

Community Colleges Leading the Way in Texas

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The traditional 4-year college experience isn't for everyone...



- Some students aren't sure what they want to study
- Others are looking for a more affordable education
- Community colleges can be good options for students in these situations



10 Reasons to Attend a Community College

TRAVIS MITCHELL, US NEWS

1. Money



- Paying for college is a big consideration, and annual tuition and fees at 4-year institutions can soar to tens of thousands of dollars
- This can lead to mounds of student loan borrowing and debt
- Many community colleges charge around \$1,000 for “in-state” tuition. Collin College is even lower!

2. Academic Flexibility

- Attending a community college can be a good way for some students to ease into the world of higher education and learn at their own pace
- Especially true for those who struggled in high school or unsure if they want to make the significant time and money investment in college



3. Financial Aid

**FINANCIAL AID
APPLICATION**

Given Name(s)	Middle Name
City	
Phone Number	

- Community college students are eligible for financial aid as well.
- Federal student loans require students to be enrolled half-time – about six credit hours or two courses
- Students just need to make sure they don't drop out of classes or they risk losing their financial aid award

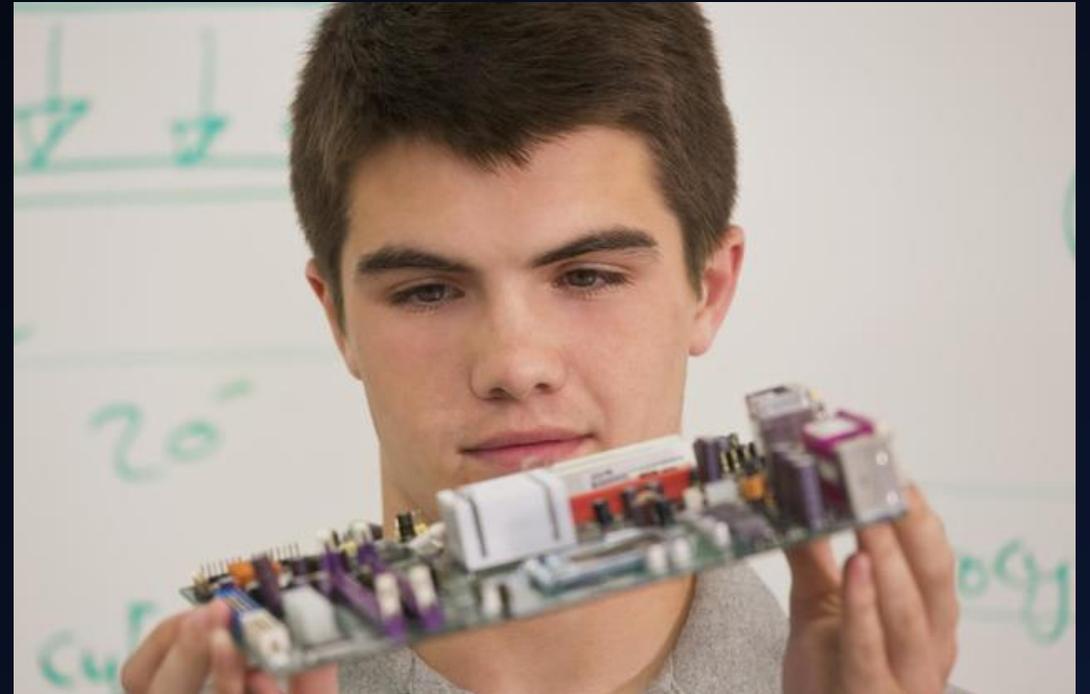
4. School-Life Balance



- About 60% of community college students attend school part-time, so anyone taking one or two classes at a time will not feel out of place
- Good option for non-traditional students like parents and older students who wish to balance school with family or work obligations

5. STEM Education Opportunities

- Associate degree programs in Science, Technology, Education, Mathematics – which are in high demand by employers
- These degrees can support a student as they work their way up to a career



6. Transfer Agreements



- Many two-year schools offer admissions / transfer agreements with public colleges that allow qualified students to transfer their credits toward earning a bachelor's degree.
- Same degree, lower cost.

7. Elements of Traditional Colleges

- Although 2-year colleges may not have always provided the same environment as a full 4-year university or college, this is changing...
- Nearly one quarter of community colleges offer dorms.
- Extra-curricular activities, scholarships and networking opportunities are becoming more available



8. Personalized Attention



- Smaller class sizes means more personalized attention and one-on-one time with instructors
- This can be a big plus for some students who thrive at their own pace and like to ask plenty of questions as they go

9. Professional Certificates

- Career progress is often tied to advanced degrees and skill development, usually through expensive graduate school programs.
- Community colleges can help student get professional certifications in many fields, such as healthcare, IT, electronics, etc.



10. Online Class Options



- Many colleges, like Collin College, have expanded online offerings to entice more students
- This includes training professors to be available at odd hours, and tailoring programs to fit local, regional industry needs
- Credits can potentially be used towards a four-year degree

60X30TX Higher Education Strategic Plan

- Texas has now launched [60x30TX](#), the new higher education strategic plan which aims to position Texas among the highest achieving states in the country and maintain its global competitiveness.
- *60x30TX* is entirely student-centered: its overarching goal is that 60 percent of young adults (25-34) in Texas will hold some type of postsecondary credential by 2030.
- It also proposes that these graduates will have marketable skills regardless of major and that, statewide, students will not graduate with debt exceeding 60 percent of their first-year wages.

Texas community colleges rank
third in the nation in affordability
among community college
systems

Texas Community Colleges are Affordable

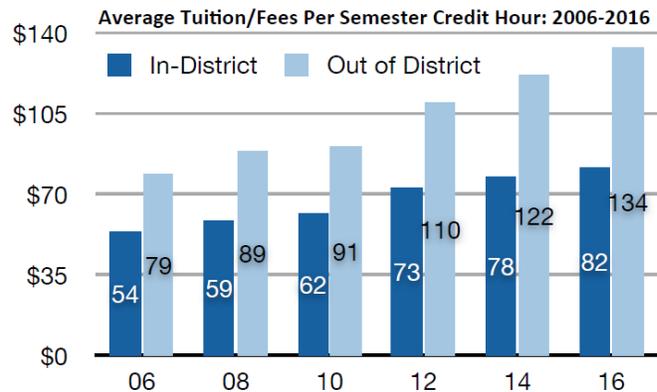


Texas community colleges rank third in the nation in affordability among community college systems (behind California and New Mexico).

Affordable: Student Tuition and Fees

\$987 Student Tuition & Fees for Fall 2016 for a Texas resident, living in a community college taxing district (15 SCH).

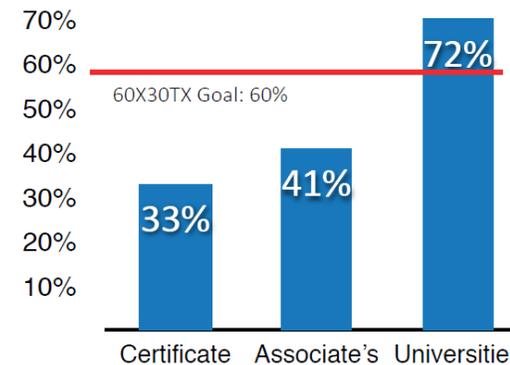
\$1,580 Student Tuition & Fees for Fall 2016 for a Texas resident, living outside a community college taxing district (15 SCH).



Student Debt at Texas Community Colleges

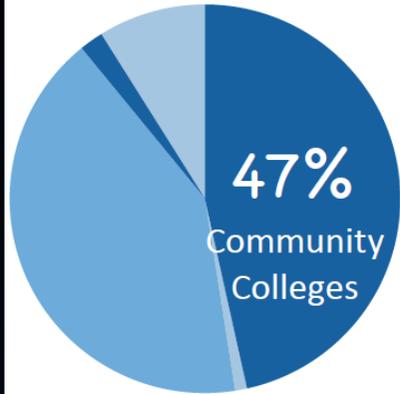
Award	% with Debt	Average Debt
Certificate	29%	\$12,546
Associate's	36%	\$15,426

- ✓ The State's Goal in 60X30TX for Student Debt is the debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wage for the graduates.
- ✓ Community College graduates are currently exceeding that goal:
 - Certificates: 33% of first-year wage
 - Associate's: 41% of first-year wage

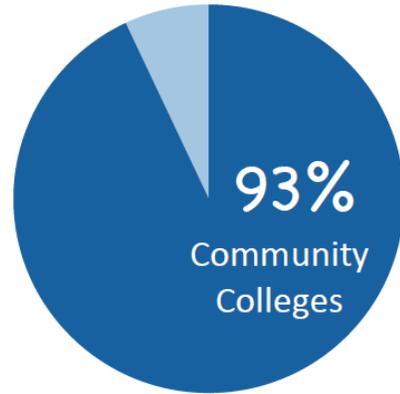


Data Sources:
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Association of Community Colleges, Legislative Budget Board

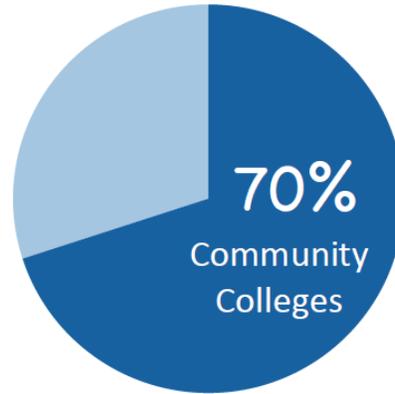
Texas Community Colleges serve the state at scale



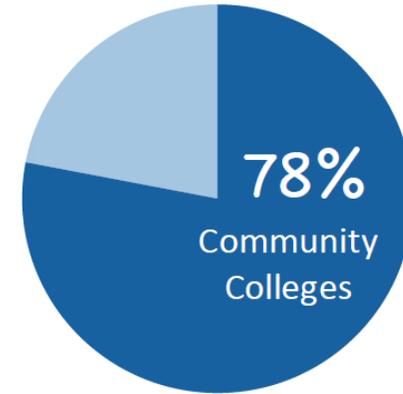
Community Colleges are the largest sector of Texas higher education



123,893 dual credit students

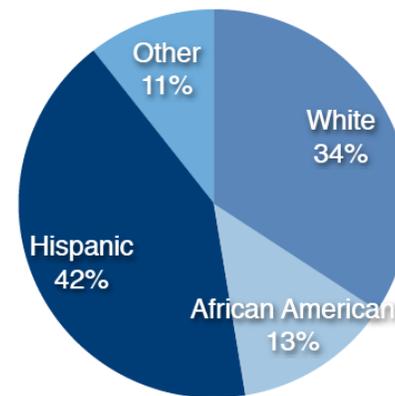


70% of Freshmen & Sophomores



78% of Minority Freshmen & Sophomores

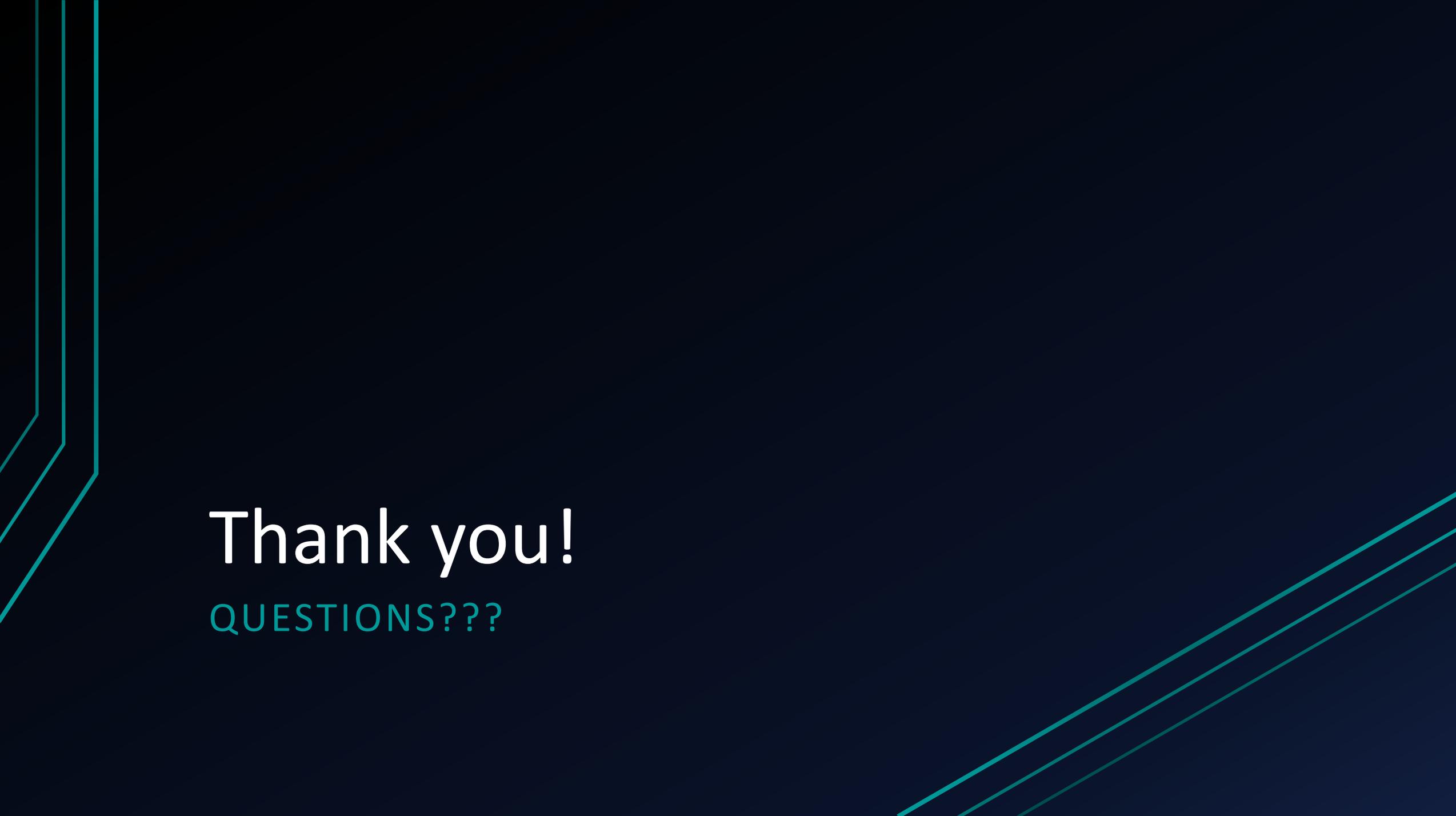
	Fall 2015 Enrollment	% of Enrollment
Community Colleges	700,892	47.1%
Technical/State Colleges	17,655	1.2%
Public Universities	619,284	41.6%
Public Medical Institutions	23,523	1.6%
Private Institutions	128,280	8.5%



700,892 students that reflect the diversity of Texas

Community college growth – by the numbers

- The number of students completing **credentials** (certificates and associate degrees) at a Texas community college has **increased by 47% since 2010**, putting more Texans to work in jobs that pay well.
- The number of students **transferring to universities** from community colleges has **increased by 28%** since 2010.
- And community colleges now serve **more than 120,000 high school students** each school year through **dual credit opportunities** across the state.



Thank you!

QUESTIONS???