In the baccalaureate business

About six percent of community colleges, spread across 23 states, award bachelor’s degrees.

States where community colleges have limited authority to offer bachelor’s degrees

Source: Education Commission of the States “Community colleges expanded role into awarding bachelor’s degree,” April 2015.

Many community colleges have expanded their role to include awarding a bachelor’s degree, typically to address workforce needs, especially in high-demand occupations. Community colleges also offer a bachelor’s degree in rural areas where students may not have an option to attend a four-year institution. Currently, 23 states allow community colleges to award baccalaureates, but—with the exception of Florida and Washington—fewer than four institutions in each state do so. In all, 65 of the nation’s 1,123 community colleges offered a baccalaureate program in 2014. For example, only five states allow a community college to confer bachelor’s degrees in nursing. State higher education policies generally limit to the types of bachelor’s degrees community colleges can offer.

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