

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE: TRENDS IN DEGREE COMPLETIONS OVER THE PAST DECADE (2000-2010)

Total annual completions show the number of people who have earned a degree or Certificate in a given year. The strongest annual growth (7.7 percent) over the course of the past decade in Central Mass came from the number of students earning Certificates, which nearly doubled at both public and private institutions, exceeding the growth in both Massachusetts and the United States. The region also experienced strong annual growth in the number of students earning Associate's Degrees at both public (3.8 percent) and private (3.9 percent) institutions. While such growth was stronger than that seen statewide, it trailed the annual national growth rate of 4.2 percent. There was only modest growth in both

public and private completions of Bachelor's Degrees from institutions in the region (2.1 percent) over the past decade. While this matched the statewide trend, it trailed the 2.9 percent increase of Bachelor's Degrees completed nationwide.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System.

Note: Degree completions are for those students who completed degrees at institutions within the defined geography. The students may not actually live in the region. Completion totals are based on degrees completed in an academic year. For example, 2010 completions represent degrees completed in the 2009-2010 academic year.

| | | Certificates | | | Associate's Degrees | | | Bachelor's Degrees | | |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------|--------|---------|---------------------|--------|---------|--------------------|--------|-----------|
| | | Central Mass | MA | US | Central Mass | MA | US | Central Mass | MA | US |
| Public | Completions 2000 | 243 | 2,273 | 298,282 | 914 | 7,487 | 471,339 | 1,185 | 12,718 | 811,076 |
| | Completions 2010 | 565 | 3,618 | 460,865 | 1,321 | 9,831 | 670,395 | 1,464 | 16,251 | 1,049,058 |
| | Absolute Change | 322 | 1,345 | 162,583 | 407 | 2,344 | 199,056 | 279 | 3,533 | 237,982 |
| | Annual Growth Rate (Percent) | 8.8 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| Private | Completions 2000 | 357 | 5,221 | 258,503 | 238 | 3,812 | 135,604 | 2,689 | 29,658 | 431,412 |
| | Completions 2010 | 699 | 8,195 | 430,685 | 349 | 4,366 | 249,258 | 3,285 | 35,972 | 603,141 |
| | Absolute Change | 342 | 2,974 | 172,182 | 111 | 554 | 113,654 | 596 | 6,314 | 171,729 |
| | Annual Growth Rate (Percent) | 7.0 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 3.9 | 1.4 | 6.3 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 3.4 |
| Total | Completions 2000 | 600 | 7,494 | 556,785 | 1,152 | 11,299 | 606,943 | 3,874 | 42,376 | 1,242,488 |
| | Completions 2010 | 1,264 | 11,813 | 891,550 | 1,670 | 14,197 | 919,653 | 4,749 | 52,223 | 1,652,199 |
| | Absolute Change | 664 | 4,319 | 334,765 | 518 | 2,898 | 312,710 | 875 | 9,847 | 409,711 |
| | Annual Growth Rate (Percent) | 7.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 3.8 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.9 |