



Student Access to Community College Baccalaureate Degrees in the 50 States

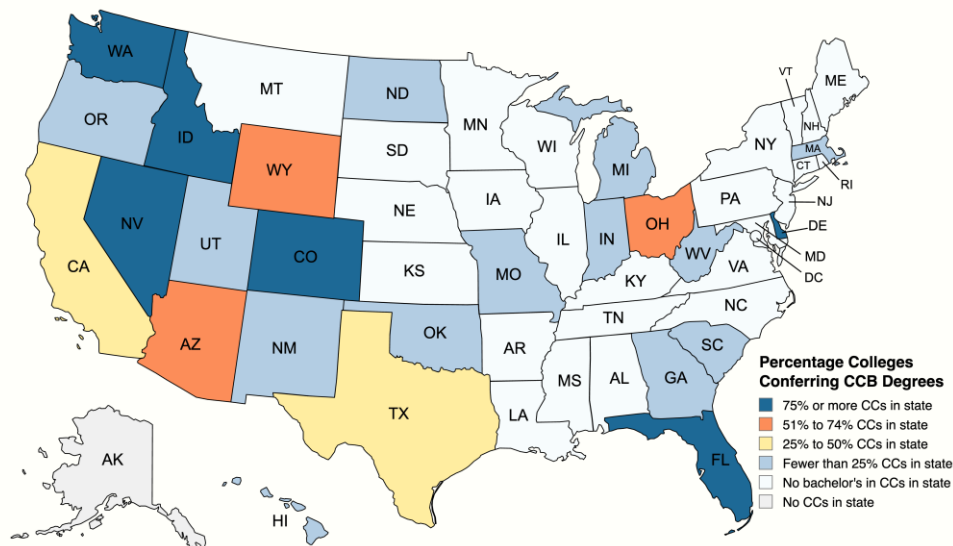
CCB DATA POINTS
No. 3: June 2024

This brief identifies 24 states that authorize community college baccalaureate (CCB) degrees associated with 191 associates-dominant institutions in the United States, showing how student access to CCB degrees varies by state.¹

Student access to baccalaureate degrees conferred by community colleges varies widely by state and within states that allow these degrees to be awarded. At this time, bachelor's degrees are authorized in one or more community and technical colleges in 24 states, with nine states approving all or nearly all community and technical colleges to confer CCB degrees (Figure 1).

Looking at states with substantial CCB conferral, all 28 Florida state colleges offer CCBs, and all 34 of Washington's community and technical colleges are authorized to confer them, with most already doing so. In addition, all four community colleges in Nevada confer CCB degrees, and the statewide Delaware Technical Community College system confers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at multiple campuses. CCB degrees are conferred by nine of Colorado's 13 community colleges, with one additional college preparing to implement its first degree, bringing this state's total CCB-conferring colleges to 10 of 13. Recently, Idaho expanded authorization of CCBs to three of its four community colleges, with one of these three already conferring such degrees.

Figure 1. Percentage of Community Colleges Conferring CCB Degrees by State²



¹For a description of the methods used to identify associates-dominant colleges in the U.S. that are counted as CCB degree-conferring colleges, see CCBA & Bragg & Associates, Inc. [What them grow: The evolution of community college baccalaureate degrees in the United States](#) (2024).. This Data Point adds four colleges to the total count of CCB colleges as of December 31, 2023, reaching a total of 191 CCB colleges as of this brief's publication date.

² Data for this U.S. map is derived from the [national inventory](#) of CCB degrees maintained by the Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA).

State Expansion of CCB Degrees

Several more states are expanding CCB degrees, with authorization of such degrees reaching the majority of colleges in Arizona, Ohio, and Wyoming. Thirteen of 19 (68 percent) of Arizona's community colleges are authorized to confer CCB degrees³, 14 of 23 (61 percent) community colleges in Ohio authorize or confer CCBs, including nursing programs authorized through new state legislation in 2021, and four of seven (57 percent) of community colleges in Wyoming confer CCB degrees. Whereas these degrees have not reached the majority of community colleges in California or Texas yet, a substantial number of CCB degrees are authorized or already conferred in these states. Specifically, California now authorizes 32 of the state's 116 (28 percent) community colleges to confer one or more CCB degrees, and 21 of 50 (42 percent) of Texas' community college districts confer them.

Altogether, of the total 191 community colleges authorized to confer bachelor's degrees in the U.S., nine states (Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Nevada, Ohio, Washington, and Wyoming) allow 50 to 100 percent of their associates-dominant colleges to confer bachelor's degrees at 111 community colleges. When California and Texas are added to the count, the number of community colleges authorized to confer or already conferring bachelor's degrees is 164 (86 percent) of all CCB degrees conferred in the country.

States Limiting Conferral of CCB Degrees

The 13 remaining states (Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, and West Virginia) limit authorization of CCB degrees to one or only a few colleges, with seven of these 13 states (54 percent) approving bachelor's degree conferral by one institution only.

No Authorization of CCB Degrees

Of the 26 remaining states, Alaska does not consider any higher education institution to be a community college and therefore has no CCB-eligible institutions. Beyond Alaska, our research shows no other state authorizes public associates-dominant community colleges to confer bachelor's degrees at the time of this publication (Figure 1). Research shows factors contributing to states not conferring CCB degrees include the contention that a state's capacity to confer bachelor's degrees is already sufficient or that universities actively resist state legislation authorizing community colleges to confer bachelor's degrees.⁴

We are grateful to Lumina Foundation for its generous funding of the CCB Data Points project; Angela Kersenbrock, CCBA, for envisioning and creating the series; Debra Bragg, Bragg & Associates, for authoring this brief; Cari Bishop and Elizabeth Meza for their technical reviews; and Colleen Pawlicki, Troy Street Professional Services, for her editorial guidance. All CCB Data Points are available on the CCBA website at: <https://www.accbd.org/category/ccb-data>.

Suggested citation: Bragg, D. (2024). *CCB data points, No. 3: June 2024: Student access to community college baccalaureate degrees in the 50 states*. Community College Baccalaureate Association & Bragg & Associates, Inc.

³ We treat each institution in the Maricopa Community College District separately in our count of CCB-conferring colleges because each college is independently accredited, which is consistent with research conducted on CCB degrees by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC), as reported in [AACCC Fast Facts 2023](#).

⁴ Love, I. & Turk, J. (2023, July 1). Competing, coordinating, or collaborating: Perspectives on the community college baccalaureate within the context of mission differentiation. [Community College Journal of Research and Practice](#).