

# Adult Learners in Nebraska

An “adult learner” is usually a student age 25 or older. At the undergraduate level, they typically do not follow the more traditional path to college, which is to enroll immediately after high school. Adult learners often go back to school to advance in the workplace or when they’re seeking a career change. They usually attend college on a part-time basis as they juggle family and work responsibilities. In Nebraska, like the rest of the country, educational attainment among adult learners is vital to the state’s economic future.

## Degrees and Enrollment — Nebraska’s Adult Learners

Sector/ Age Group	2014-2015 Degrees/Awards Conferred				2015 Fall Enrollment			
	Bachelor's or Below		Graduate Degree		Undergraduate		Graduate	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>University of Nebraska</b>								
24 or Younger	5,559	76.7%	491	13.9%	34,437	87.9%	3,223	25.5%
25-39	1,523	21.0%	2,544	72.0%	4,052	10.3%	7,676	60.6%
40 or Older	167	2.3%	498	14.1%	686	1.8%	1,761	13.9%
<b>Nebraska State College System</b>								
24 or Younger	875	68.8%	21	4.9%	6,088	82.1%	164	11.1%
25-39	305	24.0%	295	69.2%	979	13.2%	944	63.6%
40 or Older	92	7.2%	110	25.8%	347	4.7%	376	25.3%
<b>Community Colleges</b>								
24 or Younger	3,543	50.3%	-	-	26,011	66.8%	-	-
25-39	2,534	36.0%	-	-	9,170	23.5%	-	-
40 or Older	969	13.8%	-	-	3,782	9.7%	-	-
<b>Independent Institutions</b>								
24 or Younger	2,752	48.7%	170	5.1%	14,994	65.8%	2,285	19.8%
25-39	2,161	38.3%	2,291	69.0%	5,634	24.7%	6,552	56.9%
40 or Older	736	13.0%	859	25.9%	2,163	9.5%	2,685	23.3%
<b>For-Profit/Career Schools</b>								
24 or Younger	549	41.3%	1	4.2%	1,021	40.2%	11	10.5%
25-39	627	47.1%	13	54.2%	1,148	45.3%	62	59.0%
40 or Older	154	11.6%	10	41.7%	368	14.5%	32	30.5%

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

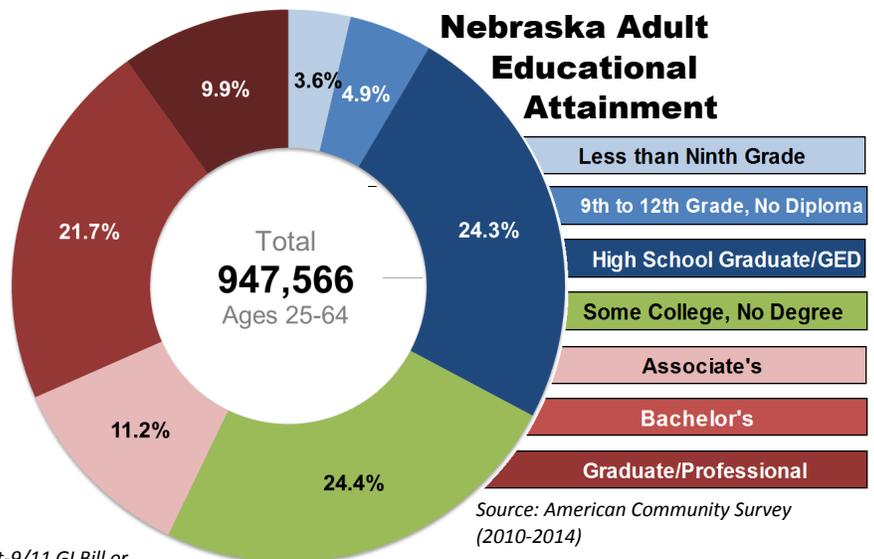
**6,356** Veteran student enrollment — all Nebraska institutions, undergraduate and graduate (2015-16)

**Top 5 institutions: veteran enrollment**

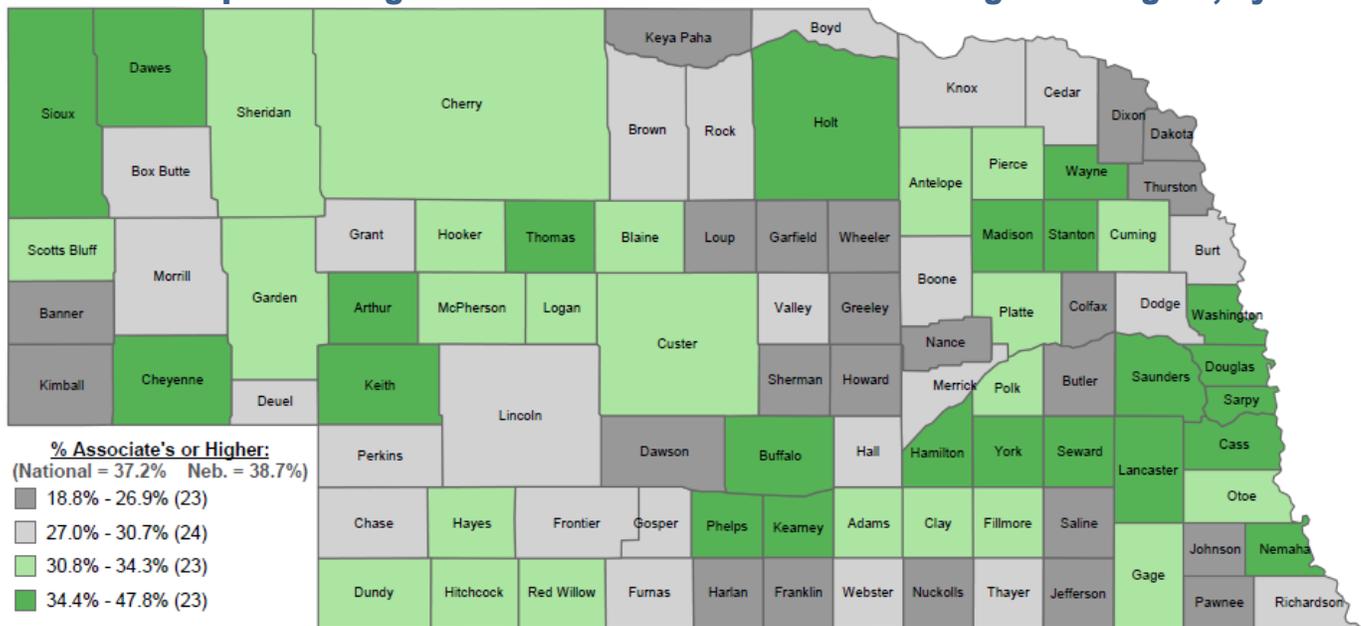
- Bellevue University — 2,338
- Metropolitan Community College — 957
- University of Nebraska at Omaha — 950
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln — 461
- Southeast Community College — 288

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

Note: Includes students who received benefits/assistance via the Post-9/11 GI Bill or the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program. May include dependents.

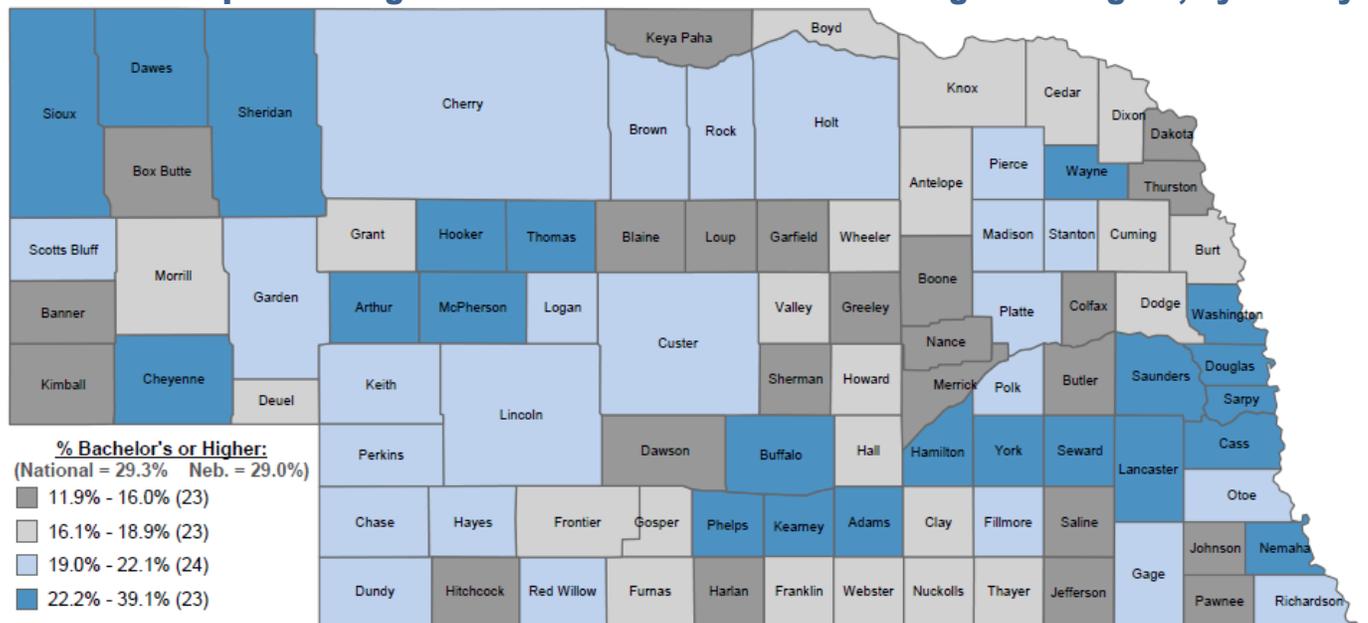


## Percent of Population Age 25 or Older with an Associate's Degree or Higher, by County



Source: American Community Survey (2010-2014)

## Percent of Population Age 25 or Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, by County



### Strategies: What states are doing to enroll, retain, and graduate adult learners

**Nebraska — Gap Assistance** — Provides financial aid to community college students taking non-credit courses that lead to jobs in high-need fields. ([ccpe.nebraska.gov/gap](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov/gap))

**Washington — I-BEST** — Uses a team-teaching approach at community colleges. Students work with two teachers in the classroom: one provides job training and the other teaches basic skills in reading, math, or English language.

**Iowa — PACE** — Community colleges offer short-term training and degree programs for middle-skill careers, dictated by local needs. Funding covers the cost of barriers to education, i.e.,

child care or transportation.

**Tennessee — Reconnect** — A “last-dollar” scholarship for adults to attend community college tuition-free. Among the requirements of students: must not already have an associate or bachelor degree and must participate in a partnering advising program.

**Indiana — You Can. Go Back.** — A wide-ranging initiative aimed at adults with some college but no degree. Benefits vary by institution, but include flexible scheduling, debt forgiveness, credit for work and military experience, and \$1,000 state grants.