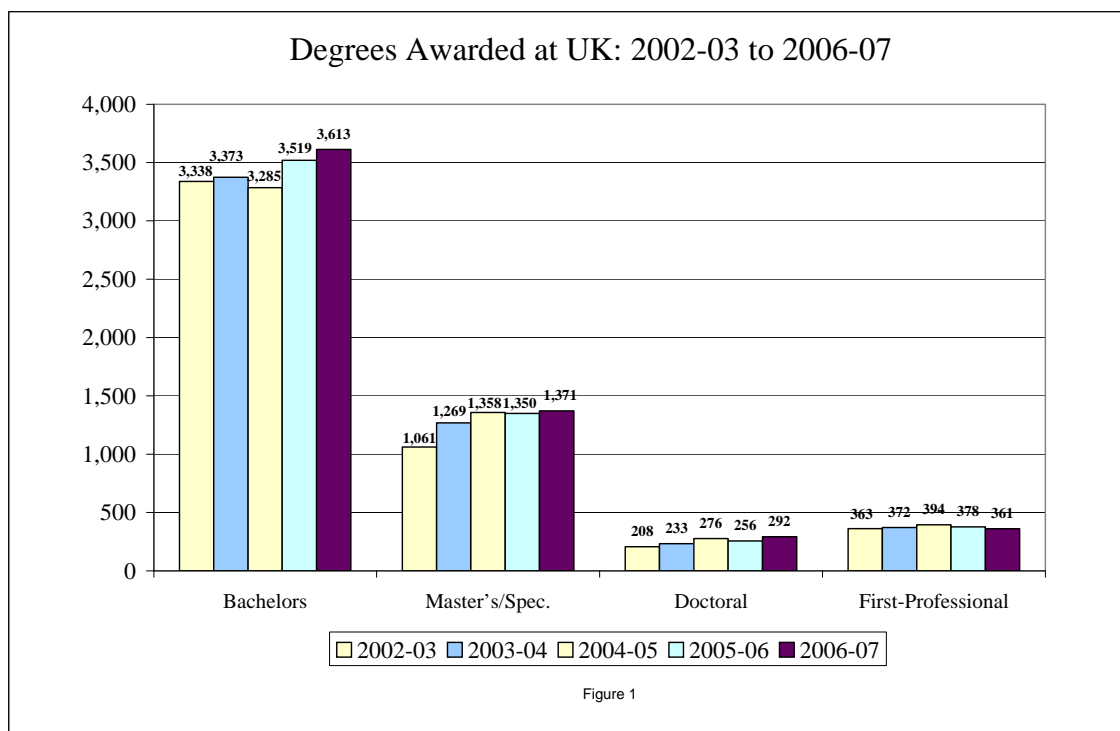


# UK Institutional Research Brief: *Degrees Conferred: 2006-07*

Fall 2007

The University of Kentucky awarded 5,637 degrees in 2006-07, a 2.4 percent increase over the previous year. The number of degrees conferred this past year establishes a new institutional record. Figure 1 presents the number of degrees awarded during the past five academic years by level.

Compared to last year, the greatest percentage increase occurred at the doctoral level. The number of doctorates jumped from 256 in 2005-06 to 292 in 2006-07, an increase of 14.1 percent. The number of baccalaureate degrees conferred grew 2.7 percent, from 3,519 during the previous academic year to 3,613 in 2006-07. Degree production at the master's/specialist level showed a small increase of 1.6 percent during the past year. First-professional degrees awarded at UK declined 4.5 percent from the previous year.



## **African-American Students**

The total number of degrees awarded to African Americans grew 3.9 percent, from 232 in 2005-06 to 241 in 2006-07. The corresponding share of degrees awarded to African Americans showed modest growth, from 4.2 percent of all degrees awarded in 2005-06 to

4.3 percent in 2006-07. By degree level, the total number of degrees awarded to African-American students increased by one at the baccalaureate level (from 152 to 153); increased by three at the master's and specialist level (from 54 to 57); increased by three at the doctoral level (from 15 to 18); and increased by two at the first-professional level (from 11 to 13).

### **Female Students**

For more than a decade, women have earned over half of the baccalaureate degrees and roughly three of five master's and specialist degrees awarded at UK. The share of bachelor's degrees earned by women declined somewhat from last year (from 54.0% to 52.6%). However, the percentage of master's/specialist degrees conferred to women showed a slight increase, from 58.8 percent in 2005-06 to 60.4 percent in 2006-07. Women's share of doctoral degrees declined to some extent, from 50.4 percent in 2005-06 to 48.6 percent in 2006-07. However, the number of doctoral degrees awarded to women was up 13 from last year, growing from 129 to 142. Women's success in doctoral programs is a noteworthy accomplishment, considering that ten years ago women earned only two of five doctorates conferred. Finally, women re-gained their claim on just over half of all first-professional degrees awarded at UK. Women's share of first-professional degrees increased from 49.2% in 2005-2006 to 52.9% in 2006-2007.

### **Degree Program Areas**

At the baccalaureate level<sup>1</sup>, the discipline areas showing the largest numerical increases from last year were Engineering (+42), Business (+32), and Family & Consumer Science (+28). The areas with the largest numerical decreases were Agriculture (-32) and Mathematics (-14).

At the master's/specialist degree level, Computer/Information Sciences (+19) and Agriculture (+11) showed the largest numerical increases. The largest decreases were in Public Affairs (-17), and English Language/Literature/Philosophy (-14).

At the doctoral level, the program areas with the largest numerical increases were English Language/Literature/Philosophy (+12), Physical Sciences (+8), Agriculture (+7), and Computer/Information Sciences (+7). The largest decrease was found in the Social Sciences (-13).

Finally, at the first-professional level small increases from the previous year were noted in Medicine (+2) and Dentistry (+1), while Law (-19) and Pharmacy (-1) experienced declines.

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<sup>1</sup> The 40 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.