

2024-25 Degrees Conferred in Oklahoma Higher Education

During the 2024-25 academic year, Oklahoma's state system of higher education awarded 41,250 degrees and certificates – an increase of 8.3 percent (3,183 awards) from the previous year and 11.0 percent (4,101 awards) over the past five years. To meet workforce needs in high-demand fields and critical occupations, state system institutions have sustained a decade-long upward trend in degree and certificate production, including a 28.8 percent increase in STEM disciplines and an 18.5 percent increase in health professions. Oklahoma's higher education system continues to play a vital role in preparing graduates to meet the state's current and future workforce demands.

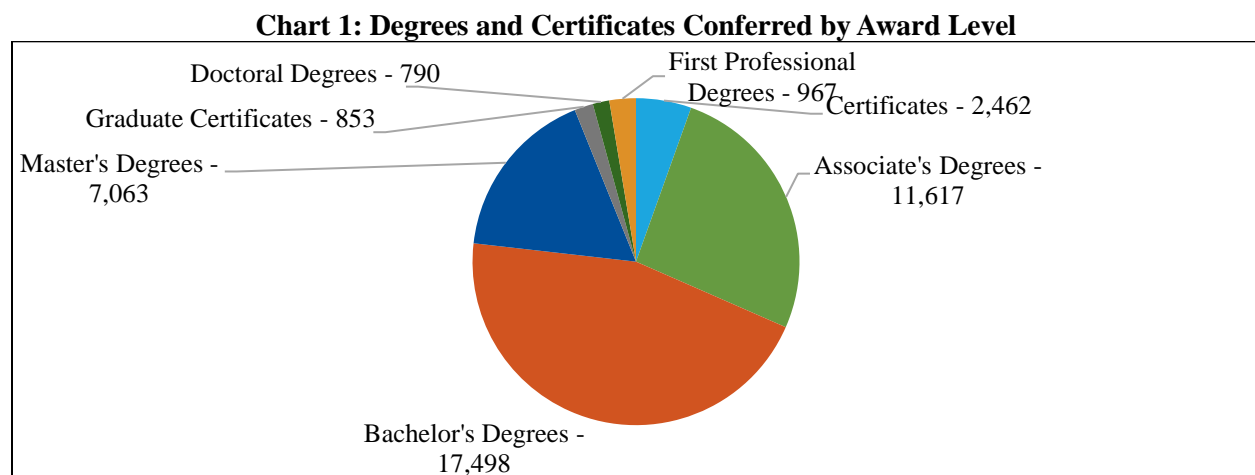
This report presents detailed data on degree and certificate production by award level, student demographics, field of study, and alignment with critical occupations.

Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Award Level

In the 2024-25 academic year, Oklahoma's state system institutions awarded degrees and certificates across multiple levels as follows:

- **Certificates:** 2,462 (6.0%)
- **Associate's Degrees:** 11,617 (28.2%)
- **Bachelor's Degrees:** 17,498 (42.4%)
- **Graduate Certificates:** 853 (2.1%)
- **Master's Degrees:** 7,063 (17.1%)
- **First Professional Degrees:** 967 (2.3%)
- **Doctoral Degrees:** 790 (1.9%)

Chart 1 illustrates the distribution of degrees and certificates conferred by Oklahoma state system institutions during the 2024-25 academic year.

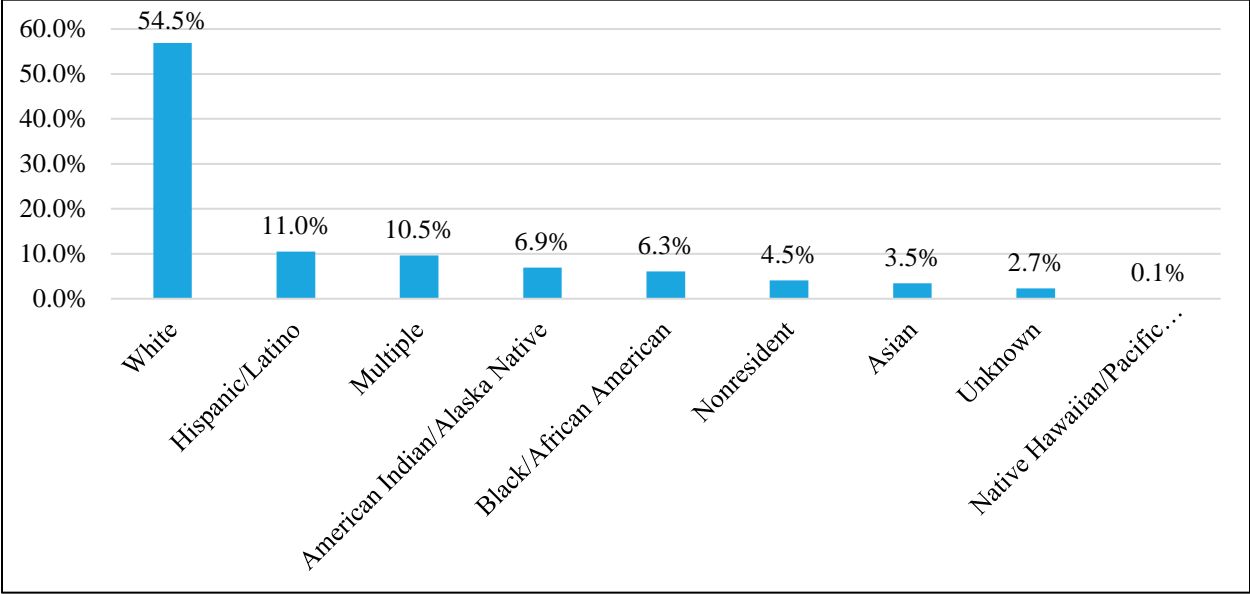


Certificates and associate's degrees accounted for 34.1 percent of all awards in 2024-25. Bachelor's degrees remained the largest category, representing 42.4 percent of the total awards conferred by state system institutions. Graduate-level awards – including both degrees and certificates – made up 23.5 percent of all awards, with master's degrees making up the majority at 73.0 percent within the graduate category.

Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Demographics

Chart 2 illustrates the demographic distribution of degrees and certificates conferred by race and ethnicity during the 2024-25 academic year. These patterns closely reflect the racial and ethnic composition of undergraduate, degree-seeking enrollment within state system institutions, demonstrating a consistent relationship between enrollment trends and degree attainment across diverse populations.

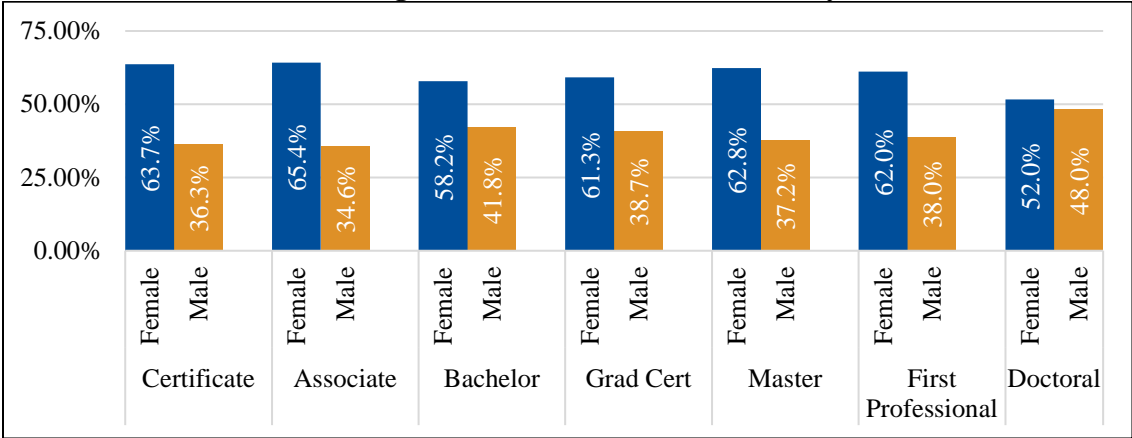
Chart 2: Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Demographics



Hispanic/Latino students represented the largest racial/ethnic group outside the white category in 2024-25, reflecting significant growth in degree and certificate attainment. Awards to Hispanic/Latino students increased by 43.8 percent over the past five years, rising from 8.5 percent (3,146 awards) in 2020-21 to 11.0 percent (4,523 awards) in 2024-25. Degrees and certificates earned by students of Multiple races/ethnicities grew by 26.7 percent during this period, increasing from 9.2 percent (3,427 awards) to 10.5 percent (4,341 awards). Awards to Black/African American students also rose by 19.2 percent, from 5.9 percent (2,187 awards) to 6.3 percent (2,606 awards). These gains highlight progress in representation of these groups among degree and certificate recipients.

In 2024-25, women earned 61.4 percent of all degrees and certificates, while men accounted for 38.6 percent. Chart 3 illustrates sex differences across academic levels, offering insight into trends in certificate, associate’s, bachelor’s, and graduate degree attainment.

Chart 3: Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Sex



Compared to 2023-24, degrees and certificates awarded to men increased by 6.2 percent (923 awards), while those awarded to women rose by 9.8 percent (2,250 awards). Over the past five years, graduate-level awards grew by 34.7 percent for women (1,538 awards) and 19.0 percent for men (597 awards). Doctoral degrees also experienced notable growth, with a 25.9 percent increase for men (78 awards) and a 28.0 percent increase for women (90 awards).

Historical Trends

Oklahoma's public institutions have maintained steady annual totals in degrees and certificates awarded. Table 1 presents production by award level over the past five years, highlighting trends in certificate, associate's, bachelor's, and graduate degree attainment.

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

Award Level	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	5-Year Average
Certificates	1,270	1,387	1,664	2,080	2,462	1,772.6
Associate's Degrees	10,398	9,877	9,915	9,930	11,617	10,347.4
Bachelor's Degrees	17,942	17,577	17,074	17,221	17,498	17,462.4
Graduate Certificates	402	545	510	705	853	603.0
Master's Degrees	5,763	6,224	6,641	6,511	7,063	6,440.4
First Professional Degrees	898	906	932	998	967	940.2
Doctoral Degrees	476	461	522	622	790	574.2
Total	37,149	36,977	37,258	38,067	41,250	38,140.2

Table 2 summarizes one-, five-, and 10-year trends in degree and certificate production. Over the past year, certificates, associate's degrees, graduate certificates, and doctoral degrees increased by 18.4 percent, 17.0 percent, 21.0 percent, and 27.0 percent, respectively, while first professional degrees declined by 3.1 percent. Over the past five years, certificates grew by 93.9 percent, and graduate certificates by 112.2 percent, whereas bachelor's degrees decreased by 2.5 percent. Looking at the 10-year trend, certificates rose by 84.4 percent and graduate certificates by 177.9 percent, while bachelor's degrees posted a modest 3.4 percent increase.

Table 2. 1-Year, 5-Year, and 10-Year Changes in Degrees and Certificates Conferred

Award Level	2015-16	2020-21	2023-24	2024-25	Change		
					1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Certificates	1,335	1,270	2,080	2,462	18.4%	93.9%	84.4%
Associate's Degrees	10,839	10,398	9,930	11,617	17.0%	11.7%	7.2%
Bachelor's Degrees	16,926	17,942	17,221	17,498	1.6%	-2.5%	3.4%
Graduate Certificates	307	402	705	853	21.0%	112.2%	177.9%
Master's Degrees	4,917	5,763	6,511	7,063	8.5%	22.6%	43.6%
First Professional Degrees	942	898	998	967	-3.1%	7.7%	2.7%
Doctoral Degrees	515	476	622	790	27.0%	66.0%	53.4%
Total	35,781	37,149	38,067	41,250	8.4%	11.0%	15.3%

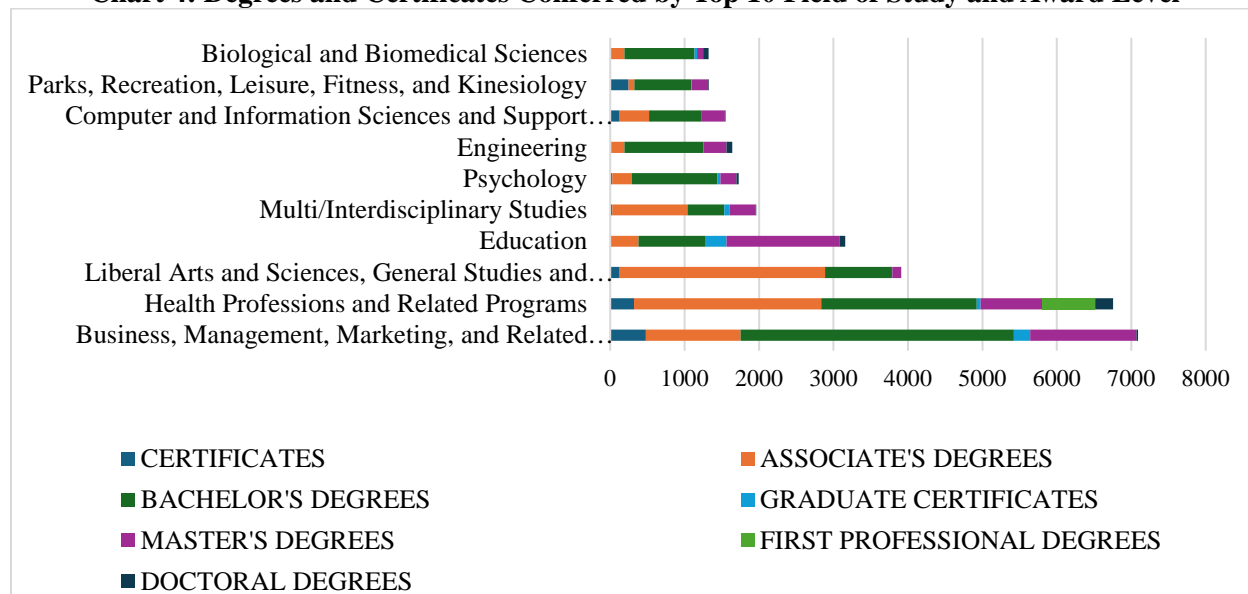
Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Field of Study

Of all degrees and certificates conferred in the 2024-25 academic year, the leading fields of study were Business and Management, Health Professions, and Liberal Arts and Sciences. The top fields were:

- **Certificates:** Family and Consumer Sciences (20.0%)
- **Associate's Degrees:** Health Professions (23.8%)
- **Bachelor's Degrees:** Business and Management (21.0%)
- **Graduate Certificates:** Business and Management (21.5%)
- **Master's Degrees:** Education (32.8%)
- **First Professional Degrees:** Health Professions (72.8%)
- **Doctoral Degrees:** Health Professions (30.5%)

Chart 4 illustrates degrees and certificates awarded by state system institutions in 2024-25, broken down by field of study and award level.

Chart 4: Degrees and Certificates Conferred by Top 10 Field of Study and Award Level



Degrees and Certificates Conferred in Critical Occupations

Education. In the 2024-25 academic year, state system institutions awarded 3,158 degrees and certificates in education – a 3.9 percent increase from 2023-24 and a 15.2 percent rise compared to 2020-21 – as shown in Table 3. Although associate’s and bachelor’s degrees in education declined over the past decade (45.9% and 26.3% respectively), recent data indicate a positive shift. Compared to 2020-21, associate’s degrees increased by 24.0 percent, signaling a pipeline for future bachelor’s degree attainment in education.

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

Award Level	2015-16	2020-21	2023-24	2024-25	Change		
					1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Certificates	--	24	14	17	21.4%	-29.2%	--
Associate’s Degrees	669	292	361	362	0.3%	24.0%	-45.9%
Bachelor’s Degrees	1,228	1,010	932	905	-2.9%	-10.4%	-26.3%
Graduate Certificates	33	114	188	280	48.9%	145.6%	748.5%
Master’s Degrees	1,025	1,231	1,462	1,517	3.8%	23.2%	48.0%
Doctoral Degrees	63	70	83	77	-7.2%	10.0%	22.2%
Total	3,018	2,741	3,040	3,158	3.9%	15.2%	4.6%

Over the past five years, associate’s and bachelor’s degrees leading to teacher licensure at state system institutions declined by 6.7 percent. However, this trend appears to have stabilized, with bachelor’s degrees conferred from 2023-24 to 2024-25 remaining flat – a one-year 0.6 percent decline, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Associate’s and Bachelor’s Degrees Conferred in Education Preparation Programs

Award Level	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change	
						1-Year	5-Year
Associate’s Degrees	292	306	340	311	278	-10.6%	-4.8%
Bachelor’s Degrees	1,042	949	928	973	967	-0.6%	-7.2%
Total	1,334	1,255	1,268	1,284	1,245	-3.0%	-6.7%

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). In the 2024-25 academic year, state system institutions awarded 8,925 degrees and certificates in STEM fields, reflecting a significant 28.8 percent growth over the past decade. This steady increase underscores the growing emphasis on STEM education, which is critical for driving innovation and meeting workforce needs in high-demand sectors. Among the areas of growth were bachelor's and master's degrees, which rose by 19.5 percent and 56.5 percent respectively. Certificates and graduate certificates experienced extraordinary surges, with increases of 161.3 percent and 517.9 percent respectively over the past decade. These figures highlight the dynamic expansion of STEM credentials at all academic levels, as illustrated in Table 5.

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

Award Level	2015-16	2020-21	2023-24	2024-25	Change		
					1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Certificates	150	203	403	392	-2.7%	93.1%	161.3%
Associate's Degrees	1,563	1,447	1,568	1,765	12.6%	22.0%	12.9%
Bachelor's Degrees	3,964	5,047	4,520	4,736	4.8%	-6.2%	19.5%
Graduate Certificates	28	111	158	173	9.5%	55.9%	517.9%
Master's Degrees	985	1,071	1,232	1,541	25.1%	43.9%	56.5%
Doctoral Degrees	242	227	277	318	14.8%	40.1%	31.4%
Total	6,932	8,106	8,158	8,925	9.4%	10.1%	28.8%

Looking at specific STEM fields, Table 6 shows that degree and certificate production in Computer and Information Sciences increased by 43.7 percent over the last five years and 59.8 percent over the past decade. In contrast, production in engineering programs appears to have stabilized, with a one-year increase of 3.8 percent, similar to trends observed in education preparation programs.

Table 6. Degrees and Certificates Conferred by STEM Field

STEM Field	2015-16	2020-21	2023-24	2024-25	Change		
					1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Biological Sciences	1,191	1,605	1,320	1,323	0.2%	-17.6%	11.1%
Computer/Info Sciences	969	1,077	1,338	1,548	15.7%	43.7%	59.8%
Engineering	1,668	1,732	1,578	1,638	3.8%	-5.4%	-1.8%
Engineering Technologies	1,008	668	562	597	6.2%	-10.6%	-40.8%
Physical Sciences	558	503	489	509	4.1%	1.2%	-8.8%
Remaining STEM Fields	1,538	2,521	2,871	3,310	15.3%	31.3%	115.2%
Total	6,932	8,106	8,158	8,925	9.4%	10.1%	28.8%

Health Professions. In 2024-25, Oklahoma state system institutions awarded 6,756 degrees and certificates in health professions, marking an 11.1 percent increase from the previous year, a 9.9 percent rise since 2020-21, and an 18.5 percent increase since 2015-16, as shown in Table 7.

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

Award Level	2015-16	2020-21	2023-24	2024-25	Change		
					1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Certificates	393	292	252	318	26.2%	8.9%	-19.1%
Associate's Degrees	2,511	2,674	2,365	2,517	6.4%	-5.9%	0.2%
Bachelor's Degrees	1,465	1,859	1,960	2,088	6.5%	12.3%	42.5%
Graduate Certificates	77	35	25	52	108.0%	48.6%	-32.5%
Master's Degrees	443	622	662	836	26.3%	34.4%	88.7%
First Professional Degrees	796	636	700	704	0.6%	10.7%	-11.6%
Doctoral Degrees	18	29	115	241	109.6%	731.0%	1,238.9%
Total	5,703	6,147	6,079	6,756	11.1%	9.9%	18.5%

Degree and certificate production in nursing increased by 8.1 percent in 2024-25 compared to the prior year, 13.8 percent since 2020-21, and 36.5 percent since 2015-16, as shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Degrees and Certificates Conferred – Nursing

Health Profession Field	2015-16	2020-21	2023-24	2024-25	Change		
					1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Nursing	2,175	2,609	2,746	2,968	8.1%	13.8%	36.5%

Critical Occupations Toward 2030 Workforce Readiness Goal. Under Blueprint 2030, OSRHE aimed to produce 100,000 degrees and certificates in Critical Occupations by 2030. State system institutions have awarded a total of 133,050 degrees and certificates since 2021-22, surpassing the originally set target. In the 2024-25 academic year, 87.5% of degrees and certificates conferred aligned with critical occupations.

A breakdown of awards in Critical Occupations each year is displayed in Table 9.

Table 9. Degrees and Certificates Conferred in Critical Occupations

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
31,827	32,099	33,010	36,114	133,050

Additional Information

Further details on degrees and certificates conferred in 2024-25 is available on the Degrees and Certificates Conferred Dashboard at <https://okhighered.org/studies-reports/dashboards/>.