

Draft Goals for Connecticut

(Updated 5/30/2014)

The Planning Commission's vision is of a globally competitive, regionally engaged Connecticut higher education system that is focused on achieving these goals:

1. **Increase educational attainment: Increase the postsecondary education attainment level of the 25-64 year-old population of the state to at least 70% by 2025:** 40% with bachelor's degree and above, 30% with associate degrees and certificates (about 17% certificates and 13% associate degrees).

Targets

- Align standards and assessments for K-12 and adult education with clear statewide expectations for college and career readiness. Reduce by half the proportion of first-time community college students requiring remediation by 2025
- Reduce the education attainment gaps between whites and minorities by half – from 29% to 15% by 2025
- Increase the number of adults being awarded undergraduate degrees or certificates of value: double the number by 2025
- Improve the education attainment levels of residents of cities' urban cores: bring attainment to current statewide average by 2025

2. **Contribute to the development of a globally competitive economy and sustainable regions and communities.** Increase higher education's contributions to fostering regions and communities that have globally competitive economies and environments that have the cultural and other amenities essential to attract and retain a highly educated, diverse population.

Targets

- Align degree production with the workforce needs of the state's employers: By 2025 increase by 20% the production of degrees in fields identified as state priorities (e.g., STEM, health, high value certificates – advanced manufacturing)
- Contribute to expansion and diversification of the state's economy through research and innovation: Double the new business activity resulting from research by 2025
- Engage higher education institutions in regional strategies to develop sustainable communities and regions in terms of economy, environment, culture, and other conditions that are essential to attract and retain a highly educated, diverse population
 - Establish partnerships in every region focused on how higher education can contribute to sustainable communities engaging higher educational institutions (public and independent) with business, civic and cultural leaders
 - Increase the number of students engaged in communities through community service, internships and community-based projects

3. **Affordability: Ensure that higher education is affordable for Connecticut residents**

Targets

- Net cost of attending public two-year institutions relative to the incomes of poor families (low quintile incomes) will be no more than the national average by 2025.
- Reduce the amount of the average student loan to the national average by 2025
- Increase the productivity of Connecticut's public higher education institutions By 2025, decrease cost per undergraduate degree in each public sector by at least 10%