

# 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 by Age Group

Sector/ Age Group	2022-2023 Degrees/Awards Conferred				2023 Fall Enrollment			
	Bachelor's or Below		Graduate Degree		Undergraduate		Graduate	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>University of Nebraska</b>								
24 or Younger	6,695	81.9%	622	15.4%	33,146	90.6%	3,478	27.9%
25-39	1,285	15.7%	2,832	70.3%	2,804	7.7%	7,084	56.7%
40 or Older	198	2.4%	575	14.3%	627	1.7%	1,924	15.4%
<b>Nebraska State College System</b>								
24 or Younger	931	77.6%	38	6.9%	6,193	86.4%	213	14.4%
25-39	190	15.8%	380	69.2%	690	9.6%	843	57.0%
40 or Older	79	6.6%	131	23.9%	288	4.0%	423	28.6%
<b>Community Colleges</b>								
24 or Younger	4,584	63.8%	-	-	32,798	78.5%	-	-
25-39	1,924	26.8%	-	-	6,232	14.9%	-	-
40 or Older	672	9.4%	-	-	2,759	6.6%	-	-
<b>Nonpublic Institutions</b>								
24 or Younger	3,407	57.5%	369	8.0%	17,856	66.6%	2,459	19.2%
25-39	1,850	31.4%	2,297	66.2%	7,333	24.5%	5,592	57.7%
40 or Older	657	11.1%	910	25.8%	3,165	8.9%	2,354	23.1%
<b>Total</b>								
24 or Younger	15,617	69.5%	1,029	12.6%	89,993	79.0%	6,150	25.2%
25-39	5,249	23.4%	5,509	67.6%	17,059	15.0%	13,519	55.5%
40 or Older	1,606	7.1%	1,616	19.8%	6,839	6.0%	4,701	19.3%

Note. Excludes students of unknown age. Age data for fall enrollment only collected for odd-numbered years. Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

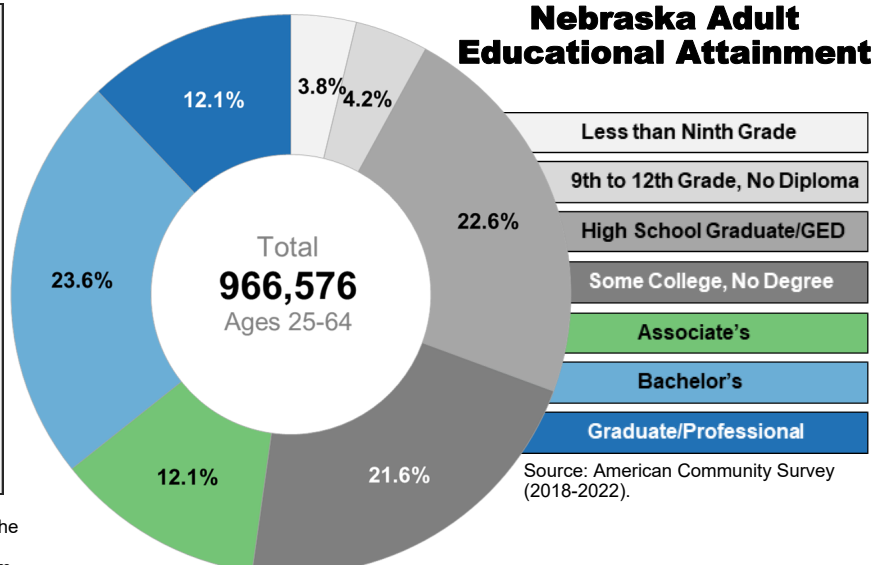
**3,451** Veteran Student Enrollment (2022-23)

### Veteran Enrollment by Institution

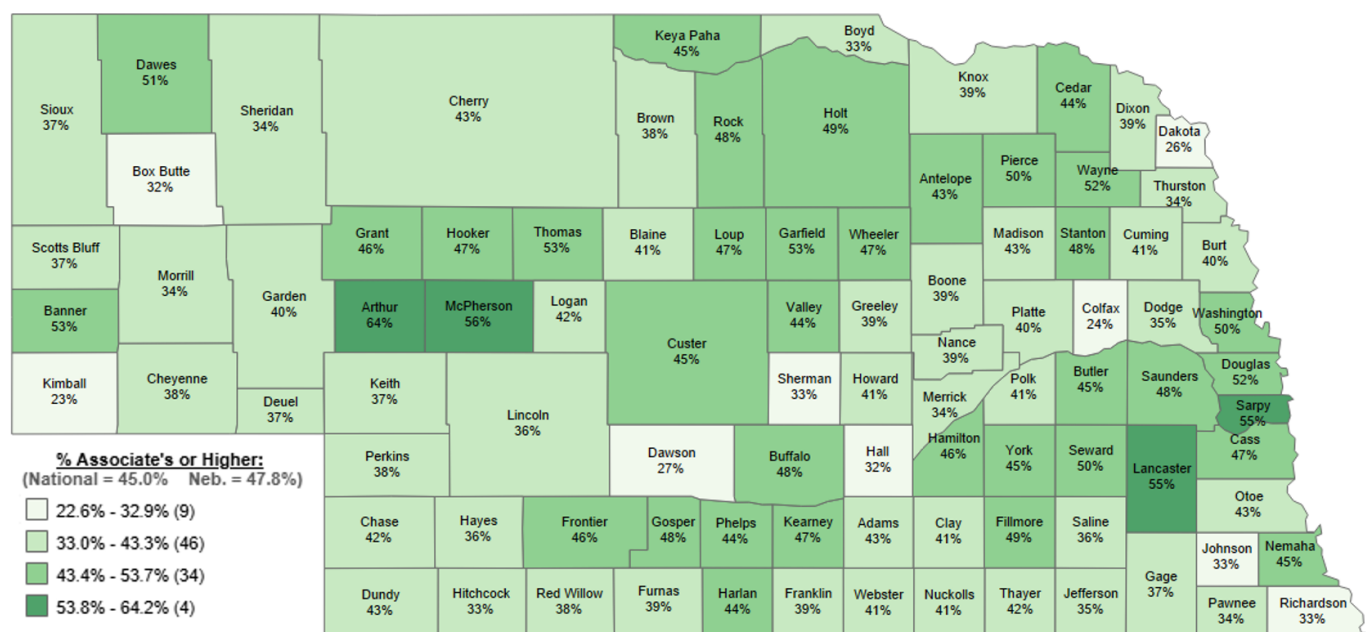
Bellevue University	1,128
University of Nebraska at Omaha	663
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	417
Metropolitan Community College	334
Creighton University	187
Other Institutions	722

Note. Includes undergraduate and graduate enrollment. Includes students who received benefits/assistance via the Post-9/11 GI Bill or the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program. May include dependents. Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

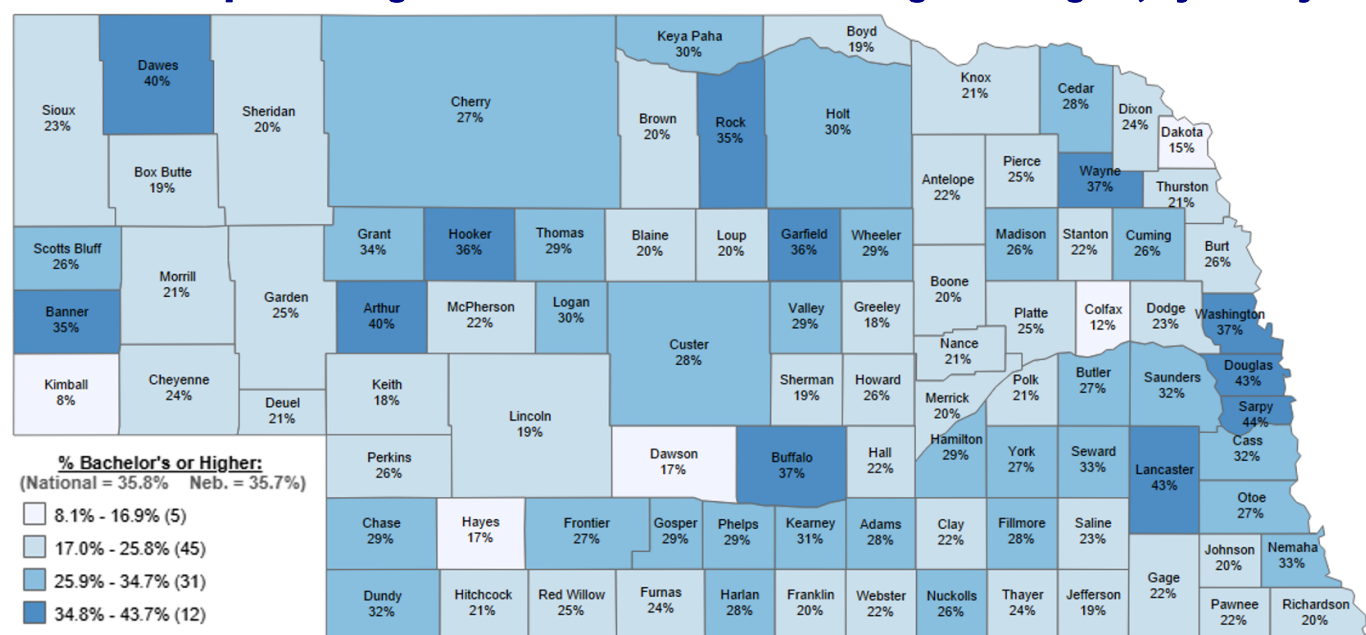
## Nebraska Adult Educational Attainment



## Percent of Population Age 25 to 64 with an Associate's Degree or Higher, by County



## Percent of Population Age 25 to 64 with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, by County



Source: American Community Survey (2018-2022).

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

**Nebraska** – **Gap Assistance** – Pays tuition and related course and certification fees for low-income community college students taking non-credit courses and short-term for-credit courses that lead to certifications and jobs in high-need fields.

**Indiana** – The **Adult Student Grant** – Offers a grant of up to \$2,000 to assist returning adult students with financial need in starting or completing an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or certificate. The **Workforce Ready Grant** pays tuition and fees for qualifying high-value certificates in high-demand fields at Ivy Tech Community College or Vincennes University.

**Iowa** – **Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship** – Covers tuition and fees not paid by other sources for students in pro-

grams of study up to two-year degrees that lead to high-demand jobs in Iowa.

**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.

**Missouri** – **Fast Track** – Covers tuition and fees not paid by other sources for adults pursuing a certificate, bachelor's degree, or an industry-recognized credential in a high-demand field and direct apprenticeship costs for apprentices.