

2021-22 Degrees Conferred in Oklahoma Higher Education

During the 2021-22 academic year, the Oklahoma state system of higher education conferred 36,977 degrees and certificates, which represents a 0.5% (172) decrease in degree and certificate production over the previous academic year and a 3.0% (1,084) increase over the last five years. Given enrollment declines since 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, this five-year growth in degrees and certificates conferred is considerable. With regard to high-demand fields of study aligned with critical occupations, over the last decade, state system institutions increased degree and certificate production in STEM fields by 24.0% and in the health professions by 15.2%. Oklahoma's state system of higher education continues to be a key partner in producing the graduates needed to meet Oklahoma's current and future workforce demands. Information regarding degree and certificate production by award level, demographics, field of study, and critical occupations is provided as follows.

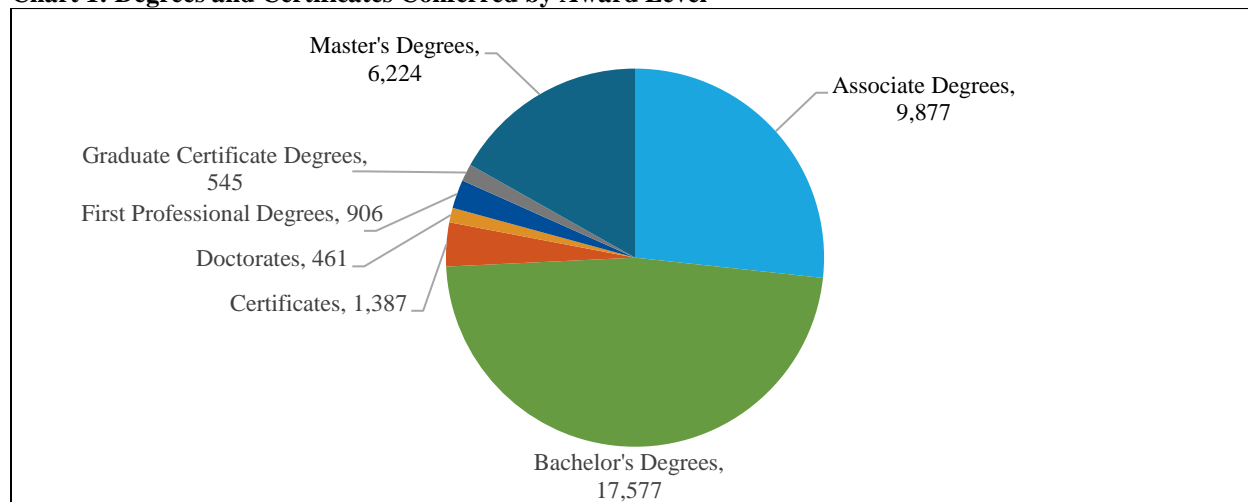
Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Award Level

The number of degrees and certificates conferred by award level in the 2021-22 academic year is below:

- 1,387 certificates
- 9,877 associate's degrees
- 17,577 bachelor's degrees
- 545 graduate certificates
- 6,224 master's degrees
- 906 first professional degrees
- 461 doctoral degrees

Chart 1 provides a visual representation of degrees and certificates conferred by Oklahoma state system institutions during the 2021-22 academic year.

Chart 1: Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Award Level

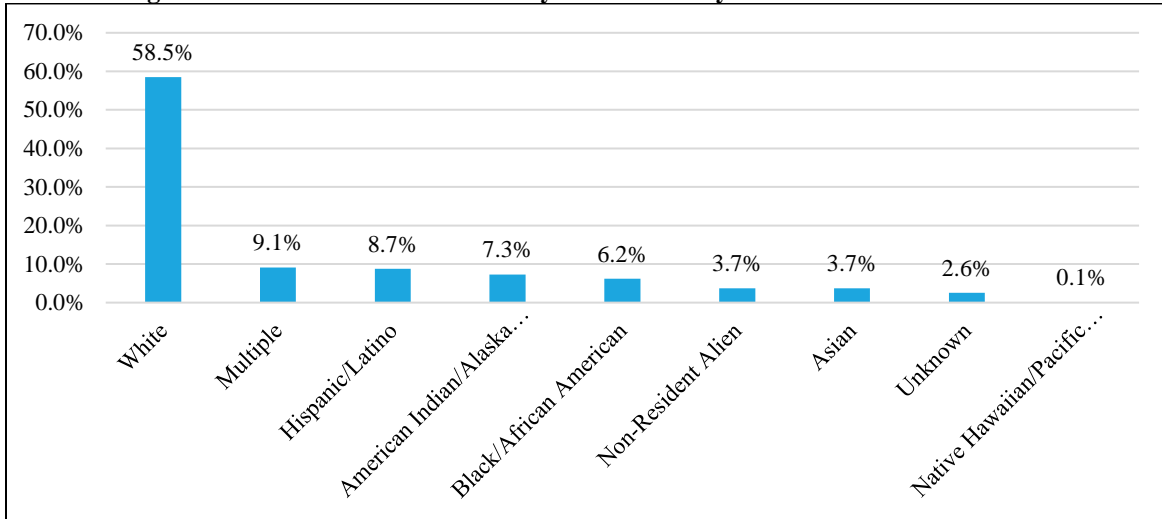


Certificates and associate's degrees accounted for 30.5% of total degrees and certificates conferred, while bachelor's degrees accounted for 48.0% of total degrees and certificates conferred. Graduate degrees and certificates made up 20.0% of total degrees and certificates conferred, while master's degrees accounted for 76.5% of total graduate degrees and certificates conferred.

Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Demographics

Chart 2 provides the demographic breakdown of degrees and certificates conferred by race/ethnicity. These percentages are comparable to 2021-22 enrollments in state system institutions by race/ethnicity.

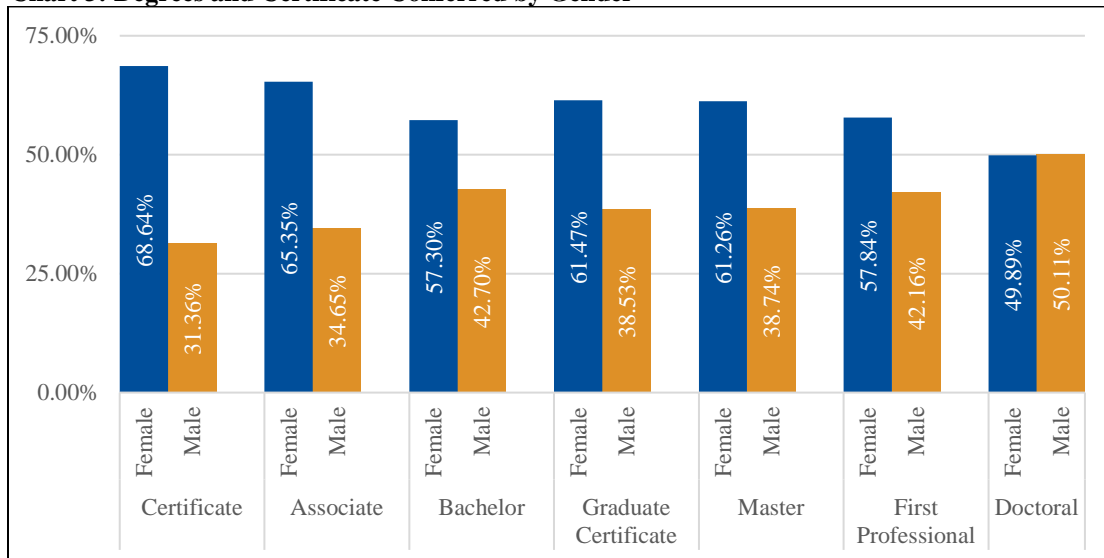
Chart 2: Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Race/Ethnicity



Outside of White, the largest race/ethnicity category of graduates was Multiple. Over the last five years, the number of graduates with Multiple races/ethnicities increased by 31.4%, from 7.2% (2,568) in 2017-18 to 9.1% (3,374) in 2021-22. Similarly, the number of graduates identifying as Hispanic/Latino increased by 36.0%, from 7.0% (2,378) in 2017-18 to 8.7% (3,232) in 2021-22.

In regard to gender, 60.5% of degrees and certificates conferred in 2021-22 went to women, while 39.5% of degrees and certificates conferred were awarded to men. Chart 3 provides the gender breakdown for degrees and certificates awarded to men and women by academic level.

Chart 3: Degrees and Certificate Conferred by Gender



Compared to the 2020-21 academic year, degrees and certificates conferred to men decreased slightly, while degrees and certificates conferred to women increased slightly. Over the last five years, graduate degrees and certificates awarded to women increased by 23.5% (933), whereas graduate degrees and certificates awarded to men increased by 6.3% (193). The distribution of doctoral degrees awarded to men and women was near equal at 231 to men and 230 to women.

Historical Trends

Oklahoma's public colleges and universities have been consistent in the total number of degrees and certificates awarded annually. Table 1 provides data on degree and certificate production by award level over the last five years.

Table 1. Degrees and Certificates Conferred, 5-Year Average

Award Level	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	5-Year Average
Certificates	1,192	1,322	1,253	1,270	1,387	1,284.8
Associate's Degrees	10,277	10,790	10,368	10,398	9,877	10,342.0
Bachelor's Degrees	17,414	17,647	17,765	17,942	17,577	17,669.0
Graduate Certificates	349	458	370	402	545	424.8
Master's Degrees	5,242	5,145	5,507	5,763	6,224	5,576.2
First Professional Degrees	897	908	915	898	906	904.8
Doctoral Degrees	522	500	481	476	461	488.0
Total	35,893	36,770	36,659	37,149	36,977	36,689.6

Table 2 shows 5-year and 10-year changes in degree and certificate production in Oklahoma state system institutions. Since 2017-18, graduate certificates and master's degrees had the largest growth (56.2% and 18.7% respectively), while associate's degrees and doctoral degrees declined in production during that time. Since 2012-13, undergraduate certificates and graduate certificates had the largest growth (35.7% and 153.5% respectively), while associate's degrees, first professional degrees, and doctoral degrees declined in production during that time.

Table 2. 5-Year and 10-Year Changes in Degrees and Certificates Conferred

Award Level	2012-13	2017-18	2021-22	5-Year Change	10-Year Change
Certificates	1,022	1,192	1,387	16.4%	35.7%
Associate's Degrees	10,697	10,277	9,877	-3.9%	-7.7%
Bachelor's Degrees	15,942	17,414	17,577	0.9%	10.3%
Graduate Certificates	215	349	545	56.2%	153.5%
Master's Degrees	4,910	5,242	6,224	18.7%	26.8%
First Professional Degrees	943	897	906	1.0%	-3.9%
Doctoral Degrees	478	522	461	-11.7%	-3.6%
Total	34,207	35,893	36,977	3.0%	8.1%

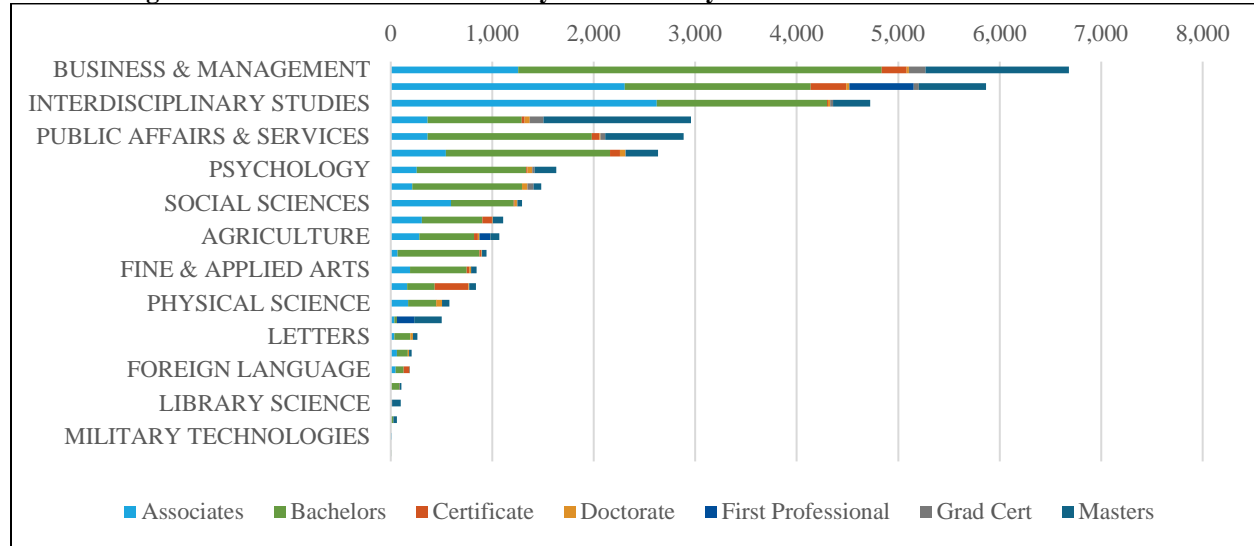
Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Field of Study

Among all degrees and certificates conferred in 2021-22, the top three fields of study were Business and Management, Health Professions, and Interdisciplinary Studies. Top fields of study by degree level are as follows:

- Certificates – Health Professions (25.2%)
- Associate's Degrees – Interdisciplinary Studies (26.5%)
- Bachelor's Degrees – Business and Management (20.4%)
- Graduate Certificates – Business and Management (30.0%)
- Master's Degrees – Education (23.3%)
- First Professional Degrees – Health Professions (70.0%)
- Doctoral Degrees – Physical Science (12.4%)

Most of the associate's degrees conferred were in Interdisciplinary Studies, while the highest field of study for bachelor's degrees conferred was Business and Management. The field of study for most of the master's degrees conferred was Education. Chart 4 provides a visual representation of degrees and certificates conferred by state system institutions during the 2021-22 academic year by field of study and award level.

Chart 4: Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Field of Study and Award Level



Degrees and Certificates Conferred in Critical Occupations

Education. State system institutions awarded 2,958 degrees and certificates in education during the 2021-22 academic year. As shown in Table 3, this represents a 7.6% increase compared to the 2017-18 academic year and a 14.9% decline compared to 2012-13. Despite this overall decline in the total number of degrees and certificates conferred in education, production of graduate certificates and master’s degrees in this field has increased over the last decade by 661.1% and 30.3% respectively.

Table 3. Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Award Level – Education

Award Level	2012-13	2017-18	2021-22	5-Year Change	10-Year Change
Certificates			29	--	--
Associate’s Degrees	883	528	364	-31.1%	-58.8%
Bachelor’s Degrees	1,404	1,065	927	-13.0%	-34.0%
Graduate Certificates	18	39	137	251.3%	661.1%
Master’s Degrees	1,115	1,033	1,453	40.7%	30.3%
Doctoral Degrees	57	83	48	-42.2%	-15.8%
Total	3,477	2,748	2,958	7.6%	-14.9%

With regard to approved educator preparation programs at state system institutions, annual production of bachelor’s degrees leading to eligibility to sit for teacher licensure declined by 22.3% over the last decade and 5.1% over the last five years, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Bachelor’s Degrees Conferred in Educator Preparation Programs

Award Level	2012-13	2017-18	2021-22	5-Year Change	10-Year Change
Bachelor’s Degrees	1,541	1,263	1,198	-5.1%	-22.3%

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). State system institutions conferred 7,348 STEM degrees and certificates during the 2021-22 academic year, representing a 24.0% increase over the last decade. More specifically, the number of bachelor’s degrees produced in STEM fields has increased 42.4% over the last 10 years. Table 5 provides the 5-year and 10-year change in degree and certificate production in STEM fields by award level.

Table 5. Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Award Level – STEM

Award Level	2012-13	2017-18	2021-22	5-Year Change	10-Year Change
Certificates	101	131	171	30.5%	69.3%
Associate's Degrees	1,461	1,393	1,372	-1.5%	-6.1%
Bachelor's Degrees	3,229	4,465	4,599	3.0%	42.4%
Graduate Certificates	4	88	124	40.9%	3,000.0%
Master's Degrees	919	990	870	-12.1%	-5.3%
Doctoral Degrees	210	223	212	-4.9%	1.0%
Total	5,924	7,290	7,348	0.8%	24.0%

Looking at specific STEM fields, Table 6 shows that degree and certificate production over the last five years increased in computer and information sciences by 19.4% and biological sciences by 14.0%.

Table 6. Degrees and Certificates Conferred by STEM Field

STEM Field	2017-18	2021-22	5-Year Change
Agriculture	297	295	-0.7%
Biological Sciences	948	1,081	14.0%
Computer & Information Sciences	499	596	19.4%
Engineering	1,344	1,281	-4.7%
Engineering Technologies	488	335	-31.4%
Remaining STEM Fields	889	1,011	13.7%
Total	4,465	4,599	3.0%

Health Professions. State system institutions awarded 5,867 degrees and certificates in health professions during the 2021-22 academic year. As shown in Table 7, this represents a 5.3% increase compared to the 2017-18 academic year and a 15.2% increase compared to the 2012-13 academic year.

Table 7. Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Award Level – Health Professions

Award Level	2012-13	2017-18	2021-22	5-Year Change	10-Year Change
Certificates	289	341	349	2.3%	20.8%
Associate's Degrees	2,288	2,456	2,305	-6.1%	0.7%
Bachelor's Degrees	1,331	1,486	1,834	23.4%	37.8%
Graduate Certificates	55	25	50	100.0%	-9.1%
Master's Degrees	445	581	664	14.3%	49.2%
First Professional Degrees	668	657	635	-3.3%	-4.9%
Doctoral Degrees	16	26	30	15.4%	87.5%
Total	5,092	5,572	5,867	5.3%	15.2%

Looking at nursing specifically, total degree and certificate production in the 2021-22 academic year was 11.3% higher than in 2017-18 and 26.4% higher than in 2012-13, as shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Degrees and Certificates Conferred – Nursing

Health Professions Field	2012-13	2017-18	2021-22	5-Year Change	10-Year Change
Nursing	2,254	2,559	2,849	11.3%	26.4%

Additional Information

Additional information on 2021-22 degrees and certificates conferred is available upon request.