

## Degrees Conferred Report Definition of Variables *Last Update: October 2021*

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This document provides definitions of the variables displayed in the Degrees Conferred report. The Degrees Conferred report is not based on the IPEDS first-time freshman cohort, and thus is not reported by cohort year. Instead, degrees conferred are reported by the fiscal year in which an award was received. Since the Graduation Rate report is limited to the IPEDS FTF cohort and the Degrees Conferred report is for all students who earned an award, the counts of graduates will not match across reports.

*Note: This Degrees Conferred report is not cross-checked against the Degrees and Majors Authorized database, and therefore the counts in this report will differ from the Degrees Conferred reports displayed [here](#).*

For more information on the technical and functional definitions of the variables listed in this report, see the ADC Functional and Technical Definitions of Derived Variables document located on the [reporting resources site](#).

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## Report Options

### *Fiscal Year*

The fiscal year in which the degree was awarded. For example, fiscal year 2014 includes degrees conferred in Summer 2013, Fall 2013, and Spring 2014.

### *Gender*

Gender is either male or female. Gender information is self-reported by the student at the time of application; however, it is not required information on the application. Institutions collect the information at registration if there is no information on the application. The category "unknown" is not allowed in USG reporting. If a student refuses to indicate gender, the institution makes a judgment.

### *Institute and Sector*

The institutions are categorized by sector—research universities, comprehensive universities, state universities, and state colleges. For this report, a sector can be chosen or a specific institution.

## **Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity is self-reported by the student at the time of application; however, it is not required information on the application. These categories are used to describe groups to which individuals belong, identify with, or belong in the eyes of the community. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. A student that identifies as being of Hispanic ethnicity is classified as Hispanic. All students that are not Hispanic are classified as a specific race if they only indicate one race, and as Two or more races/multi-racial if they select more than one race. The category of "Race and Ethnicity Unknown" is used to report students whose racial/ethnic category is undeclared. *Note: This report does not use the IPEDS category of 'Non-resident alien.'*

### **American Indian/Alaskan Native**

A person identifying as having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

### **Asian**

A person identifying as having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent.

### **Black or African American (Non-Hispanic)**

A person identifying as having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa, except those of Hispanic origin.

### **Hispanic or Latino**

A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

### **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander**

A person identifying as having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific islands.

### **Race and Ethnicity Unknown**

A category used to classify students whose race/ethnicity is not known and whom institutions are unable to place in one of the specified racial/ethnic categories.

### **Two or More Races**

A person identifying as having origins from two or more races.

### **White (Non-Hispanic)**

A person identifying as having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa or the Middle East, except those of Hispanic origin.

## **Report Results**

### **CIP Code and Program Titles**

The six-digit Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code that identifies instructional program specialties within educational institutions.

### **Undergraduate Award Levels**

#### **Certificate**

The award conferred at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of less than 60 undergraduate semester credit hours. Two types of certificates are awarded: less-than-one-year certificates and one-year certificates.

#### **Associate Degree**

The award conferred at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 undergraduate semester credit hours. Two types of associate degrees are awarded: Career Associate degree and Transfer Associate degree. The Career Associate degree (A.A.S.) prepares students directly for the job market. The Transfer Associate degrees (A.A. and A.S. degrees) prepare students to transfer into baccalaureate level programs.

#### **Bachelor's Degree**

The award conferred at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 120 undergraduate semester credit hours.

### **Graduate/Professional Award Levels**

#### **Advanced Certificate**

The award conferred at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of less than 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree.

#### **Master's Degree**

The award conferred at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's level. Some master's programs have additional requirements, such as a thesis, practicum, or portfolio.

#### **Education Specialist Degree**

The award conferred for formal study in a specialized area of education. This is a terminal professional degree beyond the Master's degree but with fewer requirements than the doctorate degree.

#### **Doctorate Degree**

The award conferred at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the master's level. Some doctoral programs have additional requirements, such as a dissertation and a foreign language competency.

**First Professional Degree**

The awards conferred by research universities at the completion of formal courses of study beyond the bachelor's degree in the following professional programs: Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine.