

ANNUAL COMPLETIONS BY TOP FIVE ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE MAJORS IN METRO SOUTH/WEST (2000-2010)

In large part, the growth in the number of Associate's Degrees granted in Metro South/West over the decade is due to the spike in Services degrees granted in 2009 and 2010. In fact, the total number of Associate's Degrees granted in the region declined at an annual rate of 1.4 percent from 2000 to 2008. In 2009, the number of Services degrees granted in the region nearly doubled from their 2008 level, pushing the total number of Associate's Degrees awarded in 2009 and 2010 well above 2000 levels. Conversely, Health Sciences Associate's Degree completions began the decade at 439 degrees and declined to reach a low of 321 in 2003. Thereafter, the number of Health Sciences Degrees increased to peak at 498 in 2008 before moderating to 440 degree completions in 2010. Given that the Health Care industry has experienced strong growth over this time period and institutions statewide have been increasing the number of Associate's Degree completions in the field, it is somewhat surprising that the number of Health Sciences graduates from Metro South/West did not increase over the course of the decade.

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

