

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact brings together leaders from 12 Midwestern states to strengthen postsecondary education and promote regional economic vitality.



MHEC leverages the knowledge and expertise of postsecondary leaders to generate collaborative solutions to challenges in higher education.

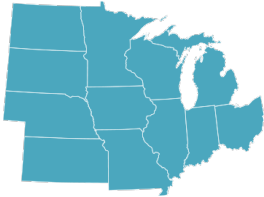


MHEC's contracts and programs save colleges, universities, and students in its member states valuable time and millions of dollars annually.



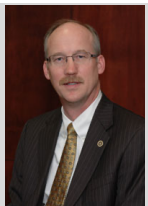
MHEC research and policy initiatives support workforce readiness and improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of postsecondary education.

About the Compact



MHEC was established in the early 1990s through the enactment of legislation recommended by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments. MHEC is funded by member state commitments, program income, and foundation grants. Member states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Kansas enacted authorizing legislation in 1990 to join MHEC.

Kansas Commissioners + Alternates



Blake Flanders
Kansas
Board of
Regents



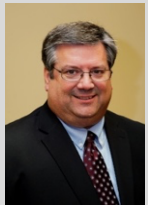
Marci Francisco
Kansas
Legislature



Diana Mendoza
Kansas
Board of
Regents



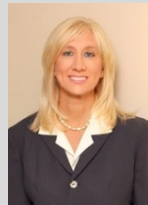
Aaron A. Otto
Governor's
Designee



Ken Rahjes
Kansas
Legislature



Barbara W. Ballard
Kansas
Legislature
(alternate)



Renee Erickson
Kansas
Legislature
(alternate)

How MHEC Benefits Kansas

Kansas received a 55-fold return on its MHEC membership commitment of \$115,000 in 2024-2025.

Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) for distance education savings (47 Kansas institutions participating)	\$4,670,641
Technology savings	\$1,438,350
Master Property Program dividends	\$221,368
Capacity building support (state grants, convenings, scholarships and travel grants)	\$18,530
TOTAL	\$6,348,889

New Upcoming Savings & Financial Opportunities

- Each member state is eligible for a Strategic Impact and Innovation Grant of up to \$250,000 over two years from MHEC to advance innovative ideas and solutions in higher education.
- MHEC will produce an estimated \$1.9 million in savings for the region in 2025-26 on student health insurance due to participation growth in a contract with UnitedHealthCare – StudentResources. Seven Kansas institutions participate in MHEC's contract: Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas, University of Kansas Medical Center, and Wichita State University.

Additional Savings for Kansas Students & Families

The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) has helped students and families save millions of dollars by making it more affordable for non-resident students to attend out-of-state colleges and universities. This program is currently being reviewed in response to changes in tuition reciprocity practices across the region.



Kansas Engagement with MHEC Policy Initiatives & Capacity-Building Opportunities

Open Educational Resources	MHEC provided a \$10,000 grant to the Kansas Board of Regents to support travel for open educational resources (OER) leaders to attend the OpenEd Conference and to advance ongoing efforts to expand OER adoption by developing recommendations for additional high-enrollment, system-wide transfer courses.
Dual Enrollment	Six Kansas higher education leaders participated in MHEC's July State Policy Workshop to advance dual enrollment efforts in Kansas. MHEC is also supporting the action plan for the Kansas dual enrollment advisory board.
Access & Affordability	Leaders from the Kansas Board of Regents, State Department of Education, and other Kansas institutions joined MHEC convenings and webinars to address issues and opportunities related to college access and affordability, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Technologies Community	Ten technology leaders at Kansas postsecondary institutions participated in MHEC's Technologies Community. Angela Neria, from Pittsburg State University and a member of the Technologies Community Executive Committee, received MHEC's Outstanding Service Award in 2025.

Research Requests

MHEC's policy and research team provided detailed reports in response to requests from Kansas legislators on the topics of:

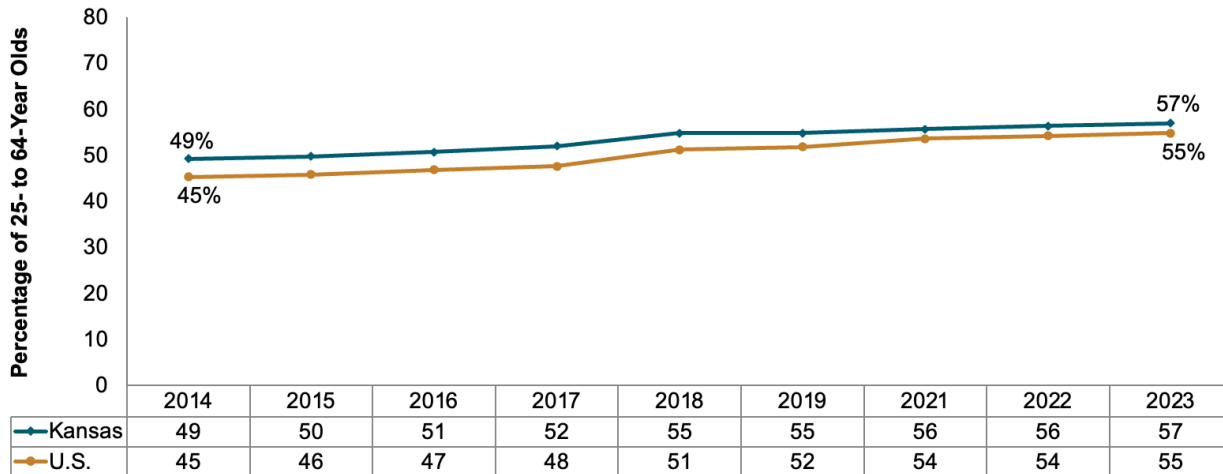
- Institutional efforts to ensure that students complete college
- Community college funding across the nation
- College prices relative to inflation
- Migration trends to neighboring states
- State approaches to reviewing the quality and value of credentials



Key Indicators for Higher Education in Kansas

ATTAINMENT: Kansas has remained consistently higher than the nation in attainment. About 57% of Kansans have a postsecondary certificate or higher, compared to 55% nationally.

**Percentage of 25- to 64-Year-Olds in Kansas
Who Have Attained a Postsecondary Credential**

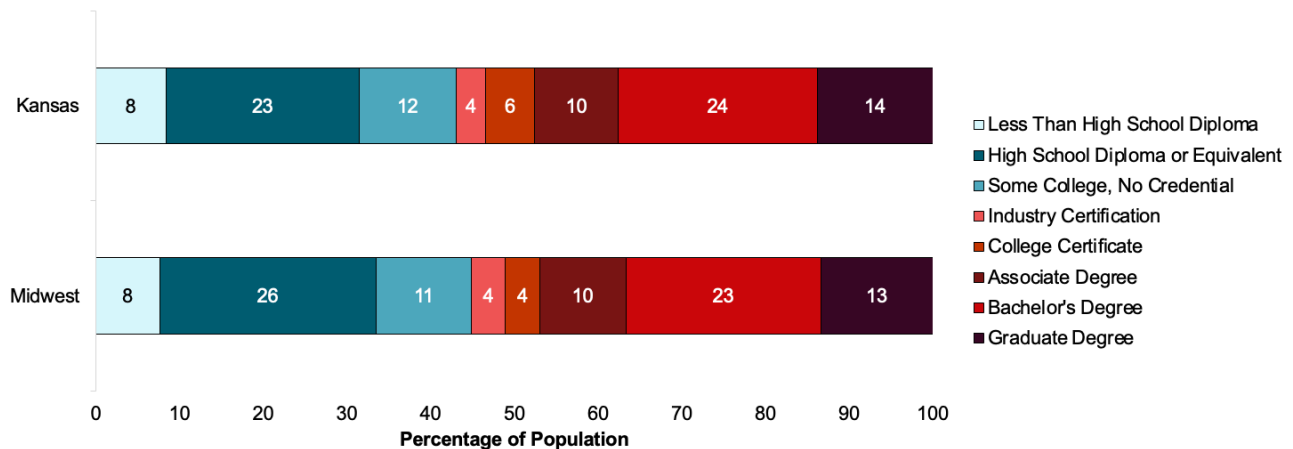


Source. Lumina Foundation. (2025). *A Stronger Nation*. Note. The attainment estimates include postsecondary certificates. Since 2018, the attainment estimate includes industry-recognized certifications. 2020 estimates are not available due to sampling problems that occurred during the 2020 administration of the American Community Survey. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



ATTAINMENT: Kansas residents have attained various types of postsecondary credentials, ranging from industry certifications and college certificates to bachelor's and graduate degrees; 43% of residents do not have a credential beyond high school.

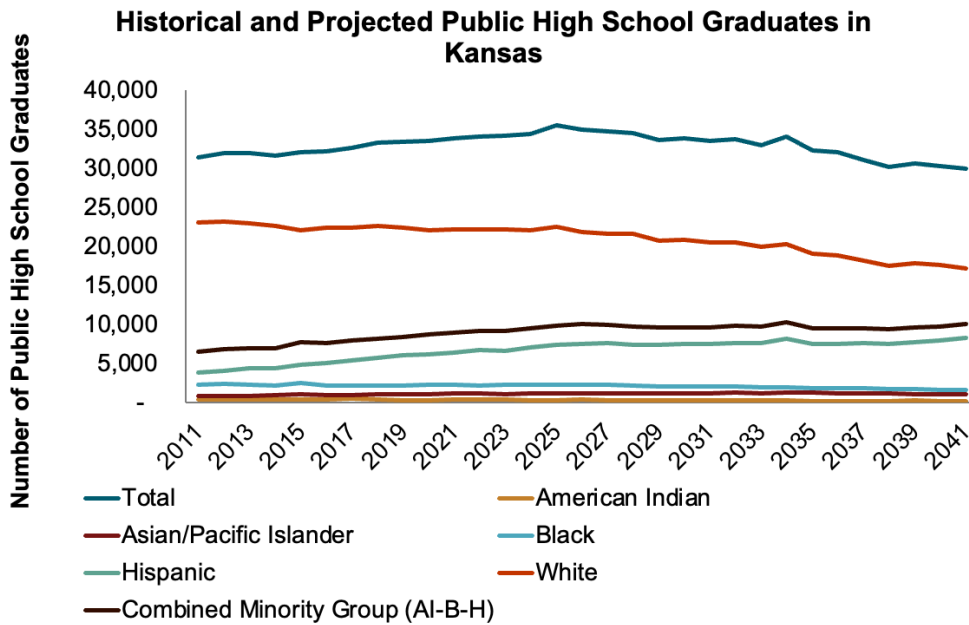
Educational Attainment Distribution of Kansas Residents Ages 25-64, 2023



Source. Lumina Foundation. (2025). *A Stronger Nation*. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



ENROLLMENT POOL: The number of high school graduates in Kansas is projected to decline over the next decade, driven by a decrease among White graduates, while the number of graduates in the combined minority group is expected to remain stable.

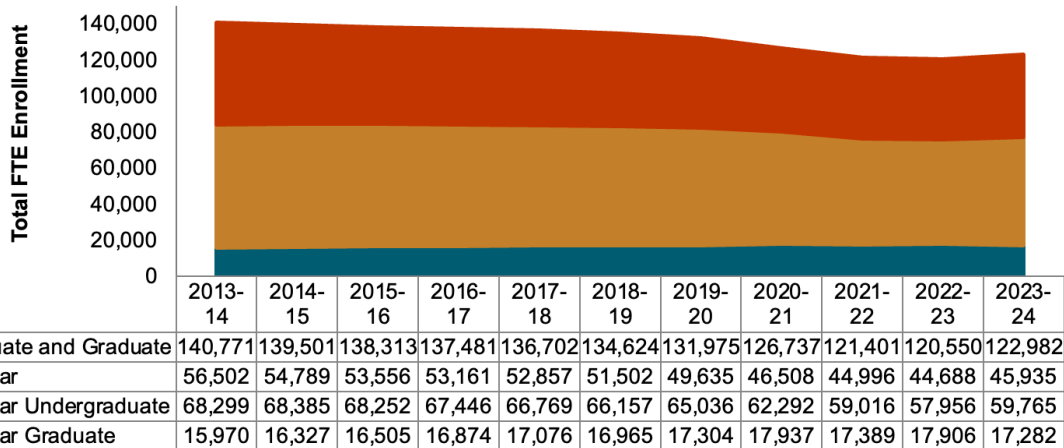


Source: WICHE. (2024). *Knocking at the College Door*. The combined minority group (AI-B-H) comprises American Indians, Blacks, and Hispanics. The estimates exclude home-schooled students. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



ENROLLMENT POOL: Undergraduate enrollment has declined at public two- and four-year colleges over much of the past decade but started to increase in 2023-24. Graduate enrollment increased slightly over the same period.

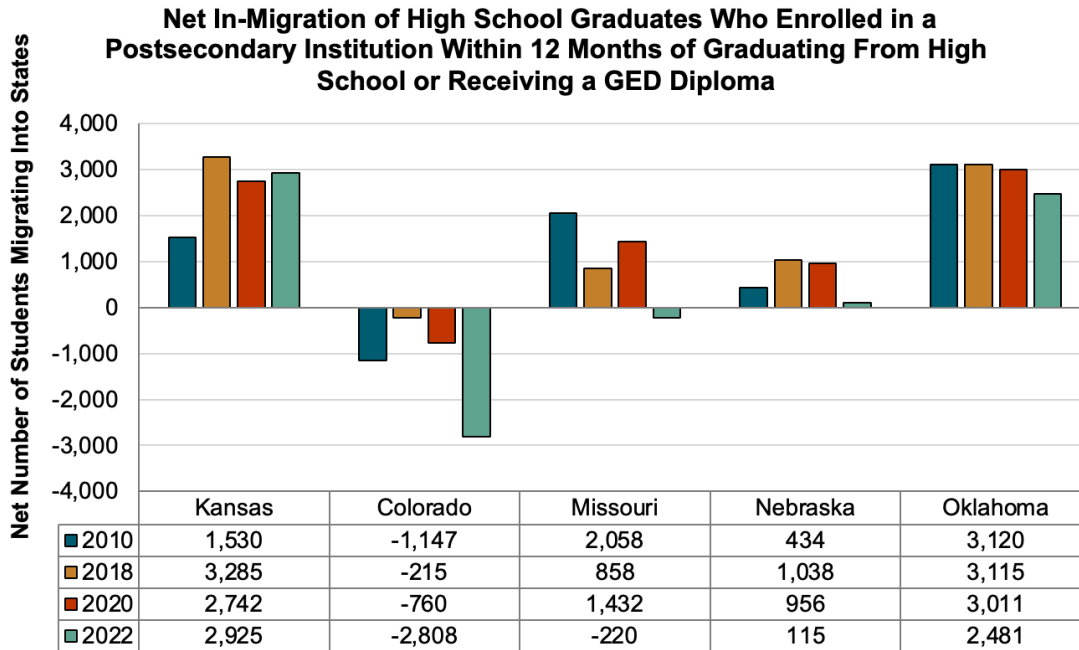
Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment at Kansas Public Institutions



Source: NCES IPEDS. (2024). *12-month enrollment*. Enrollment estimates include on- and off-campus students, dual enrollment students, and students taking distance or online courses. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. Categorizations may change over time. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



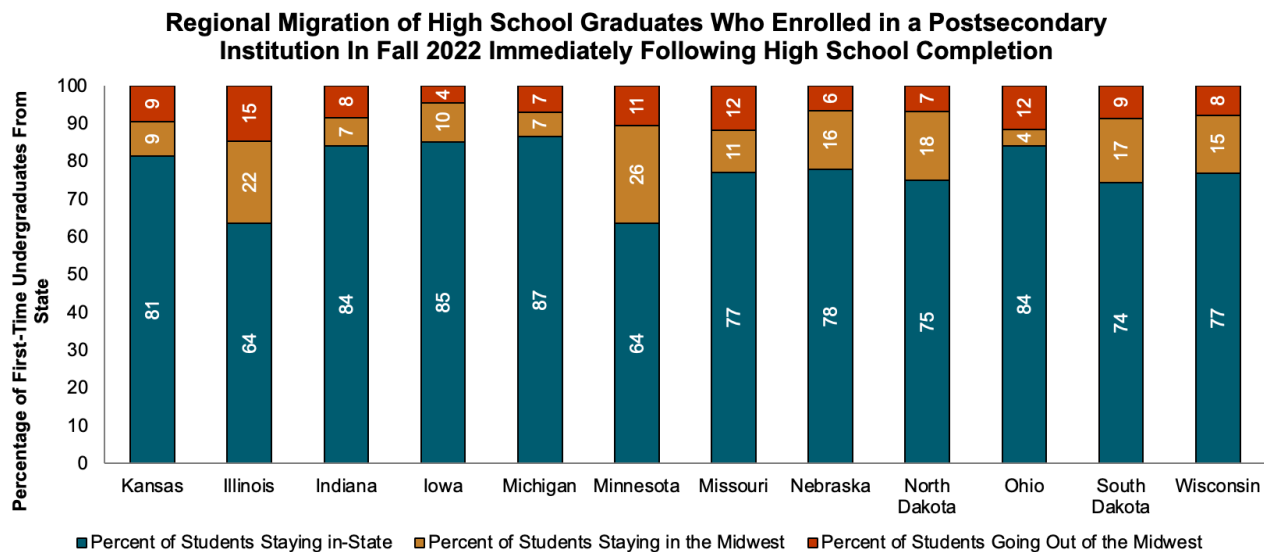
MIGRATION: More students migrate into Kansas than migrate out, and net in-migration was higher in Kansas than neighboring states in 2022.



Source: NCES IPEDS. (2022). *Fall enrollment*. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



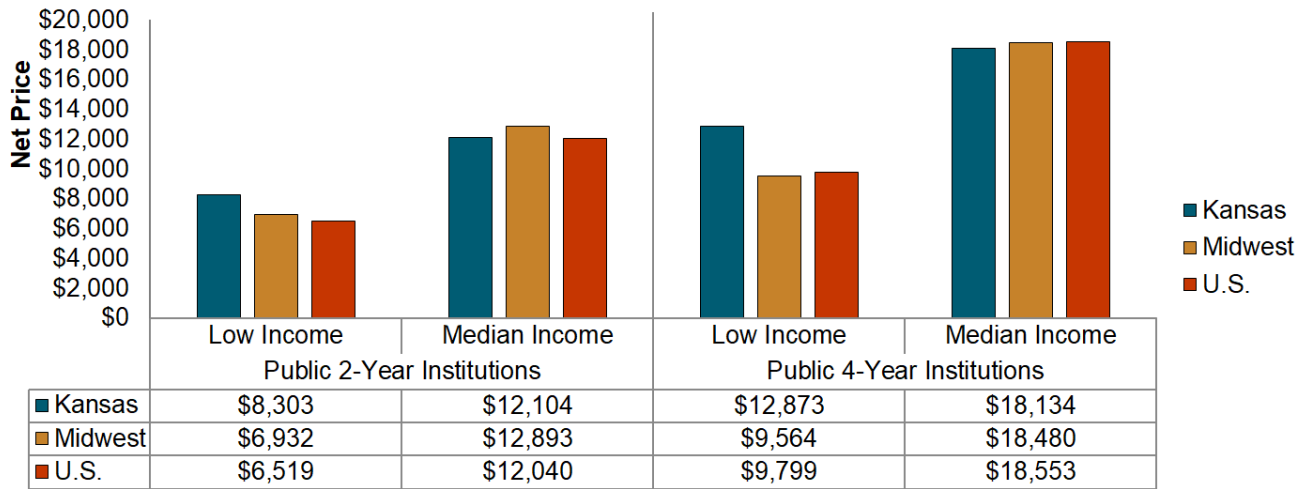
ENROLLMENT LOCATION: Of first-time college students from Kansas, 81 percent enrolled in state, 9 percent enrolled elsewhere in the Midwest, and 9 percent enrolled outside the Midwest.



Source: NCES IPEDS. (2022). *Fall enrollment*. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



COLLEGE PRICE: Average net price for low-income students at Kansas public two- and four-year institutions is higher than the Midwest averages, while the average net price for median-income students in Kansas is lower than the Midwest averages.



Source: NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Net price*. U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). *American Community Survey one-year estimates, Table B19125: Median family income in the past 12 months by presence of own children under 18 years*. Estimates are weighted by income group of first-time/full-time students. Total price of attendance includes in-state tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, transportation, and other designated costs. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. The net price of attendance for a median-income family represents the amount a family with an income of \$100,656 must pay for college. The net price of attendance for a low-income family represents the amount a family with an income of \$30,000 or less must pay for college. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

Kansas Technology Contract Usage



Total savings for institutions in Kansas = \$1,438,350

Higher Education

Allen County Community College
Baker University
Bethel College
Butler County Community College
Johnson County Community College
Kansas City Kansas Community College
Kansas State University
Kansas State University - Dean of Veterinary Medicine
Kansas State University - Extension Golden Prairie District
Kansas State University - Housing and Dining Services
Kansas State University - Physics Department

Kansas State University - Research Center
Kansas State University Salina
Labette Community College
North Central Kansas Technical College
Seward County Community College
St. Mary's College
The University of Kansas
The University of Kansas Athletics
The University of Kansas Medical Center
The University of Kansas Memorial Union
Washburn University
Wichita State University

K-12

Andover Unified School District 385
Catholic Diocese of Salina
Chase County Unified School District 284
Circle Public Schools
Clearwater Unified School District 264
Comanche County Unified School District 300
Deerfield Unified School District 216
Goddard Public Schools Unified School District 265
Grinnell Unified School District 291
Kansas City Unified School District 500
Kansas School for the Deaf
Keystone Learning Center
Kismet-Plains Unified School District 483
Lebo-Waverly Unified School District 243

Lyndon Unified School District 421
McLouth Unified School District 342
Olathe Public Schools
Oskaloosa Public Schools
Ottawa Unified School District 290
Renwick Unified School District 267
Saint Francis Unified School District 297
Santa Fe Trail Unified School District 434
St. Mary's Academy
Tonganoxie Unified School District 464
Valley Center Unified School District 262
West Elk Unified School District 282
Western Plains Unified School District 106
Wichita Collegiate School

Government/Other

8th Judicial District Court
Atchison County
Butler County District Court
City of Abilene
City of Atchison
City of Frontenac
City of Garden City
City of Hutchinson
City of Kansas City
City of Lansing
City of Lenexa
City of Merriam
City of Newton
City of Olathe
City of Pratt
City of Shawnee
City of St. Marys
Crawford County - Judicial Center
Douglas County - Extension Council
Geary County District Court

Geary County Sheriff's Department
Hutchinson Police Department
Johnson County - Department of Technology and Innovation
Johnson County Library
Kansas Municipal Energy Agency
Osage County Sheriff's Office
Phillips County Economic Development
Phillips County Health Department
Pratt County Sheriff's Department
Pratt Police Department
Sedgwick County Department of Information Technology
Sedgwick County Zoo
State of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services
State of Kansas Revisor of Statutes
Unified Government of Wyandotte County
WaterOne - Water District No. 1 of Johnson County
Wyandotte Nation



Kansas Program Participation as of 12/10/25

When members identify the need for solutions to challenges in postsecondary education, MHEC explores whether a long-term, regional approach is beneficial. Programs born from this process offer enrolling institutions opportunities to save money, improve efficiency, and better serve their stakeholders.

Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) for distance education

Allen County Community College
Baker University
Barclay College
Barton County Community College
Benedictine College
Bethel College
Butler County Community College
Central Baptist Theological Seminary
Central Christian College of Kansas
Cleveland University-Kansas City
Cloud County Community College
Coffeyville Community College
Colby Community College
Cowley County Community College and Area
Vocational-Technical School
Dodge City Community College
Donnelly College
Emporia State University
Flint Hills Technical College
Fort Hays State University
Fort Scott Community College
Friends University
Garden City Community College
Hesston College
Highland Community College

Hutchinson Community College
Independence Community College
Johnson County Community College
Kansas City Kansas Community College
Kansas State University
Kansas Wesleyan University
Labette Community College
Manhattan Christian College
MidAmerica Nazarene University
Neosho County Community College
Newman University
Pittsburg State University
Pratt Community College
Saint Paul School of Theology
Salina Area Technical College
Seward County Community College
Sterling College
Tabor College
University of Kansas
University of Saint Mary
Washburn University
Wichita State University
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology

*Approved SARA Institutions in Kansas per <https://www.nc-sara.org/directory>

Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP)

Emporia State University
Fort Hays State University

Friends University
Wichita State University

*Access the most up-to-date list of participants at <https://msep.mhec.org>

Stone Arch Sponsored Cell Captive Insurance Program

Contact Breanne Hegg to learn about participating in this program, which allows higher education institutions and systems to manage risk by using cells in MHEC's wholly owned captive insurance company. breanneh@mhec.org

Student Health Programs – UnitedHealthCare StudentResources

Emporia State University
Fort Hays State University
Kansas State University
Pittsburg State University

University of Kansas
University of Kansas - Medical Center
Wichita State University

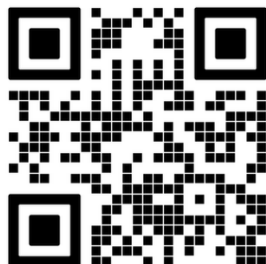
*Contact Breanne Hegg, vice president of programs, contracts, and communications, for updates: breanneh@mhec.org



MHEC Resources

Kansas member state page (with multiple downloadable documents)

<https://mhec.org/states/kansas> or scan the QR code below



MHEC website

<https://mhec.org/>

Interactive dashboard (offering key data to boost educational attainment)

<https://mhec.org/mhec-interactive-dashboard/>

MHEC contracts

<https://mhec.org/what-we-do/contracts/>

MHEC news

<https://mhec.org/news/>

MHEC strategic plan

<https://mhec.org/about/strategic-plan/>

MHEC committees

<https://mhec.org/about/committees/>

MHEC commissioners

<https://mhec.org/about/commissioners/>

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes

<https://tinyurl.com/55nekm5j>

