

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE: TRENDS IN DEGREE COMPLETIONS OVER THE PAST DECADE (2000–2010)

Total annual completions show the number of people who have earned a degree or Certificate in a given year. From 2000 to 2010, the number of people earning Certificates, Associate's Degrees, and Bachelor's Degrees granted by institutions in Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts, and the United States grew. However, the region trailed both state and national growth in the completions of all programs and degrees over the course of the decade. The strongest annual growth (4.0 percent) came from the number of students earning Certificates, with increases at both public and private institutions. There were also increases in the numbers of students earning Bachelor's Degrees at both public (2.0 percent) and private

(1.8 percent) institutions. The slowest growth was in the number of students completing Associate's Degrees; that number increased by just 1.2 percent annually at public institutions and declined by 1.0 percent at private institutions between 2000 and 2010.

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

Note: Degree completions are for those students who completed degrees at institutions within the defined geography. The students may not actually live in the region. Completion totals are based on degrees completed in an academic year. For example, 2010 completions represent degrees completed in the 2009–2010 academic year.

		Certificates			Associate's Degrees			Bachelor's Degrees		
		Pioneer Valley	MA	US	Pioneer Valley	MA	US	Pioneer Valley	MA	US
Public	Completions 2000	369	2,273	298,282	1,788	7,487	471,339	4,878	12,718	811,076
	Completions 2010	609	3,618	460,865	2,007	9,831	670,395	5,933	16,251	1,049,058
	Absolute Change	240	1,345	162,583	219	2,344	199,056	1,055	3,533	237,982
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	5.1	4.8	4.4	1.2	2.8	3.6	2.0	2.5	2.6
Private	Completions 2000	640	5,221	258,503	83	3,812	135,604	3,759	29,658	431,412
	Completions 2010	890	8,195	430,685	75	4,366	249,258	4,475	35,972	603,141
	Absolute Change	250	2,974	172,182	-8	554	113,654	716	6,314	171,729
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	3.4	4.6	5.2	-1.0	1.4	6.3	1.8	1.9	3.4
Total	Completions 2000	1,009	7,494	556,785	1,871	11,299	606,943	8,637	42,376	1,242,488
	Completions 2010	1,499	11,813	891,550	2,082	14,197	919,653	10,408	52,223	1,652,199
	Absolute Change	490	4,319	334,765	211	2,898	312,710	1,771	9,847	409,711
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	4.0	4.7	4.8	1.1	2.3	4.2	1.9	2.1	2.9