2023 Higher Education County Profile, Blount County


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### 2023 Higher Education County Profile

#### Blount County

**Community Education Snapshot**

- Public High School Graduation Rate: County 94.5%, Tennessee 88.7%
- College-Going Rate: County 54.1%, Tennessee 52.8%
- First-Time Freshman TELS Recipient Rate: County 70.6%, Tennessee 66.3%
- ACT Scores: County 20.1, Tennessee 19.4

Note: 2021 Public High School Graduation Rate and 2021 Average ACT Scores provided by TN Department of Education. 2021 College-Going Rate and TELS Recipient Rate for Fall 2021 provided by THEC.

**Top Colleges Selected by 2021 High School Graduates**

1. Pellissippi State Community College - 240
2. UT Knoxville - 93
3. East Tennessee State University - 37
4. Maryville College - 36
5. Tennessee Technological University - 27

**Top 5 In-Demand Occupations by Highest Median Earnings and Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA)**

1. Nurse Anesthetists
2. Physicists
3. Sales Managers
4. Purchasing Managers
5. Editors

Note: 2022 Top Occupations are identified annually in the THEC Supply and Demand Report, using data provided by TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development and TN Department of Economic and Community Development. This list represents top five occupations ordered by median mid-career wage. Additional in-demand occupations in the LWDA can be found on THEC’s website. For more information on these careers, see O*NET Code Connector.

### Education Attainment Rate (age 25-64)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Tennessee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults with HS+</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults with Some College, No Degree</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults with Associate or higher</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults with Bachelor's or higher</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Socioeconomic Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>TN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share of Population in Poverty</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Ages 25-64</td>
<td>68,145</td>
<td>3,542,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Population Growth (2020-2022)</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Projections (2022-2032)</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$60,301</td>
<td>$54,833</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

70.8% of the class of 2021 in the county enrolled in college immediately following high school, compared to 62.3% of the class of 2016.

61 additional students must enroll in college to increase the college-going rate by 5 percentage points.

88.5 Tennessee Reconnect Navigator

- Whitney McLaughlin
  - whitney.mclaughlin@tn.gov

Erika Adams
- erika.adams@tn.gov

filed the FAFSA in 2021-22 as compared to 77.9% overall in Tennessee.

Note: Overall filing rate for the 2021-22 FAFSA.
Tennessee Student Assistance Award

- **6,562** FAFSAsFiled
- **1,144** Awards
- **$1,933,722** Awarded

The TSAA is a state-funded grant program. This scholarship provides non-repayable need-based financial assistance to undergraduate students who are residents of Tennessee. TSAA Awardees must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment, at least part-time, at a public or an eligible non-public postsecondary institution in Tennessee and have an Expected Family Contribution below the eligibility threshold.

Total awarded during 2021-22 academic year.

Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOPE Scholarship</td>
<td>1,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOPE with GAMS</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOPE with Aspire</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Award</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Enrollment Grant</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOPE Foster Care Grant</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Traditional Student Scholarship</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Amount Awarded</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,212,632</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TENNESSEE Promise

- **1,209** public high school seniors applied for Tennessee Promise in the 2020-21 school year.
- 27.9% of those applicants enrolled as part of the Tennessee Promise program in the 2021-22 school year.

TENNESSEE Reconnect

- **404** grant applications for Tennessee Reconnect were received for the 2021-22 school year.
- A total of **90** Reconnectors were served by Tennessee Reconnect Communities.

TN PATH TO COLLEGE EVENTS

- **5** schools participated in Path to College, which provides resources and information to students, building a college-going culture in their schools.

COLEGE FOR TN

- **353** high school seniors in the 2020-21 school year received a Dual Enrollment Grant at a public college or university. 54.7% of those students enrolled in public postsecondary in the 2021-22 school year.

Grant Programs in Blount County

**Contract Education - Maryville College - $10,300**
The EC partners with Maryville College to provide student financial aid funding through Contract Education Grants to support student access to academic programs at private colleges that are limited or do not exist at public colleges. Founded in 1946, Maryville College has provided education for Tennessee residents in sign language for over 50 years and is the only accredited institution in Tennessee offering this program.

**GIVE 2.0 Community Grants - Pellissippi State Community College - Information Technology College to Career Collaborative (ITC3) - $994,164**
The Governor’s Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) is designed to foster long-term regional partnerships between Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs), community colleges, industry, economic development/workforce agencies, and K-12 to identify and address “skills gaps” in local workforce pools. Through a competitive grant process, grants of up to $1 million were made available to local collaboratives for periods of up to thirty (30) months to facilitate the development and implementation of employer-driven career pathways that include both K-12 local education agencies (LEAs) and higher education institutions.

**SPARC Grants - $95,158**
Supporting Postsecondary Access in Rural Communities (SPARC) grants provide funds for K-12 Career and Technical Education Departments to align program offerings to industry needs and postsecondary education, increase early postsecondary opportunities, and increase work-based learning opportunities.

**Veterans Reconnect Grant - Pellissippi State Community College - $30,000 - 438 Students Served**
The FY 2021-23 competitive Veteran Reconnect Grant gave all Tennessee Board of Regent institutions the capability to provide Student Veterans and military family members a one-time Military Transition Grant of up to $300. The micro-grant will assist those students with a financial need in hopes that they persist in their academic studies. More opportunities to fund veteran education initiatives are currently being planned.

Undergraduate Enrollment

- **2017-2018**: 4,268
- **2018-2019**: 4,251
- **2019-2020**: 4,180
- **2020-2021**: 3,982
- **2021-2022**: 3,906

Undergraduate Degree Completion

- **2017-2018**: 827
- **2018-2019**: 766
- **2019-2020**: 767
- **2020-2021**: 742
- **2021-2022**: 723

These graphs represent TCATs, public community colleges, and universities.

**Date Completed 1/1/2023.** Due to the unique nature of the 2021-2022 academic year, several data points may not be comparable with past profiles.