

The Condition of Education 2009

Indicator 24 *Degrees Earned*

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2009*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2009*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009081>) or contact ED PUBS at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Degrees Earned

Between 1996–97 and 2006–07, the total number of degrees earned by Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native students grew at a faster rate than the number earned by White students for each type of degree.

Enrollment in degree-granting institutions increased between academic years 1996–97 and 2006–07, with total postsecondary enrollment increasing from 14.4 to 17.8 million students, a 24 percent increase (see *indicators 10 and 11*). This growth was accompanied by increases in the number of degrees earned: during this period, the number of associate’s degrees earned increased by 27 percent, bachelor’s degrees by 30 percent, master’s degrees by 44 percent, first-professional degrees by 14 percent, and doctoral degrees by 32 percent (see table A-24-1).

The number of degrees earned increased for all racial/ethnic groups for each type of degree, but at varying rates. (In this indicator, the term “other racial/ethnic groups” refers to the group which comprises Blacks, Hispanics, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaska Natives.) For example, between 1996–97 and 2006–07, the number of associate’s degrees earned by students in other racial/ethnic groups grew at a faster rate than the number earned by White students (70 vs. 14 percent increase, see table A-24-2). As a result, the percentage of all associate’s degrees awarded to students in other racial/ethnic groups increased from 23 to 31 percent. The number of associate’s degrees awarded to Hispanic students almost doubled during this period. Between 1996–97 and 2006–07, the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to students in other racial/ethnic groups increased by 62 percent (from 233,100 to 378,300 degrees), while the number awarded to White students increased by 22 percent (from 900,800 to 1.1 million). Students in other racial/ethnic groups were awarded 25 percent of all bachelor’s degrees in 2006–07, compared with 20 percent of the bachelor’s degrees awarded 10 years earlier. Between 1996–97 and 2006–07, the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanics increased by 84 percent (from 62,500 to 114,900 degrees).

For both Black and Hispanic students, the number of master’s degrees earned more than doubled between 1996–97 and 2006–07, contributing to the increase in the share of degrees earned by students in other racial/ethnic groups. In 2006–07, students in other racial/ethnic groups earned 23 percent of all master’s degrees, compared with 15 percent in 1996–97. For first-professional degrees, the majority of the increase was due to the increase in awards to students in other racial/ethnic groups. The number

of first-professional degrees awarded to these students increased by 6,700 degrees, for a total of 23,500 degrees in 2006–07, while the number awarded to White students increased by 4,300, for a total of 64,500 degrees. The number of doctoral degrees awarded to Black students doubled between 1996–97 and 2006–07, contributing to the increase in the share of all doctoral degrees awarded to students in other racial/ethnic groups (from 13 to 16 percent). More than one-quarter of doctoral degrees were awarded to nonresident aliens in 2006–07.

For each type of degree, the number of degrees earned grew at a faster rate for females than for males between 1996–97 and 2006–07. In 1996–97, females earned 61 percent of associate’s, 56 percent of bachelor’s, and 57 percent of master’s degrees (see table A-24-1). In 2006–07, the percentage of associate’s and bachelor’s degrees earned by females increased to 62 and 57 percent, respectively, and the percentage of master’s degrees increased to 61 percent. Females have historically earned fewer first-professional and doctoral degrees than males—in 1996–97, for example, females earned 42 percent of first-professional degrees and 41 percent of doctoral degrees. In 2006–07, for the first time, females and males earned about the same number of these types of degrees.

In 2006–07, females of each racial/ethnic group generally earned more degrees than their male counterparts for each type of degree. For example, in 2006–07, Black females earned 69 percent of associate’s, 66 percent of bachelor’s, 71 percent of master’s, 63 percent of first-professional, and 66 percent of doctoral degrees awarded to Black students (see table A-24-2). Females also earned more than 60 percent of associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees awarded to Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native students. White females earned more degrees than White males for each type of degree, except first-professional. Of the postbaccalaureate degrees awarded to nonresident aliens, females earned 43 percent of master’s degrees, 46 percent of first-professional degrees, and 35 percent of doctoral degrees, reflecting increased shares since 1996–97.



For more information: *Tables A-24-1 and A-24-2; Indicator 42*

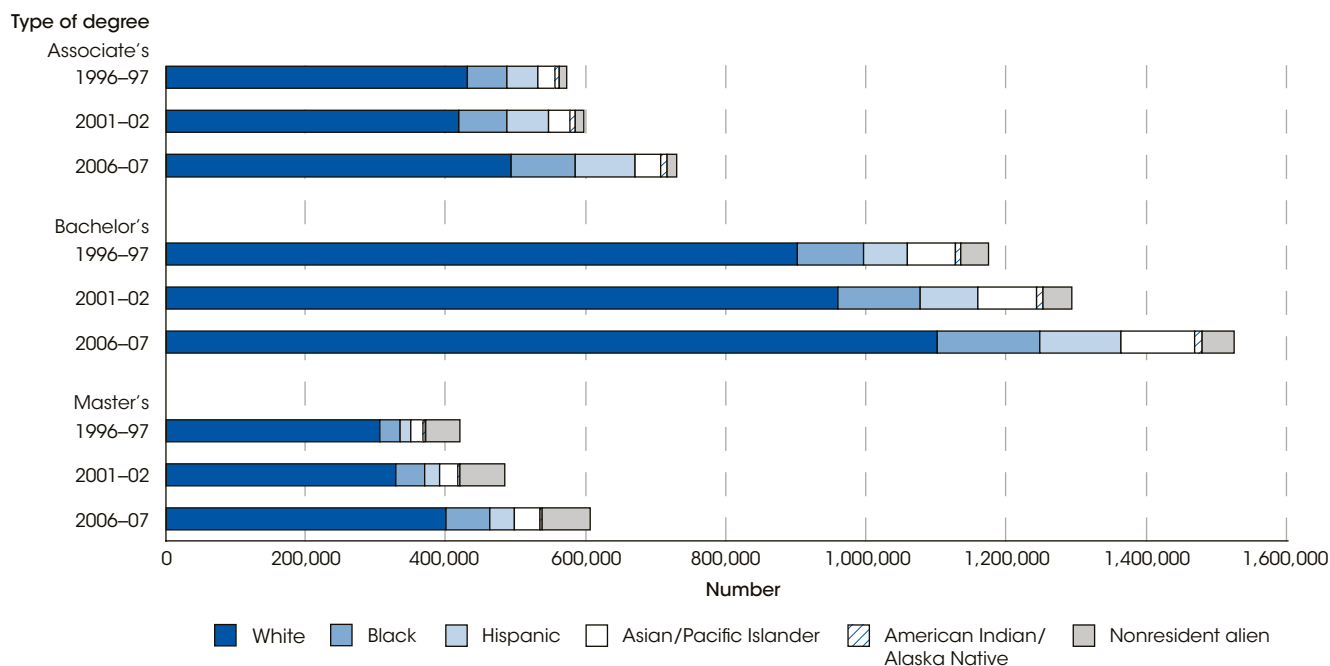
Glossary: *Doctoral degree, First-professional degree, Nonresident alien*

Technical Notes

Reported racial/ethnic distributions of students by type of degree, field of degree, and sex were used to estimate race/ethnicity for students whose race/ethnicity was not reported. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic

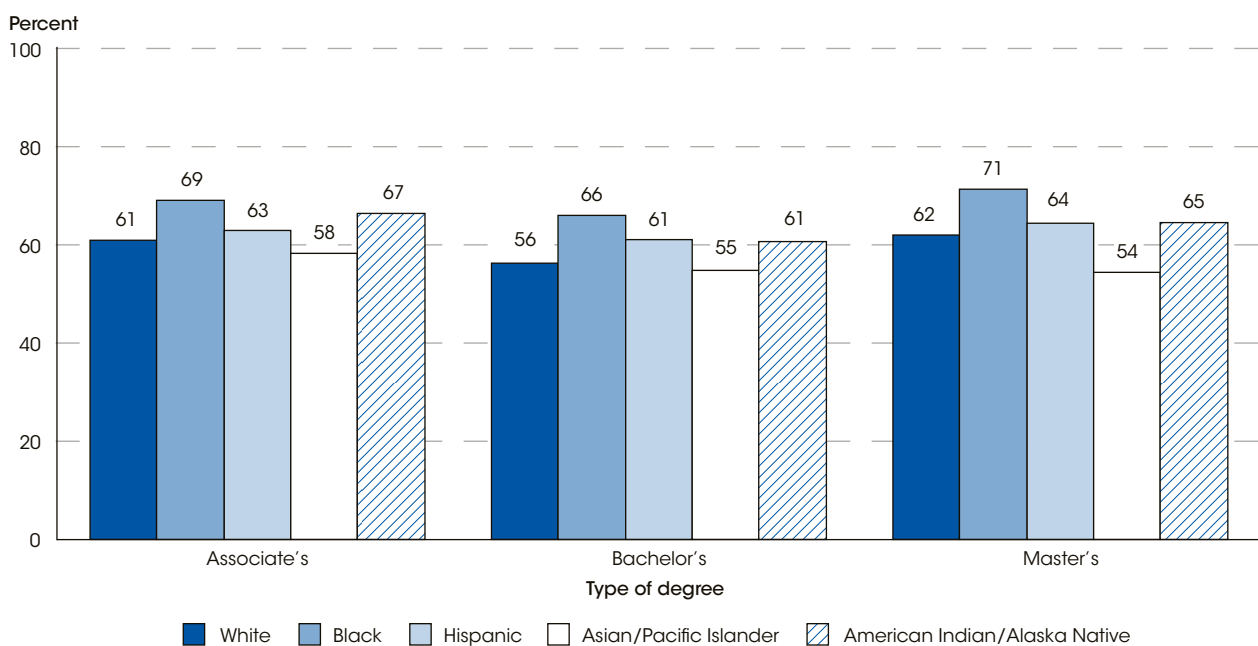
ethnicity. Nonresident aliens are featured separately since information about their race/ethnicity is not available. For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*.

Figure 24-1. Number of degrees conferred, by type of degree and race/ethnicity: Academic years 1996-97, 2001-02, and 2006-07



NOTE: Reported racial/ethnic distributions of students by type of degree, field of degree, and sex were used to estimate race/ethnicity for students whose race/ethnicity was not reported. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Nonresident aliens are shown separately since information about their race/ethnicity is not available. For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*. For more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental note 3*. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1996-97, 2001-02, and 2006-07 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:96) and Fall 2002 and 2007.

Figure 24-2. Percentage of degrees conferred to females, by type of degree and race/ethnicity: Academic year 2006-07



NOTE: Reported racial/ethnic distributions of students by type of degree, field of degree, and sex were used to estimate race/ethnicity for students whose race/ethnicity was not reported. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*. For more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental note 3*. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2006-07 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Survey," Fall 2007.

Degrees Earned

Table A-24-1. Number of degrees conferred by degree-granting institutions and percentage of degrees conferred to females, by type of degree: Academic years 1991-92 through 2006-07

Academic year	Associate's		Bachelor's		Master's	
	Number	Percent conferred to females	Number	Percent conferred to females	Number	Percent conferred to females
1991-92	504,231	58.9	1,136,553	54.2	352,838	54.1
1992-93	514,756	58.8	1,165,178	54.3	369,585	54.2
1993-94	530,632	59.4	1,169,275	54.5	387,070	54.5
1994-95	539,691	59.5	1,160,134	54.6	397,629	55.1
1995-96	555,216	60.5	1,164,792	55.1	406,301	55.9
1996-97	571,226	60.8	1,172,879	55.6	419,401	56.9
1997-98	558,555	61.0	1,184,406	56.1	430,164	57.1
1998-99	559,954	61.0	1,200,303	56.8	439,986	57.7
1999-2000	564,933	60.2	1,237,875	57.2	457,056	58.0
2000-01	578,865	60.0	1,244,171	57.3	468,476	58.5
2001-02	595,133	60.0	1,291,900	57.4	482,118	58.7
2002-03	634,016	60.0	1,348,811	57.5	513,339	58.8
2003-04	665,301	60.9	1,399,542	57.5	558,940	58.9
2004-05	696,660	61.6	1,439,264	57.4	574,618	59.3
2005-06	713,066	62.1	1,485,242	57.5	594,065	60.0
2006-07	728,114	62.2	1,524,092	57.4	604,607	60.6
Increase in the number of degrees conferred						
1996-97 to 2006-07	156,888	†	351,213	†	185,206	†
Percentage change in the number of degrees conferred						
1996-97 to 2006-07	27.5	†	29.9	†	44.2	†

See notes at end of table.

Table A-24-1. Number of degrees conferred by degree-granting institutions and percentage of degrees conferred to females, by type of degree: Academic years 1991-92 through 2006-07—Continued

Academic year	First-professional ¹		Doctoral ²	
	Number	Percent conferred to females	Number	Percent conferred to females
1991-92	74,146	39.2	40,659	37.1
1992-93	75,387	40.1	42,132	38.1
1993-94	75,418	40.7	43,185	38.5
1994-95	75,800	40.8	44,446	39.4
1995-96	76,734	41.7	44,652	39.9
1996-97	78,730	42.1	45,876	40.8
1997-98	78,598	42.9	46,010	42.0
1998-99	78,439	43.5	44,077	42.9
1999-2000	80,057	44.7	44,808	44.1
2000-01	79,707	46.2	44,904	44.9
2001-02	80,698	47.3	44,160	46.3
2002-03	80,897	48.2	46,042	47.1
2003-04	83,041	49.2	48,378	47.7
2004-05	87,289	49.8	52,631	48.8
2005-06	87,655	49.8	56,067	48.9
2006-07	90,064	50.0	60,616	50.1
		Increase in the number of degrees conferred		
1996-97 to 2006-07	11,334	†	14,740	†
		Percentage change in the number of degrees conferred		
1996-97 to 2006-07	14.4	†	32.1	†

† Not applicable.

¹ An award that requires completion of a degree program that meets all of the following criteria: (1) completion of the academic requirements to begin practice in the profession, (2) at least 2 years of college work before entering the degree program, and (3) a total of at least 6 academic years of college work to complete the degree program, including previously required college work plus the work required in the professional program itself. Includes first-professional degrees such as M.D., D.D.S., and law degrees. See glossary for a definition of first-professional degree.

² Includes Ph.D., Ed.D., and comparable degrees at the doctoral level. See glossary for a definition of doctoral degree.

NOTE: For more information on the classification of postsecondary institutions and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental notes 8 and 3*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1991-92 through 2006-07 IPEDS, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:90-99) and Fall 2000 through Fall 2007.

Degrees Earned

Table A-24-2. Number and percentage change in degrees conferred by degree-granting institutions, percentage distribution of degrees conferred, and percentage of degrees conferred to females, by type of degree and racial/ethnic group: Academic years 1996-97, 2001-02, and 2006-07

Type of degree and race/ethnicity	Number				Percentage distribution			Percent conferred to females		
	1996-97	2001-02	2006-07	Percent change, 1996-97 to 2006-07	1996-97	2001-02	2006-07	1996-97	2001-02	2006-07
Associate's	571,226	595,133	728,114	27.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	60.5	60.0	62.2
White	429,464	417,733	491,572	14.5	75.2	70.2	67.5	60.3	59.2	61.0
Other racial/ethnic groups	130,998	165,123	222,788	70.1	22.9	27.7	30.6	61.5	62.3	64.9
Black	56,306	67,343	91,529	62.6	9.9	11.3	12.6	65.5	66.1	69.1
Hispanic	43,549	60,003	85,410	96.1	7.6	10.1	11.7	58.9	60.1	62.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	25,159	30,945	37,266	48.1	4.4	5.2	5.1	55.8	57.2	58.4
American Indian/Alaska Native	5,984	6,832	8,583	43.4	1.0	1.1	1.2	64.2	66.2	66.5
Nonresident alien	10,764	12,277	13,754	27.8	1.9	2.1	1.9	56.8	58.0	61.3
Bachelor's	1,172,879	1,291,900	1,524,092	29.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	55.6	57.4	57.4
White	900,809	958,597	1,099,850	22.1	76.8	74.2	72.2	55.2	56.7	56.3
Other racial/ethnic groups	233,142	291,847	378,341	62.3	19.9	22.6	24.8	59.1	61.1	61.3
Black	94,349	116,623	146,653	55.4	8.0	9.0	9.6	64.4	66.4	66.1
Hispanic	62,509	82,966	114,936	83.9	5.3	6.4	7.5	57.9	60.3	61.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	68,859	83,093	105,297	52.9	5.9	6.4	6.9	52.8	54.7	54.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	7,425	9,165	11,455	54.3	0.6	0.7	0.8	59.6	60.5	60.7
Nonresident alien	38,928	41,456	45,901	17.9	3.3	3.2	3.0	44.3	48.2	51.0
Master's	419,401	482,118	604,607	44.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	56.9	58.7	60.6
White	305,005	327,645	399,267	30.9	72.7	68.0	66.0	58.8	60.7	62.1
Other racial/ethnic groups	64,844	90,790	137,105	111.4	15.5	18.8	22.7	61.2	63.7	65.0
Black	28,403	40,370	62,574	120.3	6.8	8.4	10.3	68.5	70.8	71.4
Hispanic	15,440	22,385	34,822	125.5	3.7	4.6	5.8	59.5	62.3	64.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	19,061	25,411	36,134	89.6	4.5	5.3	6.0	51.6	53.8	54.5
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,940	2,624	3,575	84.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	62.2	62.2	64.6
Nonresident alien	49,552	63,683	68,235	37.7	11.8	13.2	11.3	39.0	41.3	43.1

See notes at end of table.

Table A-24-2. Number and percentage change in degrees conferred by degree-granting institutions, percentage distribution of degrees conferred, and percentage of degrees conferred to females, by type of degree and racial/ethnic group: Academic years 1996-97, 2001-02, and 2006-07—Continued

Type of degree and race/ethnicity	Number				Percentage distribution			Percent conferred to females		
	1996-97	2001-02	2006-07	Percent change, 1996-97 to 2006-07	1996-97	2001-02	2006-07	1996-97	2001-02	2006-07
First-professional ¹	78,730	80,698	90,064	14.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	42.1	47.3	50.0
White	60,280	58,874	64,546	7.1	76.6	73.0	71.7	40.3	45.3	47.5
Other racial/ethnic groups	16,804	19,941	23,541	40.1	21.3	24.7	26.1	49.8	54.0	57.0
Black	5,301	5,811	6,474	22.1	6.7	7.2	7.2	58.5	61.7	63.4
Hispanic	3,615	3,965	4,700	30.0	4.6	4.9	5.2	45.1	48.4	51.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	7,374	9,584	11,686	58.5	9.4	11.9	13.0	46.3	51.9	55.9
American Indian/Alaska Native	514	581	681	32.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	43.6	49.7	50.8
Nonresident alien	1,646	1,883	1,977	20.1	2.1	2.3	2.2	31.9	41.1	45.9
Doctoral ²	45,876	44,160	60,616	32.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	40.8	46.3	50.1
White	28,596	26,903	34,071	19.1	62.3	60.9	56.2	45.8	50.5	55.2
Other racial/ethnic groups	5,827	6,328	9,551	63.9	12.7	14.3	15.8	46.6	54.5	58.4
Black	1,865	2,395	3,727	99.8	4.1	5.4	6.1	57.4	61.5	65.6
Hispanic	1,120	1,434	2,034	81.6	2.4	3.2	3.4	47.8	54.7	56.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,667	2,319	3,541	32.8	5.8	5.3	5.8	38.3	46.4	51.9
American Indian/Alaska Native	175	180	249	42.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	50.3	62.8	61.4
Nonresident alien	11,453	10,929	16,994	48.4	25.0	24.7	28.0	25.5	31.4	35.2

¹ An award that requires completion of a degree program that meets all of the following criteria: (1) completion of the academic requirements to begin practice in the profession, (2) at least 2 years of college work before entering the degree program, and (3) a total of at least 6 academic years of college work to complete the degree program, including previously required college work plus the work required in the professional program itself. Includes first-professional degrees such as M.D., D.D.S., and law degrees. See glossary for a definition of first-professional degree.

² Includes Ph.D., Ed.D., and comparable degrees at the doctoral level. See glossary for a definition of doctoral degree.

NOTE: Reported racial/ethnic distributions of students by type of degree, field of degree, and sex were used to estimate race/ethnicity for students whose race/ethnicity was not reported. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Nonresident aliens are shown separately since information about their race/ethnicity is not available. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. For more information on race/ethnicity, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), and the classification of postsecondary institutions, see *supplemental notes 1, 3, and 8*, respectively.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1996-97, 2001-02, and 2006-07 IPEDS, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:96) and Fall 2002 and 2007.