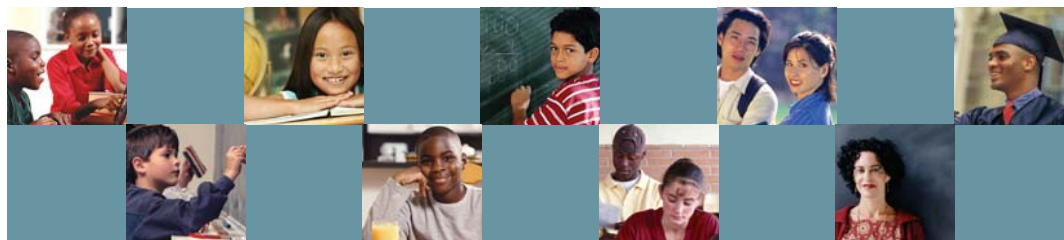


# the condition of education 2006



## INDICATOR 32

# Advanced Degree Completion Among Bachelor's Degree Recipients

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Completions

## Advanced Degree Completion Among Bachelor's Degree Recipients

*By 2003, about one-fourth of 1992–93 bachelor's degree recipients had earned an advanced degree.*

In total, 26 percent of 1992–93 graduates had earned at least one advanced degree by 2003, approximately 10 years after they finished college. Considering the highest degree earned, 20 percent of these graduates had earned a master's degree, 4 percent had earned a first-professional degree, and 2 percent had earned a doctoral degree.

Compared with their peers in other undergraduate majors, science, mathematics, and engineering majors were the most likely to have earned any advanced degree and the most likely to have earned a doctoral degree. Undergraduate education majors were more likely to have earned a master's degree than other majors (26 percent), whereas business and management majors were less likely to have earned a master's degree than other majors (15 percent).

By 2003, some 40 percent of 1992–93 graduates had enrolled in an advanced degree program (see supplemental table 32-1). Of those who were enrolled in an advanced degree program, 26 percent had earned at least one degree, 6 percent were still enrolled in an advanced degree program (with or without earlier attainment), and 9 percent

were no longer enrolled and had not completed an advanced degree by 2003.<sup>1</sup> Advanced degree attainment did not always match what students reported when they completed their bachelor's degree. Among those who had expected to earn a doctoral degree, some 7 percent had done so by 2003. However, 28 percent of those with doctoral degree aspirations had earned a master's degree, 6 percent had earned a first-professional degree, and 9 percent were still enrolled in a graduate program in 2003. Among those who had first-professional degree expectations, 53 percent had earned some type of advanced degree and 32 percent had earned a first-professional degree. Less than one-fourth of those with master's degree expectations (22 percent) had earned any advanced degree by 2003.

The percentage of 1992–93 graduates who had earned any advanced degree by 2003 did not vary by sex or race/ethnicity. However, conferment of an advanced degree did vary by parents' highest level of education: 34 percent of those whose parents had an advanced degree had earned a graduate degree by 2003, compared with 19 percent of those whose parents did not go to college.

# Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> Three percent of graduates have earned an advanced degree and are currently pursuing a second advanced degree.

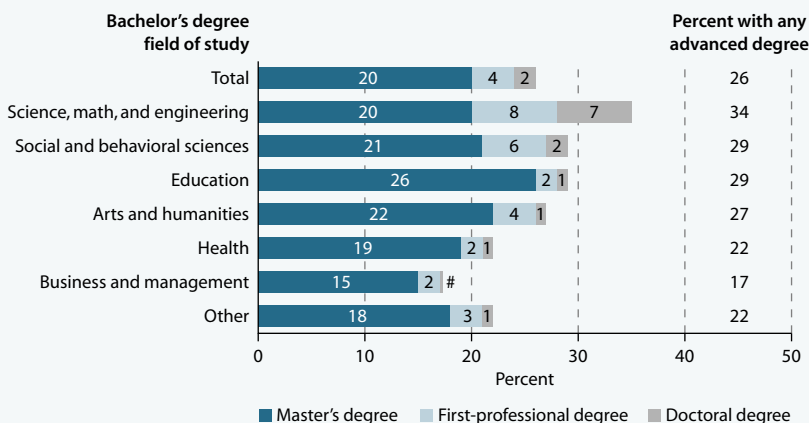
NOTE: Master's degrees include students who earned a post-master's certificate. First-professional programs include Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.), Pharmacy (D.Pharm), Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), Podiatry (Pod.D. or D.P.), Medicine (M.D.), Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Optometry (O.D.), Law (L.L.B. or J.D.), Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), or Theology (M.Div., M.H.L., or B.D.). Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993/03 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B: 93/03), previously unpublished tabulation (September 2005).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1,3  
Supplemental Table 32-1



**HIGHEST ADVANCED DEGREE ATTAINED: Percentage of 1992–93 bachelor's degree recipients who had earned an advanced degree by 2003, by bachelor's degree field of study and highest degree attained**



## Advanced Degree Completion Among Bachelor's Degree Recipients

**Table 32-1. Percentage of 1992–93 bachelor's degree recipients' advanced degree attainment and enrollment status in 2003, by type of institution and student characteristics**

Type of institution and student characteristic	Enrolled between 1993 and 2003	Attained by 2003				Enrolled in 2003				Did not complete, not enrolled in 2003
		Any advanced degree <sup>1</sup>	Master's <sup>2</sup>	First-professional <sup>3</sup>	Doctoral	Any advanced degree <sup>1</sup>	Master's <sup>2</sup>	First-professional <sup>3</sup>	Doctoral	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Type of undergraduate institution										
Public 4-year										
Non-doctorate-granting	35.4	20.9	17.9	2.1	0.9	5.8	5.0	0.4!	0.5!	9.1
Doctorate-granting	39.4	24.8	18.1	4.2	2.5	5.7	3.7	0.9	1.1	9.5
Private not-for-profit 4-year										
Non-doctorate-granting	41.3	25.8	20.8	3.3	1.7	6.4	4.7	0.2!	1.5	10.3
Doctorate-granting	50.5	35.5	25.2	7.9	2.4	6.3	4.1	0.2!	2.0	9.8
Other	33.5	25.4	22.5	1.6!	1.3!	4.5!	3.8!	0.4!	0.3!	3.6
Educational expectations at bachelor's completion <sup>4</sup>										
Bachelor's degree	16.7	9.1	7.7	1.0!	0.4!	3.9	2.6	0.8!	0.5!	4.0
Master's degree	35.5	22.0	20.9	0.9	0.3!	5.5	4.5	0.3!	0.7	8.5
First-professional degree	69.9	52.5	13.9	32.4	6.2	6.3	3.4	2.1!	0.9!	11.7
Doctoral degree	63.1	41.0	27.9	6.2	6.8	8.5	5.0	0.4!	3.2	15.5
Sex										
Male	38.7	25.6	18.0	4.9	2.7	5.7	3.8	0.7!	1.2	8.3
Female	41.3	25.5	21.1	3.2	1.3	6.1	4.6	0.4	1.1	10.3
Race/ethnicity <sup>5</sup>										
White	39.4	25.4	20.0	3.7	1.8	5.4	3.9	0.4	1.1	9.3
Black	45.5	25.8	20.5	3.0	2.3!	11.2	7.1	1.7!	2.4!	9.8
Hispanic	43.8	25.0	17.7	3.7!	3.7	8.5	7.1!	0.4!	0.9!	10.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	41.5	27.1	14.9	11.0	1.3!	5.3!	3.5!	1.0!	0.8!	9.3
Parents' highest level of education										
High school diploma or less	33.8	19.0	15.9	2.1	1.0	5.7	4.7	0.4!	0.6	9.4
Some college	39.1	24.3	20.1	3.1	1.0!	6.0	4.5	0.8!	0.6!	9.4
Bachelor's degree	39.9	26.0	19.3	4.2	2.5	6.6	4.5	0.5!	1.6	8.7
Advanced degree	48.7	33.7	23.8	6.7	3.2	5.7	3.3	0.5!	1.8	10.3
Bachelor's degree major										
Business and management	25.4	16.7	14.7	1.8	0.2!	3.2	2.6	0.4!	0.2!	5.6
Education	50.3	28.9	26.3	1.5	1.1!	8.1	6.8	0.3!	1.0	13.9
Health	36.5	22.1	19.4	2.1	0.6!	6.5	5.2!	1.1!	0.3!	8.0
Arts and humanities	42.6	27.1	21.5	4.3	1.2	7.1	4.2	0.4!	2.5	10.1
Social and behavioral sciences	47.1	29.2	21.1	6.1	2.0	8.2	6.4	0.3!	1.6	10.5
Science, math, and engineering	49.9	34.3	20.1	7.7	6.6	6.0	3.4	0.9!	1.7	10.8
Other	34.4	22.4	18.0	3.4	1.0	4.2	2.5	0.8!	1.0!	8.6
Cumulative undergraduate GPA										
Less than 2.75	33.9	20.4	16.8	2.2	1.3	5.6	4.1	0.6	0.9	8.6
2.75–3.74	46.4	30.6	21.3	7.1	2.3	6.7	4.7	0.5!	1.5	9.9
3.75 or higher	54.7	38.4	30.1	4.3	4.1	5.0	3.5	0.4!	1.1!	11.8

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

<sup>1</sup> The attained any advanced degree (column 2) and enrolled in any advanced degree (column 6) in 2003 columns are not mutually exclusive. Graduates who earned an advanced degree (column 2) may be enrolled in 2003 pursuing another advanced degree (column 6).

<sup>2</sup> Includes students who earned a master's or post-master's certificate.

<sup>3</sup> First-professional programs include Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.), Pharmacy (D.Pharm), Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), Podiatry (Pod.D. or D.P.), Medicine (M.D.), Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Optometry (O.D.), Law (L.L.B. or J.D.), Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), or Theology (M.Div., M.H.L., or B.D.).

<sup>4</sup> Fourteen percent of 1992–93 bachelor's degree recipients expected, at the time they graduated from college, to earn a bachelor's degree or less as their highest degree, 52 percent expected to earn a master's degree, 19 percent expected to earn a first-professional degree, and 6 percent expected to earn a doctoral degree. Ten percent had a missing value.

<sup>5</sup> Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. Included in the totals but not shown separately are data for American Indian/Alaska Native respondents and those who identified themselves as another race not shown.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993/03 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:93/03), previously unpublished tabulation (September 2005).

## Advanced Degree Completion Among Bachelor's Degree Recipients

**Table S32.** Standard errors for the percentage of 1992–93 bachelor's degree recipients who had earned an advanced degree by 2003, by bachelor's degree field of study and highest degree attained

Field of study	Master's degree	First-professional degree	Doctoral degree	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Science, math, and engineering	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.7
Social and behavioral sciences	1.5	0.7	0.5	1.5
Education	1.8	0.4	0.5	1.8
Arts and humanities	1.9	0.7	0.4	2.0
Health	2.1	0.5	0.3	2.0
Business and management	1.4	0.5	0.1	1.5
Other	1.4	0.7	0.3	1.4

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993/03 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:93/03), previously unpublished tabulation (September 2005).

## Advanced Degree Completion Among Bachelor's Degree Recipients

**Table S32-1. Standard errors for the percentage of 1992–93 bachelor's degree recipients' advanced degree attainment and enrollment status in 2003, by type of institution and student characteristics**

Type of institution and student characteristic	Enrolled between 1993 and 2003	Attained by 2003				Enrolled in 2003			Did not complete, not enrolled in 2003	
		Any advanced degree	Master's	First-professional	Doctoral	Any advanced degree	Master's	First-professional		Doctoral
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.44</b>
Type of undergraduate institution										
Public 4-year										
Non-doctorate-granting	1.43	1.46	1.38	0.40	0.21	0.76	0.72	0.15	0.20	0.81
Doctorate-granting	1.22	0.84	0.82	0.28	0.40	0.59	0.44	0.23	0.23	0.76
Private not-for-profit 4-year										
Non-doctorate-granting	2.18	1.57	1.11	0.61	0.35	0.88	0.77	0.09	0.30	0.85
Doctorate-granting	2.28	2.30	1.95	1.18	0.43	1.04	0.96	0.12	0.50	1.10
Other	5.95	5.51	5.58	1.31	0.64	1.68	1.74	0.45	0.38	1.55
Educational expectations at bachelor's completion										
Bachelor's degree	1.29	1.08	1.06	0.41	0.13	0.87	0.69	0.44	0.30	0.57
Master's degree	0.92	0.89	0.89	0.15	0.11	0.56	0.43	0.11	0.19	0.51
First-professional degree	3.73	3.08	2.01	2.67	1.56	1.54	0.92	0.94	0.41	2.00
Doctoral degree	1.72	1.55	1.36	0.77	0.72	0.83	0.75	0.15	0.50	1.05
Sex										
Male	0.97	0.91	0.70	0.48	0.36	0.51	0.40	0.20	0.20	0.56
Female	1.20	1.05	0.95	0.29	0.21	0.53	0.43	0.11	0.21	0.60
Race/ethnicity										
White	0.78	0.72	0.69	0.26	0.17	0.42	0.33	0.12	0.17	0.45
Black	3.04	2.20	2.43	0.72	1.22	2.24	1.38	0.87	1.15	1.91
Hispanic	3.93	3.29	2.86	1.24	1.10	2.53	2.47	0.29	0.41	1.66
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.58	3.86	2.67	2.15	0.81	1.62	1.51	0.54	0.49	2.24
Parents' highest level of education										
High school diploma or less	1.44	1.07	0.96	0.41	0.23	0.63	0.60	0.16	0.15	0.69
Some college	1.73	1.51	1.42	0.68	0.36	0.98	0.74	0.35	0.29	1.10
Bachelor's degree	1.40	1.28	1.18	0.68	0.45	0.88	0.78	0.19	0.35	0.81
Advanced degree	1.33	1.49	1.34	0.56	0.50	0.60	0.44	0.26	0.36	0.80
Bachelor's degree major										
Business and management	1.57	1.48	1.38	0.46	0.13	0.51	0.45	0.18	0.15	0.92
Education	1.66	1.84	1.77	0.36	0.46	0.73	0.71	0.14	0.27	1.18
Health	2.61	1.99	2.10	0.53	0.33	1.86	1.74	0.79	0.20	1.37
Arts and humanities	2.44	1.98	1.86	0.71	0.36	0.91	0.82	0.18	0.61	1.33
Social and behavioral sciences	2.04	1.48	1.52	0.74	0.47	1.15	1.07	0.13	0.45	0.93
Science, math, and engineering	1.65	1.69	1.42	0.78	0.83	0.79	0.54	0.42	0.45	1.08
Other	1.61	1.37	1.37	0.70	0.25	0.73	0.41	0.41	0.37	1.06
Cumulative undergraduate GPA										
Less than 2.75	0.90	0.86	0.77	0.26	0.22	0.46	0.37	0.17	0.18	0.52
2.75–3.74	1.28	1.08	1.06	0.65	0.32	0.78	0.69	0.19	0.27	0.69
3.75 or higher	2.36	2.16	2.16	0.61	0.86	0.98	0.90	0.20	0.45	1.36

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993/03 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:93/03), previously unpublished tabulation (September 2005).