



RESEARCH UPDATE **Profile of Majors of Bachelor's Degree Recipients** **September 2007**

These findings are based on data from the 479 students who earned a Bachelor's degree from Portland State University. Data used in the analysis include enrollment data provided by MHCC, PCC, PSU and extracted from the National Student Clearinghouse. Bachelor's attainment and major information were provided by PSU. Students earned PSU bachelor's degrees in 56 different majors. Majors were recoded to represent 8 broad academic categories: 1) Business; 2) Fine Arts; 3) Social Science; 4) Arts and Letters; 5) Science; 6) Engineering; 7) Health Studies; 8) Liberal Studies.

Major	n	%
Business	129	26.9
Fine Arts	22	4.6
Social Science	163	34.0
Arts and Letters	82	17.1
Science	43	9.0
Engineering and Computer Science	21	4.4
Health Studies	9	1.9
Liberal Studies	10	2.1

Gender

- ◆ Women were more likely than men to have majored in Fine Arts (5.4% and 2.5%, respectively), Social Science (39.6% and 26.8%, respectively), Arts and Letters (20.1% and 12.6%, respectively), and Health Studies (2.5% and 1.0%, respectively).
- ◆ Men were more likely than women to have majored in Business (34.3% and 21.9%, respectively), Science (11.6% and 7.2%, respectively) and Engineering and Computer Science (9.1% and 1.1%, respectively).
- ◆ Women and men were equally likely to have majored in Liberal Studies (2.2% and 2.0%, respectively).

Ethnicity

Differences in ethnic representation among majors are not reported because there were many categories in which there were too few students to count on reliable results. As data from additional community colleges are added to the database, these analyses will be updated to determine whether we can make more reliable conclusions.

Enrollment Patterns

- ◆ Non-science majors were more likely to exhibit linear enrollment patterns than were science majors.
- ◆ More than 60% of students majoring in Business, Fine Arts, Social Science, and Arts and Letters who earned bachelor's degrees from PSU proceeded from their home CC to PSU and did not return, indicating a linear enrollment pattern.
- ◆ Over 50% of students majoring in Science, Engineering and Computer Science and Health Studies who earned bachelor's degrees from PSU "swirled" among institutions in the Portland metro area before earning their degree.

Associate Degree Attainment

The following findings focus on differences between students who earned no associate degree and those who earned an Oregon Transfer degree. There were too few students who earned other associate degrees represented among PSU bachelor's degree earners to reliably interpret those findings.

- ◆ Students who earn an Oregon Transfer associate degree were more likely than students who had not earned an associate degree to earn bachelor's degrees in a Social Science major (47% and 31.5%, respectively) or an Arts and Letters major (20.5% and 18.0%, respectively).
- ◆ Students who had not earned an associate degree were more likely than students who had earned an OT to have earned bachelor's degrees in a Business major (25.4% and 20.5%, respectively), a Science major (9.8% and 4.8%, respectively).

NOTE: All reported findings are significant at $p < .05$. Differences were tested using Chi-Square statistical tests. Bachelor's attainment information is based on institutional data provided by PSU and on student tracking data from the National Student Clearinghouse.

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The goal of the Urban Transfer Research Network is to increase the transfer and success rates of community college students who intend to earn a bachelor's degree.

Funded by a generous grant from Lumina Foundation for Education.