

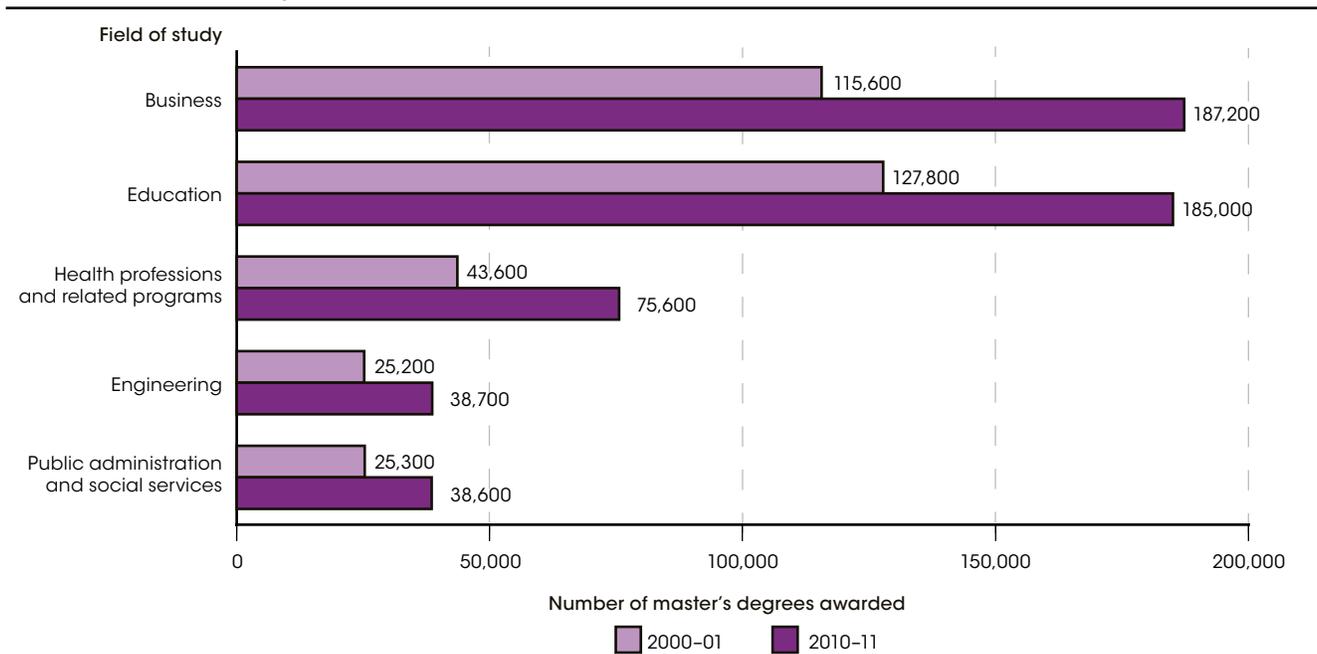
## Graduate Fields of Study

*Between academic years 2000–01 and 2010–11, the number of master’s degrees awarded increased by 54 percent to 731,000, and the number of doctor’s degrees awarded increased by 37 percent to 164,000.*

Of the 731,000 master’s degrees awarded by degree-granting institutions in academic year 2010–11, over 50 percent were concentrated in two fields: business (26 percent) and education (25 percent). Three other fields each accounted for 5 percent or more of all master’s

degrees awarded. These were health professions and related programs, engineering, and public administration and social services. These are the same five fields in which the largest numbers of master’s degrees were awarded in 2000–01.

**Figure 1. Number of master’s degrees awarded by degree-granting institutions in selected fields of study: Academic years 2000–01 and 2010–11**



NOTE: These five fields were selected because they were the top fields in which master’s degrees were awarded in 2010–11. Includes only institutions that participated in Title IV federal financial aid programs. The new Classification of Instructional Programs was initiated in 2009–10. The estimates for 2000–01 have been reclassified when necessary to make them conform to the new taxonomy.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2001 and Fall 2011, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 314.

Overall, the number of master’s degrees awarded increased by 257,000 degrees between academic years 2000–01 and 2010–11, reflecting an increase of 54 percent. During this period, the two largest fields of study, business and education, had increases of 62 percent and 45 percent, respectively. In each of the 20 major fields of study in which the most master’s degrees were awarded in 2010–11, the number of master’s degrees awarded was higher in 2010–11 than in 2000–01. Master’s degrees awarded in the field of homeland

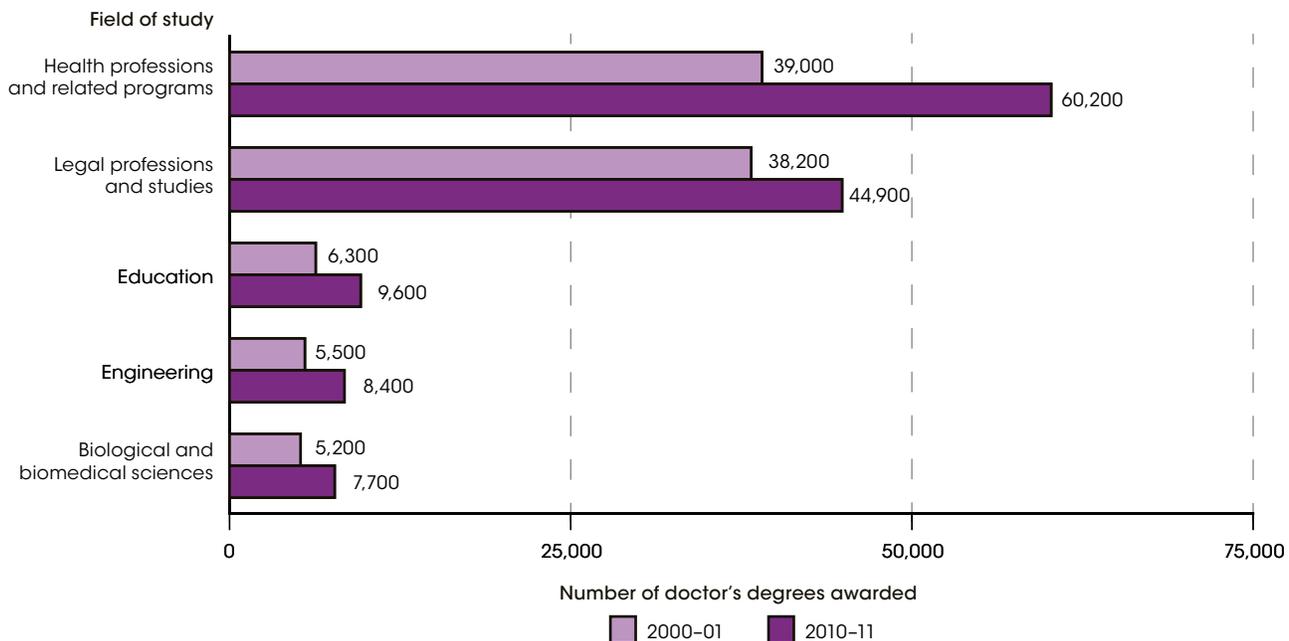
security, law enforcement, and firefighting exhibited the largest percentage increase of all fields (from 2,500 to 7,400 degrees, a 196 percent increase). The next largest percentage increase was in the field of parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies (from 2,400 to 6,600 degrees, a 178 percent increase). The field of computer and information sciences saw the smallest percentage increase (15 percent) in the number of master’s degrees awarded over this period (from 16,900 to 19,400 degrees).

For more information, see the Reader’s Guide and the Guide to Sources.

Almost two-thirds of the 164,000 doctor's degrees awarded in academic year 2010–11 were awarded in health professions and related programs degrees (37 percent) and legal professions and studies degrees (27 percent). Three other fields each accounted for 4 percent or more

of all doctor's degrees awarded. These were education, engineering, and biological and biomedical sciences. These are the same five fields in which the largest numbers of doctor's degrees were awarded in 2000–01.

**Figure 2. Number of doctor's degrees awarded by degree-granting institutions in selected fields of study: Academic years 2000–01 and 2010–11**



NOTE: These five fields were selected because they were the top fields in which doctor's degrees were awarded in 2010–11. Includes only institutions that participated in Title IV federal financial aid programs. The new Classification of Instructional Programs was initiated in 2009–10. The estimates for 2000–01 have been reclassified when necessary to make them conform to the new taxonomy. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2001 and Fall 2011, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 315.

Overall, the number of doctor's degrees awarded from academic year 2000–01 to 2010–11 increased by 44,200 degrees, or 37 percent. During this period, the two largest fields of study, health professions and related programs and legal professions and studies, had increases of 54 percent and 18 percent, respectively. In all of the 20 major fields of study in which the most doctor's degrees were awarded in 2010–11, the numbers of doctor's degrees

awarded increased from 2000–01 to 2010–11. The field of computer and information sciences had the largest percentage increase (107 percent) in the numbers of doctor's degrees awarded (from 770 to 1,600 degrees). The field of English language and literature/letters had the smallest percentage increase (1 percent) in the number of doctor's degrees awarded (about 1,300 degrees in both years).

**Reference tables:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, tables 314, 315

**Glossary:** Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP), Doctor's degree, Master's degree