

## 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 Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees granted by institutions in the region increased while the number of Certificates granted by institutions in Metro South/West were almost the same. In comparison, both Massachusetts and the United States increased the number of degrees granted in all three categories at a faster pace than the region. The number of completed Certificates from private institutions in the Metro South/West region grew at a low annual rate of 0.6 percent over the course of the decade, while

Certificates from public institutions declined at a slight annual rate of 0.4 percent. Over the same period, both private and public institutions in Massachusetts and the United States increased the number of Certificates at an annual rate exceeding 4.0 percent.

**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		
		Metro South/West	MA	US	Metro South/West	MA	US	Metro South/West	MA	US
Public	Completions 2000	422	2,273	298,282	1,072	7,487	471,339	571	12,718	811,076
	Completions 2010	407	3,618	460,865	1,401	9,831	670,395	722	16,251	1,049,058
	Absolute Change	-15	1,345	162,583	329	2,344	199,056	151	3,533	237,982
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	-0.4	4.8	4.4	2.7	2.8	3.6	2.4	2.5	2.6
Private	Completions 2000	361	5,221	258,503	1,342	3,812	135,604	5,533	29,658	431,412
	Completions 2010	382	8,195	430,685	1,330	4,366	249,258	6,456	35,972	603,141
	Absolute Change	21	2,974	172,182	-12	554	113,654	923	6,314	171,729
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	0.6	4.6	5.2	-0.1	1.4	6.3	1.6	1.9	3.4
Total	Enrollment 2000	783	7,494	556,785	2,414	11,299	606,943	6,104	42,376	1,242,488
	Enrollment 2010	789	11,813	891,550	2,731	14,197	919,653	7,178	52,223	1,652,199
	Absolute Change	6	4,319	334,765	317	2,898	312,710	1,074	9,847	409,711
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	0.1	4.7	4.8	1.2	2.3	4.2	1.6	2.1	2.9