

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES AWARDED BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY (2000-2010)

Almost half the growth in Associate's Degrees granted by institutions in Central Mass occurred in the Health Sciences field. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of Health Sciences degrees grew at an annual rate of 5.2 percent and accounted for the largest share of the region's Associate's Degrees (35.6 percent). The region also experienced increases in Business and Engineering & Computer Sciences degrees. As in Central Mass, the state's largest increase in Associate's Degrees came from Health Sciences. However, Massachusetts also increased the number of Associate's Degree completions in Arts, Humanities, & Social Science (the largest major statewide) and Services. In contrast to Central Mass,

there were fewer completions in Massachusetts of Engineering & Computer Sciences and Legal degrees over the course of the decade. In fact, the only decline in Associate's Degrees in Central Mass was outside the major fields of study (the "Other" category). With such a broad increase across major fields of study, the growth of Associate's Degrees in Central Mass surpassed the growth statewide over the course of the decade.

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

Major Field of Study	Central Mass				Massachusetts			
	2000		2010		2000		2010	
	Associate's Completed	Major's Share of Total (Percent)	Associate's Completed	Major's Share of Total (Percent)	Associate's Completed	Major's Share of Total (Percent)	Associate's Completed	Major's Share of Total (Percent)
Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences	260	22.6	303	18.1	3,130	27.7	3,833	27.0
Health Sciences	357	31.0	595	35.6	2,302	20.4	3,559	25.1
Services	131	11.4	175	10.5	1,216	10.8	2,389	16.8
Business	257	22.3	344	20.6	2,198	19.5	2,250	15.8
Engineering & Computer Sciences	69	6.0	119	7.1	1,561	13.8	1,162	8.2
Education	12	1.0	45	2.7	293	2.6	442	3.1
Science & Mathematics	16	1.4	36	2.2	231	2.0	260	1.8
Legal	11	1.0	19	1.1	189	1.7	117	0.8
Other	39	3.4	34	2.0	179	1.6	185	1.3
Total	1,152	100.0	1,670	100.0	11,299	100.0	14,197	100.0