

Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX — #1 of 9: Colleges and Universities

Dallas-Fort Worth leads Texas in college density

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published October 18, 2026

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57

Colleges and Universities (2022)

The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metro hosts 57 colleges and universities, the highest in Texas.

This concentration reflects a deep institutional infrastructure that supports both academic research and workforce development. The presence of so many institutions creates a self-reinforcing ecosystem where AI innovation, talent pipelines, and entrepreneurial activity converge. It is not just about quantity—it's about the density of knowledge networks that enable rapid iteration and real-world application.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 6113 (Colleges, universities, and professional schools) • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-18-ai-higher-ed-ind-6113-msa>



01

Density breeds AI readiness

A metro with 57 colleges is not merely a center of education—it is a living laboratory for AI integration. Each institution contributes to a cumulative pool of data, talent, and experimentation, accelerating the adoption of AI across research, administration, and curriculum design. This is not a passive advantage; it is an active infrastructure that enables institutions to pilot, scale, and refine AI tools at speed and scale unmatched elsewhere in Texas.



02

AI thrives where institutions co-evolve

The true power of AI in higher education lies not in isolated projects, but in the interplay between institutions. In Dallas-Fort Worth, the sheer number of colleges fosters cross-institutional collaboration—shared AI labs, joint research grants, and unified digital infrastructure. This co-evolution creates a feedback loop: more institutions → more data → better models → more value → more institutions. It is a system, not a sum.

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