

Table 256.—Master's degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by discipline division: 1970–71 to 1996–97

Discipline division	1970–71	1975–76	1980–81	1984–85	1985–86	1986–87	1987–88	1988–89	1989–90	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Total	230,509	311,771	295,739	286,251	288,567	289,349	299,317	310,621	324,301	337,168	352,838	369,585	387,070	397,629	406,301	419,401
Agriculture and natural resources	2,457	3,340	4,003	3,928	3,801	3,522	3,479	3,245	3,382	3,295	3,735	3,965	4,119	4,252	4,569	4,516
Architecture and related programs	1,705	3,215	3,153	3,275	3,260	3,163	3,159	3,383	3,499	3,490	3,640	3,808	3,943	3,923	3,993	4,034
Area, ethnic, and cultural studies	1,032	995	804	904	945	864	911	1,016	1,212	1,263	1,385	1,523	1,633	1,639	1,713	1,651
Biological sciences/life sciences	5,728	6,582	5,978	5,059	5,013	4,952	4,784	4,961	4,869	4,765	4,785	4,756	5,196	5,393	6,157	6,466
Business	25,977	42,054	57,391	66,996	66,689	67,093	69,230	73,065	76,676	78,255	84,642	89,615	93,437	93,809	93,982	97,619
Communications	1,770	2,961	2,896	3,460	3,500	3,622	3,678	3,940	4,063	4,123	4,180	4,754	5,005	5,142	5,080	5,227
Communications technologies	86	165	209	209	323	271	247	317	299	213	284	455	414	467	524	374
Computer and information sciences	1,588	2,603	4,218	7,101	8,070	8,481	9,197	9,414	9,677	9,324	9,530	10,163	10,416	10,326	10,151	10,098
Education	87,666	126,661	96,713	74,654	74,801	74,045	76,566	81,174	84,881	87,343	92,668	96,028	98,938	101,242	106,253	110,087
Engineering	16,309	16,014	16,386	20,905	21,040	22,015	22,627	23,740	23,863	23,962	24,983	27,626	28,621	28,553	27,441	25,787
Engineering-related technologies	134	328	323	650	617	639	758	828	909	996	994	1,100	1,133	1,117	1,125	1,040
English language and literature/letters	10,686	8,809	5,929	5,187	5,518	5,483	5,562	5,950	6,567	7,026	7,450	7,790	7,885	7,845	7,893	7,722
Foreign languages and literatures	5,217	4,190	2,690	2,471	2,494	2,379	2,469	2,595	2,760	2,800	2,926	3,198	3,288	3,136	3,124	3,077
Health professions and related sciences	5,749	12,556	16,515	17,385	18,573	18,394	18,657	19,268	20,321	21,200	23,065	25,718	28,025	31,243	33,398	35,958
Home economics and vocational home economics	1,452	2,179	2,570	2,375	2,294	2,064	2,047	2,164	2,100	2,019	2,412	2,479	2,421	2,864	2,917	2,888
Law and legal studies	955	1,442	1,832	1,796	1,924	1,943	1,880	2,013	1,888	2,057	2,369	2,197	2,432	2,511	2,751	2,886
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	885	2,633	2,375	1,696	1,586	1,581	1,814	1,850	1,999	2,213	2,394	2,416	2,496	2,565	2,778	2,661
Library science	7,001	8,037	4,859	3,870	3,564	3,783	3,674	3,906	4,341	4,763	4,893	4,871	5,116	5,057	5,099	4,982
Mathematics	5,695	4,315	3,074	3,413	3,607	3,730	3,867	3,903	4,146	4,041	4,011	4,067	4,100	4,181	4,031	3,783
Multi/interdisciplinary studies	821	1,158	2,144	2,583	2,625	2,482	2,575	2,762	2,834	1,796	2,126	2,498	2,464	2,457	2,347	2,819
Parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies	218	571	643	596	570	560	544	535	529	483	1,358	1,434	1,625	1,755	1,751	1,966
Philosophy and religion	1,326	1,356	1,229	1,167	1,163	1,109	1,099	1,280	1,306	1,441	1,146	1,425	1,350	1,380	1,302	1,252
Physical sciences and science technologies	6,367	5,466	5,284	5,796	5,902	5,629	5,733	5,723	5,449	5,309	5,374	5,366	5,679	5,753	5,847	5,563
Precision production trades	—	—	—	4	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	2	2	5	8	3
Protective services	194	1,197	1,538	1,235	1,074	1,019	1,024	1,047	1,151	1,108	1,249	1,357	1,437	1,706	1,812	1,845
Psychology	5,717	10,167	10,223	9,891	9,845	9,562	9,180	9,940	10,730	11,349	10,215	10,957	12,181	13,921	13,792	14,353
Public administration and services	7,785	15,209	17,803	15,575	15,692	16,432	16,424	17,020	17,399	17,905	19,243	20,634	21,833	23,501	24,229	24,781
R.O.T.C. and military technologies	2	0	43	119	83	119	49	0	0	0	0	108	124	124	136	136
Social sciences and history	16,539	15,953	11,945	10,503	10,564	10,506	10,412	11,023	11,634	12,233	12,702	13,471	14,561	14,845	15,012	14,787
Theological studies/religious vocations	2,710	3,290	4,220	4,435	4,556	4,966	4,905	4,749	4,959	4,810	5,185	4,985	4,956	5,240	5,107	4,975
Transportation and material moving workers	63	108	120	295	454	433	679	692	538	406	385	495	664	823	919	919
Visual and performing arts	6,675	8,817	8,629	8,718	8,420	8,508	7,939	8,267	8,481	8,657	9,353	9,440	9,925	10,277	10,280	10,627
Not classified by field of study	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,144	851	1,836	8,523	4,156	884	1,651	577	780	4,519

—Data not available or not applicable.

NOTE.—The new Classification of Instructional Programs was initiated in 1991–92. The figures for earlier years have been reclassified when necessary to make them conform to the new taxonomy. To facilitate trend comparisons, certain aggregations have been made of the degree fields as reported in the IPEDS "Completions" survey: "Agriculture and natural resources" includes Agricultural business and production, Agricultural sciences, and Conservation and renewable natural resources; "Business" includes Business management and administrative services, Marketing operations/

marketing and distribution, and Consumer and personal services; and "Engineering-related technologies" includes Engineering-related technologies, Mechanics and repairers, and Construction trades.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred" surveys, and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Completions" surveys. (This table was prepared June 1999.)