cost	Net college cost*	Percent of income needed to pay net college cost	Net college cost*	Percent of income needed to pay net college cost
Income groups used to calculate 2006 family ability to pay							
20% of the population with the lowest income	\$12,111	\$6,852	57%	\$7,794	64%	\$8,217	68%
20% of the population with lower-middle income	\$27,806	\$7,312	26%	\$8,472	30%	\$9,603	35%
20% of the population with middle income	\$44,719	\$7,702	17%	\$9,238	21%	\$10,878	24%
20% of the population with upper-middle income	\$64,550	\$7,811	12%	\$9,333	14%	\$11,211	17%
20% of the population with the highest income	\$101,708	\$7,833	8%	\$9,378	9%	\$11,392	11%
40% of the population with the lowest income	\$19,959	\$7,082	35%	\$8,133	41%	\$8,910	45%

*Net college cost equals tuition, room, and board, minus financial aid.

2006
GradeChange
Over Time

B



North Dakota continues to perform well in the proportion of students earning a certificate or degree in a timely manner. This year North Dakota receives a B in completion.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- Only a fair percentage (48%) of first-year students in community colleges return for their second year.
- However, a large percentage (71%) of freshmen at four-year colleges and universities return for their sophomore year.
- Only a fair percentage (48%) of first-time, full-time college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years of enrolling in college.
- A large proportion of students complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled.

Change in Graded Measures

- Over the past 15 years, the percentage of first-year community college students returning for their second year has increased substantially, making North Dakota the fastest-improving state on this measure.
- During the same period, however, the percentage of freshmen at four-year colleges and universities returning for their sophomore year has declined.
- Over the past seven years, the percentage of first-time, full-time college students earning a bachelor's degree within six years of enrolling in college has increased by 10%, compared with a nationwide increase of 6%.
- Nonetheless, North Dakota was one of only four states to decline over the past 12 years in the proportion of students completing certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled. The state declined on this measure by 10%, in contrast to a nationwide increase of 18%.

COMPLETION	NORTH DAKOTA		Top States 2006
	1992*	2006	
Persistence (20%)†			
1st year community college students returning their second year	35%	48%	62%
Freshmen at 4-year colleges/universities returning their sophomore year	74%	71%	82%
Completion (80%)			
First-time, full-time students completing a bachelor's degree within 6 years of college entrance	43%	48%	64%
Certificates, degrees, and diplomas awarded at all colleges and universities per 100 undergraduate students	20	18	20

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available.

†2006 data may not be entirely comparable with data from previous years.

See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

The completion category addresses whether students continue through their educational programs and earn certificates or degrees in a timely manner. Certificates and degrees from one- and two-year programs as well as the bachelor's degree are included.

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time

C+



Despite substantial gains, North Dakota continues to lag many other states in realizing the benefits that come from having a more highly educated population. North Dakota earns a C+ in benefits this year.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

■ Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this substantially weakens the state economy.

■ However, residents contribute substantially to the civic good, as measured by charitable giving and voting.

Change in Graded Measures

■ Over the past 12 years, North Dakota has consistently performed very well on the percentage of residents voting when compared with other states.

Other Key Facts

■ If all ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total personal income in the state would be about \$120 million higher.

■ In 2002, North Dakota scored 46 on the New Economy Index, compared to a nationwide score of 60. The New Economy Index, developed by the Progressive Policy Institute, measures the extent to which states are participating in knowledge-based industries.

■ Policymakers and state residents do not have access to important information about high-level literacy skills because the state has declined to participate in the national literacy survey.

BENEFITS	NORTH DAKOTA		Top States 2006
	1992*	2006	
Educational Achievement (37.5%)			
Population aged 25 to 65 with a bachelor's degree or higher	23%	28%	37%
Economic Benefits (31.25%)			
Increase in total personal income as a result of the percentage of the population holding a bachelor's degree	6%	6%	12%
Increase in total personal income as a result of the percentage of the population with some college (including an associate's degree), but not a bachelor's degree	1%	2%	3%
Civic Benefits (31.25%)			
Residents voting in national elections	66%	64%	64%
Of those who itemize on federal income taxes, the percentage declaring charitable gifts	89%	85%	91%
Increase in volunteering rate as a result of college education	n/a	14%	22%
Adult Skill Levels (0%)*			
Adults demonstrating high-level literacy skills:			
quantitative	26%	32%	33%
prose	24%	29%	33%
document	22%	27%	28%

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

†These are estimates from *Measuring Up 2004* and are not used to calculate grades. New data will be available in fall 2006.

The benefits category measures the economic and societal benefits that the state receives as the result of having well educated residents.

2006
Grade



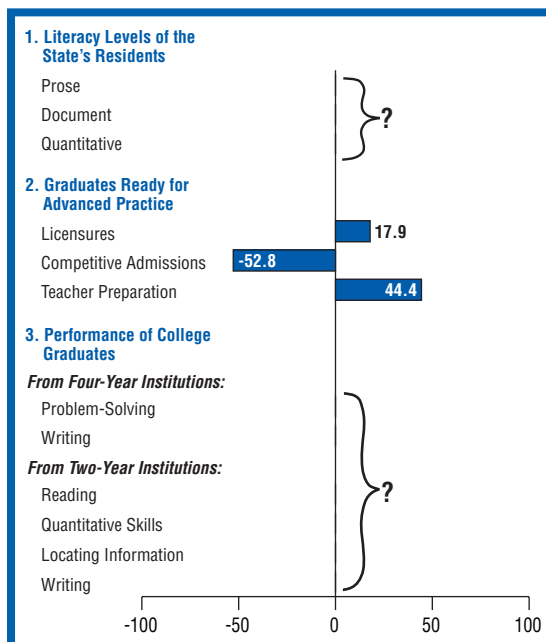
Like most states, North Dakota receives an “Incomplete” in Learning because insufficient data would not allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons. However, data are available this year to examine the readiness of college graduates—from two- and four-year institutions—for advanced practice. State results are described below.

In *Measuring Up 2006*, data are available, for the first time, for all fifty states on “Graduates Ready for Advanced Practice” indicators (see chart). In the 2004 edition of *Measuring Up*, state-level results on all Learning indicators were reported for five states (Illinois, Kentucky, Nevada, Oklahoma, and South Carolina) that participated in a pilot project directed by the National Forum on College-Level Learning and funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.* This project evaluated state performance in Learning on three topics:

1. Literacy Levels of the State’s Residents. These indicators answer the question, “What are the abilities of the state’s college-educated population?” The answer provides information about the level of “educational capital” the state can count on to develop a competitive 21st-century workforce and a responsible citizenry.

2. Graduates Ready for Advanced Practice. These indicators address the question, “To what extent do colleges and universities in the state educate students to contribute to the workforce?” These measures examine how well prepared state college and university graduates are to enter a licensed profession or participate in graduate study.

3. Performance of College Graduates. These indicators address the question, “How effectively can college and university graduates in the state communicate and solve problems?” The ability of college graduates to perform complex academic and real-world tasks is the “bottom line” in Learning. This can only be determined by common direct assessments of college graduate abilities.



Note: Measures under the third cluster will require special data collection efforts similar to those undertaken by the five pilot project states in 2004.

Measuring Up 2006 employs the same methodology for Learning as used in the 2004 edition of *Measuring Up*. Overall state performance is illustrated by a bar chart for each state. In the chart, the data for each indicator are represented by a bar showing the number of percentage points the state performed above or below the national average.

The overall picture for *Measuring Up 2006* remains incomplete. While “Graduates Ready for Advanced Practice” results can be reported for all states, results for “Literacy Levels of State’s Residents” can only be calculated for five of the six states that participated in a state-level version of the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (SAAL) conducted in 2003. Results for “Performance of College Graduates”, reported in the 2004

edition of *Measuring Up*, were based on assessments administered to representative samples of college students in each of the five pilot project states. These measures were not updated for 2006.

North Dakota Results

North Dakota is well above the national benchmark in work-force preparation as reflected in professional licensure examinations. About 12% more North Dakota graduates take such examinations than is typical nationally, and their pass rate is 5% above the national average. North Dakota is far below the national benchmark in preparing students for

graduate study as reflected in graduate admissions examinations. Only about one-half as many of the state’s graduates take such examinations as is typical nationally, and the proportion earning competitive scores is about 5% below the national average. Finally, North Dakota is almost 45% above the national benchmark with respect to pass rates on the state’s teacher examinations.

North Dakota did not participate in the SAAL, so no results on literacy are available.

*More information on the National Forum on College-Level Learning can be obtained at http://www.highereducation.org/reports/mu_learning/index.shtml.

How North Dakota Measures Up Internationally

Participation*

■ About 49% of young adults, ages 18 to 24, in North Dakota are currently enrolled in college. When compared internationally, North Dakota's enrollment rate surpasses all countries with data on this measure.

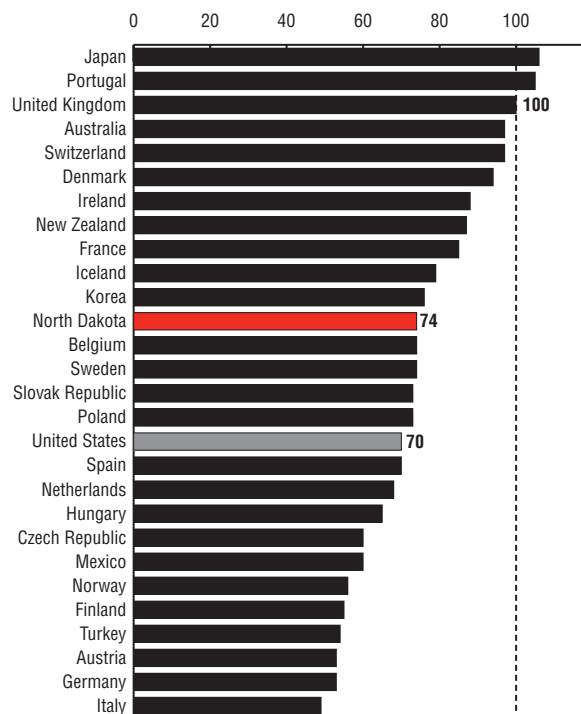
Completion

■ When compared internationally, North Dakota is surpassed by many countries in the proportion of students who complete certificates or degrees. With 18 out of 100 students enrolled completing a degree or certificate, North Dakota's completion rate is only 74% of the rate in the United Kingdom, the top-performing country on this measure, where 24 out of 100 students complete certificates or degrees. North Dakota also lags Japan, Portugal, Australia, Switzerland, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, France, Iceland, and Korea (see figure 1).

Educational Level of Adult Population

■ Internationally, the proportion of younger adults, ages 25 to 34, with a college degree in North Dakota is only 89% of the proportion in Japan, the top-performing nation on this measure. North Dakota is also surpassed by Canada and Korea.

Figure 1. Total Degrees/Certificates Awarded Per 100 Students Enrolled, 2004



*This measure includes both undergraduate and graduate enrollment, whereas the similar indicator in the graded category only reports undergraduate enrollment.

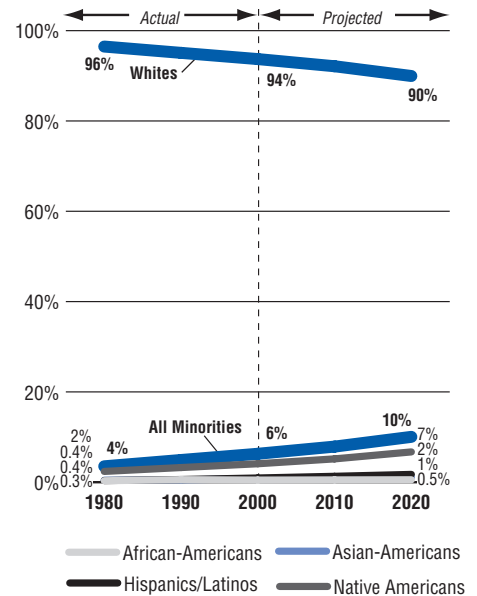
Note: The chart shows index scores, as measured against the top performance. The top performance, defined as the median value of the top five performers, receives a score of 100. The top performer can be a nation or a U.S. state. For more international comparison information, go to www.highereducation.org.

State Context	North Dakota	State Rank
Population (2005)	636,677	48
Gross state product (2004, in millions)	\$22,692	49
Leading Indicators	North Dakota	U.S.
Projected % change in population, 2005-2020	-1%	14%
Projected % change in number of all high school graduates, 2002-2017	-31%	8%
Projected budget surplus/shortfall by 2013	-3%	-6%
Average income of poorest 20% of population (2004)	\$12,111	\$12,168
Children in poverty (2004)	16%	18%
Percent of adult population with less than a high school diploma or equivalent (2004)	11%	14%
New economy index (2002)*	46	60
Facts and Figures	North Dakota	
	Number/Amount	Percent
Institutions of Postsecondary Education (2004-05)		
Public 4-year	7	
Public 2-year	7	
Private 4-year	5	
Private 2-year	2	
Students Enrolled by Institution Type (2004)		
Public 4-year	29,540	66%
Public 2-year	9,506	21%
Private 4-year	4,470	10%
Private 2-year	1,258	3%
Students Enrolled by Level (2004)		
Undergraduate	44,774	90%
Graduate	4,327	9%
Professional	432	1%
Enrollment Status of Students (2004)		
Full-time	37,878	76%
Part-time	11,655	24%
Net Migration of Students (2004)		
Positive numbers for net migration mean that more students are entering than leaving the state to attend college. Negative numbers reveal the reverse.	1766	
Average Tuition (2005-06)		
Public 4-year institutions	\$5,047	
Public 2-year institutions	\$3,081	
Private 4-year institutions	\$9,247	
State and Local Appropriations for Higher Education		
Per \$1,000 of personal income, FY 2006	\$11	
Per capita, FY 2006	\$338	
% change, FY 1996-2006		42%

* This index, created by the Progressive Policy Institute, measures the extent to which a state is participating in knowledge-based industries. A higher score means increased participation.

Note: Percentages might not add to 100 due to rounding.

Working-Age Population (ages 25-64) by Race/Ethnicity, 1980-2020



Racial and Ethnic Gaps in Educational Levels of Working-Age Population (ages 25-64), 2000

	Whites	Native Americans
Less than a high school credential	7%	21%
Associate's degree or higher	38%	21%

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What is being graded in this report card, and why?

A: *Measuring Up 2006* grades states, not individual colleges or universities, on their performance in higher education. The states are responsible for preparing students for higher education by means of sound K–12 school systems, and they provide most of the public financial support—\$72 billion currently—for colleges and universities. Through their oversight of public colleges and universities, state leaders affect the types and number of programs available in the state. State leaders also determine the limits of financial support and often influence tuition and fees for public colleges and universities. They establish how much state-based financial aid is available to students and their families, which affects students attending both private and public colleges and universities.

Q: How are states graded?

A: *Measuring Up 2006* grades states in six performance categories: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, Benefits, and Learning. Each category is made up of several indicators, or quantitative measures—a total of 35 in the first five categories. Grades are calculated based on each state's performance on these indicators, relative to the best-performing states. As in earlier editions, state data are drawn from the most recent public information available, and the grades in *Measuring Up 2006* reflect state performance in 2004 or 2005.

In the Affordability category, *Measuring Up 2006* reflects the major changes in tuition and financial aid that occurred in 2005. In addition, each state's performance is calculated relative to the performance of top states in the early 1990s—rather than relative to the current performance of top states, as is the case with other graded categories. This difference in comparison, first introduced in *Measuring Up 2004*, creates a more stable basis for states to assess their performance in Affordability, which is the most volatile of the graded categories.

Measuring Up 2006 is the first edition that includes data in the Learning category for all 50 states on the extent to which colleges and universities prepare students to contribute to the workforce (see the “Graduates Ready for Advanced Practice” indicators). As in *Measuring Up 2004*, most states in 2006 receive an “Incomplete” in Learning due to the lack of reported information. This year, however, nine states receive a “Plus”: Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. These nine states reported adequate data in more than

one of the indicator groups either through their participation in a pilot project, or by collecting additional state data for the state version of the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) conducted in 2003.

All data used to grade states in *Measuring Up 2006* were collected from reliable national sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Education. All data are the most current available for state comparisons, are in the public domain, and were collected in ways that allow meaningful comparisons among states. Please see the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006* (available at www.highereducation.org) for more information regarding data sources used in *Measuring Up 2006*.

Q: What information is provided but not graded?

A: The state report cards highlight important gaps in college opportunities for various income and ethnic groups, and they identify improvements and setbacks in each state's performance over time. Each report card also presents important contextual information, such as demographic trends, student migration data, and state funding levels for higher education. International comparisons provide new contextual information for states.

Q: Why does *Measuring Up 2006* include international indicators?

A: *Measuring Up 2006* is the first edition to draw on international indicators, at both the state and national levels. In a global economy, it is critical for each nation to establish and maintain a competitive edge through the ongoing, high-quality education of its population. *Measuring Up 2006* provides essential information on how well the nation and each of the 50 states are preparing residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete effectively in the global economy. As with other data in *Measuring Up*, each international measure is based on the most current data available. In this case, the data are from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). International comparisons are used to gauge the states' and the nation's standing relative to OECD countries on the participation and educational attainment of their populations.

For more information on international comparisons, see *Measuring Up Internationally: Developing Skills and Knowledge for the Global Knowledge Economy* by Alan Wagner. For more information on available data sources, see the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006* (available at www.highereducation.org).

STATE GRADES

	Preparation	Participation	Affordability	Completion	Benefits	Learning
Alabama	D–	C	F	B–	B	I
Alaska	B–	C+	F	F	B–	I
Arizona	D	B+	F	B	B+	I
Arkansas	D+	C	F	C	C	I
California	C	A	C–	B	A	I
Colorado	B+	A–	F	B	A–	I
Connecticut	A–	A–	F	B+	A	I
Delaware	C	B	F	A–	B–	I
Florida	C	C	F	A	B	I
Georgia	C+	D+	F	A	B–	I
Hawaii	C–	C	D	B–	A–	I
Idaho	C	D+	D	C+	C–	I
Illinois	B	A	F	B+	A	+
Indiana	C	C+	F	B+	C	I
Iowa	B+	A–	F	A	C	I
Kansas	B–	A	F	B+	B+	I
Kentucky	C–	B–	F	C+	C+	+
Louisiana	F	C–	F	C–	D+	I
Maine	B	B–	F	B	B–	I
Maryland	A–	A	F	B	A	+
Massachusetts	A	A	F	A	A	+
Michigan	C–	A–	F	B	A–	I
Minnesota	B	A	D	A	B+	I
Mississippi	D–	D	F	B	C	I
Missouri	C	B	F	B+	A	+
Montana	B+	C–	F	B–	C+	I
Nebraska	B	A	F	B+	B	I
Nevada	C–	C	F	F	C–	+
New Hampshire	B+	C+	F	A	A	I
New Jersey	A	A–	D	B	A	I
New Mexico	F	A	F	D	C	I
New York	A–	B–	F	A–	B+	+
North Carolina	B+	B–	F	B+	B	I
North Dakota	B–	A	F	B	C+	I
Ohio	B–	B–	F	B	B+	I
Oklahoma	D+	C+	F	C	B–	+
Oregon	C–	C+	F	B–	A	I
Pennsylvania	B	B	F	A	A–	I
Rhode Island	C+	A	F	A	B	I
South Carolina	C+	D+	F	B+	C	+
South Dakota	B	A	F	B+	C+	I
Tennessee	C–	C–	F	B	C+	I
Texas	B–	C+	F	C+	B–	I
Utah	A	B	C–	B	A–	I
Vermont	B–	C	F	A	A–	I
Virginia	A–	B	F	B+	A	I
Washington	B	C–	D–	A	A–	I
West Virginia	C–	C–	F	C+	D+	I
Wisconsin	B+	A–	F	A	B–	I
Wyoming	C–	B+	F	A	C–	I