Enrollment & Graduates in 2021

Tennessee Board of Regents
September Quarterly Meeting
STRATEGIC PLAN

Pillars of TBR’s Work

- OPEN ACCESS
- COMPLETION
- COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
TBR is an open-access community and technical college system that serves students of all backgrounds, demographics, income levels, readiness or circumstances and is committed to meeting student, workforce and community needs for education and training.

**Key Metrics:** Enrollment by student type, demographics, income, and college readiness.
Enrollment in Fall 2021

## National & State Context
At two-year colleges across the country, enrollment fell 10% in fall 2020.

In Tennessee, total undergraduate enrollment including universities fell 5% in fall 2020.

Data from the National Student Clearinghouse & Tennessee Higher Education Commission

## TN Community Colleges
At community colleges in Tennessee:
- Last fall, enrollment fell 9.8%.
- This fall, enrollment fell 8.8%.

2021 data compares preliminary census enrollment in fall 2021 to data from the end of the term in 2020.

## TCATs
At TCATs:
- Last fall, enrollment fell 2.2%.
- This fall, registrations have increased 9.4%.

2021 data compares student registrations to the same day in the prior year.
Community college enrollment declined 8.8% in 2021.

73,123 students are enrolled in fall 2021.

• That's 7,043 fewer students than at the end of the term in fall 2020 and 15,823 fewer students than in fall 2019.

• Two colleges saw enrollment increases since fall 2020—Cleveland State and Dyersburg State each grew by almost 2%.

*Preliminary fall 2021 enrollment is based on unedited census (14th day) enrollment data. Prior years are reported with official end-of-term data. Historically, the end-of-term headcount is 1% higher than census, while end-of-term full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment is 2% higher than census. Census enrollment may not reflect enrollments in courses that begin after the 14th day.
Enrollment numbers will rise between now and the end of the term.

• This fall, several community colleges have increased their offering of accelerated courses.
  • These courses are typically seven weeks long, so a normal fall semester might include two accelerated terms.
  • Accelerated courses offer students more flexibility and often lead to higher success rates.

• Chattanooga is delivering most of their courses in accelerated formats. Southwest, Roane, and others are also offering accelerated courses.

• Since the second accelerated term starts in October, enrollment will likely increase between now and the end of the term, especially the count of full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE).
Community college enrollment by group

From fall 2020 to 2021:

- Enrollment by dual enrolled high school students decreased only 1%.
- Enrollment by first-time freshmen decreased 6%.
- Enrollment by transfer/readmitted students fell 1%.
- Enrollment by continuing students fell 15%.

*Preliminary fall 2021 enrollment is based on unedited census (14th day) enrollment data. Prior years are reported with official end-of-term data.
Fall-to-fall retention declined slightly.

Among first-time, full-time students who began college in fall 2020:

- Fall-to-fall retention fell to 51% (compared to 54% last year).
- However, because the 2020 cohort was also smaller overall, the impact of this decline in retention was magnified.

*The fall-to-fall retention rate measures the proportion of students from a first-time, full-time freshman cohort who return the following fall semester to any Tennessee community college or who graduated in their first year. The retention rate for the 2020 cohort is based on preliminary census data, while prior years are based on end-of-term data. Therefore, the retention rate for the 2020 cohort may increase slightly when end-of-term data is available.*
Gains in Enrollment

- **Dual enrollment** increased at seven colleges. Three colleges saw increases over 2019 levels too.
- First-time students enrolling after a “gap year” following high school increased by 57% from last year.
- Students participating in **higher education in prison** programs doubled over 2019 rates.

Declines in Enrollment

- First-time enrollment by **recent high school graduates** fell by 10%, representing 1,500 fewer students.
- The number of **Black students** dropped by 8% from 2020 and by 22% from 2019.
- The number of **female students** decreased by 10%, compared to a 7% drop for male students.
Community college enrollment in online and remote courses remained high.

- In 2019, 83% of students took at least one conventional course. In 2021, only 53% of students took at least one conventional course.
- In 2019, 41% of students took at least one online or remote course. In 2021, 65% of students took at least one online or remote course.

*Summing the delivery method categories will result in a headcount over 100%, as many students take classes through multiple delivery methods and are therefore counted multiple times.*
TCAT registrations have increased 9% in 2021.

More than 12,000 students are registered for fall 2021.

- That’s approximately 1,000 more students than at the same time in fall 2020.
- 16 TCATs reported registration increases compared to this time last year.

*TCAT registration data reflects the number of students registered for courses as of September 21 in each year. Since TCAT Chattanooga is not in the central student information system, the above data does not include Chattanooga. Registration and attendance will continue to grow throughout the term, so these figures are preliminary.
TCAT dual enrollment is rapidly expanding.

This fall, compared to the same time last year:

- Registrations by dual enrolled high school students increased 47%.
- Registrations by new students increased 2%.
- Registrations by continuing students held steady.
- Registrations by special industry training students increased 64%.

TCAT Registrations Compared to this Time Last Year

*TCAT registration data reflects the number of students registered for courses as of September 21 in each year. Since TCAT Chattanooga is not in the central student information system, the above data does not include Chattanooga. Registration and attendance will continue to grow throughout the term, so these figures are preliminary.
How are colleges working to boost enrollment and fulfill the system’s open-access mission?

TCAT Capacity

TCATs are putting state investments to work by expanding their capacity to serve students in high-demand fields and meet the state’s workforce needs.

Strategic Enrollment Management

All colleges in our system have developed specific goals and actionable strategies to boost recruitment and retention.

Achieving the Dream

All colleges are working with Achieving the Dream to increase retention, improve teaching & learning, and close equity gaps.

Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning

TBR’s Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning equips faculty and staff with resources to improve student learning and boost student success.
Key Takeaways

**Overall enrollment**
- Community college enrollment fell **8.8%** from fall 2020 to 2021.
- TCAT registrations rose **9.4%** from fall 2020 to 2021.

**New students**
- The number of first-time freshmen at community colleges fell **6%**.
- The number of dual enrolled high school students held steady or even increased.

**Returning or continuing students**
- The number of continuing students at community colleges fell **15%**.
- The number of continuing students at TCATs held steady.
Completion

TBR values completion and is committed to helping students address and confront any existing barriers to completing their programs, whether students are pursuing a transfer degree, a diploma, a short-term certificate or other credential.

Key Metrics: Credentials earned, graduation rates, and progress toward the Drive to 55.
Students earned degrees, certificates, and diplomas at high rates in 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Community College Awards</th>
<th>TCAT Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>12,993</td>
<td>7,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>13,643</td>
<td>7,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14,136</td>
<td>7,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>15,240</td>
<td>7,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>14,968</td>
<td>7,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>15,874</td>
<td>7,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>15,791</td>
<td>7,165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Community college awards include associate degrees and technical certificates earned during the academic year of preceding summer, fall, and spring terms. TCAT awards include diplomas and certificates earned during the academic year of fall, spring, and trailing summer. TCAT 2020-21 awards are preliminary and will be revised when final data is available. 2020-21 awards for TCAT Chattanooga are calculated using summer 2020 data.
Half of awards at community colleges were degrees designed to transfer to a university.

### Community College Awards in 2020-21

- **Associate Degrees Designed to Transfer to a University**: 51%
- **Associate of Applied Science**: 27%
- **Technical Certificates**: 23%

### About the Graduates

- **58%** of awards were earned by **female students**.
- **47%** of awards were earned by students **age 25+**.
- **11%** of awards were earned by **Black students**.
- **4%** of awards were earned by **Hispanic students**.

*Associate degrees designed to transfer include the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Science in Teaching, and Associate of Fine Arts.
Tennessee community college students graduated at the highest rate ever.

This graduation rate measures how many students who began as first-time, full-time students earned a degree or certificate within three years.

- 26.0% of students from the 2018 cohort graduated within three years.
- At four community colleges, graduation rates in 2021 exceeded 30%.
- Motlow had the highest rate at 34%.
- Graduation rates have nearly doubled since 2010.

*Graduation rates include degrees and technical certificates earned at any TBR community college.*
Graduation rates increased for Black, Hispanic, and low-income students. Yet, gaps persist.

For students who began in 2018:

- 23% of low-income students graduated within three years.
- 25% of Hispanic students graduated within three years.
- 13% of Black students graduated within three years.
- To close the gap between White and Black students from the 2018 cohort, community colleges would have needed to graduate **523 additional Black students**.

*Graduation rates include degrees and technical certificates earned at any TBR community college. Data on low-income students is not available prior to 2015.*

**Three-Year Graduation Rate by Race and Ethnicity**

- **Black and African American**
- **Hispanic**
- **White**
- **Low Income**
Community college graduation rates have accelerated over time.

Many students graduate after the three-year mark.

Graduation rates have accelerated over the past decade.

- For students who entered a decade ago in 2011, it took 9 years (27 semesters) to reach a 26% graduation rate.
- For students who entered in 2018, it took only 3 years (9 semesters) to reach 26%.

*The cumulative graduation rate reflects the cumulative number of students in a cohort who earned a technical certificate or degree from any TBR community in each semester, beginning with the student’s first semester of enrollment as a first-time, full-time freshman. The count of semesters includes fall, spring, and summer terms.
The graduation rate in Tennessee is similar to other states in the region. But Tennessee has outpaced most other states in graduation rate growth.

Three-Year Graduation Rate at Community Colleges in the South

- The three-year graduation rate for community college students in Tennessee is just below the average rate for the region (28%).
- However, since 2011, the graduation rate has grown quicker in Tennessee than almost any other state. Only two other states saw more growth in their graduation rates (North Carolina and Georgia).

*Source: US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS Graduation Rates for public two-year institutions offering associate degrees and certificates; average calculated based on states who are part of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).
Key Takeaways

**Credentials earned**

- Community college students earned 15,791 awards in 2020-21, including 7,980 degrees designed to transfer to a university and 7,811 workforce-ready degrees and certificates.
- TCAT students earned 7,165 diplomas & certificates.

**Graduation rates**

- Tennessee community college students graduated at the highest rate ever.
- Among students who began in 2018, 26% have graduated.

**Equity**

- In 2021, graduation rates rose for Black, Hispanic, and low-income students.
- But significant gaps persist.
Community & Workforce Development

TBR is committed to improving the condition of individuals, families, and communities across the state, which manifests itself in tangible ways such as economic vitality and mobility, but also by improving and enriching the communities it serves.

Key Metrics: job placement rates and impact on the community.
Job placement rates remained high at TCATs in 2020.

TCAT Student Success in 2019-20

- **79%** Completion Rate
- **85%** Job Placement Rate
- **95%** Licensure Pass Rate

### Job Placement Rates in 2019-20

For five of the largest programs:

- Cosmetology: 82%
- HVAC: 82%
- Welding Technology: 85%
- Practical Nursing: 89%
- Automotive Technology: 90%

*Data on completion, job placement, and licensure are based on data reported to the Council on Occupational Education (COE), the accrediting body for TCATs.*
As we work toward the **Drive to 55**, the statewide postsecondary educational attainment rate has risen to 47%. Community colleges and TCATs are making progress toward their Drive to 55 goals.

**Community College Goal**

- In 2020-21, **14,514** students graduated from community colleges.
- An additional **381** graduates next year will help us reach the annual target of **14,895**.

**TCAT Goal**

- In 2019-20, **6,674** students graduated from TCATs.
- An additional **1,849** graduates next year will help us reach the annual target of **8,523**.

*Drive to 55 targets capture the annual number of unique graduates. Since some individuals earn multiple awards, the number of award recipients differs from the number of awards.*
The number of new and continuing students fell at community colleges, but TCAT registrations increased and dual enrollment at community colleges held steady. Declines in first-time enrollment for Black students were significant, just as in 2020.

Community college students completed degrees and certificates at high rates. Community college students graduated at the highest rate ever.

TCATs and community colleges are preparing students for careers in high-demand fields. In 2020, TCAT students achieved a job placement rate of 85% and a licensure pass rate of 95%.