What Constitutes a Quality Degree and Its Purpose: A Look at External and Internal Forces

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Attainment rates for the nation’s 20 most populated metropolitan areas

**Rank by population**
1. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (18.8 million)
2. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (12.8 million)
3. Chicago-Joliet-Naperville (9.5 million)
4. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (6.4 million)
5. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington (5.0 million)
6. Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown (5.9 million)
7. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (5.6 million)
8. Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach (5.6 million)
9. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta (5.3 million)
10. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy (4.6 million)
11. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (4.3 million)
12. Detroit-Warren-Livonia (4.3 million)
13. Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (4.2 million)
14. Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale (4.2 million)
15. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue (3.4 million)
16. Minneapolis-St Paul-Bloomington (3.3 million)
17. San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos (3.1 million)
18. St. Louis (2.8 million)
19. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (2.8 million)
20. Baltimore-Towson (2.7 million)

**Rank by degree attainment**
1. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (54.7%)
2. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy (54.1%)
3. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (52.1%)
4. Minneapolis-St Paul-Bloomington (50.0%)
5. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue (47.9%)
6. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (45.8%)
7. San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos (43.9%)
8. Baltimore-Towson (43.9%)
9. Chicago-Joliet-Naperville (43.5%)
10. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta (43.3%)
11. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington (42.6%)
12. St. Louis (41.5%)
13. Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach (39.6%)
14. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (39.6%)
15. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (39.6%)
16. Detroit-Warren-Livonia (37.8%)
17. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (37.5%)
18. Phoenix-Mesa-Phoenix (37.3%)
19. Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown (35.5%)
20. Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (27.5%)

Note: This map denotes Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The term MSA refers to a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core. MSAs comprise one or more entire counties, except in New England, where cities and towns are the basic geographic units. The federal Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs for purposes of collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal data. These definitions result from applying published standards to Census Bureau data.
The Achievement Gap Persists

Current Educational Attainment
% of Adults Age 25-34 with an Associate’s Degree or Higher

American Community Survey 2007-2009
Graduation rates for Non-Pell & Pell students
6-year, full time

Source: Complete College America, Time is the Enemy, 2011
*California data includes only CSU institutions
COMPLETION

Quality

Diversity

Affordability
QUALITY DEGREE

- Competency-Based Education
- Measuring Learning Outcomes
- Civic Learning / Democratic Engagement
- Learning in a Diverse Environment
- Technological Innovations that Utilize Learning Sciences
Innovation-Breakthrough-Productivity

[Logos and images of various organizations related to innovation, learning, and resources]
HIGH STAKES

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