

NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE NCES TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (TRP) ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



PROGRESS ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE U.S.

We continue to work on the next edition of *Vocational Education in the United States*, which will describe the current status of and recent trends in vocational, technical, and career education at the secondary, postsecondary, and adult levels. In this DOVE Update, we describe some of the postsecondary analyses that are under way. We will present preliminary findings for these and other analyses at the DOVE TRP meeting in August.

Postsecondary Participation: 1990–2000

We are examining the prevalence of students majoring in career and academic fields using the National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS) of 1990 and 2000. The analysis focuses on degree-seeking undergraduates at both the baccalaureate and subbaccalaureate levels. Due to differences in some response categories between the two surveys, we examine trends in the following 12 career fields, as well as in academic and miscellaneous “other” fields. At the subbaccalaureate level, these career fields comprise “vocational/technical” education:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Business and Marketing
- Communications
- Computer Science
- Education
- Engineering and Architectural Sciences
- Health Care
- Legal Services
- Personal and Consumer Services
- Protective Services
- Public, Social, and Human Services
- Trade and Industry

The analysis describes changes during the last decade of the 20th century in the size of the postsecondary career education enterprise, overall and within specific career fields; the institutions providing such education; and the types of students majoring in these fields. The analysis also compares trends in student participation in career and academic education, at the baccalaureate and subbaccalaureate levels, and among different postsecondary institution types (including public and private as well as 4- and 2-year institutions).

Postsecondary Faculty: 1992–1998

Using the National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF), we are examining the characteristics of those who teach career and academic education at the postsecondary level as well as their employment and teaching conditions during the 1990s. The analysis includes all faculty and instructional staff who taught at least one class in the fall of each survey year (1992 and 1998). Due to differences in the response categories included in the two NSOPF administrations this analysis

describes trends in the following 14 career fields, as well as in academic and miscellaneous “other” fields:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Business Support
- Other Business and Marketing
- Communications and Design
- Computer Science
- Engineering and Architectural Sciences
- Nursing
- Other Health Sciences
- Personal and Consumer Services
- Protective Services
- Public, Social, Human, and Legal Services
- Teacher Education
- Other Education
- Trade and Industry

VOCED FAST FACT

As of 1999–2000, the most common major among baccalaureate-seeking students was business & marketing, with 18.9 percent of these students majoring in this area. Among subbaccalaureate seekers, business & marketing and health care were the most common majors, with 15.5 percent and 14.4 percent of these students majoring in these two areas, respectively.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Issue Brief, “Undergraduate Enrollments in Academic, Career, and Vocational Education” NCES 2004-018, prepared by Lisa Hudson of NCES and Linda Shafer of the Education Statistical Services Institute. Washington, D.C.: February 2004.

Additional Analyses

In addition to these two analyses, the report will include findings from other works in progress on beginning postsecondary students’ outcomes and on adult participation in work-related education.



SUMMER 2004 DOVE TRP MEETING

We hope to see you at the DOVE TRP meeting on August 10–11 at One Washington Circle Hotel in D.C. If you have not already RSVP’d, please call Maria West at MPR Associates at (510) 849-4942 or email her at mwest@mprinc.com.