

2020-21 Degrees Conferred in Oklahoma Higher Education

During the 2020-21 academic year, the Oklahoma state system of higher education conferred 37,149 degrees and certificates, which represents a 1.3% (490) increase in degree and certificate production over the previous academic year and a 5.1% (1,816) increase over the last five years. 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 28.8% and in the health professions by **26.4%**. **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, fields of study, and critical occupations is provided below.

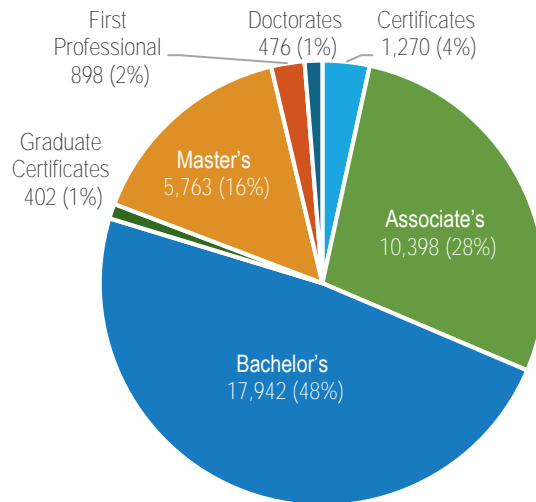
2020-21 Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Award Level

During the 2020-21 academic year, state system institutions awarded the following:

- 1,270 certificates
- **10,398 associate's degrees**
- **17,942 bachelor's degrees**
- 402 graduate certificates
- **5,763 master's degrees**
- 898 first professional degrees
- 476 doctoral degrees

Chart 1 provides a visual representation of degrees and certificates conferred by state system institutions during the 2020-21 academic year.

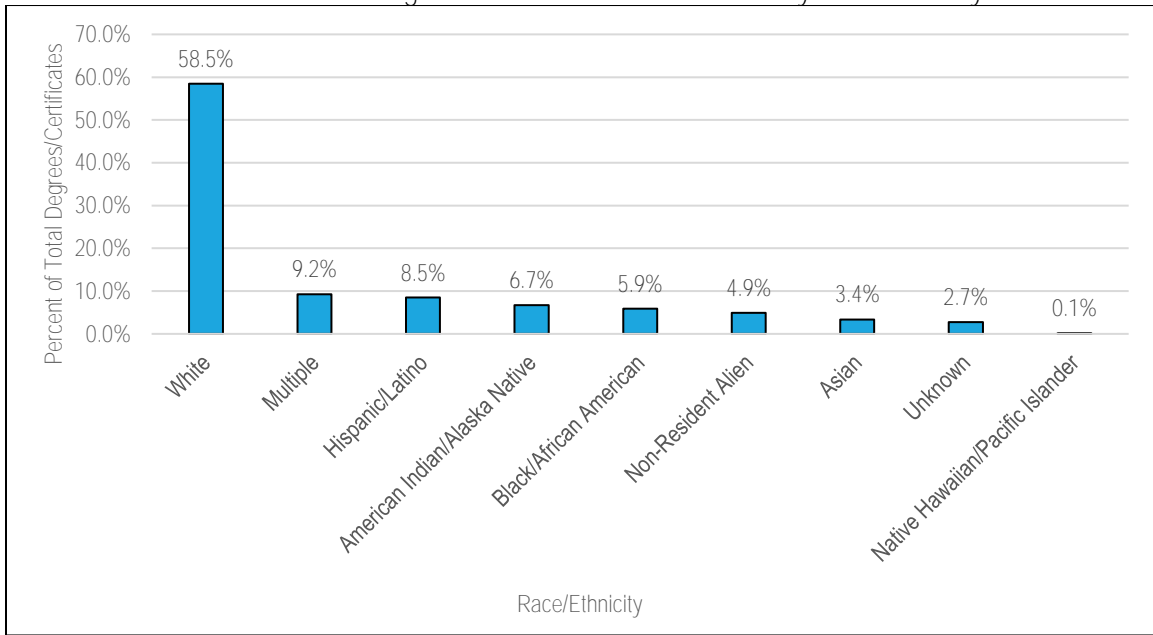
Chart 1: 2020-21 Degrees and Certificates Conferred



Degrees Conferred by Demographics

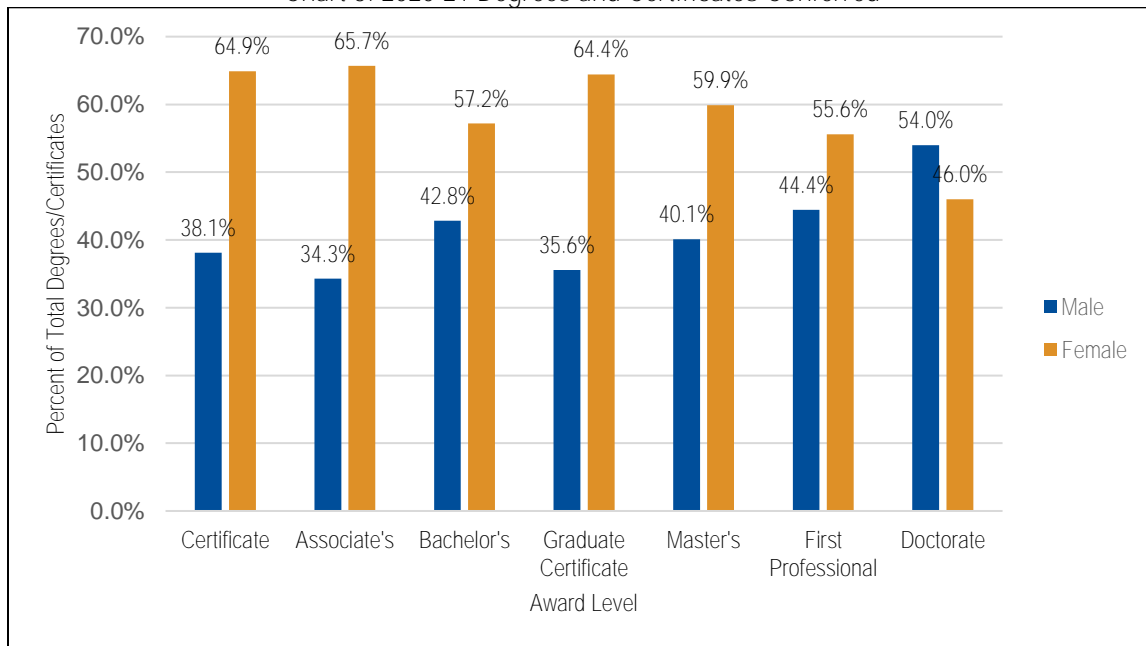
During the 2020-21 academic year, students of color received 41.5% of total degrees and certificates conferred. Chart 2 provides the demographic breakdown of degrees and certificates conferred by race/ethnicity.

Chart 2: 2020-21 Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Race/Ethnicity



With regard to gender, 60% of degrees and certificates during the 2020-21 academic year were awarded to women while 40% were awarded to men. Chart 3 provides the gender breakdown for degrees and certificates awarded by level.

Chart 3: 2020-21 Degrees and Certificates Conferred



Historical Trends

Oklahoma's public colleges and universities have seen a steady increase 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	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	5-Year Average
Certificates	1,179	1,192	1,322	1,253	1,270	1,243
Associate's Degrees	10,244	10,277	10,790	10,368	10,398	10,415
Bachelor's Degrees	17,197	17,414	17,647	17,765	17,942	17,593
Graduate Certificates	287	349	458	370	402	373
Master's Degrees	5,026	5,242	5,145	5,507	5,763	5,337
First Professional Degrees	905	897	908	915	898	905
Doctoral Degrees	495	522	500	481	476	495
Total	35,333	35,893	36,770	36,659	37,149	36,361

Table 2 provides 5-year and 10-year changes in degree and certificate production at state system institutions. Over the last five years, graduate certificates and master's degrees experienced the largest growth (40.1% and 14.7% respectively) while first professional degrees and doctoral degrees declined in production. The large growth in master's degrees can largely be attributed to the success of Southeastern Oklahoma State University's online Master of Business Administration program. Since 2017-18, the university increased annual master's degree production by 358% (787 master's degrees).

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

Award Level	2011-12	2016-17	2020-21	5-Year Change	10-Year Change
Certificates	768	1,179	1,270	7.7%	65.4%
Associate's Degrees	9,871	10,244	10,398	1.5%	5.3%
Bachelor's Degrees	15,854	17,197	17,942	4.3%	13.2%
Graduate Certificates	155	287	402	40.1%	159.4%
Master's Degrees	5,036	5,026	5,763	14.7%	14.4%
First Professional Degrees	931	905	898	-0.8%	-3.5%
Doctoral Degrees	436	495	476	-3.8%	9.2%
Total	32,283	34,154	35,879	5.1%	11.1%

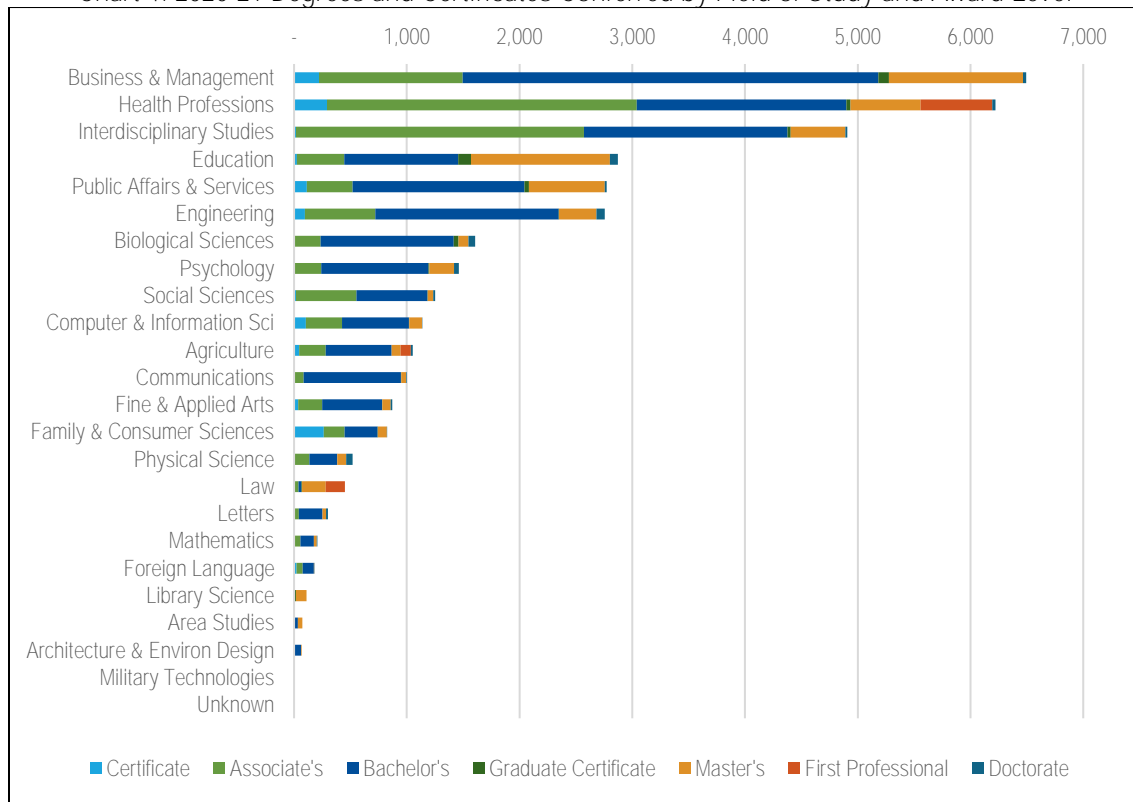
Degrees and Certificates by Fields of Study

Among all degrees and certificates conferred during the 2020-21 academic year, the top three fields of study were Business and Management, Health Professions, and Interdisciplinary Studies. Top fields of study by award level are listed below:

- Certificates – Health Professions (23%)
- **Associate's Degrees** – Health Professions (25.7%)
- **Bachelor's Degrees** – Business and Management (20.6%)
- Graduate Certificates – Education (28.4%)
- **Master's Degrees** – Education (21.4%)
- First Professional Degrees – Health Professions (70.8%)
- Doctoral Degrees – Engineering (15.3%)

Chart 4 provides a visual representation of degrees and certificates conferred by state system institutions during the 2020-21 academic year by field of study and award level.

Chart 4: 2020-21 Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Field of Study and Award Level



Degrees and Certificates Conferred in Critical Occupations

Education. State system institutions awarded 2,871 degrees and certificates in education during the 2020-21 academic year. As shown in Table 3, this represents a 1.1% decline compared to the 2016-17 academic year and a 22.8% decline compared to 2011-12. 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 776.9% and 8.2%, respectively.

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

Award Level	2011-12	2016-17	2020-21	5-Year Change		10-Year Change	
				N	%	N	%
Certificates			24	24	N/A	24	N/A
Associate's Degrees	978	556	422	-134	-24.1%	-556	-56.9%
Bachelor's Degrees	1,519	1,165	1,010	-155	-13.3%	-509	-33.5%
Graduate Certificates	13	25	114	89	356.0%	101	776.9%
Master's Degrees	1,138	1,085	1,231	146	13.5%	93	8.2%
Doctoral Degrees	73	73	70	-3	-4.1%	-3	-4.1%
Total	3,721	2,904	2,871	-33	-1.1%	-850	-22.8%

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 25.9% over the last decade, as shown in Table 4.

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

Award Level	2011-12	2016-17	2020-21	5-Year Change		10-Year Change	
				N	%	N	%
Bachelor's Degrees	1,651	1,365	1,223	142	-10.4%	428	-25.9%

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. State system institutions conferred 7,472 STEM degrees and certificates during the 2020-21 academic year, representing a 28.8% increase over the last decade. More

specifically, the number of bachelor's degrees produced in STEM fields has increased 47.1% 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	2011-12	2016-17	2020-21	5-Year Change		10-Year Change	
				N	%	N	%
Certificates	78	125	171	46	36.8%	93	119.2%
Associate's Degrees	1,313	1,431	1,371	-60	-4.2%	58	4.4%
Bachelor's Degrees	3,202	4,214	4,711	497	11.8%	1,509	47.1%
Graduate Certificates	21	74	85	11	14.9%	64	304.8%
Master's Degrees	999	948	913	-35	-3.7%	-86	-8.6%
Doctoral Degrees	187	221	221	0	0.0%	34	18.2%
Total	5,800	7,013	7,472	459	6.5%	1,672	28.8%

Looking at specific STEM fields, Table 6 shows that degree and certificate production over the last 10 years increased in biological sciences (50.4%), computer and information sciences (32.6%), and engineering (28.4%), while engineering technologies and physical sciences experienced declines.

Table 6. Degrees and Certificates Conferred by STEM Field

STEM Field	2011-12	2016-17	2020-21	5-Year Change		10-Year Change	
				N	%	N	%
Biological Sciences	1,067	1,224	1,605	381	31.1%	538	50.4%
Computer & Information Sciences	786	971	1,042	71	7.3%	256	32.6%
Engineering	1,349	1,850	1,732	-118	-6.4%	383	28.4%
Engineering Technologies	815	827	668	-159	-19.2%	-147	-18.0%
Physical Sciences	531	583	503	-80	-13.7%	-28	-5.3%
All Other STEM	1,252	1,558	1,922	364	23.4%	670	53.5%
Total	5,800	7,013	7,472	459	6.5%	1,672	28.8%

Health Professions. State system institutions awarded 6,147 degrees and certificates in health professions during the 2020-21 academic year. As shown in Table 7, this represents an 11.3% increase compared to the 2016-17 academic year and a 26.4% increase compared to 2011-12.

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

Award Level	2011-12	2016-17	2020-21	5-Year Change		10-Year Change	
				N	%	N	%
Certificates	266	302	292	-10	-3.3%	26	9.8%
Associate's Degrees	2,215	2,396	2,674	278	11.6%	459	20.7%
Bachelor's Degrees	1,250	1,493	1,859	366	24.5%	609	48.7%
Graduate Certificates	65	45	35	-10	-22.2%	-30	-46.2%
Master's Degrees	402	589	622	33	5.6%	220	54.7%
First Professional Degrees	661	673	636	-37	-5.5%	-25	-3.8%
Doctoral Degrees	4	26	29	3	11.5%	25	625.0%
Total	4,863	5,524	6,147	623	11.3%	1,284	26.4%

Looking at nursing specifically, total degree and certificate production in the 2020-21 academic year is 20.2% higher than 2016-17 and 25.6% higher than 2011-12, as shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Degrees and Certificates Conferred - Nursing

Health Professions Field	2011-12	2016-17	2020-21	5-Year Change		10-Year Change	
				N	%	N	%
Nursing	2,223	2,324	2,793	469	20.2%	570	25.6%

Additional Information

Additional data on 2020-21 degrees and certificates conferred is available upon request.