

**Table 297. Degrees and Awards Earned Below Bachelor's by Field: 2008**

[Covers associate's degrees and other awards based on postsecondary curriculums of less than 4 years in institutions of higher education. Based on survey; see Appendix III]

Field of study	Less than 1-year awards		1- to less than 4-year awards		Associate degree	
	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women
<b>Total</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>260,629</b>	<b>141,244</b>	<b>190,086</b>	<b>117,636</b>	<b>750,164</b>	<b>467,643</b>
Agriculture and natural resources, total	3,433	895	1,636	614	5,738	2,140
Architecture and related services	224	79	201	138	568	308
Area, ethnic, cultural, and gender studies	406	285	99	65	169	110
Biological and biomedical sciences	66	34	41	27	2,200	1,533
Business, management, and marketing	33,831	22,972	15,145	11,313	104,566	69,792
Communications and communications technologies	1,392	738	1,234	417	6,857	2,618
Computer and information sciences	9,322	3,192	4,530	1,590	28,296	7,105
Construction trades	9,425	452	8,018	293	4,309	203
Education	3,343	2,888	1,809	1,640	13,108	11,194
Engineering and engineering technologies	9,336	1,588	6,580	850	31,620	4,373
English language and literature/letters	875	557	294	164	1,402	918
Family and consumer sciences	11,200	9,429	3,350	2,702	8,613	8,269
Foreign languages and literatures	837	629	417	375	1,258	1,042
Health professions and related sciences	96,669	77,434	88,865	76,869	155,816	132,882
Nursing	1,730	1,566	4,224	3,648	73,277	64,044
Legal professions and studies	1,382	1,198	2,104	1,814	9,465	8,455
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	328	252	4,631	2,988	254,012	158,574
Library science	181	162	63	57	117	91
Mathematics	28	2	3	—	855	280
Mechanics and repairers	17,776	1,044	20,578	854	15,297	763
Military technologies	3	—	—	—	851	157
Multi/interdisciplinary studies	692	349	957	611	16,255	9,706
Parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies	357	168	279	163	1,344	535
Personal and culinary services	7,216	5,530	9,987	8,081	16,592	8,121
Philosophy and religion	11	7	91	48	458	321
Physical sciences and science technologies	306	144	384	146	3,388	1,434
Precision production trades	7,312	418	5,513	232	1,968	130
Psychology	75	51	46	36	2,412	1,858
Public administration and social services	930	718	672	542	4,192	3,623
Security and protective services	20,163	4,738	5,191	1,343	29,590	13,539
Social sciences and history	442	223	187	77	7,812	5,053
Theology and religious vocations	149	95	360	177	582	300
Transportation and material moving	17,394	1,543	883	76	1,550	242
Visual and performing arts	5,525	3,430	5,938	3,334	18,890	11,963

— Represents zero. <sup>1</sup> Includes other fields of study, not shown separately.

Source: U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, annual. See also <<http://www.nces.ed.gov/programs/digest>>.

**Table 298. Bachelor's Degrees Earned by Field: 1980 to 2008**

[The new Classification of Instructional Programs was introduced in 2002–2003. Data for previous years has been reclassified where necessary to conform to the new classifications. Based on survey; see Appendix III]

Field of study	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2008
<b>Total</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>929,417</b>	<b>1,051,344</b>	<b>1,237,875</b>	<b>1,439,264</b>	<b>1,524,092</b>	<b>1,563,069</b>
Agriculture and natural resources	22,802	12,900	24,238	23,002	23,133	24,113
Architecture and related services	9,132	9,364	8,462	9,237	9,717	9,805
Area, ethnic, cultural, and gender studies	2,840	4,447	6,212	7,569	8,194	8,454
Biological and biomedical sciences	46,190	37,204	63,005	64,611	75,151	77,854
Business	186,264	248,568	256,070	311,574	327,531	335,254
Communication, journalism, and related programs <sup>2</sup>	28,616	51,572	57,058	75,238	78,420	81,048
Computer and information sciences	11,154	27,347	37,788	54,111	42,170	38,476
Education	118,038	105,112	108,034	105,451	105,641	102,582
Engineering and engineering technologies	69,387	82,480	73,419	79,743	82,072	83,853
English language and literature/letters	32,187	46,803	50,106	54,379	55,122	55,038
Family and consumer sciences/human sciences	18,411	13,514	16,321	20,074	21,400	21,870
Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	12,480	13,133	15,886	18,386	20,275	20,977
Health professions and related clinical sciences	63,848	58,983	80,863	80,685	101,810	111,478
Legal professions and studies	683	1,632	1,969	3,161	3,596	3,771
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	23,196	27,985	36,104	43,751	44,255	46,940
Mathematics and statistics	11,378	14,276	11,418	14,351	14,954	15,192
Multi/interdisciplinary studies	11,457	16,557	28,561	30,243	33,792	36,149
Parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies	5,753	4,582	17,571	22,888	27,430	29,931
Philosophy and religious studies	7,069	7,034	8,535	11,584	11,969	12,257
Physical sciences and science technologies	23,407	16,056	18,331	18,905	21,073	21,934
Psychology	42,093	53,952	74,194	85,614	90,039	92,587
Public administration and social services	16,644	13,908	20,185	21,769	23,147	23,493
Security and protective services	15,015	15,354	24,877	30,723	39,206	40,235
Social sciences and history	103,662	118,083	127,101	156,892	164,183	167,363
Theology and religious vocations	6,170	5,185	6,789	9,284	8,696	8,992
Transportation and materials moving	213	2,387	3,395	4,904	5,657	5,203
Visual and performing arts	40,892	39,934	58,791	80,955	85,186	87,703

<sup>1</sup> Includes other fields of study, not shown separately. <sup>2</sup> Includes technologies.

Source: U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, annual and unpublished data. See also <<http://www.nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>>.