

## ANNUAL COMPLETIONS BY TOP FIVE CERTIFICATE MAJORS IN BOSTON/METRO NORTH (2000-2010)

The number and type of Certificates awarded by Boston/Metro North institutions fluctuated considerably from year to year. For example, from 2000 to 2010, Health Science Certificates in Boston/Metro North grew at an annual rate of 10.7 percent. However, most of that growth occurred in the first half of the decade, with such certificates growing at an annual rate of 23.9 percent between 2000 and 2005. Thereafter, Health Science Certificate completions remained at about 1,500 a year but never returned to the peak 2005 level. The large increase in Health Science Certificates may reflect an increasing demand for employees with such education and training from growing industries such as Health Care & Social Assistance. In comparison, the number of Engineering & Computer Science Certificates has been volatile and ranged from a high of 502 in 2000 to a low of 63 in 2006. The decline in Certificate completions in this field may indicate a shift toward demand for higher post-secondary educational attainment (such as Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees) rather than a lack of demand in industries and occupations that use such skills.

**Source:** National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System.

