

Enrollment Indicators

Context

Our state educational attainment goal calls for 70% of the state’s 25–44-year-olds to have a postsecondary credential. To achieve this goal, Washington must focus on increasing enrollment across all ages, sectors, and demographics. In the Council meeting held in December 2022, Council members and participants participated in an online poll to test for existing consensus on which indicators could be powerful contributors to our work. The indicators that rose to the top were:

1. Undergraduate enrollment (headcount) – LEAD INDICATOR
2. Direct enrollment from high school (rate)
3. Enrollment of adults ages 25-44 without an initial credential (rate)
4. High school graduation (rate)
5. Adults ages 25-44 without an initial credential (rate)

Detailed Assessment of the Key Performance Indicators

Conversations with the Council since March 2022 and with stakeholders, including community-based organizations, led to the five indicators being assessed on the following criteria:

- Provide a comprehensive enrollment picture to help track progress on the state’s goal of increasing postsecondary participation across populations.
- Provide stakeholders and partners with information relevant to their communities and possible areas of improvement.
- General availability of data and ability to disaggregate further:
 - Data that is either publicly available or can be accessed through a partner agency.
 - Disaggregation by income status, race/ethnicity, institution, and region.

Undergraduate enrollment (headcount) – LEAD INDICATOR

Undergraduate enrollment headcount is the number of undergraduates enrolled in postsecondary at any time during an academic year. This data can be disaggregated by race/ ethnicity, gender, sector, and institution.

This data point gives broad postsecondary participation level data for the state of Washington; however, it does not currently include apprenticeship enrollment information. WSAC will pursue integrating apprenticeship data to capture a broader measure of participation in valuable learning pathways.

Adult enrollment rate

Adult enrollment rate is the percentage of adults, ages 25–44, with no initial credential who were enrolled in postsecondary in a particular academic year. Disaggregation of this data is yet to be determined.

Adults without an initial credential

Adults without an initial credential captures the proportion of adults who have not earned a postsecondary credential as a percentage of all adults ages 25–44. This can be further disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, and county.

Direct enrollment from high school (rate)

The rate of direct enrollment from high school is the percentage of high school seniors from a graduation cohort who enrolled in postsecondary education within one year of high school graduation. This data can be further disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, income status, special education status, language spoken, GPA, and credential type.

High school graduation (rate)

High school graduation rate is the percentage of high school students from a 9th grade cohort who graduated from high school within five years. This can be further disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, income status, district, school, and county.