

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. The strongest annual growth in completions over the course of the past decade in the Southeast region came from the number of students earning Certificates (6.7 percent), which nearly doubled at both public and private institutions, exceeding the growth in both Massachusetts and the United States. The region also experienced strong annual growth in the number of students earning Associate's Degrees (4.0 percent), exceeding the growth statewide (2.3 percent) while slightly trailing the annual national growth rate (4.2 percent). There was more moderate growth in the number of students com-

pleting Bachelor's Degrees at both public and private institutions in the region (2.2 percent) over the past decade. While this nearly matched the statewide trend, it trailed the 2.9 percent increase of Bachelor's Degrees completed nationwide.

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		
		Southeast	MA	US	Southeast	MA	US	Southeast	MA	US
Public	Completions 2000	379	2,273	298,282	1,599	7,487	471,339	2,081	12,718	811,076
	Completions 2010	600	3,618	460,865	2,043	9,831	670,395	2,787	16,251	1,049,058
	Absolute Change	221	1,345	162,583	444	2,344	199,056	706	3,533	237,982
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	4.7	4.8	4.4	2.5	2.8	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.6
Private	Completions 2000	889	5,221	258,503	96	3,812	135,604	1,617	29,658	431,412
	Completions 2010	1,819	8,195	430,685	454	4,366	249,258	1,822	35,972	603,141
	Absolute Change	930	2,974	172,182	358	554	113,654	205	6,314	171,729
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	7.4	4.6	5.2	16.8	1.4	6.3	1.2	1.9	3.4
Total	Completions 2000	1,268	7,494	556,785	1,695	11,299	606,943	3,698	42,376	1,242,488
	Completions 2010	2,419	11,813	891,550	2,497	14,197	919,653	4,609	52,223	1,652,199
	Absolute Change	1,151	4,319	334,765	802	2,898	312,710	911	9,847	409,711
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	6.7	4.7	4.8	4.0	2.3	4.2	2.2	2.1	2.9