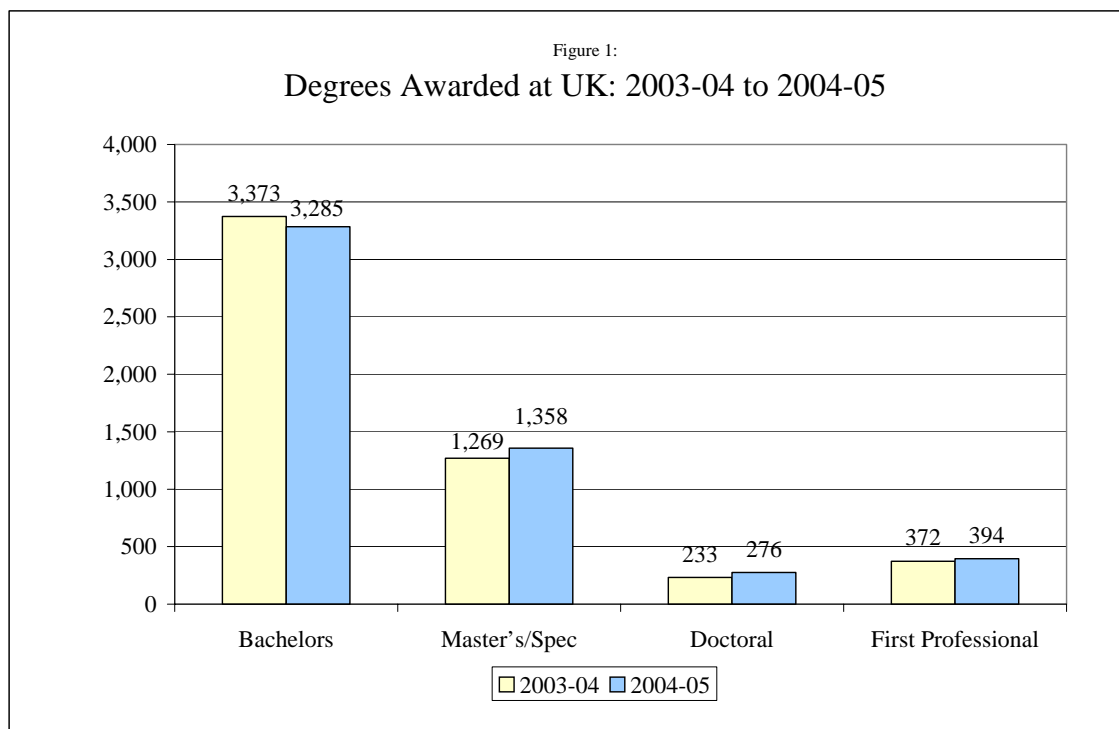


UK Institutional Research Brief: *Degrees Conferred: 2004-05*

Fall 2005

The University of Kentucky awarded 5,313 degrees in 2004-05, setting a new institutional record for the number of degrees conferred. The greatest percentage increase occurred at the doctoral level. The number of doctorates jumped from 233 in 2003-04 to 276 in 2004-05, an increase of 18.5 percent. Degree production at the master's/specialist and first-professional levels showed modest growth rates of 7.0 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively. The number of baccalaureate degrees conferred declined 2.6%, from 3,373 during the previous academic year to 3,285 in 2004-05. Overall, degree production increased only 1.3 percent from the previous year. Figure 1 compares the number of degrees awarded during the past two academic years by level.



African-American Students

The total number of degrees awarded to African Americans grew 7.8 percent, from 232 in 2003-04 to 250 in 2004-05. The corresponding share of degrees awarded to African Americans showed modest growth, from 4.4 percent of all degrees awarded in 2003-04 to 4.7 percent in 2004-05. By degree level, the total number of degrees awarded to African-

American students increased by 17 at the baccalaureate level (from 143 to 160); remained unchanged at the master's and specialist level (59); decreased by 4 at the doctoral level (from 15 to 11); and increased by 5 at the first-professional level (from 15 to 20).

Female Students

For over a decade, women have earned over half of the baccalaureate degrees and roughly three out of five master's degrees awarded at UK. The percentage of bachelor's degrees earned by women remained unchanged from last year (52.8%). However, the percentage of master's/specialist degrees conferred to women declined slightly, from 61.3 percent in 2003-04 to 57.7 percent in 2004-05. Women's share of doctoral degrees conferred grew modestly, from 44.6 percent in 2003-04 to 49.6 percent in 2004-05. Consequently, women now earn essentially half of all doctoral degrees awarded at UK. Women's success in doctoral programs is a noteworthy accomplishment, considering that ten years ago women earned only two out of five doctorates conferred. Finally, the percentage of first-professional degrees awarded to women remained virtually unchanged from last year, from 50.5% in 2003-2004 to 50.3% in 2004-2005.

Degree Program Areas

At the Baccalaureate level¹, the discipline areas showing the largest numerical growth in degrees awarded from last year were Social Sciences (+40) and Psychology (+22). The areas with the largest numerical decreases were Business (-60), Biological/Life Sciences (-30), Computer/Info Sciences (-27), Health Professions (-27), and Architecture (-24).

At the Master's/Specialist degree level, Engineering (+54), Psychology (+21), and Biological/Life Sciences (+20) showed the largest numerical increases. The largest decreases were in Public Affairs (-22) and the Social Sciences (-18).

At the Doctoral level, Engineering (+12), Biological/Life Sciences (+11), and Interdisciplinary (+11) showed the largest numerical increases. The largest decrease was in the Health Professions (-8). Finally, at the First-Professional level, Law and Medicine awarded 10 more degrees than last year. Dentistry conferred two more degrees than in 2003-04, while the number of degrees awarded by Pharmacy remained unchanged from the previous year.

¹ The 26 baccalaureate degrees in the University of Kentucky/Western Kentucky University Joint Baccalaureate program in Engineering are not included in this report. These degrees are reported by WKU in official statistics submitted to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and the United States Department of Education.