

March 2022

# Technical Education Retention

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



Prepared by Mississippi State University's NSPARC

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### **ABOUT MISSISSIPPI'S SLDS**

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Mississippi's Statewide 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.

### **PREPARED BY MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY'S NSPARC**

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NSPARC, the National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center at Mississippi State University, is a trusted source for research addressing critical challenges faced by government, economic and workforce development professionals, educational institutions, nonprofits, and the private sector. Drawing on a team of social scientists, economists, data engineers, data analysts, and machine learning experts, NSPARC facilitates informed decision-making.

With over 20 years of experience, NSPARC excels at combining data from disparate sources to tackle complex issues. NSPARC scientists uncover trends and enable evidence-based research across areas ranging from workforce development, education, and economics to disaster resilience, and community development. NSPARC scientists' versatility allows them to easily translate knowledge from one domain to another and collaborate effectively with diverse partners, ensuring research findings have real-world impact. This allows NSPARC to draw meaningful insights from data to address challenges faced by policymakers, employers, economic developers, and state agencies.

For more information, contact NSPARC at [nsparc@nsparc.msstate.edu](mailto:nsparc@nsparc.msstate.edu) or 662-325-9242.

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### SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

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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

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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

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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

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

Academic Year of Graduation	<u>Graduates</u>			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%
<b>5-Year Average</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33.5%</b>

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



# SLDS

**Statewide Longitudinal  
Data System**

**Prepared by Mississippi State University's NSPARC**



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