



Research Brief

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Number of College Degrees Conferred in Pennsylvania On the Increase

MIDDLETOWN, Pa - The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that information available from the Pennsylvania Department of Education indicates the number of bachelor degrees, first-professional degrees, master's degrees and doctoral degrees conferred at institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania increased 1.2 percent from 94,812 in 1999-00 to 95,971 in 2000-01.

The number of bachelor's degrees conferred increased by 726, the largest numeric increase, and master's degrees conferred in Pennsylvania had the highest percentage increase at 1.8 percent from 1999-00 to 2000-01. There were 67,002 bachelor's degrees and 22,411 master's degrees conferred in 2000-01. Table 1 provides the number and percent change of college degrees conferred in Pennsylvania, by type, from 1999-00 to 2000-01.

Table 1: Number of Degrees Conferred, Pennsylvania 1999-00 to 2000-01

Type of Degree	2000-2001	1999-00	Number Change	Percent Change
Total	95,971	94,812	1,159	1.2
Bachelor's	67,002	66,276	726	1.1
First-Professional	4,313	4,273	40	1.0
Master's	22,411	22,024	387	1.8
Doctoral	2,245	2,239	6	0.3

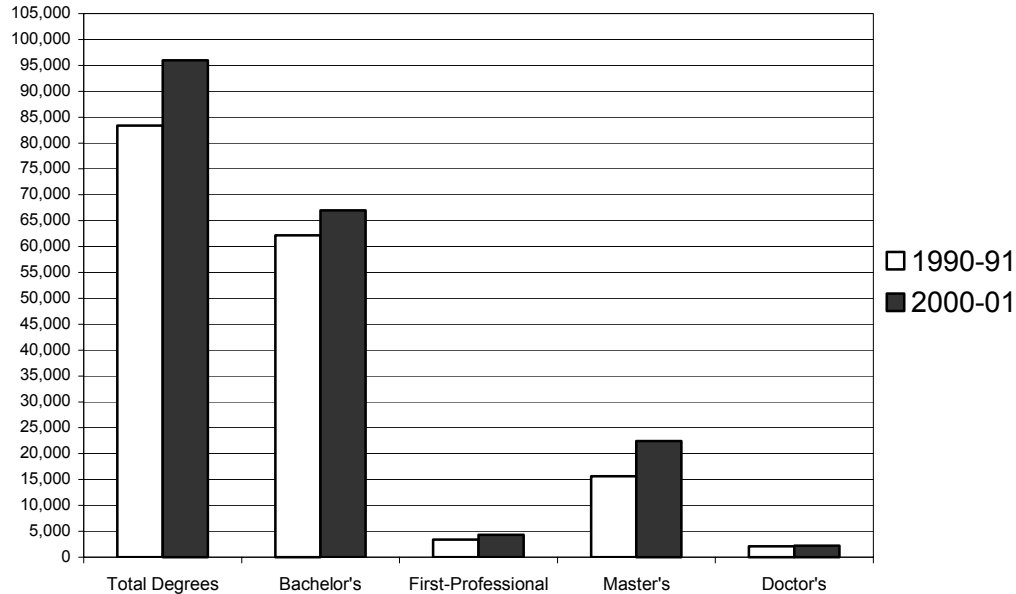
From 1990-91 to 2000-01, the number of degrees conferred increased from 83,339 to 95,971, a percentage increase of 15.2. The largest numeric and percentage increase in types of degrees conferred from 1990-91 to 2000-01 were master's degrees. Master's degrees increased 6,770 or 43.3 percent from 15,641 to 22,411.

Table 2: Number of Degrees Conferred, Pennsylvania 1990-91 to 2000-01

Type of Degree	2000-2001	1990-91	Number Change	Percent Change
Total	95,971	83,339	12,632	15.2
Bachelor's	67,002	62,154	4,848	7.8
First-Professional	4,313	3,422	891	26.0
Master's	22,411	15,641	6,770	43.3
Doctoral	2,245	2,122	123	5.8



College Degrees Conferred in PA



College Degrees Conferred by Gender

Women received 53,788 degrees, or 56.0 percent of all degrees conferred in Pennsylvania in 2000-01. Females received more bachelor's and master's degrees, while men received more first-professional and doctoral degrees (see Table 3).

Table 3: College Degrees Conferred by Gender, Pennsylvania 2000-01

Type of Degree	Total	Male	Female
Total	95,971	42,183	53,788
Bachelor's	67,002	29,080	37,922
First-Professional	4,313	2,307	2,006
Master's	22,411	9,552	12,859
Doctoral	2,245	1,244	1,001

Business management and administrative services were the most popular fields of study in 2000-01. Business management and administrative services accounted for 19,898 of the total degrees conferred. Education was the second largest field (13,557 degrees), followed by health professions and related sciences (10,372 degrees). Together, these three fields totaled 43,827 degrees, or 45.7 percent of the total degrees conferred in 2000-01. Table 4 provides additional information on degrees conferred by type, gender and field of study.

**Table 4: College Degrees Conferred by Field of Study and Gender
Pennsylvania 2000-01**

Type of Degree	Business Management & Administrative Services		Education		Health Professions & Related Sciences	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	10,989	8,909	3,354	10,203	2,824	7,548
Bachelor's	7,363	6,608	1,812	5,715	801	4,082
First-Professional	*	*	*	*	1,295	1,235
Master's	3,572	2,281	1,410	4,234	651	2,127
Doctoral	54	20	132	254	77	104

* Not Applicable

Other data available on education in Pennsylvania

In addition to the data available from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the U.S. Census Bureau has released information on educational attainment for Pennsylvania. Socio-economic profiles of Pennsylvania from Census 2000 have been released and are viewable on our Web site at: pasdc.hbg.psu.edu. This is the first socio-economic data available from Census 2000.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Data Services