

March 2022

TECHNICAL EDUCATION RETENTION

In-State Employment Rates for Out-of-State Graduates of Mississippi's Associate of Applied Science Programs



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING
& ANALYSIS RESEARCH CENTER

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ABOUT MISSISSIPPI'S SLDS

Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is one of the most comprehensive systems in the country and includes administrative records from more than 25 education, workforce, and human service agencies in the state. The SLDS allows for the alignment of multiple sources of de-identified administrative data over time to evaluate educational or workforce strategies in terms of real outcomes, such as entrance into employment, wages, and skill gains.

ABOUT NSPARC

Mississippi State University's National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center (NSPARC) is an internationally recognized multidisciplinary social and data science research center that provides tailored research, analysis, and software architecture services with an emphasis on workforce and economic development. The Center engages in convergent research and creates customized data and software solutions unique in the country. The Center is home to experts across disciplines including sociology, economics, statistics, computer science, communication, and engineering. NSPARC recognizes the importance of multidisciplinary research and an inclusive model of collaboration to provide strategic solutions for government, industry, and non-profit entities.

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SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

This brief provides specific data pertaining to the in-state retention of out-of-state students who complete a technical education through the Mississippi public community college system. More specifically, this brief identifies the post-graduation employment rates of non-resident students who earned an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) between the Academic Year (AY) 2016 and AY 2020.

The results of this analysis indicate that, over the past 5 years, 33.5 percent of non-resident AAS graduates find in-state employment within one year.

DATA

The data for this analysis were obtained from Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). Data on employment outcomes were contributed to the SLDS by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES). Data on enrollment and graduation were contributed to the SLDS by the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB) and the Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning (IHL).

INDICATORS AND DEFINITIONS

The following indicators were utilized to conduct this analysis:

Total Graduates – The number of non-resident students who graduated from a Mississippi Public Community College with an AAS degree in AY 2016 through AY 2020.

Not Re-Enrolled Graduates – The number of *Total Graduates* who did not enroll in a new degree program at either a Mississippi Public Community College or a Mississippi Public University within one year of graduation; these graduates have the potential to be retained in the Mississippi workforce.

Employed Graduates – The number of *Not Re-Enrolled Graduates* employed by a Mississippi employer within one year of graduation.

Employment Rate – Calculated as *Employed Graduates* divided by *Not Re-Enrolled Graduates*.

RESULTS

TABLE 1: EMPLOYMENT RATE OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS EARNING AN AAS FROM MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AY 2016-2020

Academic Year of Graduation	Graduates			Employment Rate
	Total	Not Re-Enrolled	Employed	
2016	202	188	67	35.6%
2017	211	189	63	33.3%
2018	204	189	71	37.6%
2019	222	202	62	30.7%
2020	258	236	74	31.4%
5-Year Average	219	200	67	33.5%

Source: Mississippi State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2022.

