Employment rates for Texas Community College graduates by end of graduating year, by program type, employment status, gender, and race/ethnicity
**What Is Measured?**
Employment rates for 2009 Texas Community College graduates by the fourth quarter of the 2009 calendar year.

**Who Is Counted?**
2009 Texas Community College graduates.

**What It Tells Us**
In 2009, Texas Community College technical program completers had a higher rate of employment than academic program completers (79 percent vs. 36 percent). However, a greater percentage of academic program completers were employed and enrolled than technical program completers (29 percent vs. 3 percent). This pattern also held when examining employment and enrollment by gender and race/ethnicity.

**Why It’s Important**
Labor force participation is consistently associated with higher levels of education, even among those who do not complete a degree or certificate. For example, in 2009, among individuals age 25 or older, 71 percent of those with an associate degree or some college education were employed, compared with 62 percent of those whose highest level of education is a high school diploma (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). This is equivalent to a 15 percent higher labor force participation rate among the group with some college education. While a number of states report employment outcomes for students who have enrolled in a community college or completed a community college degree or certificate, the way in which these outcomes are reported and the populations on which outcome measures are based vary widely, making it difficult to compare these measures across states.

**ABOUT THE DATA**
Employed: employed or in military service in the fourth quarter of the calendar year in which the program year ends. Includes those who are employed and enrolled at a two-year institution.

Employed and enrolled: employed or in military service in the fourth quarter of the calendar year in which the program year ends and enrolled in a Texas senior postsecondary institution in the fall after the school year program ended.

Race/ethnicity data are based on categories used in the 2000 US Census.


**DATA SOURCE**

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Community Colleges Accountability Measures and Definitions.