

**Table 297. First Professional Degrees Earned in Selected Professions:
1970 to 2004**

[First professional degrees include degrees which require at least 6 years of college work for completion (including at least 2 years of preprofessional training). Based on survey; see Appendix III]

Type of degree and sex of recipient	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2002	2003	2004
Medicine (M.D.):										
Institutions conferring degrees	86	104	112	120	124	119	118	118	118	118
Degrees conferred, total	8,314	12,447	14,902	16,041	15,075	15,537	15,286	15,237	15,034	15,442
Percent to women	8.4	13.1	23.4	30.4	34.2	38.8	42.7	44.4	45.3	46.4
Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.):										
Institutions conferring degrees	48	52	58	59	57	53	54	53	53	53
Degrees conferred, total	3,718	4,773	5,258	5,339	4,100	3,897	4,250	4,239	4,344	4,335
Percent to women	0.9	3.1	13.3	20.7	30.9	36.4	40.1	38.5	38.9	41.6
Law (LL.B. or J.D.):										
Institutions conferring degrees	145	154	179	181	182	183	190	192	194	195
Degrees conferred, total	14,916	29,296	35,647	37,491	36,485	39,349	38,152	38,981	39,067	40,209
Percent to women	5.4	15.1	30.2	38.5	42.2	42.6	45.9	48.0	49.0	49.4
Theological (B.D., M.Div., M.H.L.):										
Institutions conferring degrees	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	192	198	191	196	200
Degrees conferred, total	5,298	5,095	7,115	7,221	5,851	5,978	6,129	5,195	5,351	5,332
Percent to women	2.3	6.8	13.8	18.5	24.8	25.7	29.2	32.9	34.6	34.2

NA Not available.

Source: U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, annual.