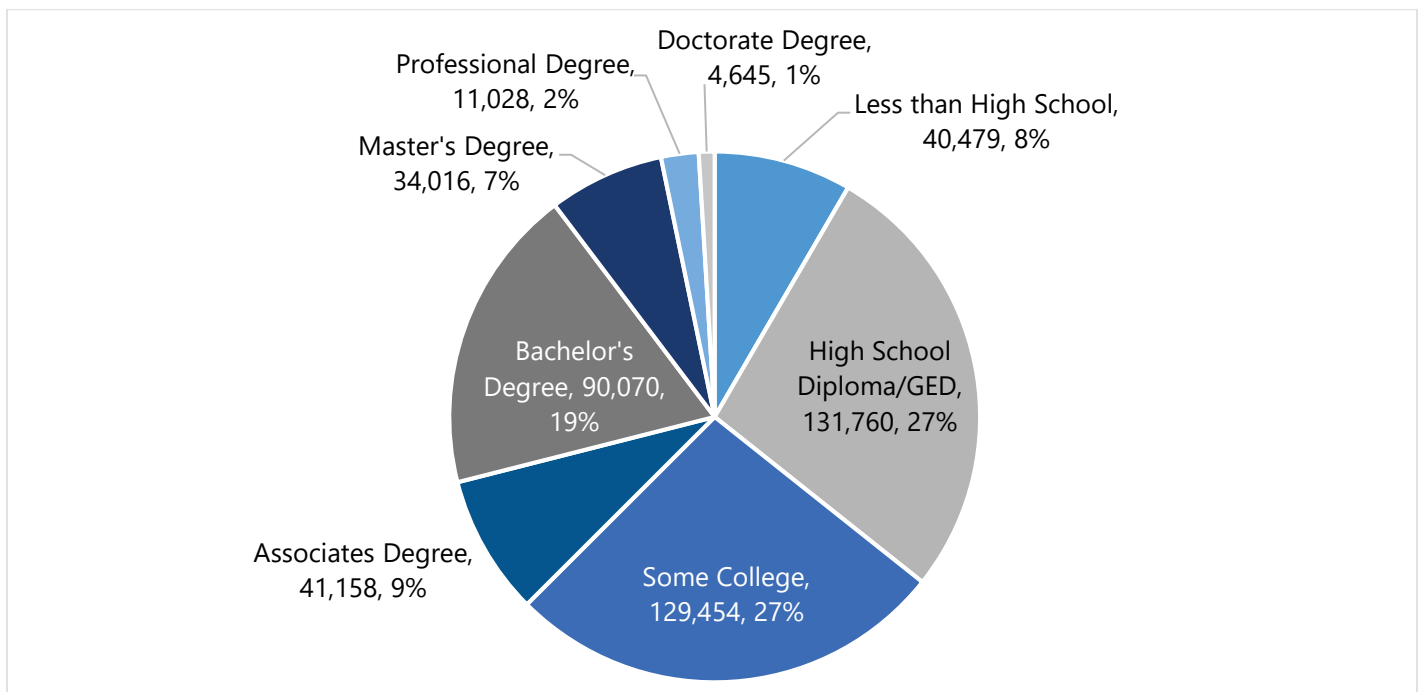


Alaska's statewide postsecondary attainment goal is for 65% of working-age Alaskans to have a postsecondary credential by the year 2025. The Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network (the Network), a non-profit group of educators, industry, and other higher education stakeholders, adopted the attainment goal in 2014 to increase Alaska residents' readiness for projected job openings requiring postsecondary credentials.<sup>1</sup> A recent estimate is that 54% of Alaskans 25-65 have a certificate or college degree.<sup>2</sup> To make efficient progress to reduce the eleven percentage point gap over the next few years, the Network has worked to promote postsecondary access and completion for Alaskans with some college experience but who have not yet obtained a credential.

The Network defines postsecondary credentials to include college degrees, certificates, licenses, and endorsements. However, the most accurate data available from the US Census Bureau American Community Survey describes only seven postsecondary education attainment levels, including "Some college, but less than one year," "One or more years of college credit, no degree," combined in this brief as residents with "some college" experience. Despite a lack of data on certificates and other non-degree credentials, education stakeholders may still be interested to learn more about these "some college" Alaska residents (Figure 1). This research brief uses the American Community Survey 2017 (1-Year Estimates) data to describe the demographics and careers of these residents and to compare them to those of residents with a college degree.

**Figure 1.** Alaska Population Estimates, 25 Years and Older, by Educational Attainment Level



<sup>1</sup> In 2013, the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce projected future job openings requiring postsecondary credentials and published their analysis in the report "Recovery-Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020", available at <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/recovery-job-growth-and-education-requirements-through-2020/>. For more information about the attainment goal and the work of the Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network, visit <https://65by2025.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> This attainment rate combines data from 2017 1-Year estimates from the US Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) and an estimate of the national certificate attainment rate applied to Alaska's population from the 2014 US Census Survey of Income and Program Participation. A dashboard of key metrics showing the state's progress towards this goal is available at <https://65by2025.org/metrics>.

Out of Alaska’s “some college” adult residents, approximately 8,000 have enrolled in school within the last three months. The rest of this analysis will emphasize the remaining estimated 121,198 Alaskans 25 and older with some college experience who have not recently enrolled in school.

Just under half in this group are between the ages of 25 to 44 years old, and therefore may have more than two decades of increased income over their careers if they are able to complete their degree (Figure 2). On average, this group earns \$19,100 less than Alaskans with an associate degree or higher within this survey sample (Figure 3). A college degree may also influence their career choices; Alaskans with an associate degree or higher have higher rates of employment in the non-profit and government sectors than those with some college experience but no degree (Figure 3). The top industries of “some college” residents are construction, restaurants, and education (Figure 4).

**Figure 2.** Age of Alaska Residents, by Educational Attainment Level

	<b>Some College</b>	<b>Associate Degree or Higher</b>
25-34	25%	20%
35-44	21%	22%
45-54	18%	21%
55-64	17%	20%
65+	19%	18%

**121,198** adult Alaskans with some college experience:

- 46% are female, 54% are male
- 18% are Alaska Native or American Indian
- 3% are in the military on active duty
- 19% have a disability
- 28% were born in Alaska
- 53% are married

**Figure 3.** Alaska Classes of Workers and Average Incomes, 25 Years and Older, by Educational Attainment Level<sup>3</sup>

	<b>Less than High School</b>	<b>High School Diploma/GED</b>	<b>Some College</b>	<b>Associates Degree or Higher</b>
Private Business	57%	62%	58%	40%
Non-Profit Organization	9%	6%	7%	13%
Local Government	16%	8%	7%	11%
State Government	3%	7%	7%	13%
Federal Government	3%	5%	9%	11%
Self-employed, Unincorporated	8%	7%	8%	9%
Self-employed, Incorporated	0%	4%	3%	3%
Working Without Pay, Family Business	1%	0%	0%	0%
Unemployed, Last Worked Over 5 Years Ago	3%	1%	0%	0%
<b>Average Estimated Total Income</b>	<b>\$22,600</b>	<b>\$39,100</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>\$67,100</b>

**Figure 4.** Top 10 Industries, Alaskans 25 and Older with Some College, No Degree<sup>3</sup>

	<b>Estimated Residents</b>	<b>Average Estimated Total Income</b>
Construction	11,345	\$62,400
Restaurants and Other Food Services	5,416	\$47,600
Elementary and Secondary Schools	4,338	\$29,500
Executive Offices and Legislative Bodies	4,201	\$42,600
Hospitals	3,023	\$47,200
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	2,507	\$70,700
National Security and International Affairs	2,391	\$41,200
Real Estate	2,336	\$49,500
Taxi And Limousine Service	2,274	\$67,500
Services Incidental to Transportation	2,168	\$46,600

<sup>3</sup> Average estimated total incomes are rounded to the nearest \$100.