

## AWARDS CONFERRED

### KEY POINTS IN THIS SECTION

- The number of academic credentials awarded annually at all levels by Minnesota postsecondary institutions has increased over the past decade, with bachelor's degrees remaining the most common award conferred.
- Health science programs were 28 percent, or the highest number of awards, across all academic levels.



**Over 102,000 academic awards were conferred last year.**

The successful completion of a program of study culminates in the conferring of an academic award. Minnesota's postsecondary institutions offer a variety of awards at all levels of training. In 2014-2015, Minnesota postsecondary institutions awarded 102,605 academic credentials; a ten-year increase of 30 percent.

#### In 2014-2015 There Were:

- 14,810 certificates and diplomas requiring less than two years of study,
- 20,146 associate degrees,
- 36,751 bachelor's degrees,
- 2,959 graduate certificates,
- 22,847 master's degrees, and,
- 5,092 doctoral degrees, both research and professional (such as in law, medicine, or theology).

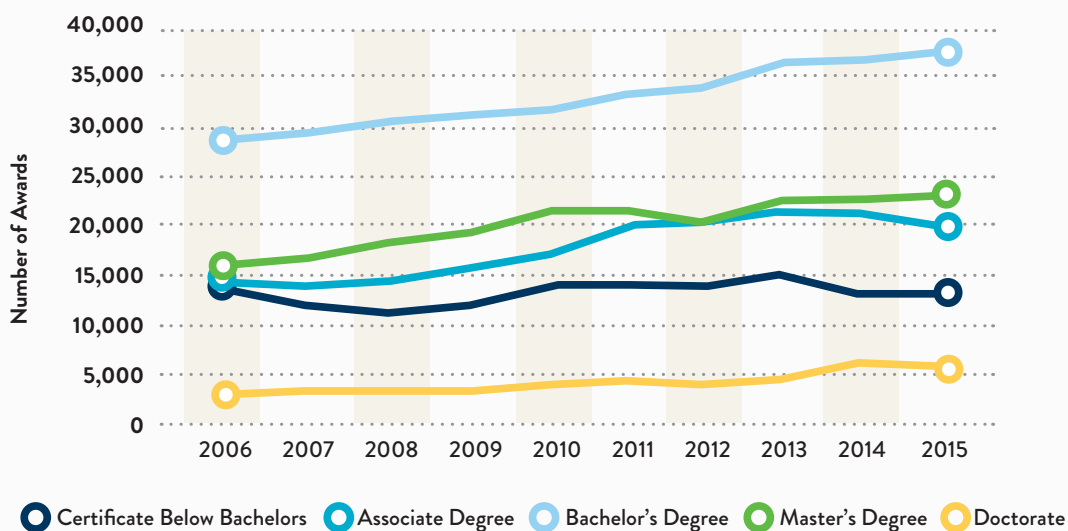
From certificate to doctorate, more awards were earned in health sciences than any other career cluster during 2014-2015 from Minnesota postsecondary institutions.

At the undergraduate level 25 percent of all awards were in health science followed by business management, marketing and finance (15 percent); and liberal arts, languages and history (15 percent).

Over 800 majors or programs of study are offered by Minnesota postsecondary institutions at the various award levels. To track trends for such a large array of programs, the U.S. Department of Education developed the career cluster taxonomy<sup>1</sup> to help align terminology used in postsecondary programs with those used in analyzing careers and occupations.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.careertech.org>

Number of Awards Conferred by Minnesota Institutions Increasing over the Past Ten Years, 2006-2015



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completion Survey

Note: master's degrees include those conferred by Capella and Walden Universities, two large national online institutions headquartered in Minnesota with large student growth.



**DATA SUGGESTS**  
Health science programs were 28 percent of all academic awards.

Awards Conferred by Minnesota Postsecondary Institutions, 2014-2015  
Includes double majors

| PROGRAM CLUSTER                                | CERTIFICATES BELOW BACHELOR'S | ASSOCIATE DEGREE | BACHELOR'S DEGREE | GRADUATE CERTIFICATE | MASTER'S DEGREE | DOCTORATE    | TOTAL          |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources          | 345                           | 343              | 1,784             | 9                    | 162             | 27           | 2,670          |
| Architecture & Construction                    | 1,195                         | 615              | 256               | 4                    | 105             | •            | 2,175          |
| Arts, Audio/Video Tech. & Communications       | 223                           | 716              | 3,395             | 42                   | 204             | 58           | 4,638          |
| Business Mgt., Marketing & Finance             | 1,654                         | 2,120            | 7,505             | 294                  | 3,979           | 400          | 15,952         |
| Education & Training                           | 380                           | 289              | 2,441             | 1,572                | 5,676           | 980          | 11,338         |
| Government & Public Administration             | 24                            | 21               | 946               | 31                   | 523             | 101          | 1,646          |
| Health Science                                 | 5,872                         | 5,339            | 7,283             | 694                  | 8,144           | 1,970        | 29,302         |
| Hospitality & Tourism                          | 322                           | 266              | 52                | •                    | •               | •            | 640            |
| Human Services                                 | 1,544                         | 425              | 2,359             | 53                   | 1,788           | 256          | 6,425          |
| Information Technology                         | 414                           | 855              | 1,456             | 95                   | 557             | 75           | 3,452          |
| Law & Corrections                              | 627                           | 1,040            | 1,372             | 33                   | 450             | 771          | 4,293          |
| Liberal Arts, Languages & History              | 146                           | 7,130            | 3,778             | 68                   | 338             | 39           | 11,499         |
| Manufacturing & Transportation                 | 2,013                         | 984              | 198               | •                    | 26              | •            | 3,221          |
| Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics | 51                            | 210              | 7,085             | 65                   | 1,018           | 415          | 8,844          |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>14,810</b>                 | <b>20,353</b>    | <b>39,910</b>     | <b>2,960</b>         | <b>22,970</b>   | <b>5,092</b> | <b>106,095</b> |

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completion Survey



## FIELDS OF STUDY VARY BY LEVEL OF AWARD

- CERTIFICATES BELOW BACHELOR'S DEGREES** comprised 21 percent of all undergraduate awards. A postsecondary certificate is the highest education needed to enter several high-demand, high-wage careers, including jobs in the healthcare, manufacturing and construction sectors. At the certificate level, programs in health care dominated (40 percent) followed by manufacturing and transportation (14 percent), business (11 percent), human services (10 percent), construction trades (8 percent).
- AT THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE LEVEL**, degrees in business (19 percent), STEM (18 percent) and health sciences (18 percent) comprised more than half of the degrees earned. Business continues to be the most popular bachelor's degree major. Science (STEM) majors, especially biological science, and health science majors have increased at a faster pace than other majors over the last five years.
- AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL** most awards are in health science, education, business and law.

Top 10 Certificates Below Bachelor's Conferred, 2014-2015

| PROGRAM                                      | CAREER CLUSTER                   | NUMBER        | PERCENT     |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Nursing Assistant                            | Health Science                   | 1,811         | 12%         |
| Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training | Health Science                   | 1,134         | 8%          |
| Cosmetology                                  | Human Services                   | 921           | 6%          |
| Welding Technology                           | Manufacturing and Transportation | 493           | 3%          |
| Criminal Justice                             | Law and Corrections              | 414           | 3%          |
| Medical/Clinical Assistant                   | Health Science                   | 409           | 3%          |
| Medical Insurance Coding Specialist          | Health Science                   | 355           | 2%          |
| Carpentry                                    | Architecture and Construction    | 313           | 2%          |
| Massage Therapy                              | Health Science                   | 287           | 2%          |
| Accounting Technology                        | Business Management              | 263           | 2%          |
| All Others                                   |                                  | 8,410         | 57%         |
| <b>Total</b>                                 |                                  | <b>14,810</b> | <b>100%</b> |

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completion Survey

### Top 10 Associate Degrees Conferred, 2014-2015

| PROGRAM                                       | CAREER CLUSTER      | NUMBER        | PERCENT     |
|---|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Liberal Arts and Sciences                     | Liberal Arts        | 6,862         | 34%         |
| Registered Nursing                            | Health Science      | 2,083         | 10%         |
| Business Administration and Management        | Business Management | 778           | 4%          |
| Criminal Justice                              | Law and Corrections | 505           | 2%          |
| Accounting                                    | Business Management | 451           | 2%          |
| Licensed Practical Nurse Training             | Health Science      | 389           | 2%          |
| Veterinary Animal Health Technology           | Health Science      | 319           | 2%          |
| Health Information/Medical Records Technology | Health Science      | 302           | 1%          |
| Medical Clinical Assistant                    | Health Science      | 300           | 1%          |
| Medical Administrative                        | Health Science      | 248           | 1%          |
| All Others                                    |                     | 8,116         | 40%         |
| <b>Total</b>                                  |                     | <b>20,353</b> | <b>100%</b> |

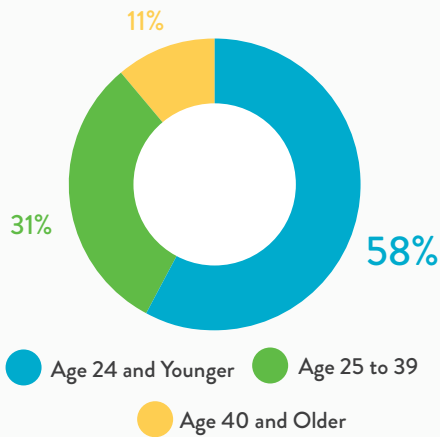
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completion Survey

### Top 10 Bachelor's Degrees Conferred, 2014-2015

| PROGRAM                                | CAREER CLUSTER         | NUMBER        | PERCENT     |
|--|------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Registered Nursing                     | Health Science         | 2,885         | 7%          |
| Business Administration and Management | Business and Marketing | 2,783         | 7%          |
| Psychology                             | Human Services         | 2,497         | 6%          |
| Biology                                | STEM                   | 1,615         | 4%          |
| Accounting                             | Business and Marketing | 1,366         | 3%          |
| Marketing                              | Business and Marketing | 988           | 2%          |
| Elementary Education and Teaching      | Education              | 949           | 2%          |
| Finance                                | Business and Marketing | 815           | 2%          |
| Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies       | Liberal Arts           | 797           | 2%          |
| English Language and Literature        | Liberal Arts           | 770           | 2%          |
| All Others                             |                        | 24,445        | 61%         |
| <b>Total</b>                           |                        | <b>39,910</b> | <b>100%</b> |

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completion Survey

**Majority of Undergraduate Awards are Earned by Students Younger than 39 Years Old, 2014-2015**



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completion Survey

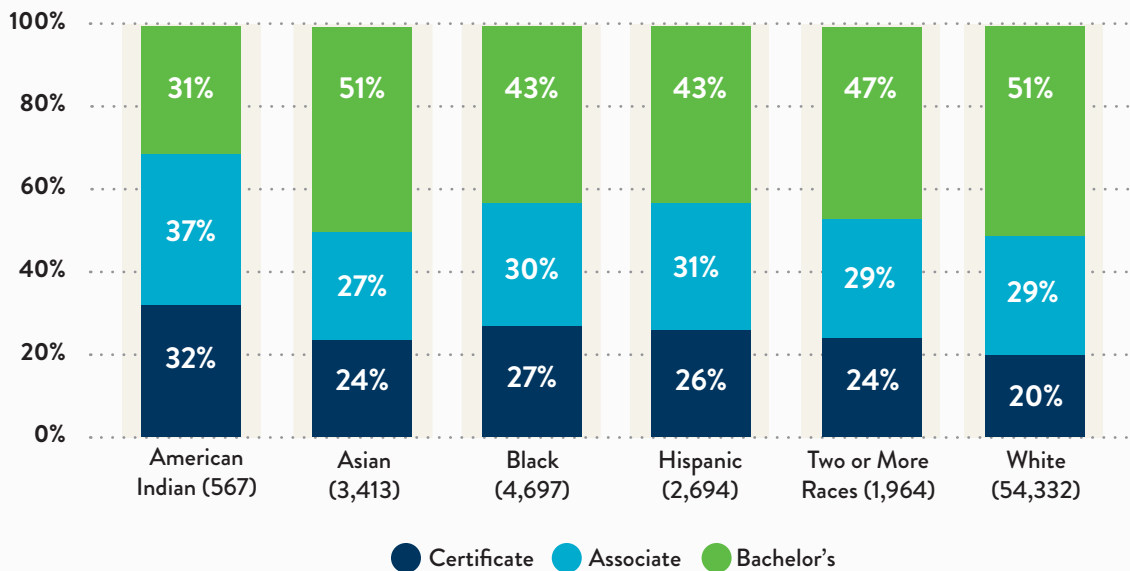
Younger students are more likely to attend school full-time, which is an important factor in degree or program completion. Eighty-eight percent of all undergraduate awards (certificates, associate and bachelor's degrees) were earned by students younger than 40 years old; 57 percent were younger than age 25.

Overall students of color earned 20 percent of all undergraduate awards. However, Asian and White students earned higher percentages of bachelor's degrees (51 percent) than American Indian (31 percent), Black or Hispanic students (43 percent each).

**DATA SUGGESTS**

**Students younger than age 40 years old earned 88 percent of undergraduate awards.**

**White and Asian Students Earned Bachelor's Degrees at Higher Percentages than other Groups, 2014-2015**  
Overall students of color earned 20 percent of undergraduate awards



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completion Survey

**DATA SUGGESTS**

**Students of color earned 20 percent of all undergraduate awards in 2014-2015.**