

BULLETIN OERI

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Center for Education Statistics

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BACHELOR'S AND HIGHER DEGREES CONFERRED IN 1985-86

In 1985-86, for the first time in 15 years¹, the total number of first-professional degrees decreased. At the same time, the number of degrees awarded at all other levels--bachelor's, master's, and doctor's--remained fairly stable over the previous year.

According to data gathered by the Center for Education Statistics, the number of first-professional degrees dropped from about 75,100² in 1984-85 to just over 73,900 in 1985-86. The decrease appears to be due primarily to a substantial drop in the largest field, law, as well as in two of the smaller health fields, dentistry and optometry. While degrees in the largest health field, medicine, were virtually level, those in chiropractic medicine showed a 27.6 percent increase over the previous year.

These are some of the significant findings from the survey of Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred Between July 1, 1985 and June 30, 1986. This survey is part of the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS XXI), which has been conducted annually for the past 21 years by the Center for Education Statistics. Using this survey, the Center requests data from institutions of higher education on the number of earned degrees and other formal awards conferred, by level of award, program area or field of study, and sex and race/ethnicity of degree recipients. Race data are requested biennially. The survey methodology at the end of this bulletin gives further details.

¹For trends in the number of first-professional degrees conferred between 1969-70 and 1984-85, see the Digest of Education Statistics, 1987 edition, page 172. Data for 1985-86 are from the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS XXI). (First-professional includes degrees that require at least 6 years of college work for completion, in addition to at least 2 years of college work prior to entrance into 10 recognized professional programs of study.)

²Numbers in the text are rounded to the nearest hundred. Percents are based on actual numbers shown in the detailed tables at the end of the bulletin.

Degrees by Level and by Sex

The total number of degrees grew only 0.7 percent from 1,373,700 in 1984-85 to 1,384,000 in 1985-86 (table A); and the numbers of bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees were up only slightly from the previous year. Degrees awarded at the bachelor's and master's levels increased 0.9 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively, from 1984-85 to 1985-86. Doctor's degrees, which have fluctuated over the years, experienced the largest increase (2.2 percent) of all degree levels in 1985-86. This followed a 0.8 percent decrease in doctoral awards from 1983-84 to 1984-85. Only the number of first-professional degrees decreased between 1984-85 and 1985-86. This fall of 1.5 percent followed a 0.9 percent increase in 1984-85 (table 1).

Table A.--Percent changes in bachelor's and higher degrees, by level: 1984-85 and 1985-86

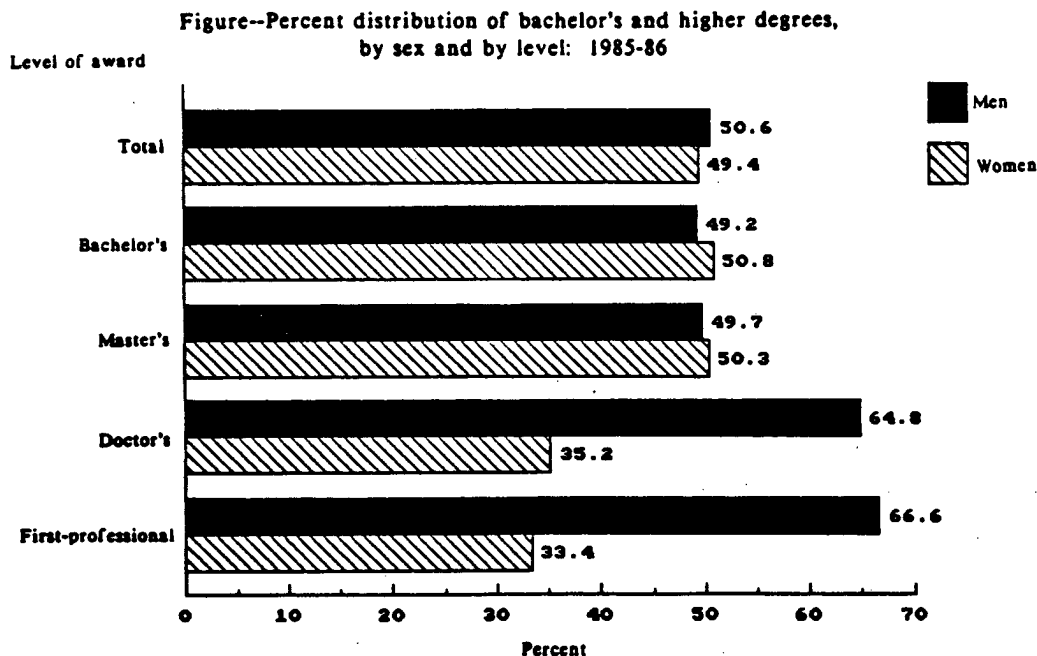
Degree level	1984-85	1985-86	Percent change*
Total	1,373,700	1,384,000	0.7
Bachelor's	979,500	987,800	.9
Men	482,500	485,900	.7
Women	496,900	501,900	1.0
Master's	286,300	288,600	.8
Men	143,400	143,500	.1
Women	142,900	145,100	1.5
Doctor's	32,900	33,700	2.2
Men	21,700	21,800	.5
Women	11,200	11,800	5.3
First-professional	75,100	73,900	-1.5
Men	50,500	49,300	-2.4
Women	24,600	24,600	.2

* Percents are based on actual numbers shown in the detailed tables at the end of the bulletin.

Note.--Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

The changes in the number of degrees awarded varied by sex of recipients (table 1). The total number of degrees awarded to men in 1985-86 was up 0.3 percent after a 0.2 percent decline in 1984-85. At all award levels except first-professional, the decline between 1983-84 and 1984-85 in number of degrees to men was reversed. While in 1984-85 men earned 482,500 bachelor's degrees, in 1985-86 they earned 485,900, a slight increase of 0.7 percent. Master's degrees awarded to men increased less than 0.1 percent, from 143,400 in 1984-85 to 143,500 in 1985-86. Doctor's degrees to men were also up, by about 0.5 percent, while their first-professional degrees declined by 2.4 percent (table A).

The number of degrees granted to women continued to grow between 1983-84 and 1985-86. The total increased 1.2 percent from 1984-85 to 1985-86 which was about the same increase as that from 1983-84 to 1984-85. The number of bachelor's degrees to women rose 1 percent in both 1984-85 and 1985-86, while master's degrees to them increased also, 1.6 and 1.5 percent, respectively. For the first time in 3 years, women received more than one-half of the total master's degrees awarded in 1985-86. Women made the greatest gain at the doctoral level—5.3 percent. The increase for the prior year was only 0.9 percent (table A). Although the number of degrees to women has accelerated over the last decade at the first-professional level, the number of degrees awarded increased only 0.2 percent in 1985-86, compared to an average annual increase of 3 percent between 1975 and 1985.³ In 1985-86, only 41 more degrees were awarded to women than in the previous year (table 1). Women continued to account for only about one-third of both doctor's and first-professional degrees (figure).



SOURCE: HEGIS "Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred" survey 1985-86.

³U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, Trends in Bachelor's and Higher Degrees, 1975-1985, Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, August 1987, page 7.

Degrees by Level and by Field of Study

- Education, engineering, and social sciences continued to rank among the six most popular fields of study at the bachelor's, master's, and doctor's levels in 1985-86 (tables 2, 3, and 4).
- As another indication of their popularity, recent declines in the number of education and social sciences degrees appear to be leveling off.⁴ Social sciences degrees increased at all award levels, while the total number of education degrees awarded across levels decreased by only 0.4 percent between 1984-85 and 1985-86.
- Computer and information sciences and mathematics continued to be the most rapidly growing fields at the bachelor's and master's levels (tables 2 and 3).
- Among the larger fields of study, agriculture was the only one to have significant declines at all three degree levels (tables 2, 3, and 4).

⁴U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, Trends in Bachelor's and Higher Degrees, 1974-1985, Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, August 1987, page 9.

Bachelor's Degrees

The largest number of bachelor's degrees in 1985-86 were conferred in business and management, social sciences, education, engineering, and health sciences (table B).

Table B.--Five largest fields of study as a percent of total bachelor's degrees: 1985-86

Field of study	Number	Percent*
Total	987,800	100.0
Business and management	238,200	24.1
Social sciences	93,700	9.5
Education	87,200	8.8
Engineering	76,300	7.7
Health sciences	64,500	6.5
All others	427,900	43.3

* Percents are based on actual numbers shown in the detailed tables at the end of the bulletin.

Note.--Numbers and percents may not add to the totals because of rounding

- Business and management degrees rose 2.1 percent from the previous year (table 2). Degrees in this field were about one-fourth of all bachelor's degrees awarded in 1985-86.
- Social sciences degrees were up 2.5 percent (table 2), the first increase since their peak in 1971-72.⁵
- Education and engineering degrees were both down 1.1 percent (table 2). ~~This was the first decrease in 10 years for engineering degrees and the smallest decrease for education degrees since they peaked in 1972-73.~~⁶
- ~~Computer and information sciences and mathematics shared the spotlight with the largest increase in degrees at the bachelor's level. They both increased 7.7 percent from 1984-85 to 1985-86 (table 2).~~

⁵U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 1987, Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1987, page 190.

⁶Ibid.

Master's Degrees

Education, business and management, engineering, health sciences, public affairs, and social sciences continued to dominate the degrees at the master's level in 1985-86 (table C).

Table C.--Six largest fields of study as a percent of total master's degrees: 1985-86

Field of study	Number	Percent*
Total	288,600	100.0
Education	76,400	26.5
Business and management	67,100	23.3
Engineering	21,100	7.3
Health sciences	18,600	6.5
Public affairs	16,300	5.6
Social sciences	10,400	3.6
All others	78,700	27.3

* Percents are based on actual numbers shown in the detailed tables at the end of the bulletin.

Note.--Numbers and percents may not add to the totals because of rounding.

- Education degrees, which have been declining in number at all award levels over the past decade, increased slightly at the master's level for the first time in 10 years.⁷
- The number of business and management degrees awarded was down slightly by 0.6 percent, marking the first decrease in 30 years.⁸
- Health sciences degrees were up by 7.1 percent, after a small decrease the previous year (table 3).
- Degrees in public affairs were up 1.6 percent in 1985-86, the second straight year of increases (table 3).
- The slight increase, 0.5 percent, in social sciences degrees was the first one since 1981-82.⁹

⁷U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 1987, Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1987, page 204.

⁸Ibid., page 202.

⁹U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 1987, Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1987, page 210.

Doctor's Degrees

Education remained the dominant degree field at the doctoral level in 1985-86, followed by physical sciences, engineering, life sciences, psychology, and social sciences (table D).

Table D.—Six largest fields of study as a percent of total doctor's degrees: 1985-86

Field of study	Number	Percent*
Total	33,700	100.0
Education	7,100	21.1
Physical sciences	3,600	10.6
Engineering	3,400	10.1
Life sciences	3,400	10.0
Psychology	3,100	9.2
Social sciences	3,000	8.8
All others	10,200	30.3

* Percents are based on actual numbers shown in the detailed tables at the end of the bulletin.

Note.—Numbers and percents may not add to the totals because of rounding.

- Physical sciences degrees increased 4.3 percent (table 4) and replaced life sciences as the second largest field in 1985-86. Life sciences dropped to fourth behind engineering (table D).
- Degrees in engineering, physical sciences, and life sciences, each accounted for about 10 percent of all doctor's degrees awarded in 1985-86 (table D). While the number of life sciences degrees declined, ~~engineering and physical sciences degrees~~ showed steady growth.
- About 6 percent more doctorates in psychology were awarded in 1985-86 than in the previous year. This was the largest increase among the six most popular fields (table 4).
- After declining for 10 years, doctorates in social sciences increased 3.6 percent in 1985-86.¹⁰

¹⁰U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 1987, Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1987, page 210.

First-professional degrees

Law degrees accounted for almost one-half of all first-professional degrees in 1985-86 (table E), but the number decreased 4.4 percent after increasing for 3 consecutive years. Both men and women received fewer law degrees in 1985-86 than in 1984-85 (table 5).

Table E.—Percent distribution of first-professional degrees, by field of study: 1985-86

Field of study	Number	Percent*
Total	73,900	100.0
Law	35,800	48.5
Medicine	15,900	21.6
Theological professions	7,300	9.9
Dentistry	5,000	6.8
Chiropractic medicine	3,400	4.6
Veterinary medicine	2,300	3.1
Osteopathic medicine	1,500	2.1
Optometry	1,000	1.4
Pharmacy	900	1.2
Podiatry	600	.8
Other	--	.1

-- Less than 50.

* Percents are based on actual numbers shown in the detailed tables at the end of the bulletin.

Note.—Numbers and percents may not add to the totals because of rounding.

- Degrees in medicine, the second largest field, were down also, by 0.6 percent (table 5).
- The largest percent decrease at the first-professional level was in optometry degrees, which declined 7.7 percent. Degrees in dentistry followed with a 5.5 percent decrease (table 5).
- Chiropractic degrees showed the largest increase. About 700 more degrees were awarded in 1985-86, a 27.6 percent increase over the previous year (table 5).

Additional Information

The data tape on Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred, 1985-86, is available and may be purchased. Requests should be made to:

Office of Educational Research and Improvement
Information Systems and Media Services
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20208

Telephone 1-800-424-1616 or (202) 357-6522

The Center for Education Statistics also plans to release E.D. TABS, tables that will show degrees by State, institution, and specific program (6-digit level of specificity) by sex for each award level. A separate bulletin on associate degrees and other formal awards below the baccalaureate is being prepared by the Center for Education Statistics. For information about this bulletin and the survey, contact Judi Carpenter, Center for Education Statistics, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20208-1404, telephone (202) 357-6362.

Survey Methodology

Statistics for this bulletin are based on reports of institutions responding to the survey "Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred" for the year July 1 1985 to June 30, 1986. This survey requests data on the number of postsecondary certificates for less than 1 year, postsecondary certificates for 1 but less than 4 years, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, doctor's degrees, and first-professional degrees conferred by institutions of higher education.

Survey forms were sent to the universe of 3,388 colleges and universities and their branches in the United States and outlying territories. (Only data for the 50 States and DC, including the U.S. service schools, are discussed in this bulletin.) The universe includes 3,355 degree granting institutions and 33 rabbinical schools that do not confer formal awards. The response rate of 92.6 percent was based on the 3,355 institutions that are degree granting. Reports were received from 3,108 institutions, and 247 did not respond. Data were imputed for 205 nonrespondent institutions, based on their previous responses. Data were not imputed for the remaining 42 nonrespondent institutions. Their records were zero-filled because the institutions were new to the HEGIS universe and no previous data were available. These institutions are small, and thus the total number of degrees conferred by the institutions would not have significantly changed the overall findings from the survey.

The data for this bulletin are based on information from 1,969 institutions. Those institutions that award degrees below the bachelor's level were excluded.

This bulletin was reviewed by Debra Carter, American Council on Education; Richard Cook, Center for Education Statistics; Mary Golladay, National Science Foundation; and Gayle Rogers, Center for Education Statistics. Their comments are gratefully acknowledged.

TABLES

Table 1.--Bachelor's and higher degrees conferred in institutions of higher education, by level of degree, and sex of recipient: 1983-84 to 1985-86

Level of degree and sex of recipient	Number			Percent change	
	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1983-84 to 1984-85	1984-85 to 1985-86
Total degrees.....	1,366,188	1,373,734	1,383,953	0.6	0.7
Men.....	699,312	698,073	700,511	-0.2	0.3
Women.....	666,876	675,661	683,442	1.3	1.2
Bachelor's degrees requiring					
4-5 years.....	974,309	979,477	987,823	0.5	0.9
Men.....	482,319	482,528	485,923	*	0.7
Women.....	491,990	496,949	501,900	1.0	1.0
First-professional degrees					
requiring at least 6 years..	74,407	75,063	73,910	0.9	-1.5
Men.....	51,334	50,455	49,261	-1.7	-2.4
Women.....	23,073	24,608	24,649	6.7	0.2
Master's degrees.....	284,263	286,251	288,567	0.7	0.8
Men.....	143,595	143,390	143,508	-0.1	0.1
Women.....	140,668	142,861	145,059	1.6	1.5
Doctor's degrees					
(Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.).....	33,209	32,943	33,653	-0.8	2.2
Men.....	22,064	21,700	21,819	-1.6	0.5
Women.....	11,145	11,243	11,834	0.9	5.3

* Less than 0.05 percent.

Note.--Data for the three survey years are based on the following numbers of institutions: 1983-84, 1,949; 1984-85, 1,955; and 1985-86, 1,969.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, surveys of Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred.

Table 2.--Bachelor's degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by sex of recipient and program area:
1984-85 and 1985-86

Program area	1984-85			1985-86			Percent change in total
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
Total	979,477	482,528	496,949	987,823	485,923	501,900	0.9
Agriculture and natural resources.....	18,107	12,477	5,630	16,823	11,544	5,279	-7.1
Architecture and environmental design.	9,325	6,019	3,306	9,119	5,824	3,295	-2.2
Area and ethnic studies.....	2,867	1,099	1,768	3,060	1,260	1,800	6.7
Business and management.....	233,351	128,032	105,319	238,160	129,271	108,889	2.1
Communications.....	40,358	16,318	24,040	41,666	16,887	24,779	3.2
Communications technologies.....	1,725	920	805	1,425	760	665	-17.4
Computer and information sciences.....	38,878	24,579	14,299	41,889	26,923	14,966	7.7
Education.....	88,161	21,264	66,897	87,221	20,986	66,235	-1.1
Engineering.....	77,154	65,959	11,195	76,333	65,284	11,049	-1.1
Engineering technologies.....	18,951	17,494	1,457	19,620	18,088	1,532	3.5
Foreign languages.....	9,954	2,650	7,304	10,102	2,784	7,318	1.5
Health sciences.....	64,513	9,786	54,727	64,535	9,683	54,852	*
Home economics.....	15,555	1,016	14,539	15,288	1,057	14,231	-1.7
Law.....	1,157	449	708	1,197	419	778	3.5
Letters.....	34,091	11,663	22,428	35,434	12,165	23,269	3.9
Liberal/general studies.....	19,191	8,571	10,620	19,248	8,644	10,604	0.3
Library and archival sciences.....	202	26	176	157	17	140	-22.3
Life sciences.....	38,445	20,064	18,381	38,524	19,993	18,531	0.2
Mathematics.....	15,146	8,164	6,982	16,306	8,725	7,581	7.7
Military sciences.....	299	273	26	256	235	21	-14.4
Multi/interdisciplinary studies.....	15,727	7,523	8,204	15,700	7,505	8,195	-0.2
Parks and recreation.....	4,593	1,739	2,854	4,433	1,663	2,770	-3.5
Philosophy and religion.....	6,400	4,244	2,156	6,239	4,161	2,078	-2.5
Theology.....	6,039	4,403	1,636	5,602	4,127	1,475	-7.2
Physical sciences.....	23,732	17,095	6,637	21,731	15,769	5,962	-8.4
Psychology.....	39,811	12,694	27,117	40,521	12,578	27,943	1.8
Protective services.....	12,510	7,694	4,816	12,704	7,963	4,741	1.6
Public affairs.....	13,838	4,635	9,203	13,878	4,670	9,208	0.3
Social sciences.....	91,461	51,172	40,289	93,703	52,654	41,049	2.5
Visual and performing arts.....	37,936	14,506	23,430	36,949	14,284	22,665	-2.6

* Less than 0.05 percent.

Note.--The 30 program areas above have been grouped from the 50 fields of study collected on the survey form. For a crosswalk of these groupings, please contact the author.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, surveys of Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred.

Table 3.--Master's degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by sex of recipient and program area:
1984-85 and 1985-86

Program area	1984-85			1985-86			Percent change in total
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
Total	286,251	143,390	142,861	288,567	143,508	145,059	0.8
Agriculture and natural resources.....	3,928	2,846	1,082	3,801	2,701	1,100	-3.2
Architecture and environmental design.	3,275	2,148	1,127	3,260	2,129	1,131	-0.5
Area and ethnic studies.....	879	464	415	927	489	438	5.5
Business and management.....	67,527	46,624	20,903	67,137	46,288	20,849	-0.6
Communications.....	3,460	1,447	2,013	3,500	1,405	2,095	1.2
Communications technologies.....	209	129	80	323	205	118	54.5
Computer and information sciences.....	7,101	5,064	2,037	8,070	5,658	2,412	13.6
Education.....	76,137	20,945	55,192	76,353	20,719	55,634	0.3
Engineering.....	20,926	18,684	2,242	21,059	18,663	2,396	0.6
Engineering technologies.....	631	565	66	602	505	97	-4.6
Foreign languages.....	1,724	559	1,165	1,721	509	1,212	0.2
Health sciences.....	17,383	4,135	13,248	18,624	4,460	14,164	7.1
Home economics.....	2,383	279	2,104	2,298	281	2,017	-3.6
Law.....	1,796	1,377	419	1,924	1,441	483	7.1
Letters.....	5,934	2,064	3,870	6,291	2,169	4,122	6.0
Liberal/general studies.....	1,180	449	731	1,154	448	706	-2.2
Library and archival sciences.....	3,893	758	3,135	3,626	721	2,905	-6.9
Life sciences.....	5,059	2,647	2,412	5,013	2,616	2,397	-0.9
Mathematics.....	2,882	1,874	1,008	3,159	2,047	1,112	9.6
Military sciences.....	119	118	1	83	81	2	-30.3
Multi/interdisciplinary studies.....	3,184	1,845	1,339	3,104	1,794	1,310	-2.5
Parks and recreation.....	544	241	303	495	234	261	-9.0
Philosophy and religion.....	1,167	701	466	1,163	713	450	-0.3
Theology.....	4,352	2,846	1,506	4,467	2,869	1,598	2.6
Physical sciences.....	5,796	4,452	1,344	5,902	4,470	1,432	1.8
Psychology.....	8,408	3,044	5,364	8,293	2,923	5,370	-1.4
Protective services.....	1,235	850	385	1,074	748	326	-13.0
Public affairs.....	16,045	5,938	10,107	16,300	6,108	10,192	1.6
Social sciences.....	10,380	6,400	3,980	10,428	6,339	4,089	0.5
Visual and performing arts.....	8,714	3,897	4,817	8,416	3,775	4,641	-3.4

Note.--The 30 program areas above have been grouped from the 50 fields of study collected on the survey form. For a crosswalk of these groupings, please contact the author.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, surveys of Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred.

Table 4.--Doctor's degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by sex of recipient and program area:
1984-85 and 1985-86

Program area	1984-85			1985-86			Percent change in total
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
Total	32,943	21,700	11,243	33,653	21,819	11,834	2.2
Agriculture and natural resources.....	1,213	1,036	177	1,158	966	192	-4.5
Architecture and environmental design.	89	66	23	73	56	17	-18.0
Area and ethnic studies.....	137	86	51	157	89	68	14.6
Business and management.....	866	718	148	969	759	210	11.9
Communications.....	228	138	90	212	111	101	-7.0
Communications technologies.....	6	5	1	11	5	6	83.3
Computer and information sciences.....	248	223	25	344	299	45	38.7
Education.....	7,151	3,419	3,732	7,110	3,315	3,795	-0.6
Engineering.....	3,221	3,014	207	3,400	3,172	228	5.6
Engineering technologies.....	9	8	1	10	9	1	11.1
Foreign languages.....	437	184	253	448	185	263	2.5
Health sciences.....	1,199	565	634	1,241	604	637	3.5
Home economics.....	276	78	198	311	78	233	12.7
Law.....	105	88	17	54	48	6	-48.6
Letters.....	1,239	572	667	1,215	543	672	-1.9
Liberal/general studies.....	53	28	25	38	26	12	-28.3
Library and archival sciences.....	87	39	48	62	27	35	-28.7
Life sciences.....	3,432	2,307	1,125	3,358	2,229	1,129	-2.2
Mathematics.....	699	590	109	742	618	124	6.2
Military sciences.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Multi/interdisciplinary studies.....	285	177	108	319	198	121	11.9
Parks and recreation.....	36	23	13	39	26	13	8.3
Philosophy and religion.....	468	377	91	477	373	104	1.9
Theology.....	1,140	1,036	104	1,183	1,066	117	3.8
Physical sciences.....	3,403	2,851	552	3,551	2,963	588	4.3
Psychology.....	2,908	1,492	1,416	3,088	1,497	1,591	6.2
Protective services.....	33	27	6	21	17	4	-36.4
Public affairs.....	431	213	218	385	174	211	-10.7
Social sciences.....	2,851	1,933	918	2,955	1,970	985	3.6
Visual and performing arts.....	693	407	286	722	396	326	4.2

Note.--The 30 program areas above have been grouped from the 50 fields of study collected on the survey form. For a crosswalk of these groupings, please contact the author.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, surveys of Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred.

Table 5.--First-professional degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by sex of recipient and field of study:
1984-85 and 1985-86

Field of study	Total			Men			Women		
	1984-85	1985-86	Percent change	1984-85	1985-86	Percent change	1984-85	1985-86	Percent change
Total degrees.....	75,063	73,910	-1.5	50,455	49,261	-2.4	24,608	24,649	0.2
Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.).....	2,661	3,395	27.6	2,072	2,554	23.3	589	841	42.8
Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.).....	5,339	5,046	-5.5	4,233	3,907	-7.7	1,106	1,139	3.0
Medicine (M.D.).....	16,041	15,938	-0.6	11,167	11,022	-1.3	4,874	4,916	0.9
Optometry (O.D.).....	1,115	1,029	-7.7	812	744	-8.4	303	285	-5.9
Osteopathic medicine (D.O.).....	1,489	1,547	3.9	1,136	1,159	2.0	353	388	9.9
Pharmacy (D.Pharm.).....	861	903	4.9	430	432	0.5	431	471	9.3
Podiatry (Pod.D. or D.P.) or podiatric medicine (D.P.M.).....	582	612	5.2	464	488	5.2	118	124	5.1
Veterinary medicine (D.V.M.).....	2,178	2,270	4.2	1,135	1,191	4.9	1,043	1,079	3.5
Law, general (L.L.B. or J.D.).....	37,491	35,844	-4.4	23,070	21,874	-5.2	14,421	13,970	-3.1
Theological professions, general (B.D., M.Div., M.H.L.).....	7,221	7,283	0.9	5,886	5,865	-0.4	1,335	1,418	6.2
Other.....	85	43	-49.4	50	25	-50.0	35	18	-48.6

Note.--First-professional includes degrees that require at least 6 years of college work for completion (including at least 2 years of preprofessional training).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, surveys of Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred.