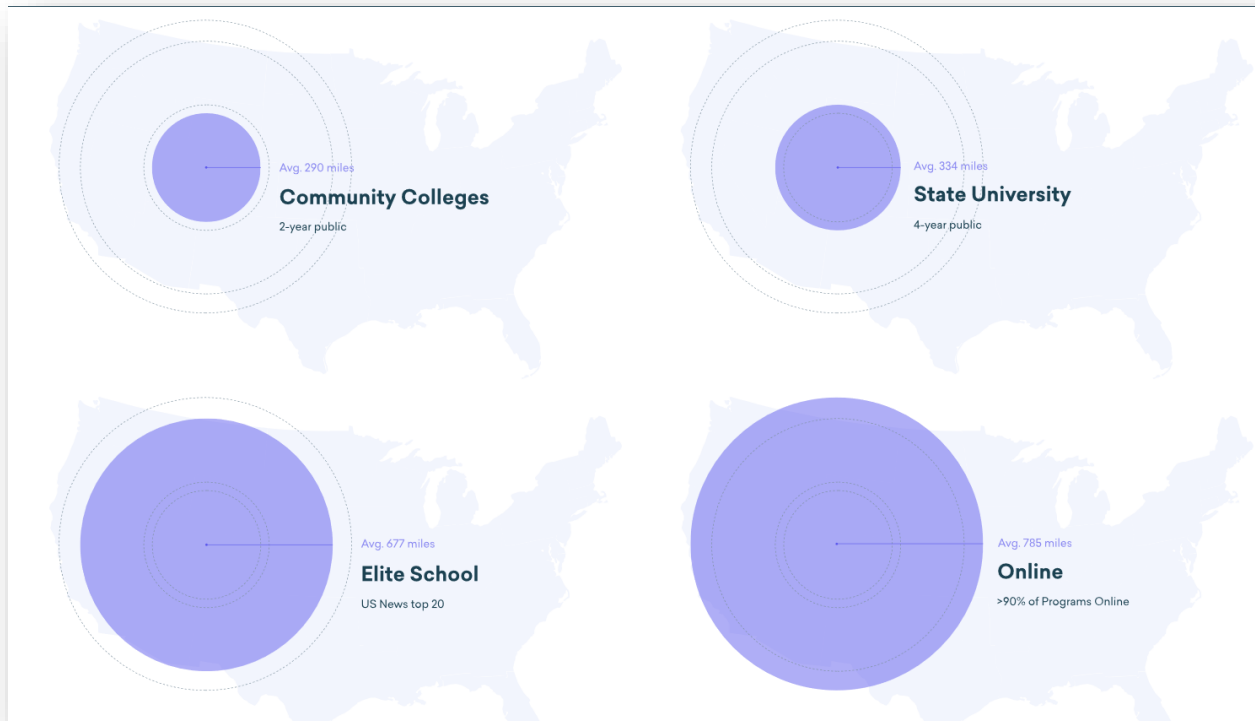


Post Secondary to Postal Codes: Where Graduates End Up

A look at the average migration distances



SOURCE: Emsi

BACKGROUND:

Emsi and the *Wall Street Journal* collaborated in 2019 on a report detailing where graduates end up living after college. To find the answers, research included reviewing more than 100-million resumes and online profiles. In the end, a database of 445 colleges and universities as well as research institutions was created. Ultimately, for the article the two teamed up for, 3,740 schools were included.

FINDINGS:

- Those who attended community colleges tend to remain within 300-miles of those colleges, on average, with 61% living within 50 miles of where he or she attended.
- For state universities, the average distance is within 330 miles with 40% of grads remaining within 50 miles.
- Elite university and college graduates (Columbia, Georgetown, Stanford, etc.) tend to migrate the farthest distance from their alma mater and head to urban centers, moving

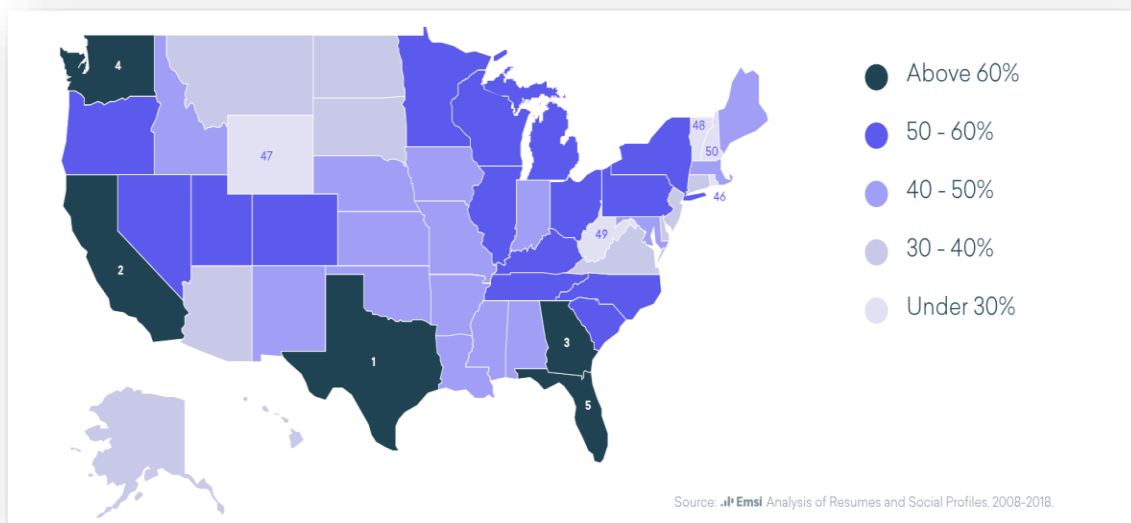
an average of close to 700 miles away, with half at least 500 miles from where they graduated.

- Graduates from institutions that predominately feature online degrees have graduates scattered across the country, with more than 60% at least 500 miles away from where they graduated from.

TAKEAWAYS

- Community colleges tend to center around regional employment needs and trends with tailored curriculums, with the majority of graduates remaining in the area after receiving a degree. Community colleges offer a compelling case from an economic and workforce development standpoint, given how close graduates tend to remain to the locations of these colleges.
- Similar to community colleges, state colleges tend to focus on state needs relating to economies and industry. For instance, State University of New York universities have many institutions offering courses in agriculture and science.
- Elite institutions don't see the same bonds as community and state colleges and universities. Instead of staying in the region or state, graduates from these places tend to flock to large cities and major economic hubs.
- Colleges and universities with largely online offerings have the least correlation with where graduates end up, since taking courses can be done anywhere with internet access. However, there is still a large concentration of graduates living close to where the main campus is located.

States With the Largest Graduate Retention



Some states are better than others retaining graduates, with Texas leading the pack, followed by California, Georgia, Washington and Florida.

CONCLUSION

Where a student attends college or university has a major impact on where he or she ultimately ends up, with community college graduates staying local, compared to a move to the big city for elite degree holders. This is key in helping communities, regions and states plan business development and growth strategies, with educators knowing more what role and impact they have in the process.

To read the article, click [here](#).