

Section B.2

Total Degrees and Other Awards by Level and by Sector

Notes

- (1) Ten-year trends are shown for Nebraska's public and independent colleges and universities. Comparable data for for-profit/career schools in Nebraska are available only for the most recent eight years. A few for-profit/career schools are not included in this analysis because they are not required to report any school statistics to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) maintained by the National Center for Education in the U.S. Department of Education.
- (2) The numbers of degrees reported since 1998-1999 include 500 to 600 bachelor's and master's degrees conferred each year by the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to graduates of the physician assistant military and distance education programs. These programs serve all branches of the military and most graduates are not residents of Nebraska. For technical reasons, these students are not included in the UNMC enrollments reported in Section A of the *Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska*.
- (3) **There have been significant changes in the IPEDS system for classifying some degrees and awards. Please see the next page for a description of these changes.**

CHANGES IN THE CLASSIFICATION OF DEGREES AND OTHER AWARDS

The IPEDS categories for classifying and reporting professional programs beyond the baccalaureate level have been revised. All reporting institutions will be required to use the revised categories when they report the numbers of degrees and other awards that are conferred during the 2009-10 academic year. (These data will be collected through the 2010-11 IPEDS Completers Survey.) Institutions have been given the option of using the “old” or “new” categories to report the numbers of degrees and awards conferred in 2007-08 and 2008-09. (These data were or will be collected through the 2008-09 and 2009-10 IPEDS Completers Surveys.)

The data reported in this section of the Factual Look for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are presented using the new IPEDS categories. The changes reflected in this section are as follows:

- (1) The first-professional degree category has been eliminated and all doctoral degrees, including those previously classified as “first-professional,” are now classified into the following two categories:

Doctor’s degree - research/scholarship

Doctor’s degree - professional practice

Note: There is a third category for doctoral degrees called “doctor’s degree - other,” but there are no institutions in Nebraska that currently classify any degrees in this category.

In Nebraska, this change affects only the classification of degrees conferred by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University and the College of Saint Mary. These are the only institutions in the state that have conferred degrees at the doctoral level.

An institution can classify any doctoral degree as one of “professional practice” if it meets the criteria of the following new IPEDS definition for the “doctor’s degree - professional practice:”

“A doctor’s degree that is conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice. The degree is awarded after a period of study such that the total time to the degree, including both pre-professional and professional preparation, equals at least six full-time equivalent academic years.” (Source: *IPEDS Glossary*)

A degree previously classified as “first-professional” is now considered to be in the “doctor’s degree - professional practice” category. In this report, such degrees may be referred to as “professional practice doctoral degrees.”

In the past, first-professional degrees granted by Nebraska institutions included degrees only in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy and law. Under the new classification system, doctoral degrees in audiology, occupational therapy and physical therapy are also included in the “doctor’s degree - professional practice” category. Therefore, for this and subsequent editions of the *Factual Look*, degrees in these categories that were awarded between 1997-98 and 2007-08 are counted as professional practice doctor’s degrees.

CHANGES IN THE CLASSIFICATION OF DEGREES AND OTHER AWARDS, continued

The IPEDS definition of the “doctor’s degree - research/scholarship” is as follows:

“A Ph.D. or other doctor’s degree that requires advanced work beyond the master’s level including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial artistic or scholarly achievement.” (*Source: IPEDS Glossary*)

- (2) First-professional certificates (post-degree) are now combined with post-master’s certificates in the IPEDS category called “post-master’s certificates.”

Previously, first-professional certificates were a separate IPEDS category. Since there are only a few first-professional certificates awarded in Nebraska, they were added to the degrees in the “first-professional degree” category for the trend analyses reported in the *Factual Look* and other Commission reports.

For the purposes of this and subsequent editions of The Factual Look and other Commission reports, first-professional certificates awarded between 1997-98 and 2007-08 are included with post-master’s certificates in the “master’s degree” category. Including them in the “master’s degree” category is necessary because Nebraska institutions do not confer enough post-master’s certificates (including what were previously called first-professional certificates) to maintain them as a separate category for trend analyses.

Note: There are no changes in the IPEDS categories below the master’s degree level.

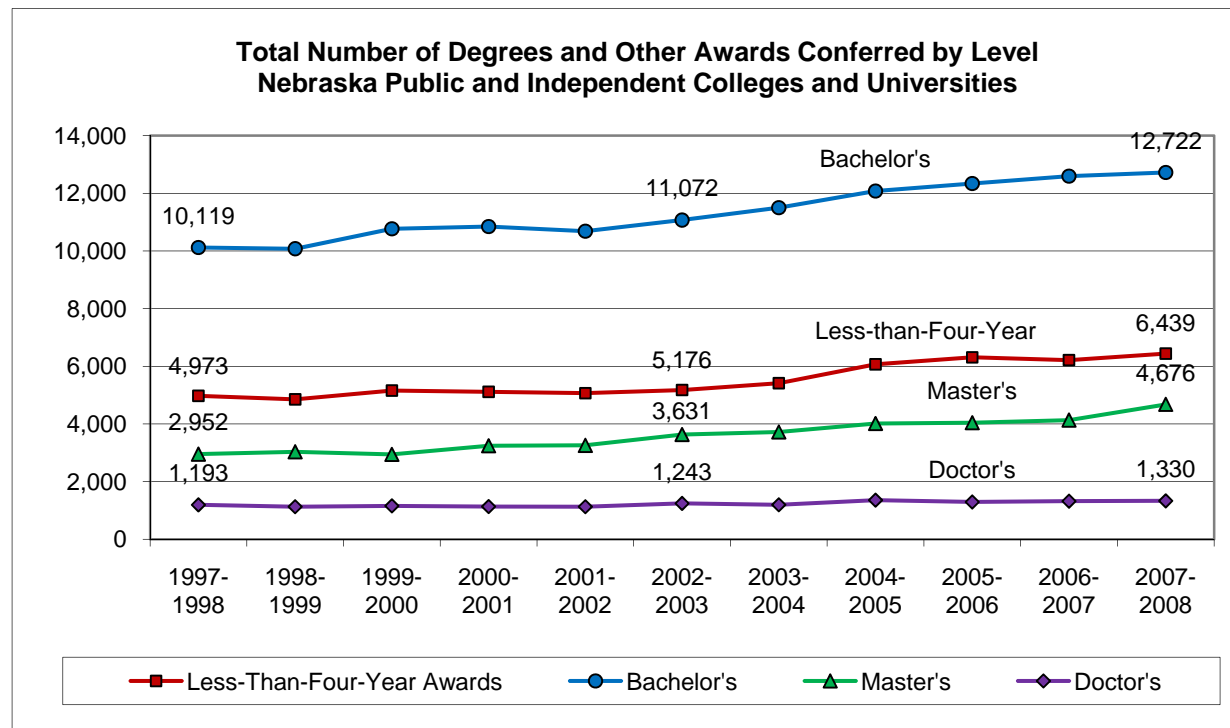
TOTAL DEGREES AND OTHER AWARDS CONFERRED by LEVEL: 1998-2008

10-Year Trends for Public and Independent Colleges and Universities

- Between 1997-98 and 2007-08, Nebraska's public and independent colleges and universities conferred increasing numbers of awards at all levels of postsecondary education, but the highest rates of increase were in the numbers of less-than-four-year awards and master's degrees.

- Specifically, the number of awards at each level increased as follows:

	<u>10-Year Increase</u>	<u>5-Year Increase</u>
Less-than-four-year awards	29.5%	24.4%
Bachelor's degrees (including post-baccalaureate certificates)	25.7%	14.9%
Master's degrees (including post-master's certificates)	58.4%	28.8%
Research/scholarship and professional practice doctor's degrees ¹	11.5%	7.0%



¹In Nebraska, professional practice doctor's degrees are conferred in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, law, audiology, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

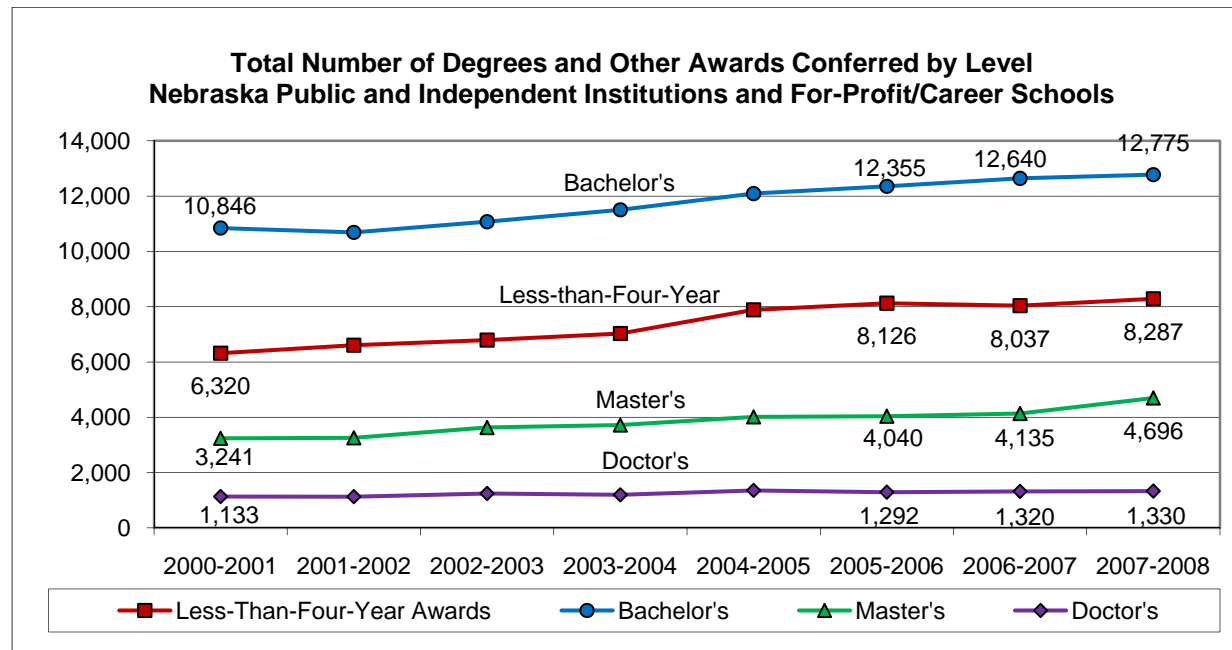
TOTAL DEGREES AND OTHER AWARDS CONFERRED by LEVEL: 2001-2008

Seven-Year Trends for Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions Including For-Profit/Career Schools

- Between 2001-02 and 2007-08, the number of less-than-four-year awards conferred by for-profit/career schools increased 51.2% from 1,206 to 1,848. Beginning in 2004-05, for-profit/career schools awarded 11 bachelor's degrees. In 2005-06, for-profit/career schools awarded 14 bachelor's degrees. This total jumped to 45 in 2006-07 and 53 in 2007-08.

- Including for-profit/career schools, the number of awards at each level increased as follows:

	<u>7-Year Increase</u>
Less-than-four-year awards	31.1%
Bachelor's degrees (including post-baccalaureate certificates)	17.8%
Master's degrees (including post-master's certificates)	44.9%
Research/scholarship and professional practice doctor's degrees ¹	17.4%



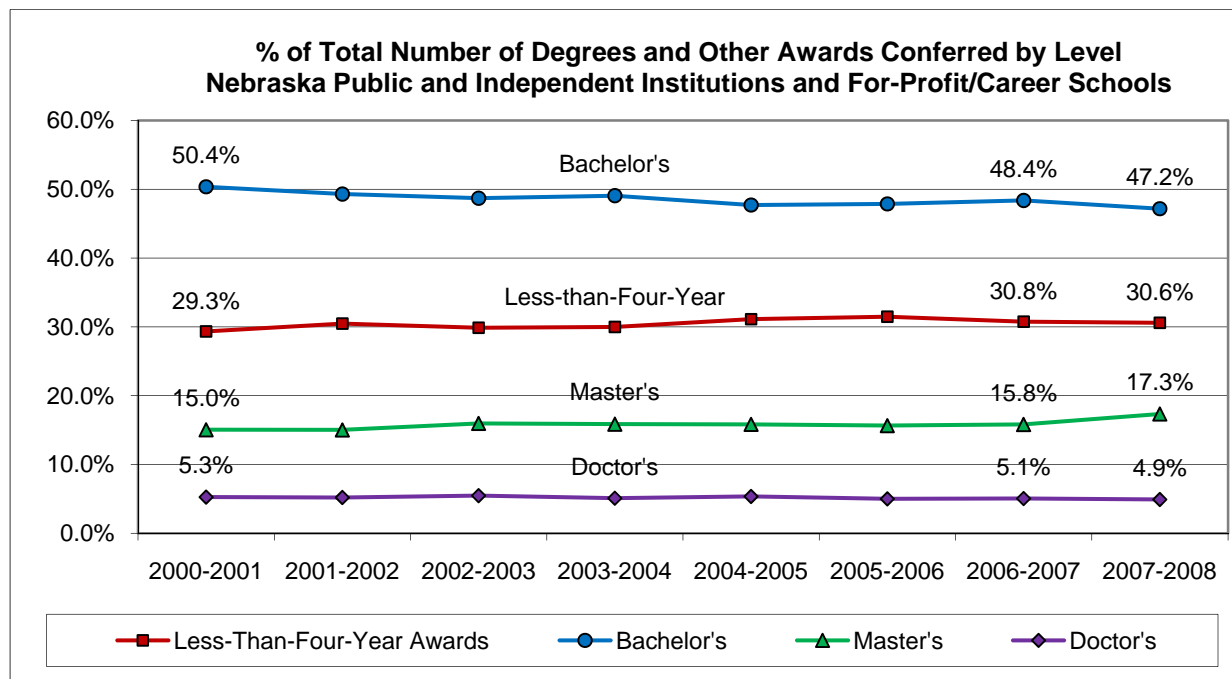
¹In Nebraska, professional practice doctor's degrees are conferred in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, law, audiology, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

Percentage of TOTAL DEGREES AND OTHER AWARDS CONFERRED by LEVEL: 2001-2008

Seven-Year Trends for Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions Including For-Profit/Career Schools

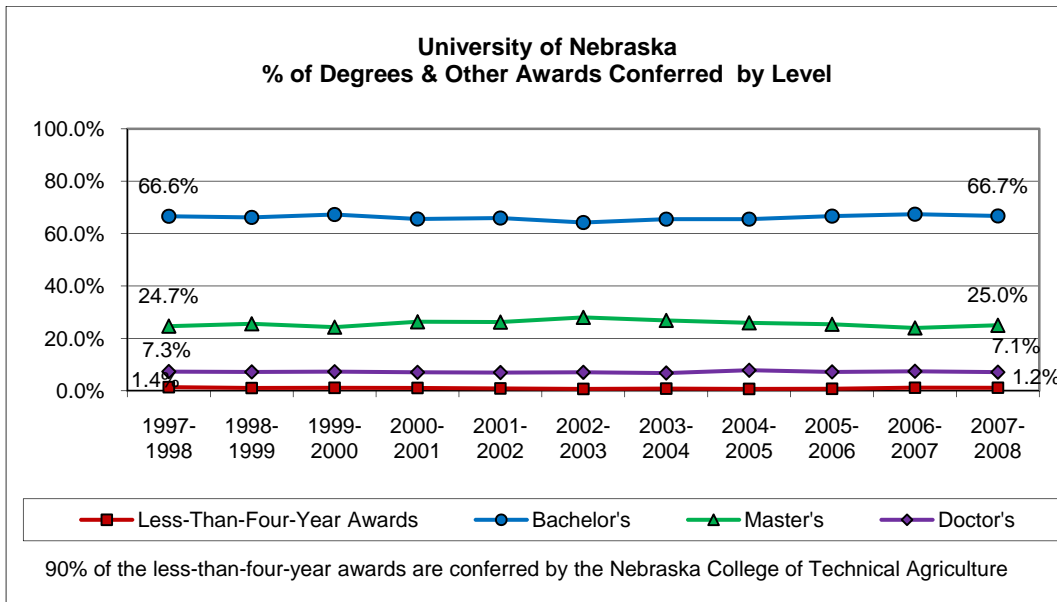
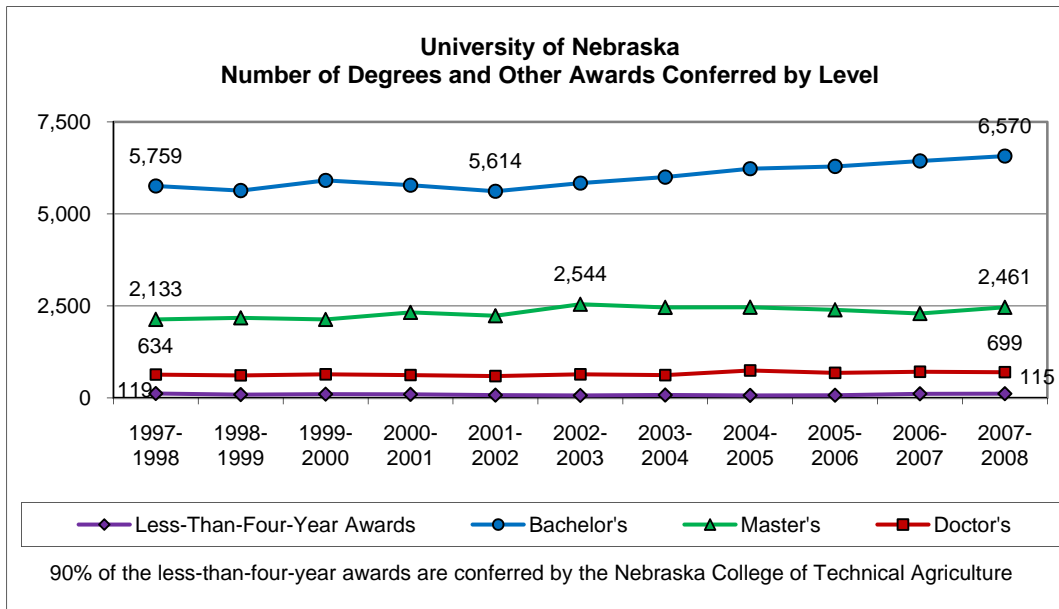
- In 2007-08, master's degrees accounted for a slightly higher percentage of the total number of awards conferred by Nebraska's postsecondary institutions, including for-profit/career schools, than they did in 2000-01. Bachelor's degrees, on the other hand, accounted for a lower percentage.
- Between 2000-01 and 2007-08, less-than-four-year awards increased slightly as a percentage of all awards conferred.
- Research/scholarship and professional practice doctor's degrees accounted for a slightly lower percentage of degrees awarded in 2007-08 as they did in 2000-01.¹



¹In Nebraska, professional practice doctor's degrees are conferred in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, law, audiology, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

DEGREES AND AWARDS CONFERRED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA by LEVEL: 1998-2008



- With the exception of less-than-four-year awards, the number of degrees conferred by the University of Nebraska generally increased from 1997-98 to 2007-08:

Bachelor's degrees ¹	14.1%
Master's degrees ²	15.4%
Doctor's degrees ³	10.3%

These increases occurred during a time period when the university experienced some decreases in enrollment.

- The number of bachelor's degrees awarded was relatively stable from 1997-98 to 2001-02 and then increased steadily from 5,614 in 2001-02 to 6,570 in 2007-08, a six-year increase of 17.0%.
- The number of master's degrees awarded increased 19.3%, from 2,133 degrees in 1997-98 to 2,544 in 2002-03, but then decreased 3.3% to 2,461 degrees in 2007-08.

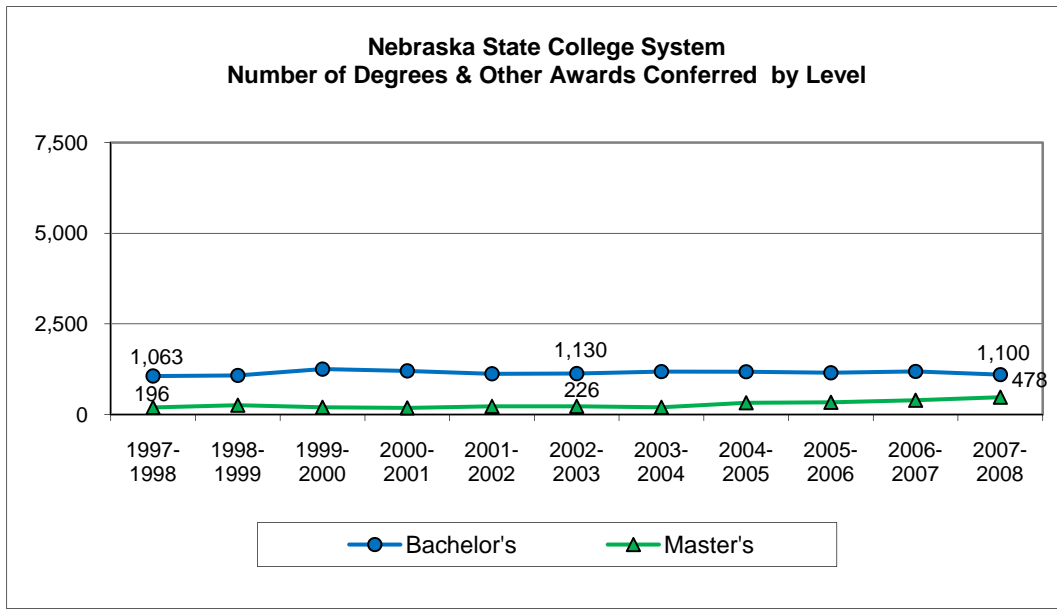
Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

¹Includes post-baccalaureate certificates.

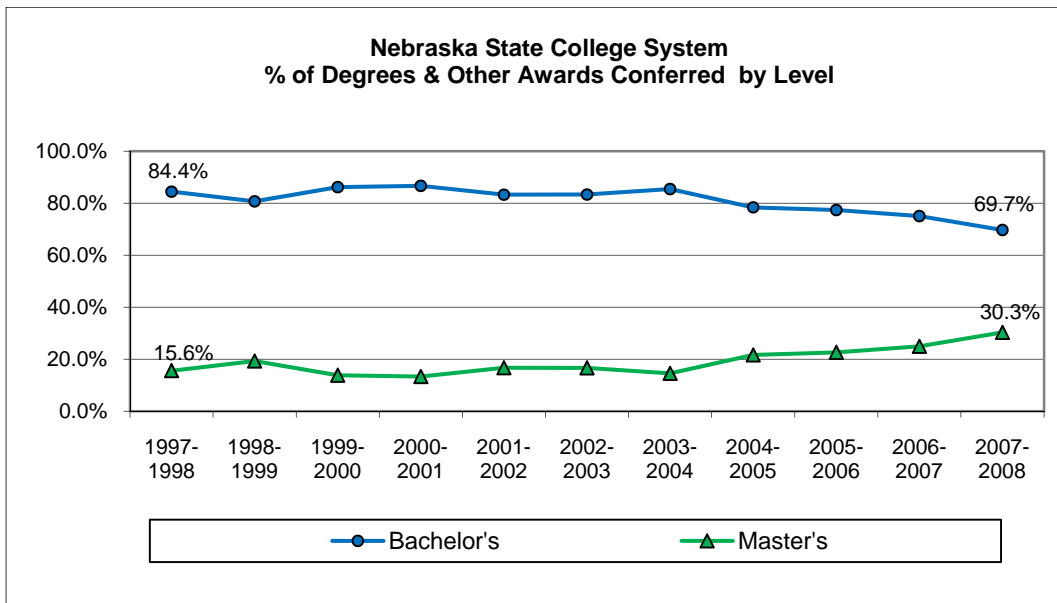
²Includes post-master's degree certificates.

³Includes research/scholarship and professional practice doctor's degrees. In Nebraska, professional practice doctor's degrees are conferred in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, law, audiology, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

DEGREES AND AWARDS CONFERRED BY THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM by LEVEL: 1998-2008



- The number of bachelor's degrees¹ awarded by the Nebraska State College System increased 6.3% between 1997-98 and 2002-03, and decreased 2.7% between 2002-03 and 2007-08.
- In comparison, the number of master's degrees² conferred by the state colleges increased 18.9% over the five-year period between 1997-98 and 2002-03, and 111.5% between 2002-03 and 2007-08. As a result of these increases, master's degrees accounted for a significantly higher percentage of the total number of degrees awarded by the Nebraska State College System in 2007-08 than in 1997-98.

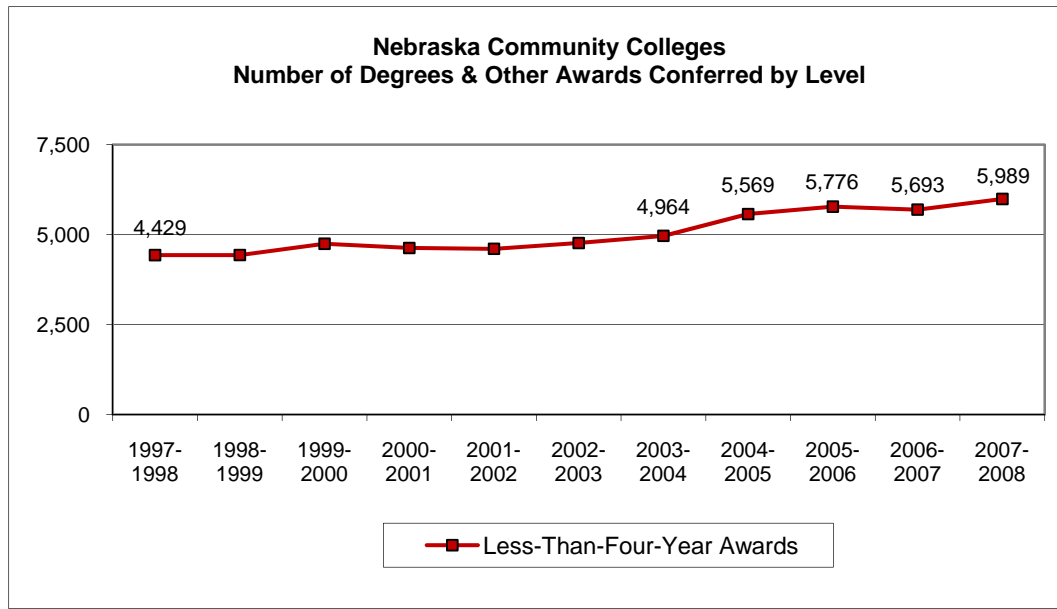


Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

¹Includes post-baccalaureate certificates.

²Includes post-master's certificates.

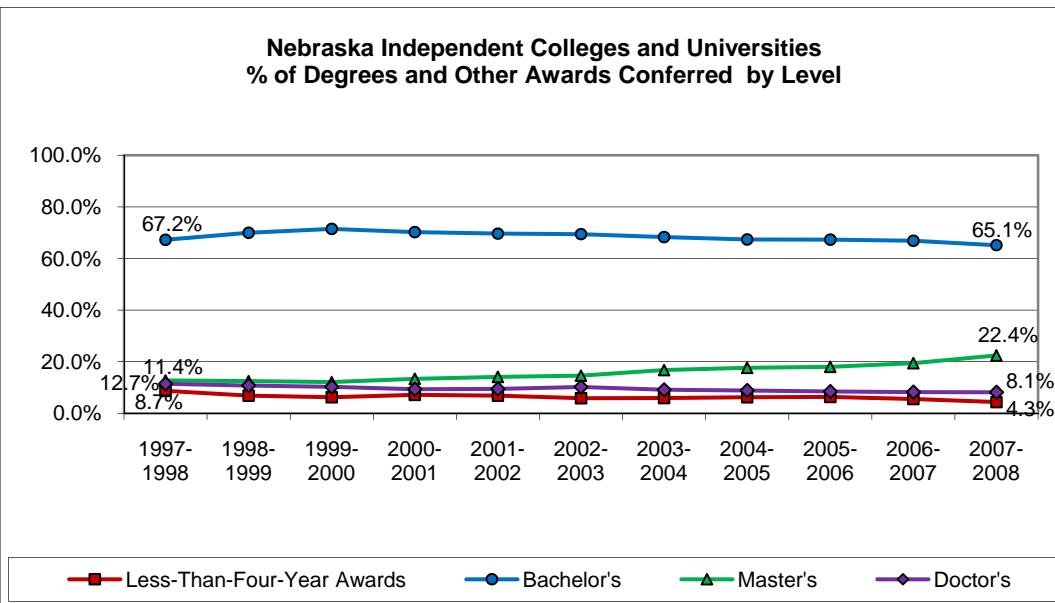
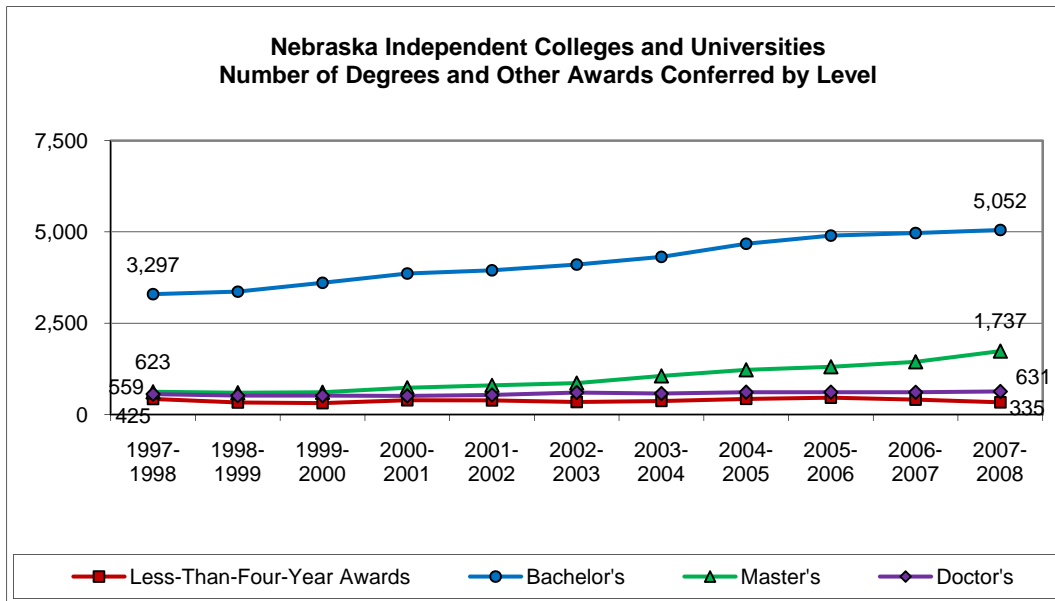
DEGREES AND AWARDS CONFERRED BY NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGES by LEVEL: 1998-2008



- Nebraska community colleges confer less-than-four-year degrees and awards.
- The number of associate degrees and other less-than-four-year awards conferred by Nebraska community colleges increased 35.2%, from 4,429 in 1997-98 to 5,989 in 2007-08.
- There was a 12.2% surge in the number of associate degrees and other less-than-four-year awards in 2004-05, when the number of awards increased from 4,964 to 5,569. This increase occurred primarily at Central Community College. (See page B.1.7 for additional information.)
- A 5.2% one-year increase in the number of degrees and awards occurred between 2006-07 and 2007. This increase was attributable primarily to increases in the number of certificates awarded for the completion of less-than-one-year programs at Central Community College.

Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

DEGREES AND AWARDS CONFERRED BY NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS by LEVEL: 1998-2008



- Between 1997-98 and 2007-08, the number of degrees and awards conferred by independent institutions increased as follows:

Less-than-four-year awards	- 21.2%
(from 425 to 335)	
Bachelor's degrees ¹	53.8%
(from 3,297 to 5,052)	
Master's degrees ²	178.8%
(from 623 to 1,737)	
Doctor's degrees ³	12.9%
(from 559 to 631)	

- Over the 10-year period, the number of master's degrees awarded by independent institutions has tripled. As a result, master's degrees accounted for 22.4% of the total number of degrees awarded by independent institutions in 2007-08, compared to 12.7% in 1997-98. Degrees and awards conferred at other levels accounted for lower percentages in 2007-08 as in 1997-98.

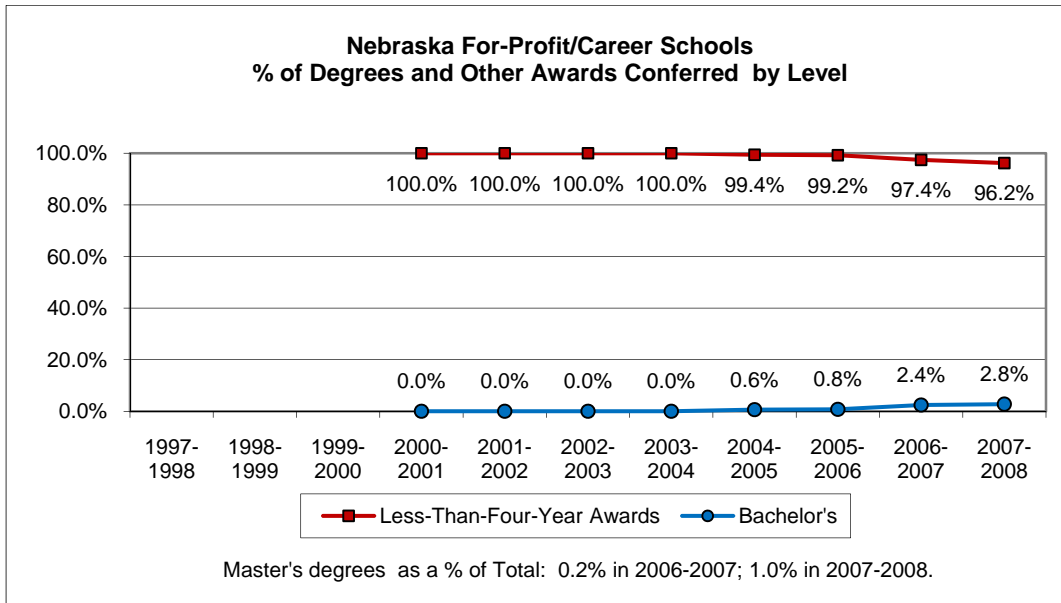
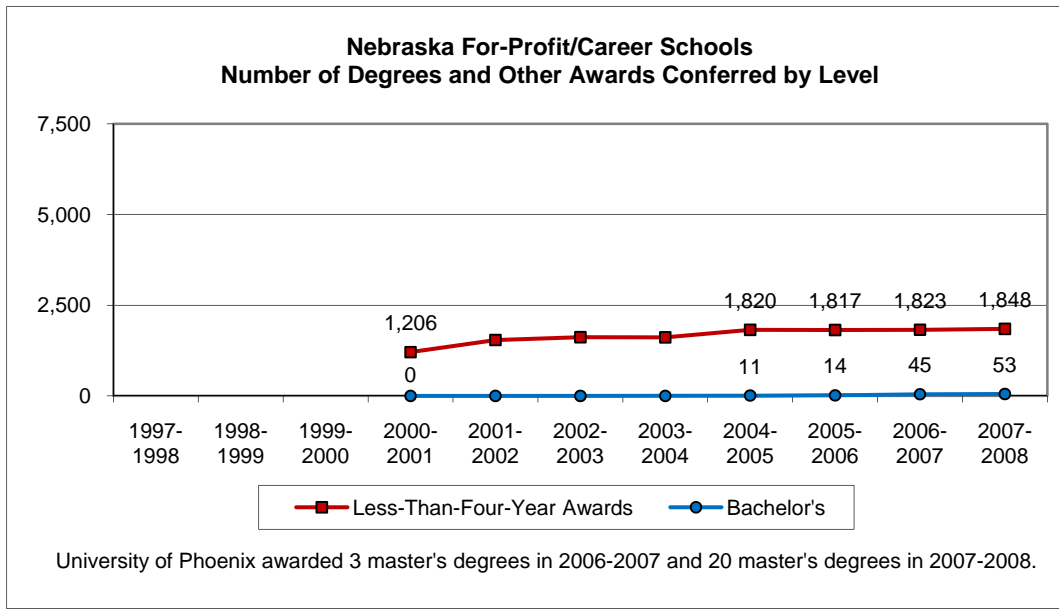
Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

¹Includes post-baccalaureate certificates.

²Includes post-master's certificates.

³Includes research/scholarship and professional practice doctor's degrees. In Nebraska, professional practice doctor's degrees are conferred in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, law, audiology, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

DEGREES AND AWARDS CONFERRED BY NEBRASKA FOR-PROFIT/CAREER SCHOOLS by LEVEL: 1998-2008

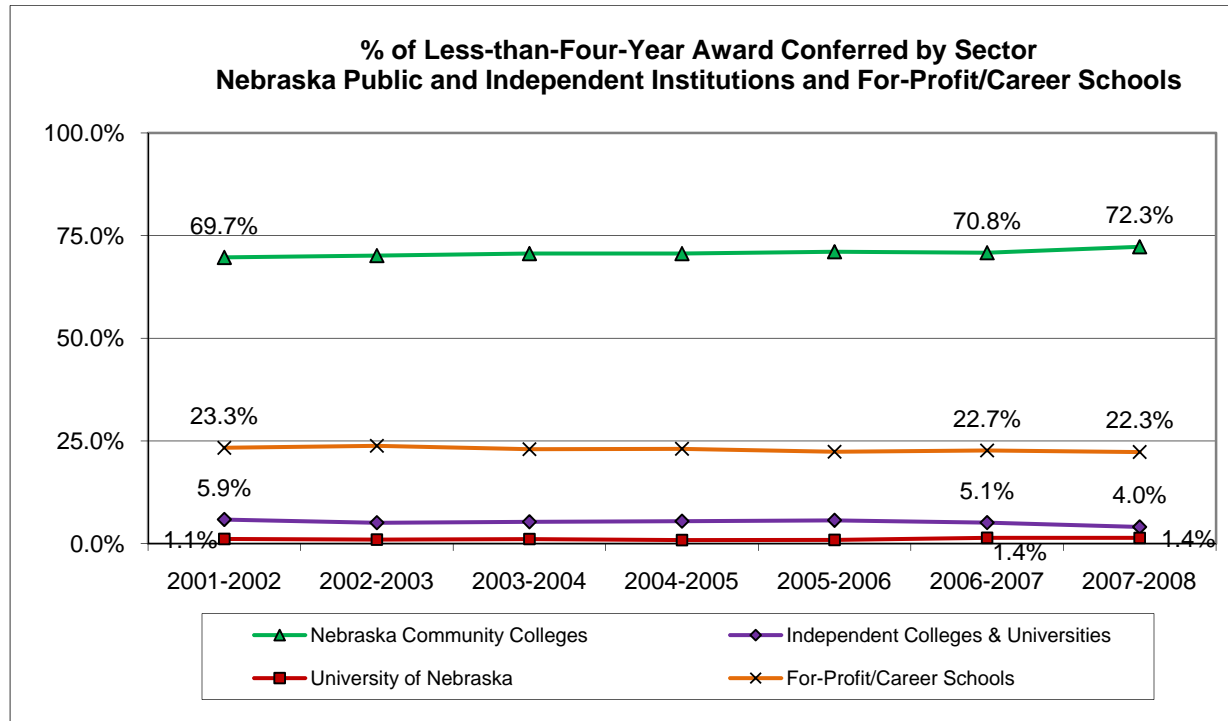


- Over the four-year period between 2000-01 and 2004-05, the number of less-than-four-year awards conferred by the for-profit/career schools and colleges increased 50.9%, from 1,206 to 1,820. The number then leveled off to 1,848 in 2007-08.
- In 2004-05, Vatterott College awarded 11 bachelor's degrees. In 2005-06, Hamilton College (now Kaplan University) and ITT Technical Institute awarded a total of 14 bachelor's degrees. In 2006-07 and 2007-08, Hamilton-Lincoln (now Kaplan University-Lincoln), The Creative Center, ITT Technical Institute, Hamilton-Omaha (now Kaplan University-Omaha), and the University of Phoenix-Omaha awarded a total of 45 and 53 bachelor's degrees, respectively.
- Master's degrees were first awarded in the for-profit sector by the University of Phoenix in 2006-07.
- The name of Hamilton College was changed to Kaplan University, effective October 30, 2007.

Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

Percentages of LESS-THAN-FOUR-YEAR AWARDS CONFERRED by SECTOR: 2001-2008

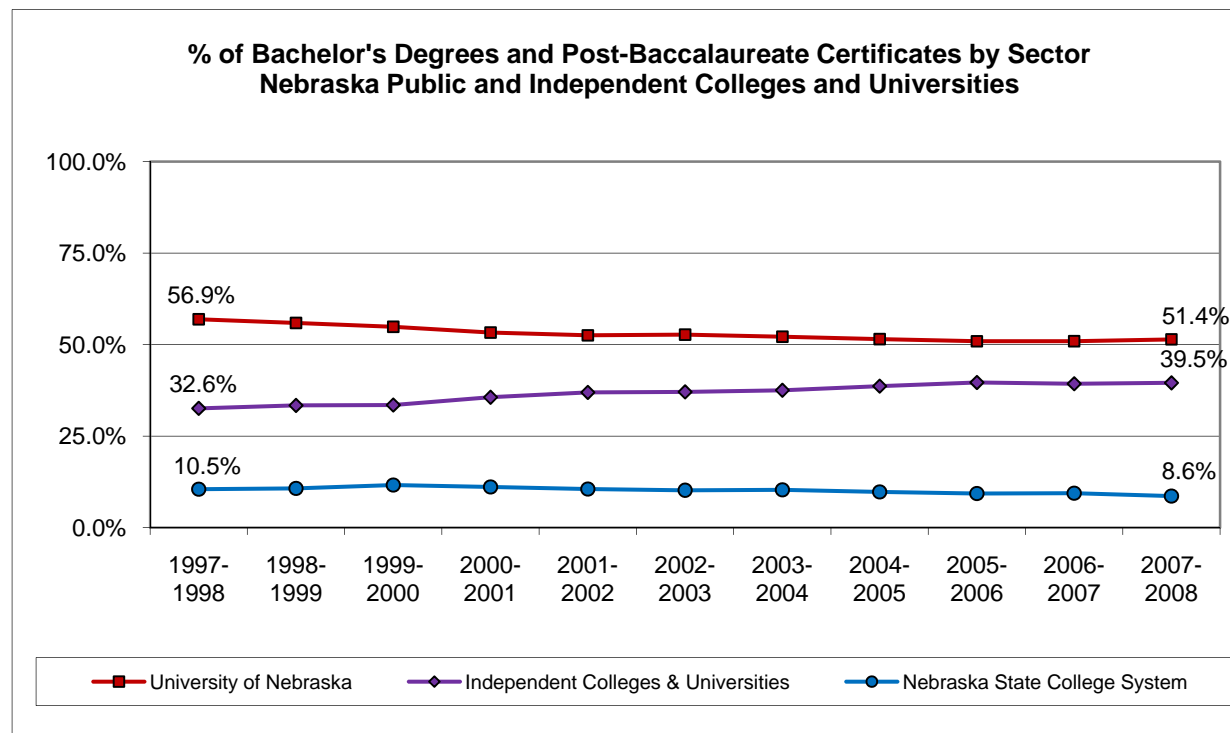
- In 2007-08, Nebraska postsecondary institutions granted 8,287 less-than-four-year degrees and awards, up from 6,320 in 2000-01. (See page B.2.5.)
- In 2007-08, Nebraska community colleges conferred 72.3% of the less-than-four-year degrees and awards granted by Nebraska postsecondary institutions, while for-profit/career schools conferred 22.3%.
- By the end of 2007-08, independent institutions conferred 4.0% of the less-than-four-year degrees and awards, while the University of Nebraska awarded 1.4% (mostly through the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture).
- The Nebraska State College System did not confer any between 1997-98 and 2007-08



See pages B.2.7 through B.2.11 for trend charts that show the number of degrees and other awards conferred by sector. Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

Percentages of BACHELOR'S DEGREES CONFERRED by SECTOR: 1998-2008¹

- In 2007-08, Nebraska public and independent institutions conferred 12,722 bachelor's degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates, up from 10,119 in 1997-98. (See page B.2.4.)
- Between 1997-98 and 2007-08, independent institutions awarded an increasing percentage of the bachelor's degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates conferred in Nebraska, while the percentage of bachelor's-level degrees granted by the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State College System decreased.
- Nebraska's for-profit/career schools are not shown on the following 10-year chart because these schools did not award bachelor's degrees prior to 2004-05. In 2004-05 and 2005-06, fewer than 15 bachelor's degrees were awarded by for-profit/career schools. In 2007-08, they awarded a total of 53 bachelor's degrees. (See page B.2.11.)

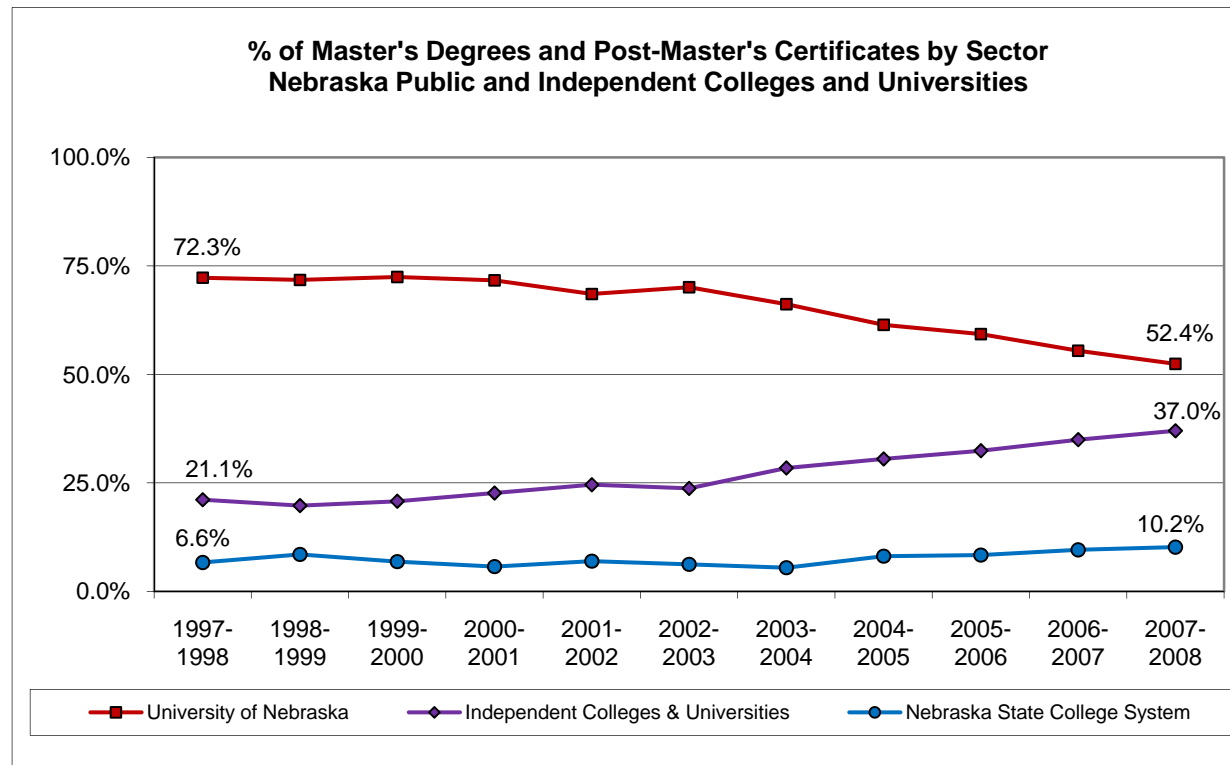


¹Includes post-baccalaureate certificates.

See pages B.2.7 through B.2.11 for trend charts that show the number of degrees and other awards conferred by sector. Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

Percentages of MASTER’S DEGREES CONFERRED by SECTOR: 1998-2008¹

- In 2007-08, Nebraska public and independent institutions conferred 4,676 master’s degrees and post-master’s certificates, up from 2,952 in 1997-98. (See page B.2.4.)
- Between 1997-98 and 2007-08, independent institutions awarded an increasing percentage of the master’s degrees and post-master’s certificates conferred in Nebraska. The Nebraska State College System also awarded a higher percentage of the master’s-level degrees in 2007-08 than in 1997-98. In comparison, the University of Nebraska conferred a significantly lower percentage of the master’s degrees and post-master’s certificates in 2007-08 than in 1997-98.

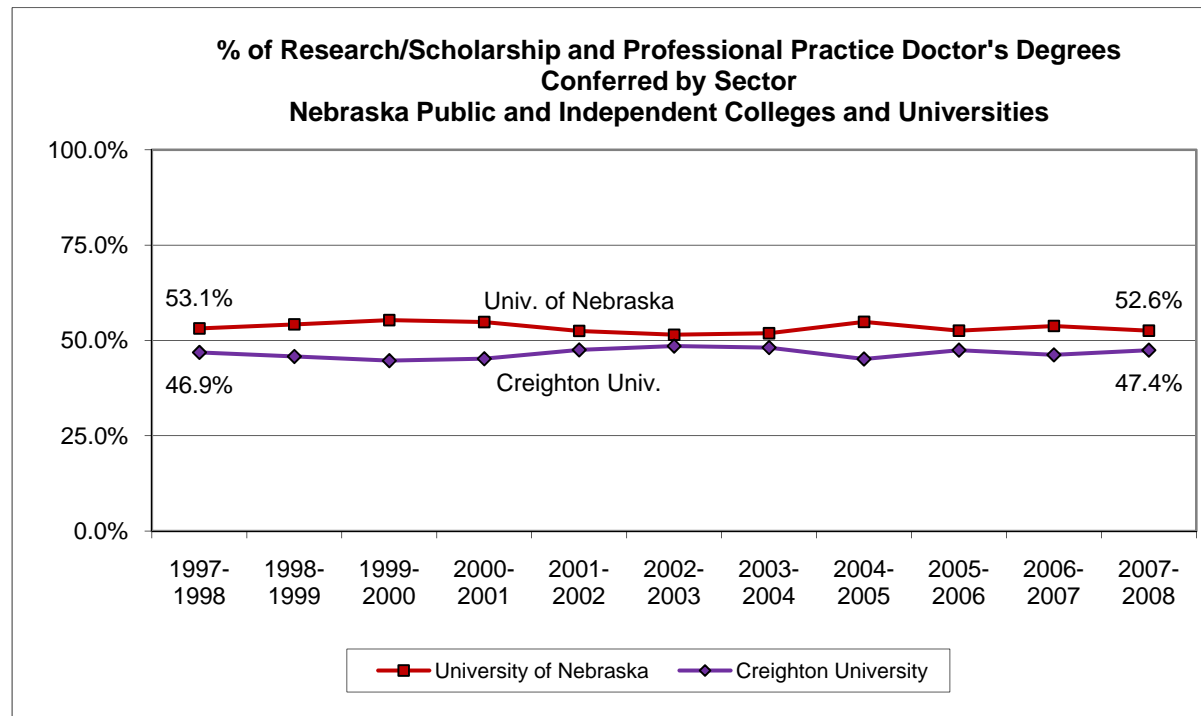


¹Includes post-masters certificates.

See pages B.2.7 through B.2.11 for trend charts that show the number of degrees and other awards conferred by sector. Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

Percentages of DOCTOR'S DEGREES CONFERRED by SECTOR: 1998-2008

- The total number of research/scholarship and professional practice doctor's degrees conferred in Nebraska in 2007-08 was 1,330, up from 1,193 degrees in 1997-98.¹ (See page B.2.4.)
- Over the 10-year period, the University of Nebraska and Creighton University conferred about the same percentages of the doctor's degrees in 2007-08 as they did in 1997-98.² However, as shown on pages B.2.16 and B.2.17, significantly different patterns of growth are revealed when research/scholarship and professional practice degrees are examined separately.

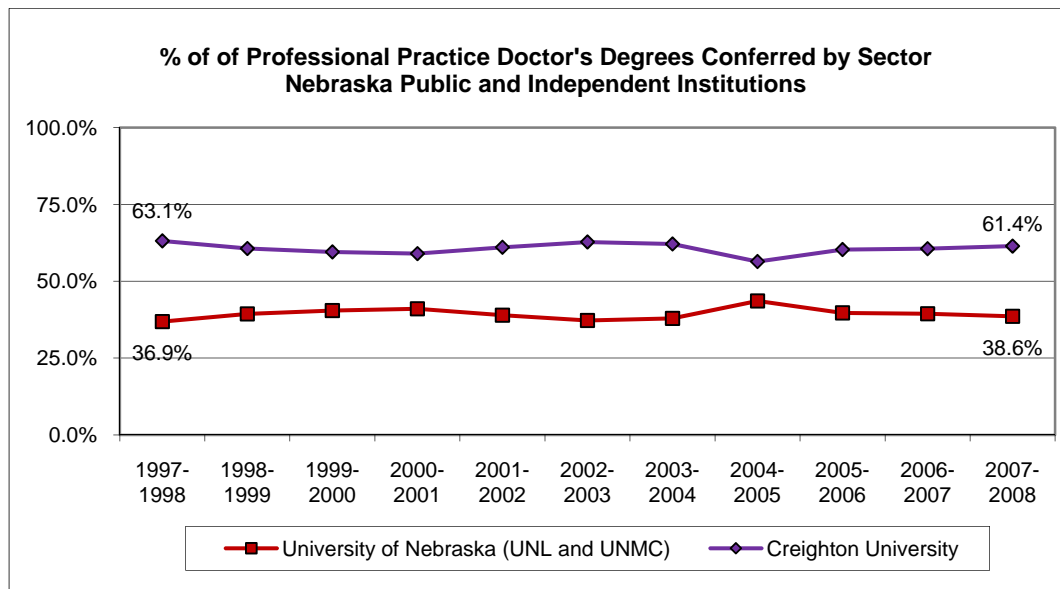
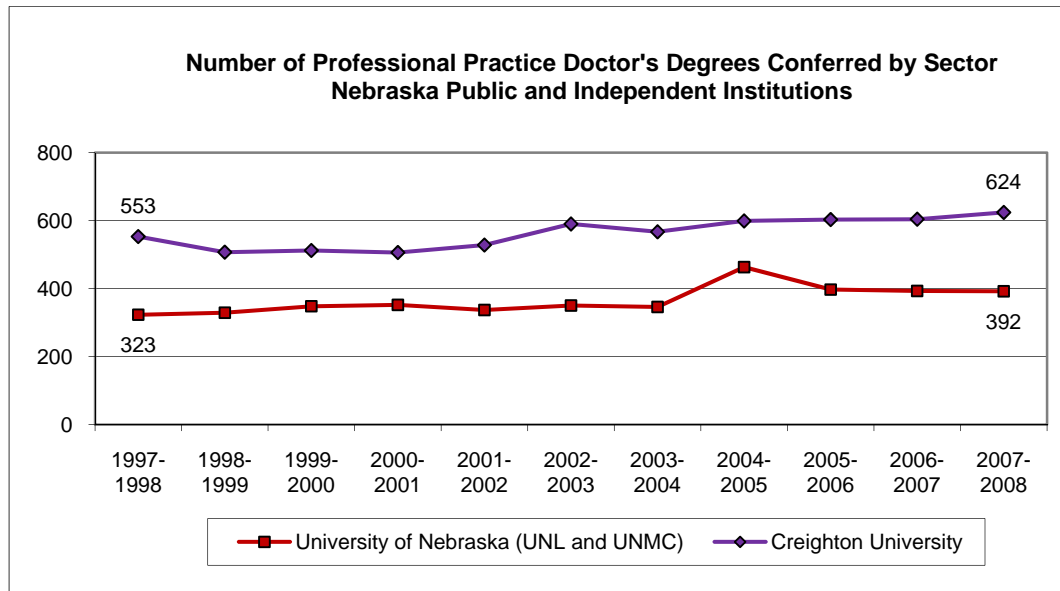


¹In Nebraska, professional practice doctor's degrees are conferred in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, law, audiology, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

²Creighton University is the only institution in the independent sector that awards doctoral degrees.

See pages B.2.7 through B.2.11 for trend charts that show the number of degrees and other awards conferred by sector. Detailed data reporting the number of degrees conferred by institution, by sector, by level, by race and by gender for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the spreadsheet titled **Total Degrees and Awards** in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

Numbers and Percentages of PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DOCTOR'S DEGREES by SECTOR: 1998-2008



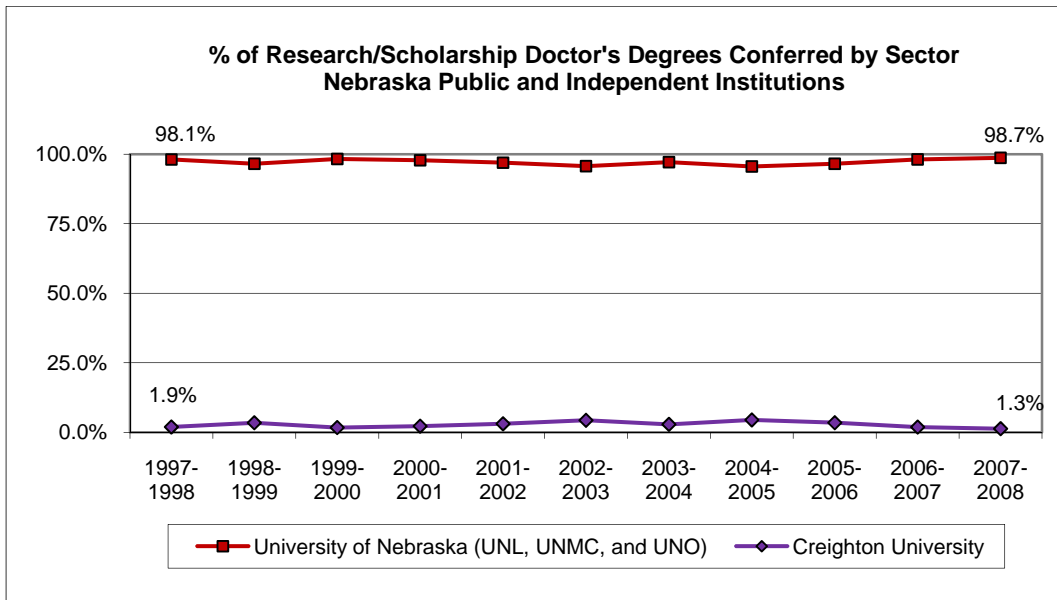
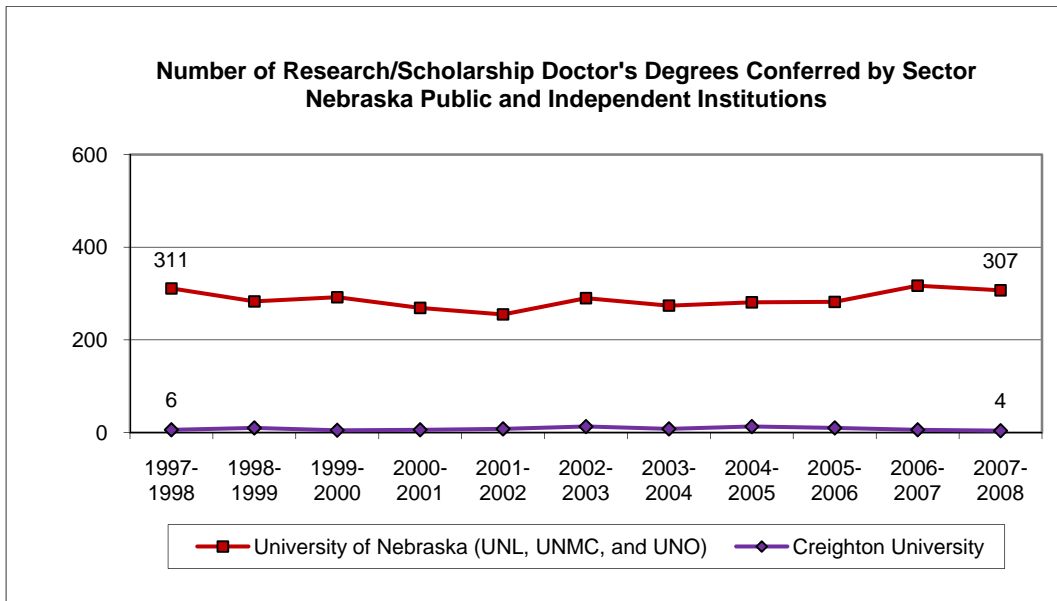
- The number of professional practice doctor's degrees¹ conferred by Creighton University was 12.8% higher in 2007-08 than it was in 1997-98. The number conferred by the University of Nebraska Nebraska² was 8.5% higher.
- The increased number of professional practice doctorates awarded by Creighton University is almost completely attributable to the introduction of doctoral programs in occupational therapy (OTD) and physical therapy (DPT), many awarded to students already holding master's degrees in these fields.
- The surge in the number of doctorates awarded by the University of Nebraska in 2004-05 is due to the introduction of a doctoral program in physical therapy and a special program that allowed students with master's degrees in physical therapy to earn their doctorates.

Detailed trend data for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

¹In Nebraska, professional practice doctor's degrees are conferred in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, law, audiology, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

²Professional practice doctoral programs are offered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

Numbers and Percentages of RESEARCH/SCHOLARSHIP DOCTOR'S DEGREES by SECTOR: 1998-2008



- The number of research/scholarship doctor's degrees awarded by the University of Nebraska¹ decreased slightly from 311 in 1997-98 to 307 in 2007-08. Creighton University² conferred four research/scholarships doctorates in 2007-08, compared to six doctoral degrees in 1997-98.
- In 2007-08, College of Saint Mary awarded three research/scholarship doctor's degrees. 2007-08 was the first year that College of Saint Mary conferred doctoral degrees.

Detailed trend data for 1997-98 through 2007-08 are available in the **downloadable Excel workbook for Section B: Degrees**.

¹ Research/scholarship doctoral programs are offered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

² Prior to 2007-08, Creighton University was the only institution in the independent sector awarding doctoral degrees. Beginning 2007-08, College of Saint Mary also conferred research/scholarship doctor's degrees.

