

Graduate and Professional Education: *Driving Career Success*

While a master’s, doctoral, or professional degree may not be optimal for everyone, it can provide significant benefits, particularly in the labor market. Individuals with advanced educational credentials on average earn a higher annual salary and are more likely to be employed.¹ These degrees provide specialized content knowledge in addition to expanded networking opportunities and the ability to sharpen one’s communication, research, and analytical skills. They can also make one more competitive for both a chosen career and advancement within one’s current organization.

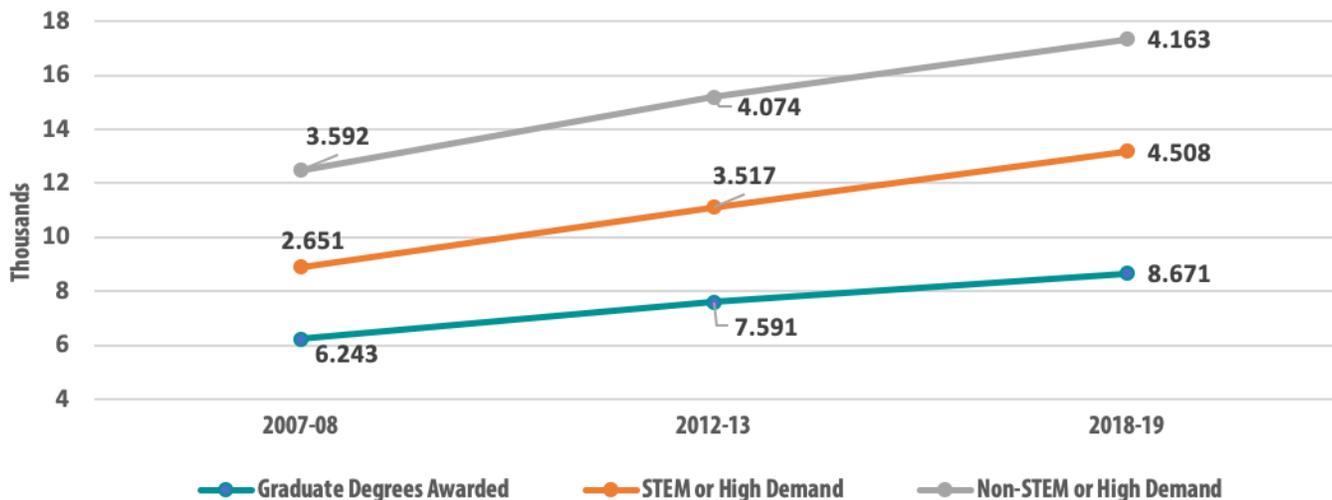
The Pew Research Center has found that 63% of adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher level of education feel they will need to keep advancing their skills throughout their career. In addition, 35% of working adults said they need more education and training to get ahead in their job or career.²

During this decade, jobs requiring a doctoral or professional degree are projected to grow four times as fast as jobs requiring only a high school diploma, while jobs requiring master’s degree are projected to grow ten times as fast.³ Software developers, computer programmers, physicians, physical therapists, pharmacists, dentists, graphic designers, civil engineers, social workers, elementary and middle school teachers, and librarians are all occupations requiring graduate level education that are projected to experience significant demand in Washington through 2027.⁴

Washington’s six public baccalaureates have increased graduate degree production by nearly 40% since 2008. This includes a 70% increase in STEM and high demand degree production, which now comprise most of the graduate degrees produced.⁵

Graduate Degrees Produced in Washington

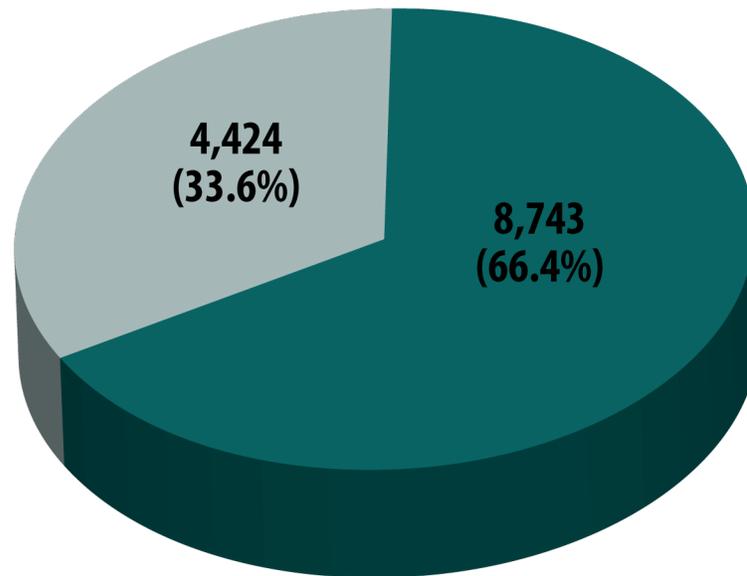
2007-08 to 2018-19



Together, the public four-year sector is responsible for two-thirds of all graduate degree production across the state.⁶

Graduate Degrees Produced in Washington

2018-19 Academic Year



Public 4-Year College & Universities
 All Other Colleges & Universities

Some Graduate Degree Programs Offered by the Public Baccalaureates:

- ◆ Master of Public Administration – The Evergreen State College
- ◆ Master of Science in Information Technology and Administrative Management – Central Washington University
- ◆ Master of Science in Dental Hygiene – Eastern Washington University
- ◆ Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science – University of Washington
- ◆ Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Economics – Washington State University
- ◆ Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling – Western Washington University

Sources:

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "[Learn more, earn more: Education leads to higher wages, lower unemployment](#)".
2. Pew Charitable Trusts, "[Americans and Lifetime Learning in the Knowledge Age](#)".
3. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "[Employment, wages, and projected change in employment by typical entry-level education](#)".
4. Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Washington Student Achievement Council, and Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, "[Washington's Skilled and Educated Workforce 2019-20](#)".
5. Education Research and Data Center, "[Statewide Public Four-Year Dashboard](#)".
6. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2018-19. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data> on January 26, 2021.