

ANNUAL COMPLETIONS BY TOP FIVE BACHELOR'S DEGREE MAJORS IN CENTRAL MASS (2000-2010)

Between 2000 and 2003, the number of Bachelor's Degree completions in Arts, Humanities, & Social Services and Business, the region's two largest majors, increased at annual rates of 3.6 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively. From 2003 to 2008, degree completions in these two majors slowed and grew at annual rates of less than 1 percent. However, growth in degree completions resumed in the last three years of the decade, with Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences completions increasing by 3.0 percent and Business by 9.5 percent. In comparison, Services degrees completions consistently grew at a robust rate over this time period, leading the growth of all major fields of study. The number of STEM degrees completed fluctuated throughout the decade. Science & Mathematics degrees declined 5.7 percent between 2000 and 2003, grew by 8.0 percent between 2003 and 2008, and then declined by 1.1 percent to end the decade. In contrast to such ebbs and flows, Bachelor's Degree completions in Engineering & Computer Sciences were at nearly the same level every year, growing at an annual rate of 0.2 percent between 2000 and 2010.

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

