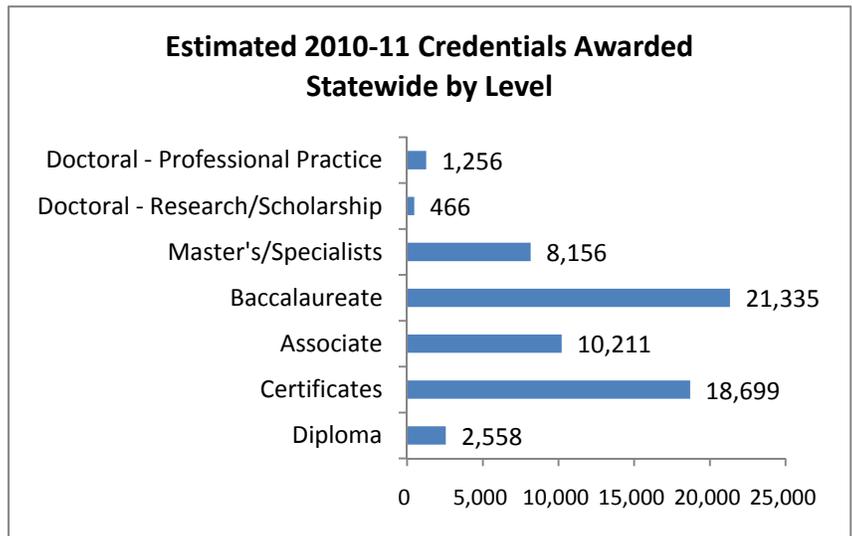


Preliminary 2010-11 Degrees Report

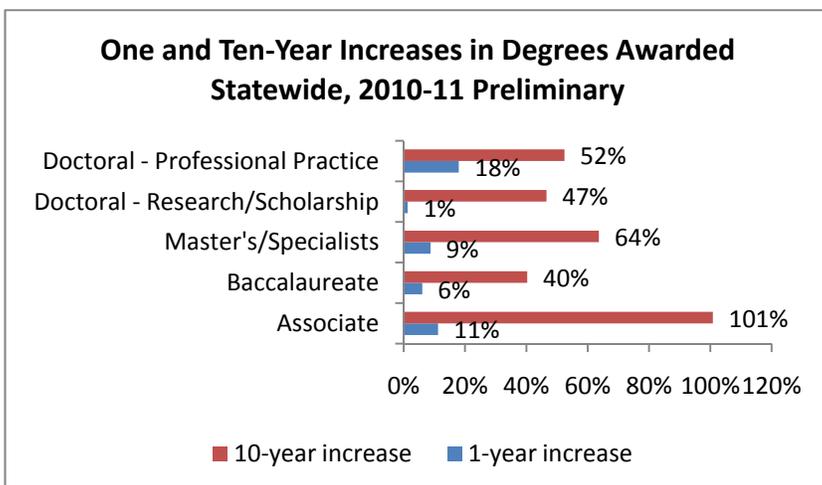
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Kentucky's public and independent colleges and universities conferred an historic high of 62,700 degrees and credentials during the 2010-11 academic year, representing an increase of 11 percent over last year. This year, an estimated 62,700 college graduates are equipped to move or return to the workforce with the knowledge-based skills that they, and our business and industry, need for success in the 21st century. Growth was seen at all levels, especially among workforce-oriented certificate, diploma, associate, and professional-practice doctorate degree levels. Other highlights include:

- ✓ Following its strong enrollment growth in recent years, KCTCS' degrees and credentials increased substantially, with 13 percent growth over last year in associate degrees, and a 32 percent gain in diplomas, a workforce-oriented credential requiring a year or more of study.
- ✓ Statewide, bachelor's degrees increased 6 percent over last year, led by strong growth in the independent sector. While the number of bachelor's degree graduates continues an upward trend, graduation rates indicate that slightly fewer than half of full-time entrants complete a degree within six years of entry (49 percent system-level graduation rate at public universities).
- ✓ Graduate education also increased this year, with a one-year gain of 9.5 percent overall. While growth was seen at all graduate degree levels, new and expanded professional-practice doctoral programs at Kentucky's public comprehensive and independent universities led to an 18 percent increase in the number of these advanced practice degrees in just one year.



Looking back over the past ten years, the number of degrees conferred statewide has grown substantially at all levels.



✓ The largest growth was seen at the associate degree level, which has doubled in ten years, due primarily to the expansion of applied associate programs at KCTCS.

✓ The next largest ten-year growth at the state level was among master's degrees and professional-practice doctorates, reflecting expansion of Kentucky's professional workforce.