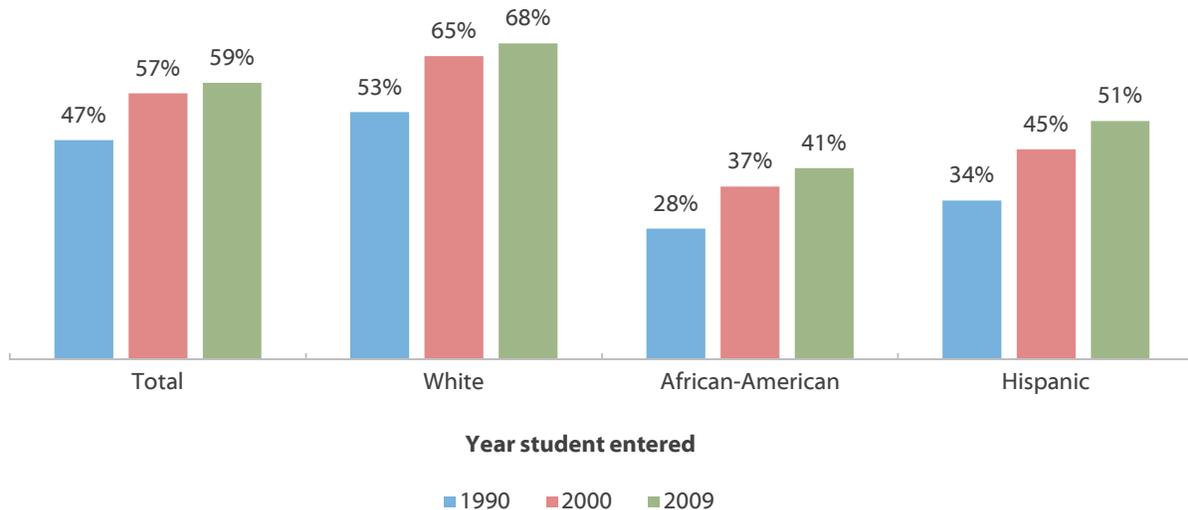


Graduation Rates in Texas Rising, But Remain Stratified by Race/Ethnicity

First-time Freshmen Who Entered a Texas Public University and Received a Bachelor's Degree within Six Years, by Ethnicity



College graduation rates in Texas are rising but remain stratified by ethnicity. About 59 percent of first-time (in college), full-time freshmen who entered a Texas public university in 2009 obtained a bachelor's degree from that or another Texas public university within six years, but the rate varied from 68 percent of Whites to 51 percent of Hispanics to 41 percent of African-Americans. The six-year graduation rates have risen over the past two decades for all racial and ethnic groups, but the rates have not increased as dramatically for African-American students as they have for White and Hispanic students.

As of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, only 27.6 percent of freshmen in Texas graduate in four years. Most undergraduates in the U.S. take more than four years to complete a bachelor's degree. In 2010, only 31.3 percent of students nationally completed a degree within 4 years. Reasons for this vary, but include that the student may be: 1) pursuing a degree that requires more than 120 credit hours; 2) pursuing more than one degree; 3) changing his or her degree plan or major; 4) taking extra courses beyond those needed to graduate; 5) leaving or "stopping out" of school for brief periods; or 6) transferring from one institution to another. In addition, many students may attend school part time and work long hours in order to cut costs. In fall 2015, 22.2 percent of public university undergraduates in Texas attended school less than full time/full year; that is, they either took fewer than 12 hours per semester or did not attend two semesters.

Sources: National 4-year Graduation rates: The Chronicle of Higher Education. College Completion. http://collegecompletion.chronicle.com/state/#state=ny§or=public_four; Graduation rates: Six-year and ten-year: THECB, Baccalaureate Graduation Rates <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/3409.PDF?CFID=18285142&CFTOKEN=11849287>; Four-year: THECB, Higher Education Accountability System (<http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/Accountability/>);

