



ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 16

Ohio | Department of
Higher Education

John R. Kasich, Governor
John Carey, Chancellor

Choose  **Ohio** First

Strengthening Ohio's position in world markets such as aerospace,
medicine, computer technology and alternative energy.

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History and Overview

The General Assembly created the Choose Ohio First Program in 2007 to increase the number of Ohio residents completing postsecondary studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) or STEMM education. The goal of the program is to advance the economic growth of each region of the state and to support the success of program participants.

Ohio public and nonpublic colleges and universities participate in a competitive process to be awarded a Choose Ohio First designation. Choose Ohio First scholars enrolled in designated STEMM or STEMM education programs at these institutions receive scholarships and are provided a system of support.

In 2010, the 130th General Assembly established two new components of the Choose Ohio First program to focus on the health and well-being of Ohio residents. The new components added scholarships for medical students and advanced practice nurses committed to primary care in the patient-centered medical home model. These programs require participating scholars to serve in an Ohio medical practice that accepts Medicaid patients without restriction for not less than three years following completion of their training. The universities participating in these components of the program do not participate in the competitive process for awards.

As required by **Ohio Revised Code 3333.041** (3), this report summarizes the Chancellor's strategy in assigning Choose Ohio First scholarships and describes how the awards are consistent with that strategy.





Chancellor's Strategy in Assigning Choose Ohio First Scholarships

In awarding Choose Ohio First Scholarships, the Chancellor conducts a competitive process for program awards. In evaluating proposals submitted by colleges and universities, determinations for awards include evaluation of how each proposal addresses:

- » state and regional economic and educational needs;
- » recruitment into STEMM fields, including historically underrepresented populations;
- » systems of support for scholars;
- » collaboration among colleges and universities;
- » ease of two-year to four-year transfer for scholars;
- » cost-effectiveness and facilitation of low-cost completion;
- » ability to leverage matching resources; and
- » geographic distribution of awards across Ohio.



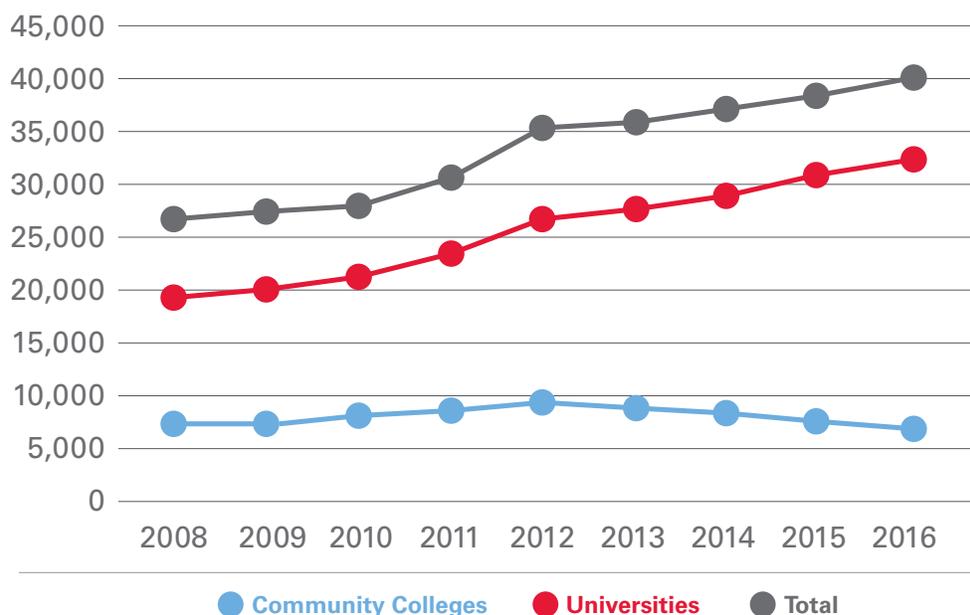


Award Alignment to Chancellor's Strategy

Recruitment and Enrollment into STEMM fields to Meet State and Regional Economic and Educational Needs

Since its inception, the Choose Ohio First Program has strengthened Ohio's workforce through growth in STEMM degrees; the number of STEMM degrees awarded in Ohio has increased from 26,644 total students in FY 2008 to 40,283 total students in FY 2016, representing a 51% increase. In particular, from FY 2008 to FY 2016, STEMM degrees at Ohio's public universities have increased 67% (from 19,496 STEMM degrees to 32,633 STEMM degrees). Enrollment in community colleges is down slightly from 2012; this may have contributed to a more modest increase in STEMM degrees in the community college sector. STEMM degrees at Ohio's public community colleges have increased 7% (from 7,148 STEMM degrees to 7,650 STEMM degrees).

STEMM Degrees Awarded at Ohio's Public Colleges and Universities
FY 2008 to FY 2016





Systems of Support for Scholars

Institutions with Choose Ohio First designations provide support specifically targeted to Choose Ohio First scholars that will help ensure student success. The form of this support varies among institutions. Support systems provided by Choose Ohio First colleges and universities include:

- » bridge programs to bring students' skill sets into alignment with college and university expectations;
- » faculty mentoring specifically targeted for Choose Ohio First scholars;
- » internships and co-op experiences; and
- » group research projects in STEMM areas.

These support systems are in place to increase retention and graduation rates for Choose Ohio First scholars.

Institutional Collaboration and Ease of Transfer

Most of the programs that submit requests to become designated as Choose Ohio First programs include some form of institutional collaboration. Those collaborations usually involve articulation agreements between institutions, so that students who move from a two-year degree to a four-year degree can transfer seamlessly. In many cases, students will be able to continue to receive the Choose Ohio First scholarship.

Cost Effectiveness and Facilitation of Low-Cost Completion

Graduate outcome data over the last three years show that nearly half (47%) of Choose Ohio First students graduate within four years. Most (>75%) receive a certificate or degree within five or six years. This is significantly higher when compared to the graduation rates of all entering first-time, full-time students, where three out of 10 (30%) graduate in four years and roughly half (48%) complete in five or six years.

Cost Effectiveness and Facilitation of Low-Cost Completion

In the 2015-2016 academic year, more than \$11 million was awarded and disbursed to 3,075 Choose Ohio First scholars attending an Ohio college or university. The participating institutions reported matching contributions totaling more than \$17 million in cost-share through June 2016. Matching funds are used to revise and develop new curricula in the STEMM disciplines awarded Choose Ohio First funds; supplement student travel to industry conferences and research symposia; and leverage the involvement of businesses in the professional development of Ohio's future innovators. Matching funds also are generated by local and national competitive grant projects leveraged by many of the Choose Ohio First programs.



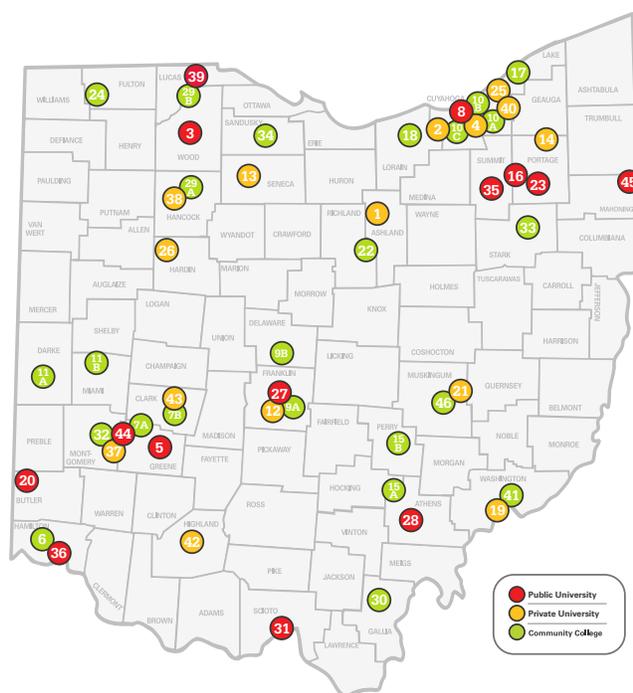


Matching Resources

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Geographic Distribution

To date, 46 public and private colleges and universities have received Choose Ohio First designation with enrolled scholars receiving scholarship funds.



Choose First Participating Colleges & Universities

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Ashland University | 10. Cuyahoga Community College | 20. Miami University |
| 2. Baldwin Wallace University | 11. Edison Community College | 21. Muskingum University |
| 3. Bowling Green State University | 12. Franklin University | 22. North Central State College |
| 4. Case Western Reserve University | 13. Heidelberg University | 23. Northeast Ohio Medical University |
| 5. Central State University | 14. Hiram College | 24. Northwest State Community College |
| 6. Cincinnati State Technical and Community College | 15. Hocking College | 25. Notre Dame College |
| 7. Clark State Community College | 16. Kent State University | 26. Ohio Northern University |
| 8. Cleveland State University | 17. Lakeland Community College | 27. The Ohio State University |
| 9. Columbus State Community College | 18. Lorain County Community College | 28. Ohio University |
| | 19. Marietta College | 29. Owens Community College |
| | | 30. Rio Grande Community College/ University of Rio Grande |
| | | 31. Shawnee State University |
| | | 32. Sinclair Community College |
| | | 33. Stark State College |
| | | 34. Terra Community College |
| | | 35. The University of Akron |
| | | 36. University of Cincinnati |
| | | 37. University of Dayton |
| | | 38. University of Findlay |
| | | 39. The University of Toledo |
| | | 40. Ursuline College |
| | | 41. Washington State Community College |
| | | 42. Wilmington College |
| | | 43. Wittenberg University |
| | | 44. Wright State University |
| | | 45. Youngstown State University |
| | | 46. Zane State College |



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