

The Condition of Education 2009

Indicator 41

Graduate and First-Professional Fields of Study

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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Graduate and First-Professional Fields of Study

Overall, 604,600 master's degrees and 60,600 doctoral degrees were awarded in 2006–07, an increase of 44 and 32 percent, respectively, since 1996–97.

In 2006–07, of the 605,000 master's degrees awarded that year, over 50 percent were concentrated in two fields: education (29 percent) and business (25 percent) (see table A-41-1). During that same time period, an additional 9 percent of all master's degrees awarded were in the field of health professions and related clinical sciences. The fewest number of master's degrees were conferred in the field of mathematics and statistics (about 1 percent or 4,900 degrees).

Overall, 185,000 more master's degrees were awarded in 2006–07 than in 1996–97 (a 44 percent increase). Master's degrees awarded in the field of security and protective services had the largest percent increase (166 percent), followed by the field of education (62 percent). The field of physical sciences and science technologies had the smallest percent increase over this period (6 percent).

Females earned 61 percent of all master's degrees awarded in 2006–07. In the two most prevalent master's degree fields, education and business, females earned 77 and 44 percent, respectively, of all degrees awarded. In addition, females earned 80 percent of all degrees awarded in the field of health professions and related clinical sciences. However, females earned fewer master's degrees than males in 2006–07 in fields such as engineering and engineering technologies (23 percent female) and computer and information sciences and support services (26 percent female). For females and males, the field with the largest percent increase in master's degrees awarded was security and protective services (247 and 111 percent, respectively). For females, this was followed by a 75 percent increase in master's degrees conferred in the field of business, and for males, a 59 percent increase in computer and information sciences and support services.

In 2006–07, of the 60,600 doctoral degrees awarded, over 50 percent were awarded in four fields: health professions and related clinical sciences (14 percent), education (14 percent), engineering and engineering technologies (13 percent), and biological and biomedical sciences (10 percent). Overall, 14,700 more doctoral degrees were awarded in 2006–07 than in 1996–97 (a 32 percent increase). The doctoral field of health professions and related clinical sciences had the greatest percent increase over this time period (283 percent).

Females earned about 50 percent (or 30,400 degrees) of all doctoral degrees awarded in 2006–07, a 62 percent increase from 1996–97. Females earned fewer doctoral degrees than males (i.e., males earned more degrees than females) in 2006–07 in fields such as engineering and engineering technologies (21 percent female).

In 2006–07, of the 90,100 first-professional degrees awarded, over 48 percent were awarded in the field of law. An additional 17 percent of first-professional degrees were conferred in the field of medicine, and 12 percent were conferred in pharmacy. Between 1996–97 and 2006–07, there was a 14 percent increase in the number of first-professional degrees awarded. The field with the greatest percent increase over this period was pharmacy (285 percent). Females earned half of all first-professional degrees awarded in 2006–07, a 36 percent increase from 1996–97.



For more information: *Table A-41-1; Indicators 39 and 40*

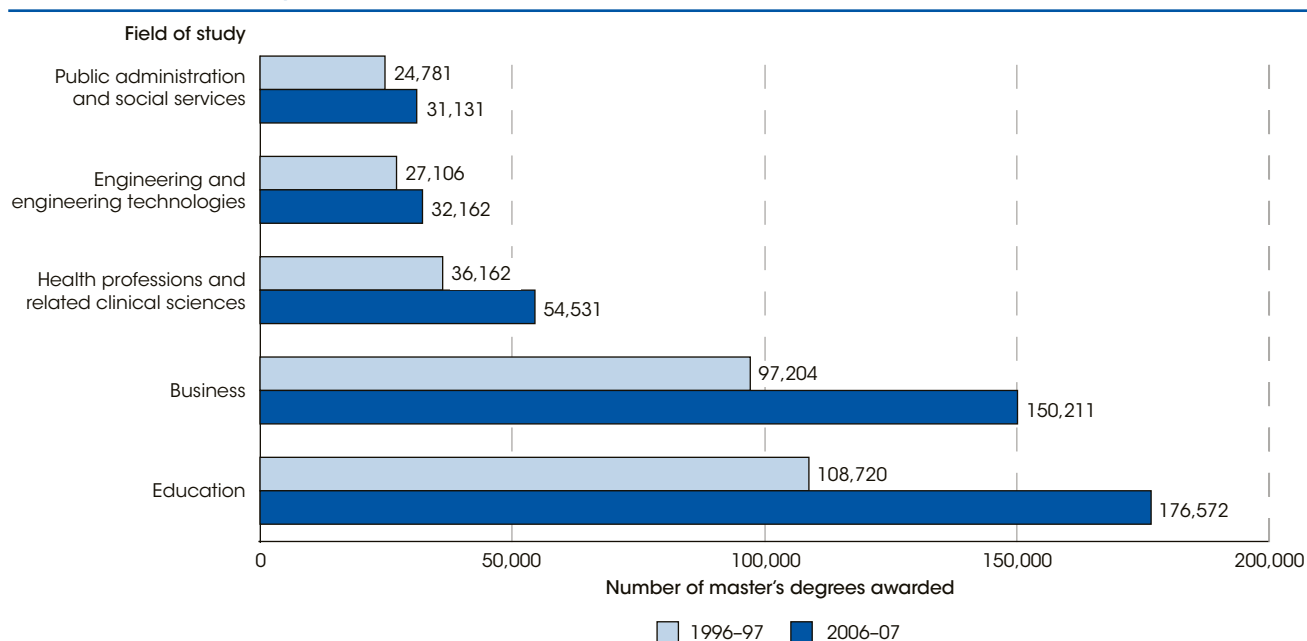
Glossary: *Doctoral degree, First-professional degree, Master's degree*

Technical Notes

The percent increases discussed in this indicator refer to aggregate fields of study. For more information on fields of study for postsecondary degrees, see *supplemental note 9*. The new *Classification of Instructional Programs* was initiated in 2002–03. Estimates for 1996–97 have been reclassified when necessary to conform to the new

taxonomy. For more information on the Classification of Postsecondary Education Institutions, see *supplemental note 8*. For more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental note 3*.

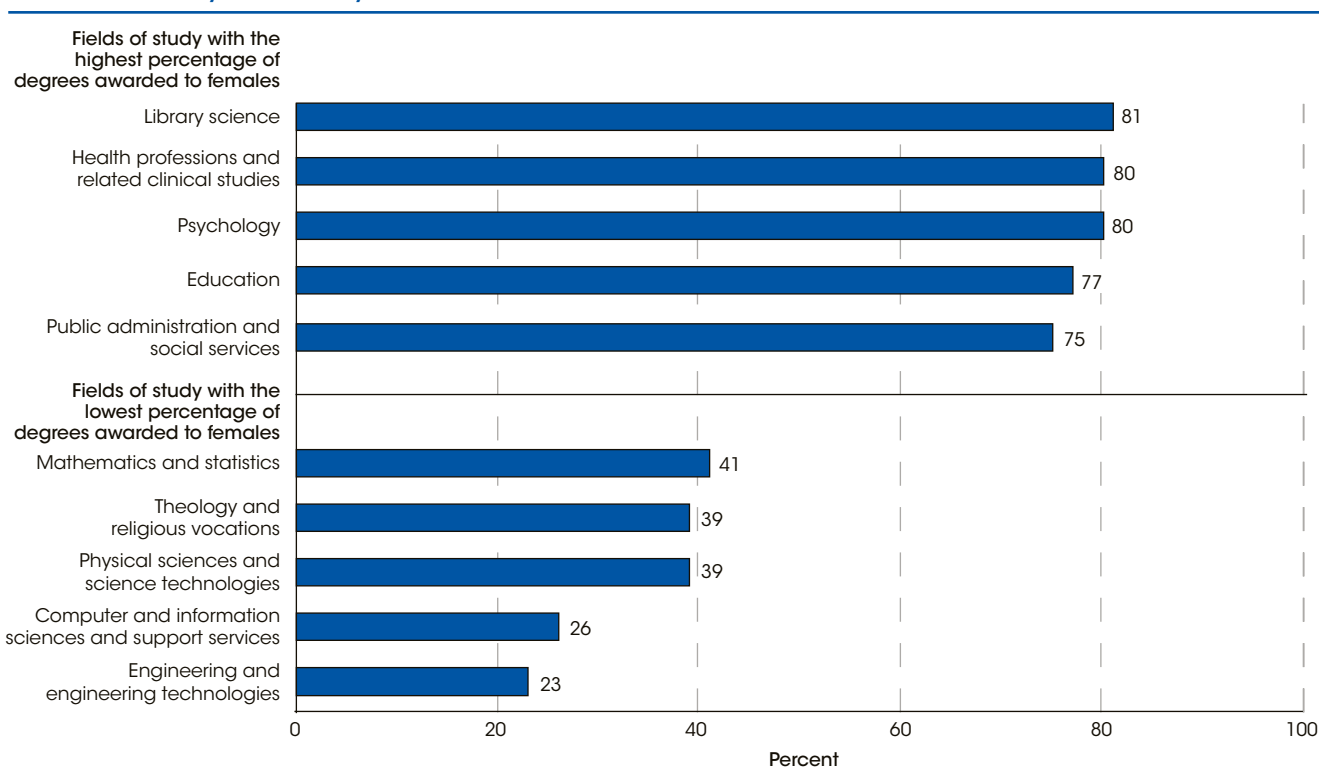
Figure 41-1. Number of master's degrees awarded by degree-granting institutions in selected fields of study: Academic years 1996-97 and 2006-07



NOTE: For more information on fields of study for postsecondary degrees, see *supplemental note 9*. The new *Classification of Instructional Programs* was initiated in 2002-03. Estimates for 1996-97 have been reclassified when necessary to conform to the new taxonomy. For more information on the Classification of Postsecondary Education Institutions, see *supplemental note 8*. 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 (NCES), 1996-97 and 2006-07 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:97) and Fall 2007.

Figure 41-2. Percentage of master's degrees awarded to females by degree-granting institutions in selected fields of study: Academic year 2006-07



NOTE: For more information on fields of study for postsecondary degrees, see *supplemental note 9*. For more information on the Classification of Postsecondary Education Institutions, see *supplemental note 8*. 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 (NCES), 2006-07 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Survey," Fall 2007.

Graduate and First-Professional Fields of Study

Table A-41-1. Number of master's, doctoral, and first-professional degrees awarded by degree-granting institutions, percentage of total, percentage awarded to females, and percent change, by selected fields of study: Academic years 1996-97 and 2006-07

Field of study	1996-97			2006-07			1996-97 to 2006-07		
	Number	Percent of total	Percent female	Number	Percent of total	Percent female	Change in number of degrees	Percent change	Percent change for females
Master's degrees									
Total¹	419,401	100.0	56.9	604,607	100.0	60.6	185,206	44.2	53.7
Education	108,720	25.9	76.5	176,572	29.2	77.3	67,852	62.4	63.9
Business	97,204	23.2	39.0	150,211	24.8	44.0	53,007	54.5	74.5
Health professions and related clinical sciences	36,162	8.6	79.2	54,531	9.0	80.5	18,369	50.8	53.3
Engineering and engineering technologies	27,106	6.5	18.4	32,162	5.3	22.7	5,056	18.7	46.2
Public administration and social services	24,781	5.9	71.9	31,131	5.1	75.1	6,350	25.6	31.1
Psychology	15,769	3.8	73.7	21,037	3.5	79.7	5,268	33.4	44.4
Social sciences and history	14,787	3.5	47.0	17,665	2.9	51.4	2,878	19.5	30.6
Computer and information sciences and support services	10,513	2.5	28.4	16,232	2.7	26.2	5,719	54.4	42.2
Visual and performing arts	10,627	2.5	57.9	13,767	2.3	57.1	3,140	29.5	27.6
Biological and biomedical sciences	6,925	1.7	51.1	8,747	1.4	59.2	1,822	26.3	46.5
English language and literature/letters	7,487	1.8	64.6	8,742	1.4	67.2	1,255	16.8	21.5
Communication and communications technologies	5,552	1.3	64.2	7,272	1.2	65.8	1,720	31.0	34.4
Library science	4,982	1.2	77.6	6,767	1.1	80.7	1,785	35.8	41.1
Theology and religious vocations	4,932	1.2	39.0	6,446	1.1	39.4	1,514	30.7	31.9
Architecture and related services	4,034	1.0	42.1	5,951	1.0	44.5	1,917	47.5	55.9
Physical sciences and science technologies	5,526	1.3	32.5	5,839	1.0	39.1	313	5.7	27.3
Security and protective services	1,845	0.4	40.5	4,906	0.8	52.8	3,061	165.9	246.9
Mathematics and statistics	3,504	0.8	41.4	4,884	0.8	41.5	1,380	39.4	39.8

See notes at end of table.

Table A-41-1. Number of master's, doctoral, and first-professional degrees awarded by degree-granting institutions, percentage of total, percentage awarded to females, and percent change, by selected fields of study: Academic years 1996-97 and 2006-07—Continued

Field of study	1996-97			2006-07			1996-97 to 2006-07		
	Number	Percent of total	Percent female	Number	Percent of total	Percent female	Change in number of degrees	Percent change	Percent change for females
Doctoral degrees²									
Total¹	45,876	100.0	40.8	60,616	100.0	50.1	14,740	32.1	62.1
Health professions and related clinical sciences	2,179	4.7	57.5	8,355	13.8	73.2	6,176	283.4	387.9
Education	6,297	13.7	62.4	8,261	13.6	67.5	1,964	31.2	42.0
Engineering and engineering technologies	6,250	13.6	12.4	8,123	13.4	20.9	1,873	30.0	119.8
Biological and biomedical sciences	5,094	11.1	43.3	6,354	10.5	49.3	1,260	24.7	42.2
Psychology	4,507	9.8	66.8	5,153	8.5	73.2	646	14.3	25.2
Physical sciences and science technologies	4,417	9.6	22.8	4,846	8.0	31.6	429	9.7	52.0
Social sciences and history	3,989	8.7	37.9	3,844	6.3	45.1	-145	-3.6	14.8
Business	1,336	2.9	29.1	2,029	3.3	41.4	693	51.9	116.2
Computer and information sciences and support services	857	1.9	15.9	1,595	2.6	20.6	738	86.1	141.2
Theology and religious vocations	1,390	3.0	18.1	1,573	2.6	22.0	183	13.2	37.3
Visual and performing arts	1,060	2.3	50.5	1,364	2.3	54.2	304	28.7	38.1
Mathematics and statistics	1,134	2.5	24.1	1,351	2.2	29.8	217	19.1	47.3
Agriculture and natural resources	1,202	2.6	27.2	1,272	2.1	39.6	70	5.8	54.1
English language and literature/letters	1,431	3.1	57.4	1,178	1.9	59.4	-253	-17.7	-14.7
Multi/interdisciplinary studies	764	1.7	49.5	1,093	1.8	55.6	329	43.1	60.8
Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	1,064	2.3	57.7	1,059	1.7	58.7	-5	-0.5	1.3
First-professional degrees³									
Total¹	78,730	100.0	42.1	90,064	100.0	50.0	11,334	14.4	35.7
Law	40,079	50.9	43.7	43,486	48.3	47.6	3,407	8.5	18.1
Medicine	15,571	19.8	41.4	15,730	17.5	49.2	159	1.0	20.0
Pharmacy	2,708	3.4	64.5	10,439	11.6	67.5	7,731	285.5	303.3
Theology	5,859	7.4	26.2	5,990	6.7	33.2	131	2.2	29.6
Dentistry	3,784	4.8	36.9	4,596	5.1	44.6	812	21.5	46.6
Osteopathic	2,011	2.6	35.5	2,992	3.3	50.7	981	48.8	112.5
Chiropractic	3,654	4.6	27.3	2,525	2.8	36.0	-1,129	-30.9	-8.8
Veterinary medicine	2,188	2.8	66.6	2,443	2.7	78.0	255	11.7	30.8
Optometry	1,264	1.6	53.2	1,311	1.5	62.4	47	3.7	21.5

¹ Includes other fields not shown separately.

² Includes Ph.D., Ed.D., and comparable degrees at the doctoral level.

³ 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. See glossary for a complete list of first-professional degrees.

NOTE: For more information on fields of study for postsecondary degrees, see *supplemental note 9*. The new *Classification of Instructional Programs* was initiated in 2002-03. Estimates for 1996-97 have been reclassified when necessary to conform to the new taxonomy. For more information on the *Classification of Postsecondary Education Institutions*, see *supplemental note 8*. 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 (NCES), 1996-97 and 2006-07 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:97) and Fall 2007.