



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM
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Texas House of Representatives
Committee on Higher Education
Interim Charge Three, Request for Information

The University of Texas System

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Interim Charge 3:

Review progress toward the goals of the 60X30TX plan, including institutional strategies for responding to diverse and rapidly changing workforce needs and demands, including workforce education, industry certification, and degree programs to address healthcare shortages.

Specifically review community colleges' capacity to meet the goals of 60X30TX, including a review of taxing districts and service areas versus geographic areas of need. Review the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative's work-based learning, industry-aligned internships, and industry credential initiatives. Consider whether legislative action may be needed to expand work-based learning and recruitment efforts for adults who have previously completed some college level coursework.

The University of Texas System is meeting the challenges and goals laid out in 60x30TX by striving to increase our institutions' retention and graduation rates for all students. Graduation rates continue to climb each year. In the past five years, every single one of our institutions achieved increases in 4-year graduation rates - the highest being an increase of over 16% (UT Austin).

The overall 60x30 completion goal relies on meeting four related targets for degrees awarded to African American students, Hispanic students, male students, and economically disadvantaged students. For our underrepresented minorities, rates rose by almost 10 points—from 19% to almost 30%. This same trend can be seen with Pell recipients. Their success continues in the workforce with 7 out of 10 Pell recipients out earning half of the US workforce five years out of college. The UT System is committed to implementing strategies that align with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's strategic plan in providing graduates that ensure our future is bright and the Texas workforce is strong.

Based on the 60x30 goal to have less than 50% of undergraduate students graduate with debt, the UT System institutions have seen a decline in the percentage of baccalaureates graduating with debt. In just three years, most institutions have seen rates of student loan debt declined by almost 5%. Currently, approximately 51% of all UT System academic institutions' undergraduate students graduate with debt.