

RESEARCH BRIEF

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Awards Conferred at NOVA: 2008-09 through 2012-13

This Research Brief presents data from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) on awards conferred at NOVA from 2008-09 through 2012-13. The data encompass three types of awards: career studies certificates (between 9 and 29 credits), certificates (30 to 59 credits), and associate degrees (60 or more credits)¹.

Table 1 and Figure 1 (next page) present the number of award completions at NOVA for the three types of awards from 2008-09 through 2012-13. The number of total awards more than doubled from 2008-09 to 2012-13 (increasing from 3,435 to 7,694).

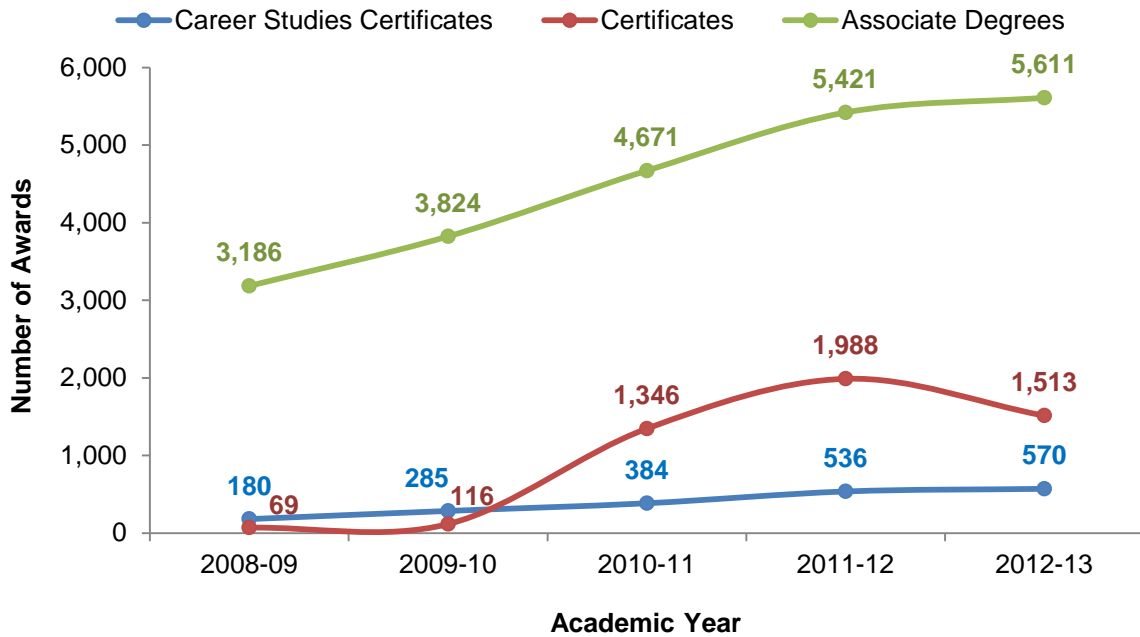
The composition of degrees completed has changed from 2008-09 to 2012-13. The percentage of awards for career studies certificates fluctuated from 2008-09 through 2012-13, but increased overall from 5% to 7%. For 2008-09 and 2009-10, certificates comprised the smallest percentage of awards (ranging from 2% to 3%). However, the General Education Certificate was instituted in 2010-11, which greatly increased the number of certificates awarded. Since the General Education Certificate was created, certificates have comprised at least one-fifth of all awards (21% in 2010-11, 25% in 2011-12, and 20% in 2012-13). In contrast to career studies certificates and certificates, the proportion of associate degrees awarded has decreased. Before the General Education Certificate, the percentage of associate degrees was over 90% (93% in 2008-09 and 91% in 2009-10). Since 2010-11, associate degrees have made up between 68% (2011-12) and 73% (2010-11 and 2012-13) of total awards.

Table 1. Number of Awards at NOVA: 2008-09 through 2012-13

Academic Year	Career Studies Certificates		Certificates		Associate Degrees		Total Awards #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
2012-13	570	7.4%	1,513	19.7%	5,611	72.9%	7,694
2011-12	536	6.7%	1,988	25.0%	5,421	68.2%	7,945
2010-11	384	6.0%	1,346	21.0%	4,671	73.0%	6,401
2009-10	285	6.7%	116	2.7%	3,824	90.5%	4,225
2008-09	180	5.2%	69	2.0%	3,186	92.8%	3,435

¹ SCHEV classifies degrees by the amount of time it would take for a full-time student to complete; each grouping corresponds with a NOVA degree. The three groups defined by SCHEV include certificates for “less than 1 academic year, requiring completion of an organized program of study within two semesters” (career studies certificates) and certificates for “at least 1 but less than 2 academic years, which is designed for completion in at least 30, but less than 60 credit hours” (certificates). SCHEV describes an associate degree as “normally requir[ing] two years of full-time college work.” More information can be found at <http://research.schev.edu/apps/info/Reports.Guide-to-the-Degrees-Awarded-Reports.ashx>.

Figure 1. Number of Awards at NOVA: 2008-09 through 2012-13



Data on award completion were also looked at in regards to gender. Table 2 and Figure 2 (next page) show the number of and percentages for completions at NOVA for each of the award types by gender from 2008-09 through 2012-13. For each award type, a higher number of awards were received by female students compared to male students. However, while males have made up the minority of award recipients each year, the proportion of awards received by males compared to female students has increased overall from 2008-09 (42%) to 2012-13 (45%). For career studies certificates, the percentage of awards received by female students has fluctuated but has decreased overall from 67% in 2008-09 to 55% in 2012-13. For certificates, the proportion of awards conferred to male students has increased by 6 percentage points (from 38% in 2008-09 to 44% in 2012-13). The difference between the genders for associate degree recipients varied less over the years. The percentage of associate degrees awarded to female students was highest in 2008-09 (58%) and lowest in 2012-13 (55%). Conversely, the percentage of associate degrees conferred to male students increased overall during the five-year period from 42% to 45%.

Table 2. Awards at NOVA by Gender: 2008-09 through 2012-13

Academic Year	Career Studies Certificates				Certificates				Associate Degrees				Total Awards by Gender			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2012-13	257	45.1	313	54.9	660	43.7	852	56.3	2,507	44.7	3,097	55.3	3,424	44.5	4,262	55.5
2011-12	225	42.1	309	57.9	861	43.3	1,126	56.7	2,364	43.6	3,054	56.4	3,450	43.5	4,489	56.5
2010-11	160	41.8	223	58.2	557	41.4	789	58.6	2,011	43.1	2,657	56.9	2,728	42.6	3,669	57.4
2009-10	125	43.9	160	56.1	47	40.5	69	59.5	1,696	44.4	2,128	55.6	1,868	44.2	2,357	55.8
2008-09	59	32.8	121	67.2	26	37.7	43	62.3	1,348	42.3	1,838	57.7	1,433	41.7	2,002	58.3

Figure 2. Number of Total Awards by Gender: 2008-09 through 2012-13

