



Montana University System Educational Attainment

MUS STRATEGIES

College attainment rates are rising in almost every industrialized county in the world, except for the United States.

Montana must do its part to help ensure the U.S. remains competitive.

College!Now

The following are broad strategies designed to help Montana increase degree attainment.

Increase utilization of two-year colleges

- Only 27% of MUS students take advantage of lower cost 2-year colleges

Target non-traditional students

- 135,000 working age adults in Montana have some college credit, but no degree

Ensure ease of student transferability

- To increase transparency and ease of transfer, a common course numbering system is being implemented

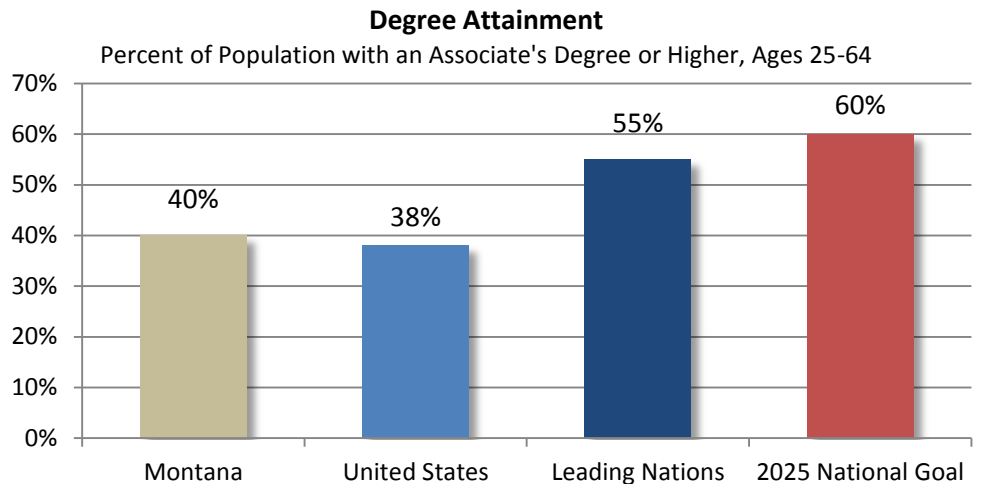
Expand early college access

- Develop a virtual community college to give high school students a running start at higher education

Updated: 5-20-12

MEASURE

Percentage of population (ages 25 to 64 years of age) with an associate's degree or higher



source: 2010 US Census data, Lumina - A Stronger Nation 2012

- Montana, as well as the entire United States, trails behind leading nations in the percentage of young adults with a higher education credential.
- Educational leaders, including the Lumina Foundation, have set a national goal to increase the percentage of degree holders from 38% to 60% by the year 2025.

Degree Production in the MUS

MUS Degrees & Certificates Awarded, 2002-2011

Degree/Certificate Type	Academic Years*									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Certificate of Applied Sci.	123	147	101	137	173	234	244	258	250	279
Associate Degree	841	962	915	961	991	985	972	984	1103	1223
Baccalaureate Degree	4894	4791	4912	4801	4809	4617	4554	4662	4672	4829
Masters Degree	963	987	1050	1107	1128	1061	1007	1086	1059	1166
Doctoral Degree	78	80	82	103	97	90	98	106	97	101
First Professional Degree	72	85	114	146	165	165	172	170	216	256
Total	6971	7052	7174	7255	7363	7152	7047	7266	7397	7854
Annual Growth (num)		81	122	81	108	-211	-105	219	131	457
Annual Growth (%)		1.2%	1.7%	1.1%	1.5%	-2.9%	-1.5%	3.1%	1.8%	6.2%

source: MUS Data Warehouse (does not include CC's)

- If Montana continues to increase attainment at the rate it did over the last decade, the state is projected to have a college-attainment rate of 49.5 percent in 2025. (source: A Stronger Nation 2012)
- By 2018, it is projected that 62% of Montana's jobs will require some form of postsecondary education. 155,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors will need to be filled, 96,000 will require postsecondary credentials. (source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce)