



Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Land-Grant Colleges and Universities

HISTORY

Land-grant colleges and universities were established by the Morrill Act of 1862, which provided each state with federal land or funds to establish colleges focused on agriculture and the mechanical arts.⁴ Congress later passed the Second Morrill Act of 1890, creating additional land-grant institutions, primarily Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, which extended land-grant status to Tribal Colleges and Universities.⁴

FEDERAL FUNDING

- Federal funding for most land-grants was established by the Hatch Act of 1887, the Evans-Allen Act of 1977, and the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA).⁵ In FY22, appropriations were divided as follows:
 - The 57 land-grants funded under the 1862 Hatch Act received \$260 million, roughly \$4.6 million per institution.⁵
 - The 19 land-grants funded under the Evans-Allen Act received \$80 million, roughly \$4.2 million per institution.⁵
 - The 35 land-grants funded under AREERA's Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program received \$4.5 million, roughly \$129,000 per institution.⁵

INSTITUTIONAL TYPE

- In 2022–23, there were 121 land-grant colleges and universities located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories, with California (10), Montana (8), and North Dakota (6) having the most institutions.³
- Of the 121 land-grant colleges and universities, 101 were public four-year institutions, 12 were public two-year institutions, seven were private four-year institutions, and one was a private two-year institution.³
 - 78 of the 121 institutions are designated as Minority-Serving Institutions or meet the federal criteria for such designations.²

ENROLLMENT

- In 2022–23, land-grant colleges and universities enrolled 1,959,671 students, which comprised 10.3% of total enrollment in the United States, up from 8.6% in 2012–13.³
- In 2022–23, 78% of land-grant students were undergraduates, while 22% were graduate students.³

*Not all land-grant institutions received funding from these sources in FY22.

FINANCIAL AID

- 34.8% of students at land-grant colleges and universities received federal student loans in 2022–23, compared with 36.9% at all universities.³
 - This is a decrease from the 2012–13 school year, when 46.4% of land-grant students and 48.8% of students overall received federal student loans.³
- In 2022–23, 25.7% of land-grant students received a Pell Grant, compared to 39% of all students.³
- The average Pell Grant amount for students at land-grant institutions was \$5,447, higher than the \$5,432 average for all students.³
- Among undergraduate land-grant students who received federal student loans, the average loan amount in 2022–23 was \$5,286, lower than the average for students at all institutions of \$5,419.³

COMPLETION/DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- 74.8% of students enrolled in four-year degree programs at land-grant colleges and universities graduated within 150% time of anticipated degree completion, higher than the national average of 61% for similar programs.³
 - Transfer-out rates for these institutions during the same time period were 7.9%, lower than the national average of 13.1%.³
- In 2022–23, land-grants conferred 4,737 associate degrees, 327,475 bachelor's degrees, and 146,824 graduate degrees.³
 - Together, this accounts for 12.1% of total degrees awarded at U.S. institutions in 2022–23.³

EARNINGS AND WEALTH

- Land-grant students who completed a four-year degree in 2022 averaged a gross income of \$43,321 one year after graduation, \$2,428 less than the national average for graduates overall.¹
 - Graduates overall earned an average of \$44,882 at public four-year institutions, \$45,348 at private nonprofit institutions, and \$49,276 at private for-profit institutions.¹

DATA SOURCES

¹[College Scorecard](#). U.S. Department of Education, April 2025.

²[Eligibility Designations for Higher Education Programs](#). U.S. Department of Education, June 2025.

³[Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#). National Center for Education Statistics, March 2024.

⁴[Land-Grant University FAQ](#). Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities, September 2025.

⁵[The U.S. Land-Grant University System: Overview and Role in Agricultural Research](#). Congressional Research Service, August 2022.