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Where Are Graduates of Select Cuyahoga County’s Higher Ed Schools Going After Graduation?

By Richey Piiparinen, Founding Director, The Center for Population Dynamics

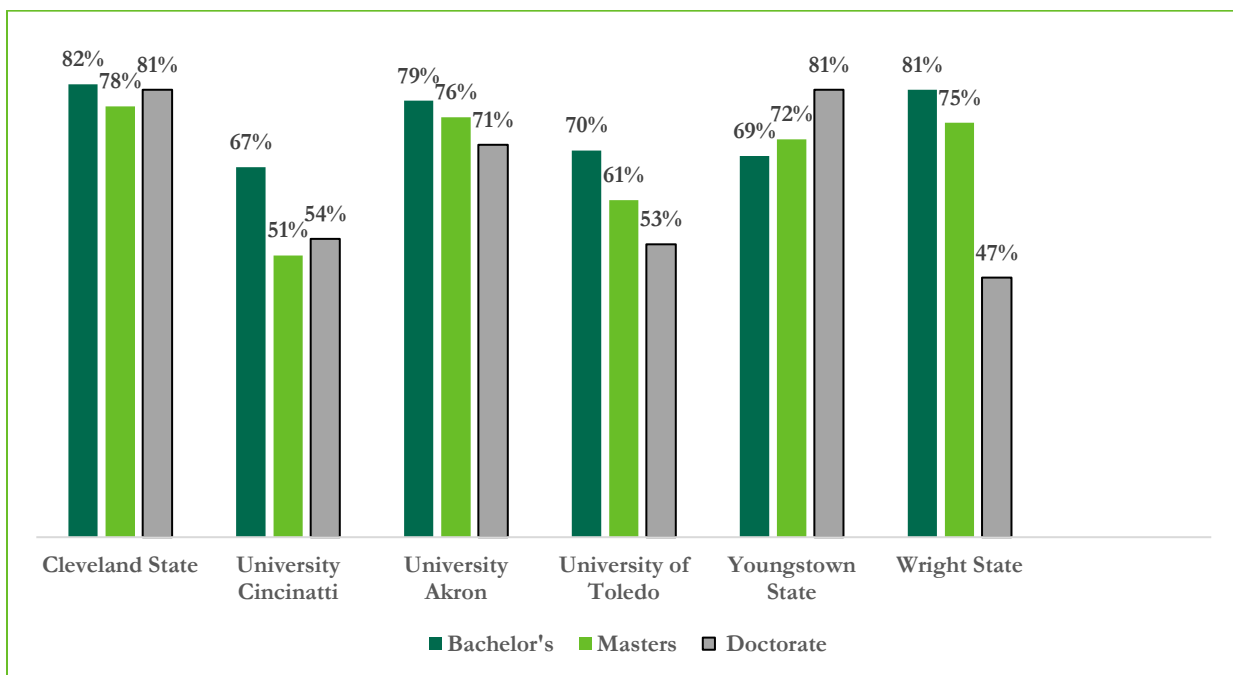
The U.S. Census has recently partnered with the U.S. Department of Commerce in the creation of the Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer (PSEO)ⁱ. The PSEO enables localities, such as Cuyahoga County, to track where college graduates of local institutions land after graduation.

Why does this matter? In today’s economy, college graduates act as a supply-side factor in the retention and attraction of firms. College graduates, through R&D and entrepreneurship, also act as a demand-side factor in the creation of start-up firms that, in turn, fuel job growth. In Cuyahoga County, the PSEO tracks retention for two public colleges and institutions: Cleveland State University, and Cuyahoga Community College. While the data is incomplete in regards to retention at all local institutions within the county (e.g., CWRU, Baldwin Wallace, etc.), it is the most robust estimates to date as to whether Cuyahoga County graduates at select Cleveland-centric public colleges or universities stay or leave upon graduation.

1. What’s the retention of Cleveland State University graduates and how does it compare to peer institutions? (Retention, here, refers to whether the graduate has remained in the State where the college or university was based, i.e., Ohio.)

According to the Census’ Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer (PSEO), **82%** of Cleveland State graduates with a bachelor’s degree remained in Ohio 5 years after graduation.ⁱⁱ The retention rate for those graduating with a master’s degree was 78%. For those graduating with a Doctorate (in professional practice), it was 81%. Retention rates in other big-city higher ed institutions are shown in Figure 1. Cleveland State’s retention rates are the highest regardless of type of degree attainment. The retention of Cleveland State grads with a Doctorate degree (81%) was particularly pronounced in its separation from peer institutions. This finding will be explored in subsequent policy briefs

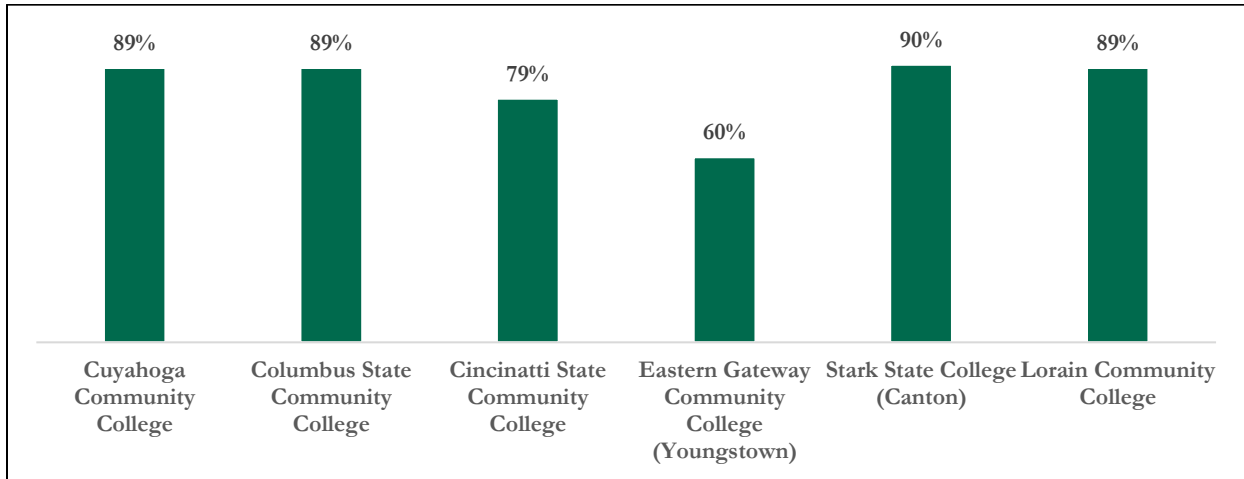
Figure 1: Retention Rates in Ohio’s Bachelor’s-Granting Urban Universities, Source: PSEO





2. What’s the retention of Cuyahoga Community College graduates and how does it compare to peer institutions? Eighty nine percent (89%) of Cuyahoga Community College graduates with an associate’s degree remained in Ohio 5 years after graduation. Retention rates in other big-city community colleges are shown in Figure 2. Results show that retention rates are high in Ohio’s big-city community colleges, likely because they act as a robust pipeline into larger local labor markets and/or Ohio’s big-city bachelor-granting institutions, such as Cleveland State.

Figure 2: Retention Rates in Ohio’s Associate’s-Granting Urban Community Colleges, Source: PSEO



Note: For press coverage of this brief, see the *Cleveland Signal* story “Graduate from Cleveland State or Tri-C? You’ll probably be sticking around.”ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ “The U.S. Census, The Center for Economic Studies, accessed, February 8, 2023, https://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/pseo_experimental.html#methodology

ⁱⁱ Note: Retention Rates were based on two-year cohorts that entered their studies between 2001-2003 to 2016-2018 and who remained in the State of Ohio 5 years post-graduation.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://signalcleveland.org/graduates-from-cleveland-state-or-tri-c-sticking-around/>