



ATLANTA REGIONAL COUNCIL for HIGHER EDUCATION

Atlanta: A Powerhouse of Higher Education

The Atlanta region enjoys a concentration of colleges and universities matched by few U.S. metropolitan areas.

The region consistently ranks in the top tier across more than 20 measures of higher education.

That's good news for Atlanta. A highly educated population means a better pool of workforce talent, higher incomes and a broader tax base. A wealth of degree programs in diverse campus settings means something for everyone, from entering freshmen to adults seeking advanced degrees. And campuses across the region bring arts and entertainment, commerce, research and community service to their neighborhoods.

Key Facts

57 colleges and universities

Well over 1,000 distinct programs of study at the associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctorate and professional levels

More than 220,000 students enrolled each year

6th in annual college graduates (at the bachelor's level or higher)¹

Economic Impact

Colleges and universities in the Atlanta region...

...are a significant sector of the economy, generating a \$10.8 billion impact on the state - 3.2 percent of Georgia's annual gross product.²

...create 130,000 jobs across all industries in Georgia²

...yield \$3 billion in state and local taxes paid by Georgians who graduated from or are employed by the region's colleges and universities²

...draw 5.7 million visits annually - 1.5 million of them overnight - for campus tours, commencement, alumni events, arts and culture, athletic events and conferences.²

Research Center

Only five U.S. metro areas totaled higher ed research spending of \$1 billion or more in 2005. Atlanta was one of them.¹

Three local institutions - Georgia Tech, Emory and UGA - ranked among the top 50 U.S. universities for research and development spending in FY 2005, according to the National Science Foundation.³

Together, 11 ARCHE members accounted for \$1.2 billion in FY2005 R&D spending.³

Smart Place

Atlanta is a national leader in attracting college-educated 25- to 34-year olds, according to the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.⁴

In the city of Atlanta, 39.9 percent of adults hold at least a bachelor's degree⁵, and in metro Atlanta the figure is 33.3 percent.⁶ The U.S. level is 27.0 percent.⁷

A Census Bureau analysis ranked the city of Atlanta 6th among cities nationally in the percentage of people 25 and older who have completed bachelor's degrees.⁸

Sources

1. Higher Education in America's Metropolitan Areas: A Statistical Profile, ARCHE. 2. How the Atlanta Region's Colleges and Universities Are Enriching Georgia, ARCHE. 3. Industrial Funding of Academic R&D Rebounds in FY 2005, National Science Foundation. 4. The Young and Restless: How Atlanta Competes for Talent, MACOC. 5. U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2006 (City). 6. U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2006 (MSA). 7. U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2006. (U.S.) 8. U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2004.

The Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE) brings together 19 of the Atlanta region's public and private colleges and universities. ARCHE builds awareness of the size, scope, impact and value of higher education and helps its members share strengths through cooperative programs. Founded in 1938, ARCHE has a membership that includes six affiliated libraries and 13 corporate and nonprofit community partners.