

Certificates and Degrees Conferred by Race/Ethnicity

Between 2004–05 and 2014–15, the number of associate’s and bachelor’s degrees conferred to Hispanic students more than doubled and the number of master’s and doctor’s degrees conferred to Hispanic students nearly doubled. During this time, the number of degrees conferred increased across all degree levels for all racial/ethnic groups, except for American Indian/Alaska Native students. The number of bachelor’s, master’s, and doctor’s degrees awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native students fluctuated between 2004–05 and 2014–15.

Table 1. Number of degrees conferred by postsecondary institutions and percent change, by race/ethnicity and level of degree: Academic years 2004–05, 2013–14, and 2014–15

Level of degree and academic year	Total ¹	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Two or more races
Certificates²							
2004–05	710,873	415,670	133,601	114,089	32,783	8,150	—
2013–14	969,278	523,015	177,860	185,677	43,800	10,817	19,971
2014–15	961,167	512,017	174,793	188,090	44,694	11,084	21,666
Percent change from 2004–05 to 2014–15	35.2	23.2	30.8	64.9	36.3	36.0	—
Percent change from 2013–14 to 2014–15	-0.8	-2.1	-1.7	1.3	2.0	2.5	8.5
Associate’s							
2004–05	696,660	475,513	86,402	78,557	33,669	8,435	—
2013–14	1,005,155	601,959	134,621	168,106	50,368	10,338	22,695
2014–15	1,013,971	590,390	137,892	180,515	51,750	9,993	25,494
Percent change from 2004–05 to 2014–15	45.5	24.2	59.6	129.8	53.7	18.5	—
Percent change from 2013–14 to 2014–15	0.9	-1.9	2.4	7.4	2.7	-3.3	12.3
Bachelor’s							
2004–05	1,439,264	1,049,141	136,122	101,124	97,209	10,307	—
2013–14	1,870,150	1,218,998	191,437	202,425	131,662	10,784	45,422
2014–15	1,894,934	1,210,523	192,715	217,718	133,996	10,211	54,201
Percent change from 2004–05 to 2014–15	31.7	15.4	41.6	115.3	37.8	-0.9	—
Percent change from 2013–14 to 2014–15	1.3	-0.7	0.7	7.6	1.8	-5.3	19.3
Master’s							
2004–05	580,151	383,246	55,330	31,639	33,042	3,310	—
2013–14	754,582	444,771	88,606	55,962	44,533	3,512	13,417
2014–15	758,708	433,106	87,265	58,684	44,517	3,412	14,622
Percent change from 2004–05 to 2014–15	30.8	13.0	57.7	85.5	34.7	3.1	—
Percent change from 2013–14 to 2014–15	0.5	-2.6	-1.5	4.9	0.0	-2.8	9.0
Doctor’s³							
2004–05	134,387	89,763	8,527	6,115	13,176	788	—
2013–14	177,587	110,157	12,621	10,665	19,118	861	2,966
2014–15	178,547	108,912	13,278	11,257	19,193	884	3,671
Percent change from 2004–05 to 2014–15	32.9	21.3	55.7	84.1	45.7	12.2	—
Percent change from 2013–14 to 2014–15	0.5	-1.1	5.2	5.6	0.4	2.7	23.8

— Not available.

¹ Includes other categories not listed separately in this table.

² Includes less-than-1-year awards and 1- to less-than-4-year awards (excluding associate’s degrees).

³ 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.

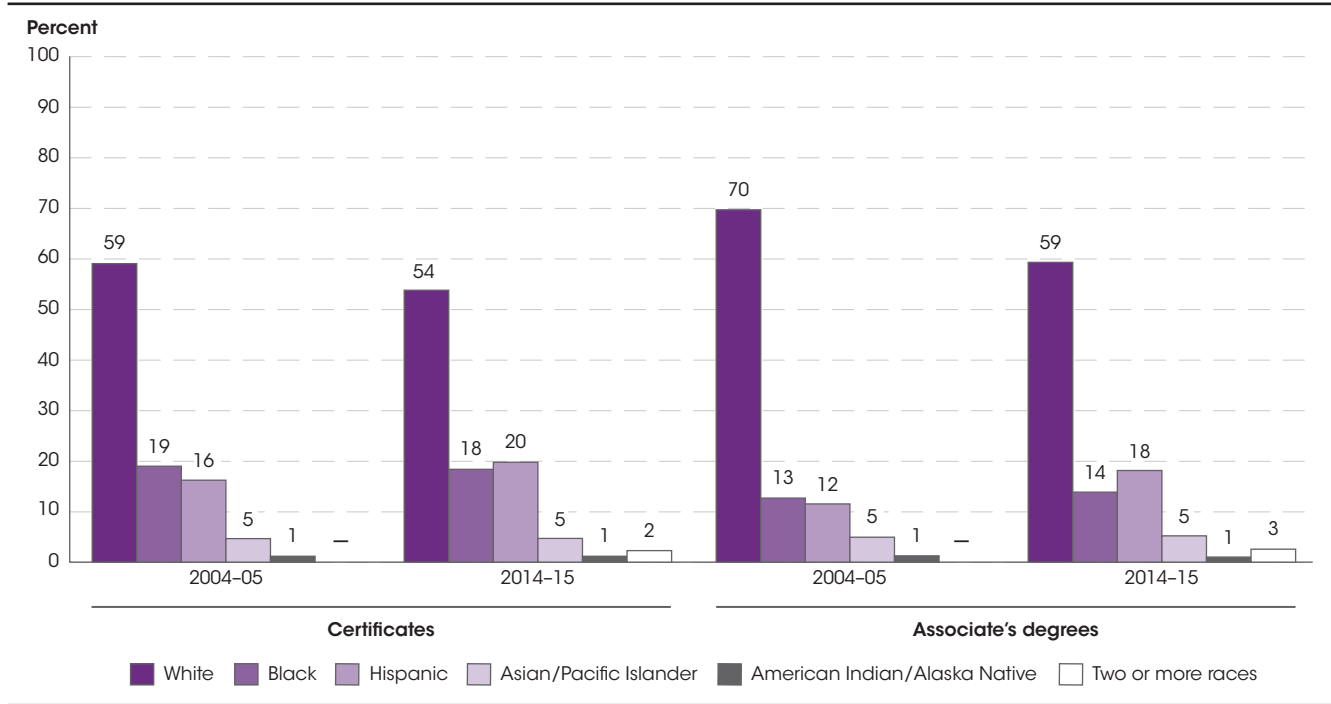
NOTE: Data are for postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Separate data on students of Two or more races were not collected until 2010–11. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Reported racial/ethnic distributions of students by level of degree and sex were used to estimate race/ethnicity for students whose race/ethnicity was not reported.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2005, Fall 2014, and Fall 2015, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, tables 320.20, 321.20, 322.20, 323.20, and 324.20.

Between academic years 2004–05 and 2014–15, the total number of postsecondary degrees conferred increased at all degree¹ levels: Certificates conferred increased by 35 percent, associate’s degrees by 46 percent, bachelor’s degrees by 32 percent, master’s degrees by 31 percent, and doctor’s degrees by 33 percent. The number of postsecondary degrees conferred also increased for all

racial/ethnic groups² at each level between 2004–05 and 2014–15, except for American Indian/Alaska Native students. There was no consistent pattern in the number of bachelor’s, master’s, and doctor’s degrees awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native students between 2004–05 and 2014–15.

Figure 1. Percentage distribution of certificates and associate’s degrees conferred to U.S. citizens by postsecondary institutions, by race/ethnicity: Academic years 2004–05 and 2014–15

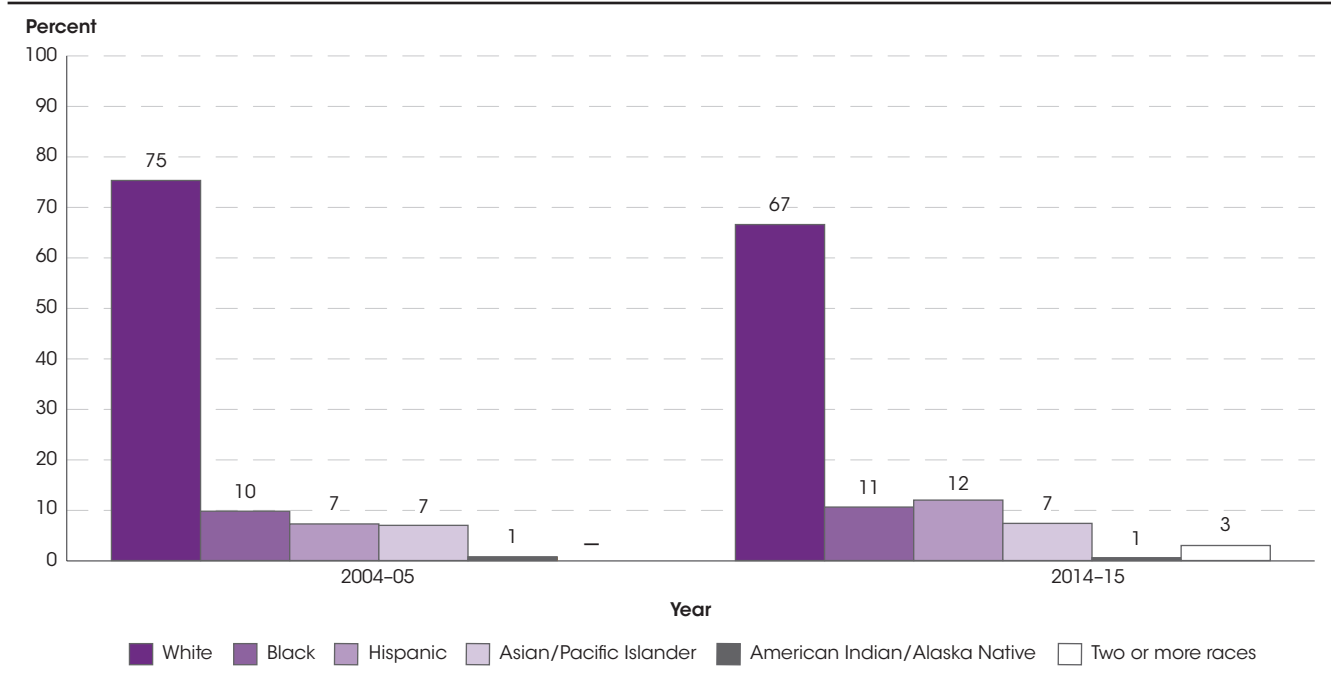


— Not available.
 NOTE: Data are for postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Certificates include less-than-1-year awards and 1- to less-than-4-year awards (excluding associate’s degrees). Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Separate data on students of Two or more races were not collected until 2010–11. 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 2005 and Fall 2015, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, tables 320.20 and 321.20.

The number of postsecondary certificates below the baccalaureate level conferred to Hispanic students increased by 65 percent (from 114,000 to 188,000) between academic years 2004–05 and 2014–15. During this period, the number of certificates conferred increased by 36 percent for Asian/Pacific Islander students (from 32,800 to 44,700), by 36 percent for American Indian/Alaska Native students (from 8,200 to 11,100), by 31 percent for Black students (from 134,000 to 175,000), and by 23 percent for White students (from 416,000 to 512,000). As a result of these changes, the percentage of all certificates earned by Hispanic students increased from 16 percent to 20 percent over this period, whereas the percentage of certificates earned by White students decreased from 59 percent to 54 percent. The percentage of certificates earned by Black students was 19 percent in 2004–05 and 18 percent in 2014–15. In both 2004–05 and 2014–15, the percentage of certificates earned by Asian/Pacific Islander students was 5 percent. The percentage of certificates earned by American Indian/Alaska Native students was 1 percent in both 2004–05 and 2014–15.

At the associate’s level, the number of degrees conferred to Hispanic students more than doubled between academic years 2004–05 and 2014–15 (from 78,600 to 181,000, a 130 percent increase), and the number earned by Black students increased by 60 percent (from 86,400 to 138,000). During this period, the number of associate’s degrees conferred increased by 54 percent for Asian/Pacific Islander students (from 33,700 to 51,800), increased by 24 percent for White students (from 476,000 to 590,000), and increased by 18 percent for American Indian/Alaska Native students (from 8,400 to 10,000). As a result of the changes over this period, the percentage of all associate’s degrees earned by Hispanic students increased from 12 to 18 percent, and the percentage earned by Black students increased from 13 to 14 percent. In contrast, the percentage of associate’s degrees earned by White students over the same period decreased from 70 to 59 percent. In both 2004–05 and 2014–15, the percentage of associate’s degrees earned by Asian/Pacific Islander students was 5 percent. The percentage of associate’s degrees earned by American Indian/Alaska Native students was 1 percent in both years.

Figure 2. Percentage distribution of bachelor’s degrees conferred to U.S. citizens by degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by race/ethnicity: Academic years 2004-05 and 2014-15



— Not available.

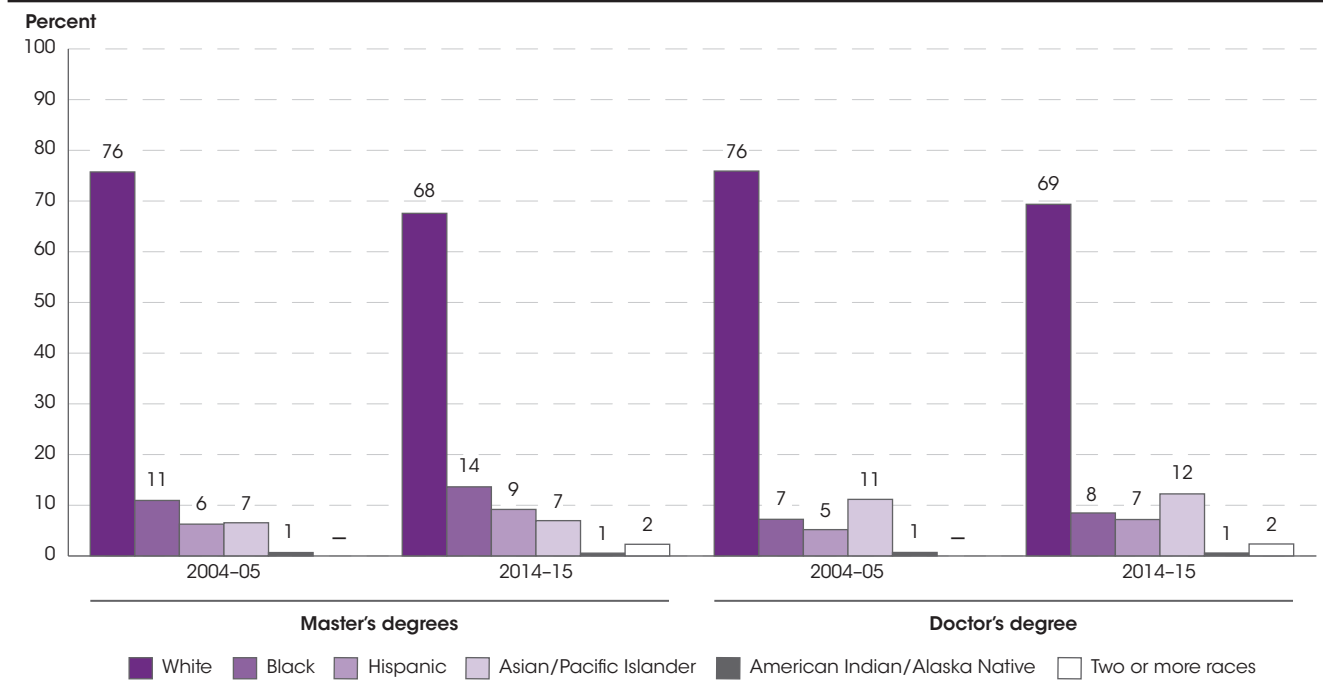
NOTE: Data are for postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Separate data on students of Two or more races were not collected until 2010-11. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2005 and Fall 2015, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 322.20.

At the bachelor’s level, the number of degrees conferred to Hispanic students more than doubled between academic years 2004–05 and 2014–15 (from 101,000 to 218,000, a 115 percent increase), and the number conferred to Black students increased by 42 percent (from 136,000 to 193,000). During the same period, the number of degrees conferred increased by 38 percent for Asian/Pacific Islander students (from 97,200 to 134,000) and by 15 percent for White students (from 1.0 million to 1.2 million). During this time, the number of bachelor’s degrees conferred to American Indian/Alaska Native students fluctuated: In 2004–05, the number conferred was 10,300; in 2009–10, the number conferred was

12,400; and in 2014–15, the number conferred was 10,200. As a result of the changes over this period, the percentage of all bachelor’s degrees earned by Hispanic students increased from 7 to 12 percent, and the percentage earned by Black students increased from 10 to 11 percent. In contrast, the percentage of bachelor’s degrees earned by White students decreased from 75 percent in 2004–05 to 67 percent in 2014–15. The percentage of bachelor’s degrees awarded in 2004–05 and 2014–15 was the same for Asian/Pacific Islander students (7 percent in both years) and for American Indian/Alaska Native students (1 percent in both years).

Figure 3. Percentage distribution of master’s and doctor’s degrees conferred to U.S. citizens by degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by race/ethnicity: Academic years 2004–05 and 2014–15



— Not available.

NOTE: Data are for postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Doctor’s degrees include Ph.D., Ed.D., and comparable degrees at the doctoral level, as well as degrees formerly classified as first-professional, such as M.D., D.D.S., and law degrees. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Separate data on students of two or more races were not collected until 2010–11. 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 2005 and Fall 2015, Completions component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, tables 323.20 and 324.20.

Between 2004–05 and 2014–15, the distribution of graduate degrees by race/ethnicity followed a pattern similar to that observed for the distribution of undergraduate degrees. At the master’s level, the number of degrees conferred to Hispanic students increased by 85 percent (from 31,600 to 58,700), and the number conferred to Black students increased by 58 percent (from 55,300 to 87,300). The number of master’s degrees conferred during the period increased by 35 percent for Asian/Pacific Islander students (from 33,000 to 44,500) and by 13 percent for White students (383,000 to 433,000). The number of master’s degrees conferred to American Indian/Alaska Native students fluctuated during this time period, with 3,300 degrees conferred in 2004–05, some 4,000 degrees conferred in 2009–10, and 3,400 degrees conferred in 2014–15. As a result of the changes over the period, the percentage of all master’s degrees earned by Black students increased from 11 to 14 percent, and the percentage earned by Hispanic students increased from 6 to 9 percent. The percentage earned by Asian/Pacific Islander students was the same in both 2004–05 and 2014–15 (7 percent), as was the percentage earned by American Indian/Alaska Native students (1 percent in both years). The percentage of master’s degrees earned by White students over the period decreased from 76 to 68 percent.

At the doctor’s level, the number of degrees conferred increased by 84 percent for Hispanic students (from 6,100 to 11,300), by 56 percent for Black students (from 8,500 to 13,300), and by 46 percent for Asian/Pacific Islander students (from 13,200 to 19,200) between academic years 2004–05 and 2014–15. During the same period, the number of doctor’s degrees conferred increased by 21 percent for White students (from 89,800 to 109,000). The number of doctor’s degrees conferred to American Indian/Alaska Native students fluctuated during this time period: In 2004–05, the number conferred was 950; in 2009–10, the number conferred was 880. As a result of the changes over this period, the percentage of all doctor’s degrees that were earned by Hispanic students increased from 5 to 7 percent, the percentage earned by Black students increased from 7 to 8 percent, and the percentage earned by Asian/Pacific Islander students increased from 11 to 12 percent. The percentage of doctor’s degrees earned by White students, in contrast, decreased from 76 to 69 percent over this period, while the percentage earned by American Indian/Alaska Native students remained at 1 percent.

Endnotes:

¹ For the purposes of this indicator, the term “degree” is used to refer to a postsecondary award at any of the following levels: certificate, associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, or doctor’s.

² The discussion of degrees conferred by race/ethnicity includes only degrees conferred to U.S. citizens. Degrees conferred to nonresident alien students are excluded.

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, tables 320.20, 321.20, 322.20, 323.20, and 324.20

Related indicators and resources: Undergraduate Degree Fields, Graduate Degree Fields, Postsecondary Certificates and Degrees Conferred, *Status and Trends of Racial and Ethnic Groups*

Glossary: Associate’s degree, Bachelor’s degree, Certificates, Doctor’s degree, Master’s degree, Racial/ethnic group