

Degrees Conferred by Public and Private Institutions

The number of postsecondary degrees conferred at each degree level increased between 2003–04 and 2013–14. The number of certificates below the associate’s degree level awarded during this period increased by 41 percent, the number of associate’s degrees increased by 51 percent, the number of bachelor’s degrees increased by 34 percent, the number of master’s degrees increased by 34 percent, and the number of doctor’s degrees increased by 41 percent.

Table 1. Number of degrees conferred by postsecondary institutions and percentage change, by control of institution and level of degree: Academic years 1993–94, 2003–04, and 2013–14

Level of degree and academic year	Total	Public	Private		
			Total	Nonprofit	For-profit
Sub-associate certificates					
1993–94	—	—	—	—	—
2003–04	687,787	364,053	323,734	35,316	288,418
2013–14	969,353	576,258	393,095	30,730	362,365
Percent change from 1993–94 to 2003–04	†	†	†	†	†
Percent change from 2003–04 to 2013–14	40.9	58.3	21.4	-13.0	25.6
Associate’s					
1993–94	530,632	444,373	86,259	48,493	37,766
2003–04	665,301	524,875	140,426	45,759	94,667
2013–14	1,003,364	793,180	210,184	53,127	157,057
Percent change from 1993–94 to 2003–04	25.4	18.1	62.8	-5.6	150.7
Percent change from 2003–04 to 2013–14	50.8	51.1	49.7	16.1	65.9
Bachelor’s					
1993–94	1,169,275	789,148	380,127	371,561	8,566
2003–04	1,399,542	905,718	493,824	451,518	42,306
2013–14	1,869,814	1,186,397	683,417	544,213	139,204
Percent change from 1993–94 to 2003–04	19.7	14.8	29.9	21.5	393.9
Percent change from 2003–04 to 2013–14	33.6	31.0	38.4	20.5	229.0
Master’s					
1993–94	393,037	221,428	171,609	168,718	2,891
2003–04	564,272	285,138	279,134	250,894	28,240
2013–14	754,475	346,101	408,374	333,580	74,794
Percent change from 1993–94 to 2003–04	43.6	28.8	62.7	48.7	876.8
Percent change from 2003–04 to 2013–14	33.7	21.4	46.3	33.0	164.9
Doctor’s¹					
1993–94	112,636	58,366	54,270	53,502	768
2003–04	126,087	64,205	61,882	60,447	1,435
2013–14	177,580	88,904	88,676	80,894	7,782
Percent change from 1993–94 to 2003–04	11.9	10.0	14.0	13.0	86.8
Percent change from 2003–04 to 2013–14	40.8	38.5	43.3	33.8	442.3

— Not available.

† Not applicable.

¹ Includes Ph.D., Ed.D., and comparable degrees at the doctoral level. Includes most degrees formerly classified as first-professional, such as M.D., D.D.S., and law degrees.

NOTE: Data are for postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Data for associate’s degrees and higher awards are for degree-granting institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), “Completions Survey” (IPEDS-C:93); and Fall 2004 and Fall 2014, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2015*, table 318.40.

The number of postsecondary degrees conferred at each degree level increased between 2003–04 and 2013–14. The number of certificates below the associate’s degree level awarded during this period increased by 41 percent, the number of associate’s degrees increased by

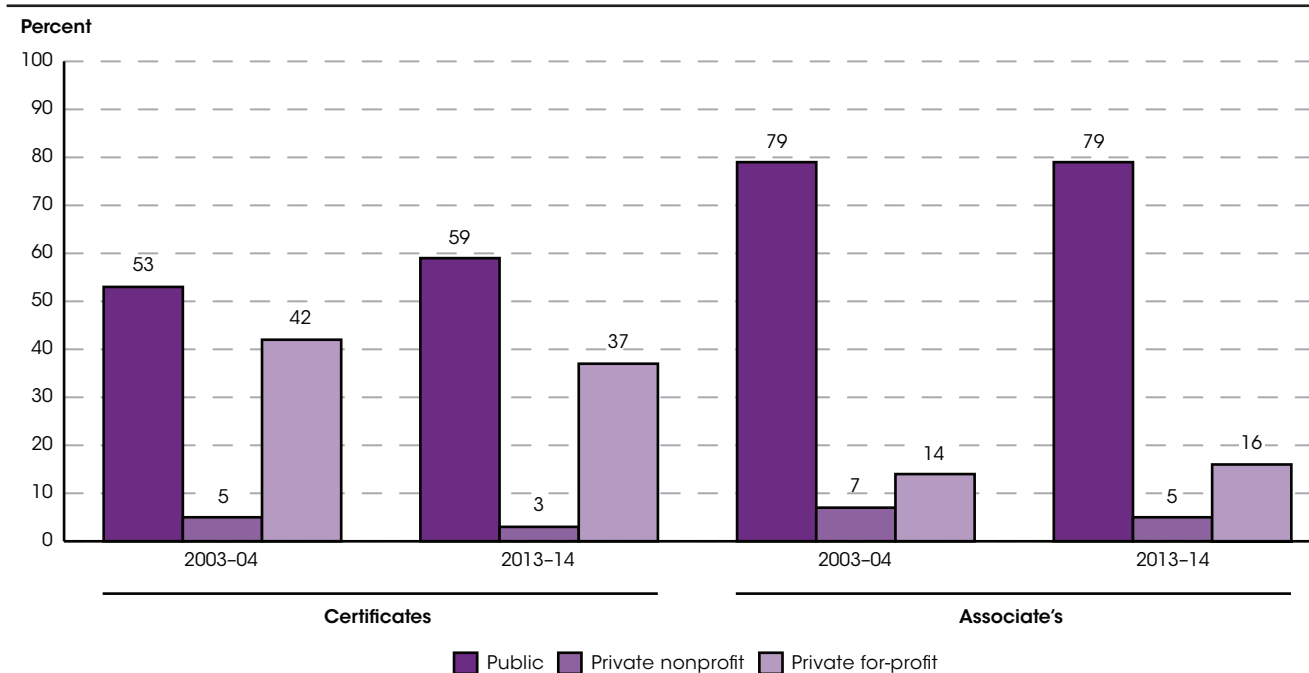
51 percent, the number of bachelor’s degrees increased by 34 percent, the number of master’s degrees increased by 34 percent, and the number of doctor’s degrees increased by 41 percent. From 2012–13 to 2013–14, institutions conferred more certificates and bachelor’s, master’s, and

doctor's degrees, but fewer associate's degrees. Over this time, the total number of bachelor's degrees increased by 1.6 percent and the number of doctor's degrees increased by 1.5 percent. The number of certificates and master's degrees both increased by less than one half of one percent, while the number of associate's degrees conferred decreased by less than one half of one percent.

At all levels except master's degrees, the percentage increases from 2003–04 to 2013–14 were greater than the percentage increases from 1993–94 to 2003–04.¹ For example, the total number of bachelor's degrees conferred increased by 34 percent from 2003–04 to 2013–14,

compared with 20 percent from 1993–94 to 2003–04. However, rates of increase in these two periods differed by institutional control. Public institutions had greater percentage increases from 2003–04 to 2013–14 than from 1993–94 to 2003–04 across all levels of degrees except master's degrees. Private nonprofit institutions had greater percentage increases from 2003–04 to 2013–14 than from 1993–94 to 2003–04 across associate's and doctor's degrees; for bachelor's and master's degrees, the percentage increase was greater in the earlier period than the later one. Private for-profit institutions experienced smaller percentage increases from 2003–04 to 2013–14 than from 1993–94 to 2003–04 across all degrees except doctor's.

Figure 1. Percentage distribution of certificates and associate's degrees conferred by postsecondary institutions, by control of institution: Academic years 2003–04 and 2013–14

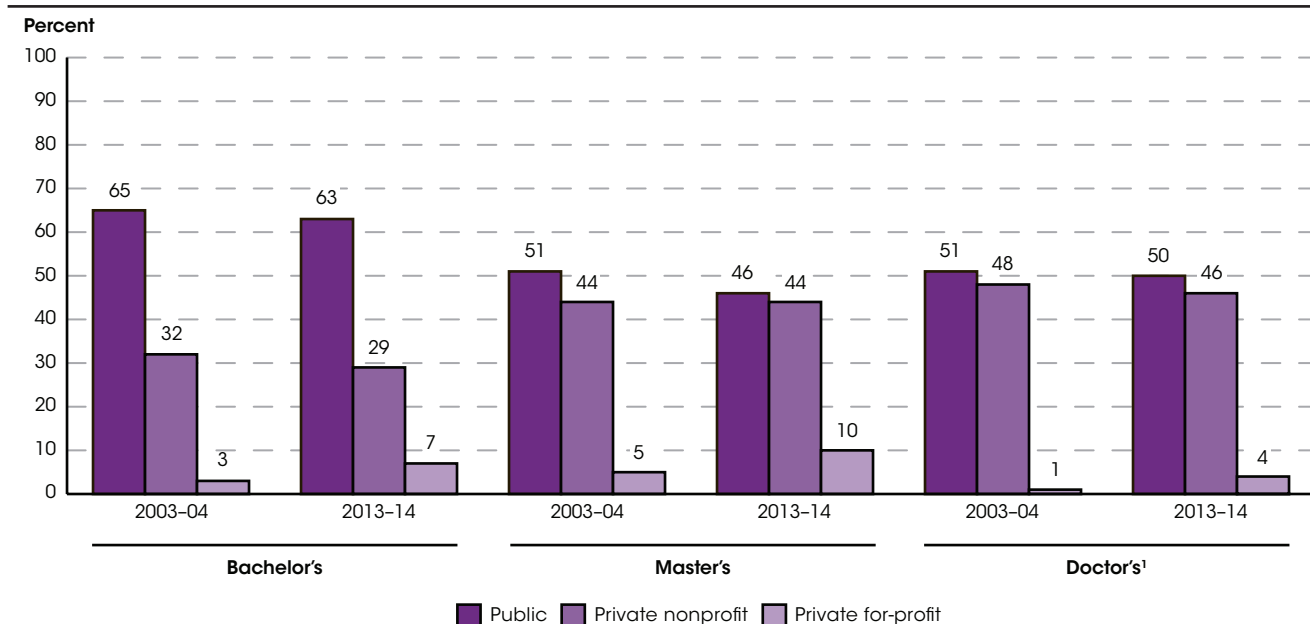


NOTE: Data are for postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Data for associate's degrees are for degree-granting institutions. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2004 and Fall 2014, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2015*, table 318.40.

From 2003–04 to 2013–14, the number of certificates awarded by public institutions increased by 58 percent (from 364,000 to 576,000), and the number awarded by private for-profit institutions increased by 26 percent (from 288,000 to 362,000). However, the number of certificates awarded by private nonprofit institutions decreased by 13 percent (from 35,000 to 31,000). Due to these changes, the share of all certificates conferred by public institutions was higher in 2013–14 than in 2003–04 (a change from 53 to 59 percent), while the shares conferred by private nonprofit institutions and private for-profit institutions were lower in 2013–14 than in 2003–04 (a change from 5 to 3 percent for private nonprofit institutions and from 42 to 37 percent for private for-profit institutions).

The number of associate's degrees awarded from 2003–04 to 2013–14 increased by 51 percent for public institutions (from 525,000 to 793,000), by 16 percent for private nonprofit institutions (from 46,000 to 53,000), and by 66 percent for private for-profit institutions (from 95,000 to 157,000). Due to these changes, the share of all associate's degrees conferred by private for-profit institutions increased from 14 percent in 2003–04 to 16 percent in 2013–14. Additionally, the share of associate's degrees conferred by public institutions was the same in 2003–04 and 2013–14 (79 percent), and the share conferred by private nonprofit institutions decreased from 7 to 5 percent.

Figure 2. Percentage distribution of bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees conferred by postsecondary institutions, by control of institution: Academic years 2003-04 and 2013-14



¹ Includes Ph.D., Ed.D., and comparable degrees at the doctoral level. Includes most degrees formerly classified as first-professional, such as M.D., D.D.S., and law degrees.
NOTE: Data are for postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Data are for degree-granting institutions. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2004 and Fall 2014, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2015*, table 318.40.

From 2003-04 to 2013-14, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded by public institutions increased by 31 percent (from 906,000 to 1.2 million), the number awarded by private nonprofit institutions increased by 21 percent (from 452,000 to 544,000), and the number awarded by private for-profit institutions increased by 229 percent (from 42,000 to 139,000). As a result, between 2003-04 and 2013-14, the shares of all bachelor's degrees conferred by public institutions and private nonprofit institutions decreased from 65 to 63 percent and from 32 to 29 percent, respectively, while the share conferred by private for-profit institutions increased from 3 to 7 percent.

The number of master's degrees awarded by public institutions increased by 21 percent (from 285,000 to 346,000) from 2003-04 to 2013-14, yet the percentage of all master's degrees conferred by these institutions declined from 51 to 46 percent. Although the number of master's degrees conferred by private nonprofit institutions increased by 33 percent (from 251,000 to 334,000) from

2003-04 to 2013-14, the percentage of all master's degrees conferred by these institutions was the same in both years (44 percent). In contrast, the number of master's degrees conferred by private for-profit institutions increased by 165 percent (from 28,000 to 75,000) from 2003-04 to 2013-14, resulting in an increase in these institutions' share of total master's degrees conferred, from 5 to 10 percent.

From 2003-04 to 2013-14, the number of doctor's degrees conferred increased by 38 percent at public institutions (from 64,000 to 89,000), by 34 percent at private nonprofit institutions (from 60,000 to 81,000), and by 442 percent at private for-profit institutions (from 1,400 to 7,800). At both public institutions and private nonprofit institutions, the share of all doctor's degrees conferred decreased from 2003-04 to 2013-14 (from 51 to 50 percent and from 48 to 46 percent, respectively), while private for-profit institutions' share increased (from 1 to 4 percent).

Endnotes:

¹ The number of sub-associate certificates conferred in 1993-94 is not available; therefore, certificates are not included in these comparisons.

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2015*, table 318.40

Related indicators: Undergraduate Degree Fields, Graduate Degree Fields

Glossary: Associate's degree, Bachelor's degree, Certificate, Control of institutions, Doctor's degree, For-profit institution, Master's degree, Nonprofit institution, Private institution, Public school or institution