
Credential Attainment Rate: What Can Count and When?

Definition

The percentage of those participants enrolled in an education or training program (excluding those in on-the-job training and customized training) who attain a recognized postsecondary credential or a secondary school diploma (or its recognized equivalent), during participation in or within one year after exit from the program.

A participant who has attained a secondary school diploma (or its recognized equivalent) is included in the percentage of participants who have attained a secondary school diploma (or its recognized equivalent) only if the participant also is employed or is enrolled in an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within one year after exit from the program.

Reporting Cohort

Because the Credential Attainment Rate indicator includes outcomes (i.e., employment, enrollment in education or training programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials, and/or post-exit credential attainment) that participants may achieve within one year of exiting the VR program, the reporting cohort for any given Program Year (PY) reverts to the prior Calendar Year. To account for four quarters of post-exit reporting and the two-quarter lag in Unemployment Insurance data, VR agencies report on participants who exited the VR program for a total of six quarters post-exit.

The below table illustrates an example of this for participants who exited the VR program during Calendar Year (CY) 2020. These participants' outcomes, within one year of exiting, will be reported throughout PY 2021. In other words, the performance results for participants who exit the VR program during CY 2020 are reflected in the PY 2021 Credential Attainment Rate.

Table: PY21 Credential Attainment Rate (reported October 1, 2022)

Exit Quarter	4 th Quarter Post-Exit	6 th Quarter Post-Exit
PY19Q3 (January 1, 2020-March 30, 2020)	PY20Q3	PY21Q1
PY19Q4 (April 1, 2020-June 30, 2020)	PY20Q4	PY21Q2
PY20Q1 (July 1, 2020-September 30, 2020)	PY21Q1	PY21Q3
PY20Q2 (October 1, 2020-December 31, 2020)	PY21Q2	PY21Q4

Background

- For more information related to Credential Attainment Rate, please review the joint policy guidance in [RSA-TAC-17-01](#).
- For technical assistance related to what may or may not count as a recognized credential, under WIOA, please review the [Credential Attainment Guide](#).
- To review the source documentation requirements related to reporting RSA-911 data elements pertaining to Credential Attainment Rate, please review the joint policy guidance in [RSA-TAC-19-01](#).
- To learn how RSA will calculate this indicator during PY 2020, using RSA-911 data elements, please review the PY 2020 Performance Calculation [Specifications](#).

Scenarios

The scenarios below serve as examples of how participant outcomes, achieved during or after participation in the VR program, are included in Credential Attainment Rate.

- Some scenarios pertain to participants who earned recognized postsecondary credentials.
- Some scenarios pertain to participants who earned secondary credentials and satisfy additional requirements (i.e., employment or postsecondary enrollment) during or after program participation that allow the secondary credential to count.
- Some scenarios pertain to participants who would not be included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator and/or denominator.

1. Consumer was enrolled in secondary education while a participant and graduated from secondary education before program exit. Consumer was not employed within four quarters post-exit, but consumer enrolled in education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within one year after program exit.

This consumer is included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator and denominator because this consumer earned a secondary credential during program participation and enrolled in an education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within one year of exiting.

2. Consumer was enrolled in secondary education while a participant and graduated from secondary education before program exit. Consumer was employed in the first (or second, third, or fourth) quarter after program exit.

This consumer is included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator and denominator because this consumer earned a secondary credential during program participation and was employed within one year of exiting.

3. Consumer was enrolled in secondary education while a participant and graduated from secondary education before program exit. Consumer was not employed within four quarters post-exit, but consumer enrolled in education/training program leading to a postsecondary recognized credential during program participation and remained enrolled after exit.

This consumer is included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator and denominator once the consumer exits the VR program because this consumer earned a secondary credential and remains enrolled in the education/training program leading to a postsecondary recognized credential post-exit.

4. Consumer was enrolled in secondary education while a participant and graduated from secondary education after program exit. Consumer was employed in the first (or second, third, or fourth) quarter post-exit.

This consumer is included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator and denominator because this consumer earned a secondary credential within one year of exiting and became employed within one year of exiting.

5. Consumer was enrolled in secondary education while a participant and graduated from secondary education after program exit. Consumer was not employed within four quarters post-exit, but consumer enrolled in an education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within one year after program exit.

This consumer is included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator and denominator because this consumer earned a secondary credential within one year of exiting and enrolled in an education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within one year of exiting.

6. Consumer was enrolled in secondary education during program participation but did not earn a secondary credential before or after program exit.

This consumer is NOT included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator but IS included in the denominator. The consumer was enrolled in secondary education during program participation but did not earn a secondary credential.

7. Consumer was enrolled in an education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential while a participant and graduated from this education/training program during program participation.

This consumer is included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator and denominator because the participant earned a recognized postsecondary credential during program participation and the VR agency reported this before the consumer exited.

8. Consumer was enrolled in an education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential while a participant and remained enrolled after program exit. Consumer graduated from this education/training program within one year after program exit.

This consumer is included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator and denominator because the consumer earned a recognized postsecondary credential within one year of exiting and the VR agency was able to report this information post-exit.

9. Consumer enrolled in an education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential after program exit. Consumer graduated from this education/training program within one year after program exit.

This consumer is NOT included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator or denominator. Post-exit enrollment in an education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential alone does not count as a successful outcome for this indicator.

10. Consumer enrolled in an education/training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential before program exit. Consumer did not graduate from this education/training program during participation in or within one year after program exit.

This consumer is NOT included in the Credential Attainment Rate numerator but IS included in the denominator. The consumer was enrolled in an education/training program during program participation but did not earn a recognized postsecondary credential.