

RESEARCH BRIEF

No. 41-14

June 2014

Awards Conferred at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

This Research Brief presents data from the State Council on Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) on awards conferred at NOVA by race/ethnicity 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. Data are presented by race/ethnicity for each of the three award types.

Table 1 and Figure 2 (next page) present the number of total award completions at NOVA by race/ethnicity for all students from 2008-09 through 2012-13. The totals encompass career studies certificate programs, certificate programs, and associate degree programs. In each of the five years, the largest percentage of awards were conferred to White students, with the percentage decreasing overall from 48% in 2008-09 to 42% in 2012-13. The changes during the five years for the other races/ethnicities were smaller. The percentage of awards earned by Black students ranged from 11% to 14% of total degree completions, with an overall increase from 13% in 2008-09 to 14% in 2012-13. The percentage of award recipients who were Asian decreased overall from 19% to 17% during the five-year span. In contrast, the proportion awards earned by Hispanic students increased overall from 13% to 16%.

Table 1. Number of Total Awards at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

Race/Ethnicity	08-09		09-10		10-11		11-12		12-13	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	1,639	47.7%	1,779	42.1%	2,795	43.7%	3,368	42.4%	3,217	41.8%
Black/African American	446	13.0%	470	11.1%	801	12.5%	1,066	13.4%	1,070	13.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	648	18.9%	660	15.6%	1,125	17.6%	1,450	18.3%	1,328	17.3%
Hispanic/Latino	435	12.7%	415	9.8%	838	13.1%	1,136	14.3%	1,213	15.8%
Amer. Indian/ Native Amer.	28	0.8%	25	0.6%	36	0.6%	46	0.6%	35	0.5%
Two or More Races	-	-	-	-	16	0.2%	56	0.7%	122	1.6%
International	12	0.3%	609	14.4%	330	5.2%	312	3.9%	328	4.3%
Unknown/ Unreported	227	6.6%	267	6.3%	460	7.2%	511	6.4%	381	5.0%
Total	3,435	100%	4,225	100%	6,401	100%	7,945	100%	7,694	100%

Source: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

(-): Beginning in the 2010-11 academic year, race categories were changed by the VCCS and the category of Two or More Races was added.

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 Total Awards at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

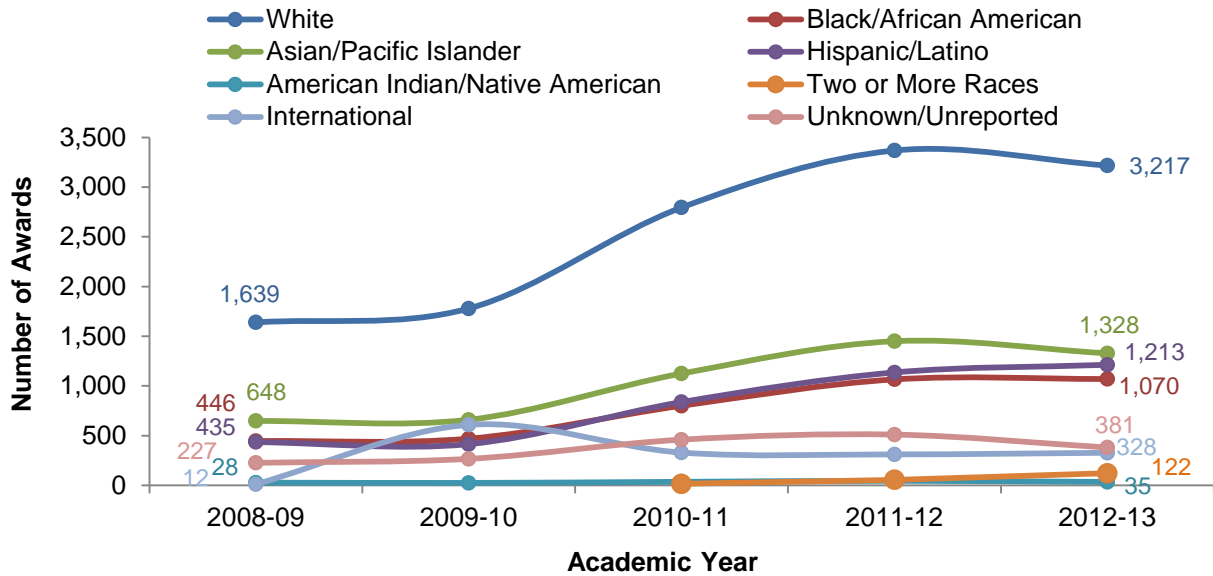


Table 2 and Figure 2 (next page) show the number of and percentages for completions of career studies certificates awarded at NOVA by race/ethnicity from 2008-09 through 2012-13. During the five years, the proportion of awards fluctuated for the four largest groups. The largest overall increase was seen for career studies certificates awarded to Hispanic students, which grew from 10% in 2008-09 to 15% in 2012-13. Both Black and Asian award recipients saw a decrease of 3 percentage points (from 19% to 16% of awards conferred to Black students and 14% to 11% of awards conferred to Asian students). While the percentage of career studies certificates received by White students fluctuated during this time period, this group began and ended the five-year span at 49%.

Table 2. Number of Career Studies Certificates Completed at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

Race/Ethnicity	08-09		09-10		10-11		11-12		12-13	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	89	49.4%	127	44.6%	171	44.5%	250	46.6%	280	49.1%
Black/African American	34	18.9%	35	12.3%	65	16.9%	106	19.8%	90	15.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	26	14.4%	38	13.3%	52	13.5%	58	10.8%	61	10.7%
Hispanic/Latino	18	10.0%	27	9.5%	47	12.2%	61	11.4%	86	15.1%
Amer. Indian/ Native Amer.	2	1.1%	1	0.4%	1	0.3%	5	0.9%	1	0.2%
Two or More Races	-	-	-	-	3	0.8%	6	1.1%	8	1.4%
International	1	0.6%	42	14.7%	24	6.3%	24	4.5%	22	3.9%
Unknown/ Unreported	10	5.6%	15	5.3%	21	5.5%	26	4.9%	22	3.9%
Total	180	100%	285	100%	384	100%	536	100%	570	100%

Source: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

(-): Beginning in the 2010-11 academic year, race categories were changed by the VCCS and the category of Two or More Races was added.

Figure 2. Number of Career Studies Certificates Completed at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

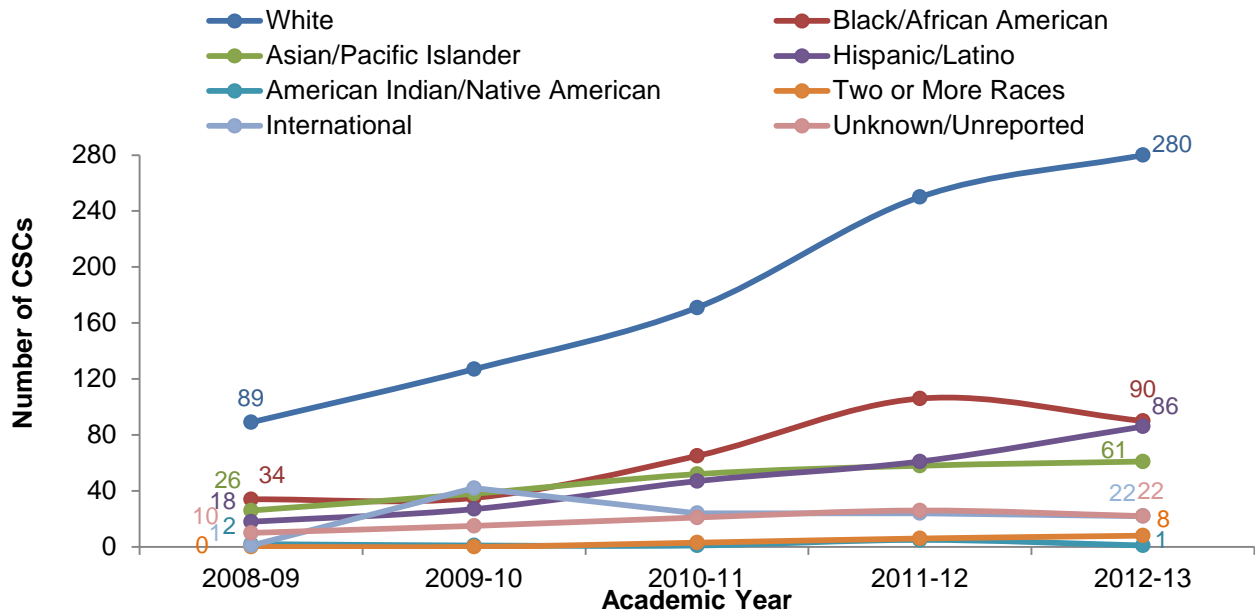


Table 3 and Figure 3 display the number of certificates awarded at NOVA; data are by race/ethnicity and from 2008-09 through 2012-13. The largest change was a decrease in the percentage of certificate recipients who were White; this decreased from 48% in 2008-09 to 38% in 2012-13. The proportions fluctuated for the three other largest groups during this time period. The proportion of certificates awarded to Asian students increased overall by 6 percentage points during this time period from 12% to 18%, while this decreased overall by 4 percentage points for certificates awarded to Black students (from 19% to 15%). While the percentage of certificates received by Hispanic students initially decreased from 17% in 2008-09 to 12% in 2009-10, it has steadily increased since then to 19% in 2012-13.

Table 3. Number of Certificates Completed at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

Race/Ethnicity	08-09		09-10		10-11		11-12		12-13	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	33	47.8%	49	42.2%	526	39.1%	766	38.5%	568	37.5%
Black/African American	13	18.8%	13	11.2%	163	12.1%	266	13.4%	227	15.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8	11.6%	11	9.5%	279	20.7%	400	20.1%	276	18.2%
Hispanic/Latino	12	17.4%	14	12.1%	208	15.5%	333	16.8%	280	18.5%
Amer. Indian/ Native Amer.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.5%	8	0.4%	8	0.5%
Two or More Races	-	-	-	-	2	0.1%	18	0.9%	29	1.9%
International	0	0.0%	24	20.7%	49	3.6%	54	2.7%	47	3.1%
Unknown/ Unreported	3	4.3%	5	4.3%	112	8.3%	143	7.2%	78	5.2%
Total	69	100.0%	116	100.0%	1,346	100.0%	1,988	100.0%	1,513	100.0%

Source: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
 (-): Beginning in the 2010-11 academic year, race categories were changed by the VCCS and the category of Two or More Races was added.

Figure 3. Number of Certificates Completed at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

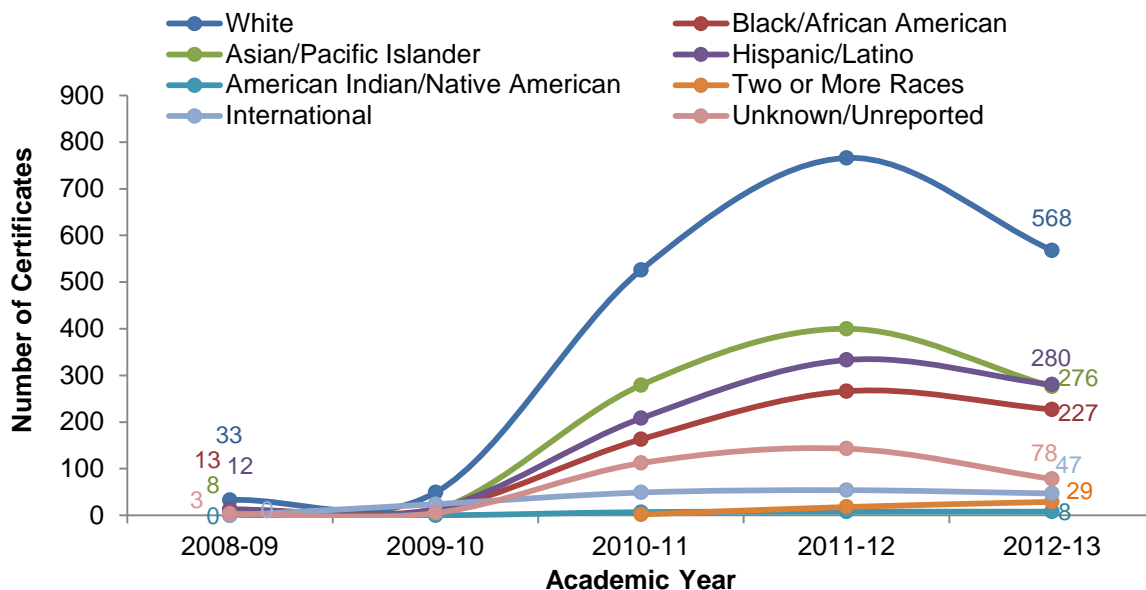


Table 4 and Figure 4 (next page) present the number of and percentages for associate degrees completed at NOVA by race/ethnicity from 2008-09 through 2012-13. As with the certificate awards, associate degrees saw the largest change with White students, with an overall decrease from 48% in 2008-09 to 42% in 2012-13. The proportion of associate degrees received by Hispanic students increased overall by 2 percentage points (from 13% to 15%), while the percentage of associate degrees earned by Asian students decreased by 1 percentage point during this time period (from 19% to 18%). The proportion of associate degrees conferred to Black students was the same for both 2008-09 and 2012-13 at 13%.

Table 4. Number of Associate Degrees Completed at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

Race/Ethnicity	08-09		09-10		10-11		11-12		12-13	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	1,517	47.6%	1,603	41.9%	2,098	44.9%	2,352	43.4%	2,369	42.2%
Black/African American	399	12.5%	422	11.0%	573	12.3%	694	12.8%	753	13.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	614	19.3%	611	16.0%	794	17.0%	992	18.3%	991	17.7%
Hispanic/Latino	405	12.7%	374	9.8%	583	12.5%	742	13.7%	847	15.1%
Amer. Indian/ Native Amer.	26	0.8%	24	0.6%	28	0.6%	33	0.6%	26	0.5%
Two or More Races	-	-	-	-	11	0.2%	32	0.6%	85	1.5%
International	11	0.3%	543	14.2%	257	5.5%	234	4.3%	259	4.6%
Unknown/ Unreported	214	6.7%	247	6.5%	327	7.0%	342	6.3%	281	5.0%
Total	3,186	100.0%	3,824	100.0%	4,671	100.0%	5,421	100.0%	5,611	100.0%

Source: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

(-): Beginning in the 2010-11 academic year, race categories were changed by the VCCS and the category of Two or More Races was added.

Figure 4. Number of Associate Degrees Completed at NOVA by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-09 through 2012-13

