



COLORADO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SYSTEM

Colorado Community College System

Academic Year 2014 Degrees Awarded

NOVEMBER 2014

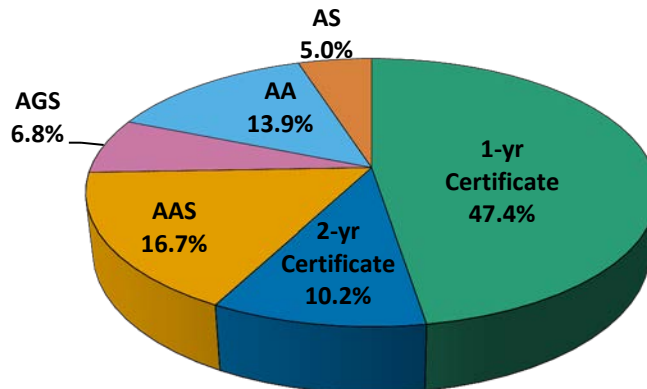
System Summary – Academic Year 2014 Degrees Awarded

In academic year 2013-14, 17,099 certificates and degrees were awarded at Colorado Community College System (CCCS) institutions (Table 1). One-year certificates comprised the largest group of awards at 47.4 percent of the total, followed by Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees at 16.7 percent of the total. Generally, Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), and Associate of General Studies (AGS) degrees are transfer-oriented awards, while Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees are considered terminal awards.

Table 1. Awards by Degree Level¹

Degree Level	Number	Percent	Change from AY 2013	
1-yr Certificate	8,113	47.4%	24.8%	1,611
2-yr Certificate	1,751	10.2%	-7.6%	-144
AAS	2,860	16.7%	-2.0%	-57
AGS	1,155	6.8%	-2.9%	-35
AA	2,370	13.9%	-3.9%	-97
AS	850	5.0%	12.1%	92
Total	17,099	100.0%	8.7%	1,370

Figure 1. 2014 Degrees Awarded by Degree Level

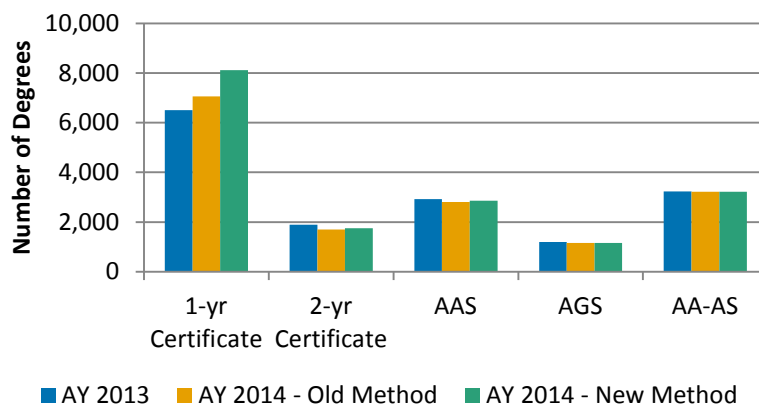


¹ Table 1 provides distinct data for AA and AS degrees. For the remainder of the report, data on AA and AS degrees are combined.

The total of 17,099 credentials awarded represents an increase of 8.7 percent over last year’s total of 15,729. However, it is important to note that a significant portion of the increase is attributable to a change in how degrees are reported, primarily in career-oriented programs. Prior to academic year 2013-14, multiple credentials awarded to a student in the same program area and degree level were counted as one award. For example, multiple one-year certificates earned by a student in a welding program counted as one award prior to this year.² Now, all awards earned when a student completes a program of study are counted. Again using welding as an example, the reporting change increased the number of one-year welding certificates *reported* from 199 to 324, although the actual number of certificates *earned* was the same. Absent the change in the reporting methodology, the number of credentials awarded increased 1.3 percent.

The impact of the reporting change is illustrated in Figure 2, which compares academic year 2012-13 awards to academic year 2013-14 awards, by type of award, under both the old and new reporting methods. The methodology change primarily increased the number of one-year certificates reported. As expected, the significant increase in the number of one-year certificates also affected the proportions of the various degree levels awarded by CCCS institutions (Table 2).

Figure 2. Comparison of Degrees Awarded under Old and New Reporting Methodologies



² One-year certificates refer to certificates that are earned in less than one year; two-year certificates refer to certificates that are earned in at least one year but less than two years.

Table 2. Comparison of Degrees Awarded under Old and New Reporting Methodologies

Degree Level	AY 2013	AY 2014: Old Method	AY 2014: New Method	New Minus Old
Number of Degrees				
1-yr Certificate	6,502	7,058	8,113	1,055
2-yr Certificate	1,895	1,702	1,751	49
AAS	2,917	2,806	2,860	54
AGS	1,190	1,155	1,155	0
AA-AS	3,225	3,220	3,220	0
Total	15,729	15,941	17,099	1,158
Proportion of Degrees by Level				
1-yr Certificate	41.3%	44.3%	47.4%	3.2%
2-yr Certificate	12.0%	10.7%	10.2%	-0.4%
AAS	18.5%	17.6%	16.7%	-0.9%
AGS	7.6%	7.2%	6.8%	-0.5%
AA-AS	20.5%	20.2%	18.8%	-1.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%

The number of students who earned a credential in academic year 2013-14 increased 1.2 percent from a year ago, compared to a decrease in the total student enrollment of 5 percent. The vast majority of students – 86.8 percent – received one award (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of Students Receiving Awards

	1 award	2 awards	3 awards	4 awards	5+ awards	Total
Number of Students	12,444	1,380	325	101	86	14,336
% of Degree Students	86.8%	9.6%	2.3%	0.7%	0.6%	100.0%

Over the past five years, on a consistent comparison basis, credentials awarded at CCCS colleges increased 29.6 percent. In terms of numbers of awards, the most significant increase has been in one-year certificates, with an increase of 1,633 over the five years. Overall, 25.7 percent more certificates were awarded in academic year 2014 than in 2010. On a percentage basis, AGS degrees have experienced the highest growth over the five-year period, at 68.1 percent.

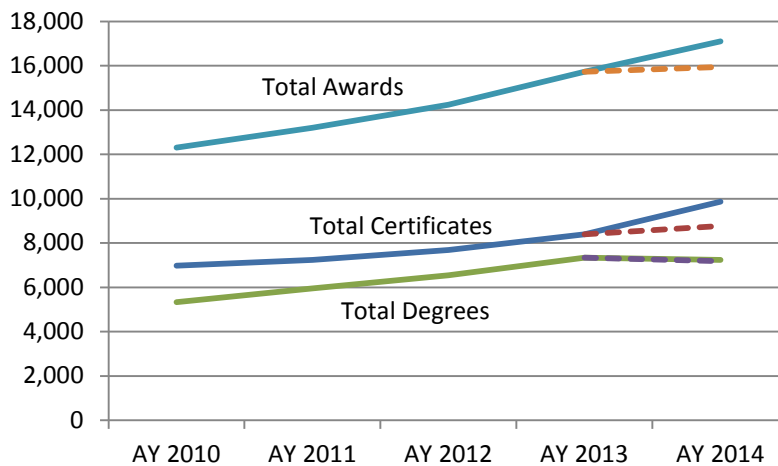
Table 4. Awards by Degree Level

Level	AY 2010	AY 2011	AY 2012	AY 2013	AY 2014 Old	AY 2014 New
1-yr Certificate	5,425	5,690	6,041	6,502	7,058	8,113
2-yr Certificate	1,544	1,552	1,644	1,895	1,702	1,751
Total Certificates	6,969	7,242	7,685	8,397	8,760	9,864
AAS	2,295	2,519	2,769	2,917	2,806	2,860
AGS	687	767	854	1,190	1,155	1,155
AA/AS	2,350	2,666	2,927	3,225	3,220	3,220
Total Degrees	5,332	5,952	6,550	7,332	7,181	7,235
Total Awards	12,301	13,194	14,235	15,729	15,941	17,099

Table 5. Change in Awards Granted by Degree Level

Level	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2010-2014 Old	2010-2014 New
1-yr Certificate	4.9%	6.2%	7.6%	24.8%	30.1%	49.5%
2-yr Certificate	0.5%	5.9%	15.3%	-7.6%	10.2%	13.4%
Total Certificates	3.9%	6.1%	9.3%	17.5%	25.7%	41.5%
AAS	9.8%	9.9%	5.3%	-2.0%	22.3%	24.6%
AGS	11.6%	11.3%	39.3%	-2.9%	68.1%	68.1%
AA/AS	13.4%	9.8%	10.2%	-0.2%	37.0%	37.0%
Total Degrees	11.6%	10.0%	11.9%	-1.3%	34.7%	35.7%
Total Awards	7.3%	7.9%	10.5%	8.7%	29.6%	39.0%

Figure 3. Colorado Community College System Awards, 2010 - 2014



Note: Dashed lines indicate the pre-AY 2014 method for reporting awards

Three-quarters of all credentials awarded were career-oriented awards; that is, certificates or AAS degrees. As with last year, Nursing Aide was the most awarded one-year certificate; Criminal Justice/Police Science was the top two-year certificate; and Registered Nursing was the top Associate of Applied Science degree (Table 6).

Table 6. Top Program Awards by Level

Award	2014 Awards (New Method)		Award Change from AY 2013	
	Number	% of Level	Number	% Change
Top 1-Yr Certificate: Nursing Aide	1,299	16.0%	147	12.8%
Top 2-Yr Certificate: Criminal Justice/ Police Science	230	13.1%	0	0.0%
Top AAS Degree: RN	525	18.4%	-39	-6.9%

Of the career-oriented awards, the top program areas were Nursing Aide, Emergency Medical Services, Nursing, Automotive Technology, and Computer and Information Sciences (Table 7). The top five programs accounted for 37.8 percent of all awards, compared to 36.6 percent in 2013. Please note that programs may be offered at different levels at different colleges. For example, Emergency Medical Services programs are offered as degree and certificate programs, and the types of programs and the credit hours required to receive awards vary by institution.

**Table 7. Top Program Awards and Statewide Annual Job Openings
(excluding liberal arts and general studies)**

CIP	Program	2014 Awards (New Method)		Annual Openings*	Award Change from AY 2013	
		Number	% of Total	Number	Number	% Change
513902	Nursing Aide	1,299	10.2%	830	147	12.8%
510904	Emergency Medical Services	1,185	9.3%	185	-44	-3.6%
513801	Nursing	997	7.8%	2,172	37	3.9%
470604	Automotive Technology	786	6.2%	610	389	98.0%
110101	Computer & Information Sciences	545	4.3%	1,806	147	36.9%
	Total of Top Awards	4,812	37.8%	5,603	676	16.3%

*Annual job openings in this table and tables that follow are Colorado Department of Labor and Employment average annual projections over the 2013 to 2023 time period, obtained from the department's Labor Market Information website. Some job openings may be understated because of confidentiality regulations that prohibit the publishing of certain data. Where data was not available, EMSI data was used. The CIP codes were matched with occupation codes using O*NET. The percent of total column provides the specific program's proportion of the total certificate and AAS degree awards.

Of the career-oriented awards (excluding liberal arts and general studies), 39.5 percent were in the healthcare field, compared to 44.1 percent in 2013. Although the proportion of healthcare awards decreased from last year, the number of awards increased 0.8 percent. Approximately equal proportions of certificates and AAS degrees awarded were granted in the healthcare field. The following two tables present the top five clusters for awards: Table 8 presents data on certificates and Table 9 provides information on AAS degrees.

Table 8. Top Certificate Awards by Cluster - Percent of Total

Cluster	AY 2014 Certificate Percentage	AY 2014 Certificate Awards (New Method)	AY 2013 Certificate Percentage	AY 2013 Certificate Awards
Health Science	39.5%	3,899	45.3%	3,804
Management and Administration	9.7%	961	9.6%	803
Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	9.1%	896	5.2%	435
Manufacturing	6.7%	661	4.7%	396
Information Technology	6.3%	621	5.3%	445
Total	71.4%	7,038	70.1%	5,883

Table 9. Top AAS Degree Awards by Cluster - Percent of Total

Cluster	AY 2014 AAS Degree Percentage	AY 2014 AAS Degree Awards (New Method)	AY 2013 AAS Degree Percentage	AY 2013 AAS Degree Awards
Health Science	39.4%	1,127	40.6%	1,184
Management and Administration	9.2%	262	9.4%	275
Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security	7.2%	206	7.1%	206
Information Technology	5.9%	168	4.9%	144
Manufacturing	5.6%	159	5.1%	150
Total	67.2%	1,922	67.2%	1,959

Demographic Summary

Race/Ethnicity. Minority students earned 26.7 percent of all awards distributed in 2014 compared to 25 percent in 2013. Further, 27.7 percent of award recipients – that is, individual students who earned one or more credentials – were minority students. In comparison, minority students comprised 34.5 percent of system enrollment (Table 10). Two-thirds of award recipients were white students.

Table 10. Award Recipients, Total Enrollment, Awards by Race/Ethnicity³

Race/Ethnicity	Award Recipients	System Enrollment	Awards
Asian	2.2%	2.8%	2.2%
Black	4.1%	6.6%	4.2%
Hawaiian	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Hispanic	15.4%	17.4%	15.9%
Multiple Races	3.0%	3.7%	3.0%
Native American	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Non-resident Alien	1.2%	1.6%	1.1%
Unknown	6.3%	7.7%	6.4%
White	66.6%	58.9%	65.8%
Minority	27.7%	34.5%	26.7%

Gender. Female students earned 54.2 percent of awards in 2014 (Figure 4), and they earned awards at a greater rate than their overall proportion of the student population (Table 11). Male students, more than female students, earned more than one award, as indicated by the discrepancy between their proportion of awards and their proportion of award recipients.

³ Minority students include Asian, Black, Hawaiian/Pacific Island, Hispanic, multiple race, and Native American/Alaska Native students. The calculation of the minority proportion for award recipients and system enrollment does not include students whose race/ethnicity is not known. The proportion of minority awards is the sum of the percentages of awards distributed to the minority groups.

Figure 4. Proportion of Awards by Gender

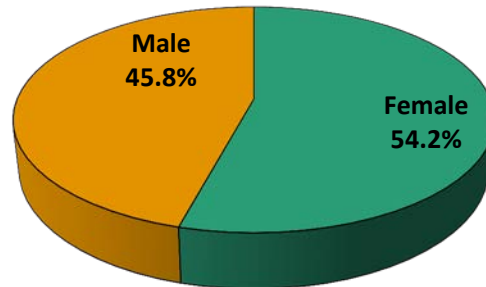


Table 11. Award Recipients and CCCS Enrollment by Gender

Gender	Award Recipients	CCCS Enrollment
Male	43.1%	45.5%
Female	56.9%	54.5%

Percentages based on students reporting gender

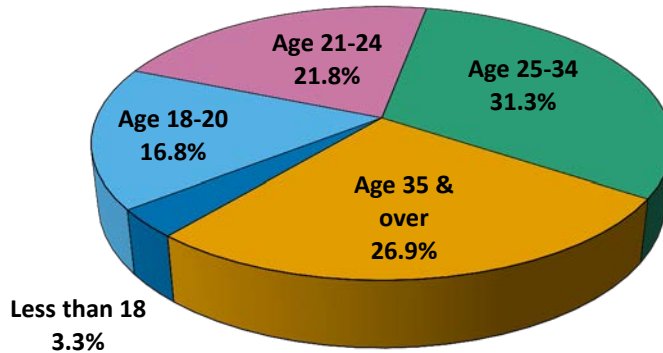
Age. Similar to last year, the 25-to-34 age group was the most likely to persist to an award. It earned the greatest number of awards overall, accounting for 31.3 percent of all awards. With the exception of AA/AS degrees, this age group also earned the highest proportion of each category of award (Table 12 and Figure 5).

Table 12. Awards by Degree Level and Age Category

Degree Level	< 18	18-20	21-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
1-yr Certificate	5.7%	19.7%	18.6%	28.2%	13.9%	9.2%	4.1%	0.6%
2-yr Certificate	0.6%	10.3%	21.6%	35.2%	17.5%	10.3%	4.1%	0.3%
AAS	0.1%	5.9%	19.1%	39.3%	19.7%	12.0%	3.7%	0.2%
AGS	2.5%	17.1%	26.1%	30.1%	14.4%	7.4%	2.2%	0.3%
AA/AS	2.1%	22.2%	30.7%	30.2%	9.9%	3.8%	1.0%	0.1%
Total	3.3%	16.8%	21.8%	31.3%	14.5%	8.7%	3.3%	0.4%

Note: Age calculated as of December 31, 2013

Figure 5. Awards by Age Category



Students age 20 and younger were underrepresented as award recipients relative to the overall CCCS student population in this age range. Several factors likely contribute to this situation. A significant proportion – about 41 percent – of students in the 20 and younger age group are high school students, for whom a degree or certificate may not be the immediate focus. Students in this age group also transfer at a higher rate than their proportion of the student population, and generally only about one-fifth of transfers earn a credential before they transfer. Compared to last year, the proportion of total awards to students 20 years of age and younger increased, from 18.2 percent to 20.1 percent.

Table 13. Award Recipients and CCCS Enrollment by Age Category

Age Group	Award Recipients	CCCS Enrollment	Percentage Point Difference
< 18	3.6%	11.1%	-7.5%
18-20	17.2%	23.3%	-6.1%
21-24	22.3%	19.4%	2.9%
25-34	31.0%	25.6%	5.4%
35-44	14.1%	11.3%	2.8%
45-54	8.2%	6.2%	2.0%
55-64	3.2%	2.5%	0.7%
65+	0.4%	0.5%	-0.1%

College Summary

Front Range Community College awarded the greatest number of awards (20.9 percent of the total), consistent with its larger enrollment (Table 14). It was followed by Pikes Peak Community College (15.4 percent). Trinidad State Junior College awarded the greatest number of credentials relative to its student enrollment.

Table 14. Percentage of Awards by College and Level

College	Certificates	AAS	AGS	AA/AS	AY 2014 Total Awards	% of Total Awards	AY 2013 Total Awards
ACC	61.5%	20.7%	5.0%	12.8%	1,772	10.4%	1,632
CCA	43.8%	14.2%	16.2%	25.8%	908	5.3%	842
CCD	43.0%	17.4%	12.2%	27.4%	1,050	6.1%	967
CNCC	47.8%	33.5%	1.5%	17.2%	203	1.2%	212
FRCC	55.6%	14.9%	4.2%	25.2%	3,581	20.9%	3,444
LCC	34.6%	26.3%	8.8%	30.4%	217	1.3%	206
MCC	62.7%	15.1%	3.1%	19.1%	418	2.4%	396
NJC	47.6%	19.5%	9.4%	23.6%	437	2.6%	400
OJC	64.1%	12.9%	1.0%	22.1%	498	2.9%	514
PCC	68.3%	16.0%	7.6%	8.1%	2,345	13.7%	2,076
PPCC	50.4%	21.1%	9.0%	19.5%	2,639	15.4%	2,319
RRCC	67.3%	12.5%	3.1%	17.1%	2,254	13.2%	1,982
TSJC	67.7%	12.0%	9.5%	10.8%	777	4.5%	739
Total	57.7%	16.7%	6.8%	18.8%	17,099	100.0%	15,729

The top career-oriented program awards per college (excluding liberal arts and general studies) are listed in Table 15 with the number of estimated annual statewide job openings in those fields. Because so many of the degrees awarded are in the healthcare field, awards in the top non-healthcare program are provided in Table 16.

Table 15. Top Program Awards by College
(All degree levels - excluding liberal arts and general studies)

College	Top Award	Name	Number of Awards	Percent of College*	Annual Openings
ACC	190709	Early Childhood Education	216	14.8%	678
CCA	510904	Emergency Medical Services	124	23.5%	185
CCD	510904	Emergency Medical Services	98	15.5%	185
CNCC	513902	Nursing Aide	28	17.0%	830
FRCC	513902	Nursing Aide	602	23.8%	830
LCC	513801	Nursing	49	37.1%	2,172
MCC	513902	Nursing Aide	69	21.2%	830
NJC	520201	Business Administration	60	20.5%	4,599
OJC	470604	Automotive Technology	76	19.8%	610
PCC	520407	Office Administration	327	16.5%	41
PPCC	513801	Nursing	450	23.8%	2,172
RRCC	513902	Nursing Aide	156	8.7%	830
TSJC	460303	Electrical Line Worker	140	22.6%	317

*The denominator for the percentage calculation is the specific college's total certificate and AAS degree awards.

Table 16. Top Program Awards by College: Non-Healthcare
(All degree levels - excluding liberal arts and general studies)

College	Top Award	Name	Number of Awards	Percent of College*	Annual Openings
ACC	190709	Early Childhood Education	216	14.8%	678
CCA	430103	Office Management and Supervision	114	21.6%	778
CCD	220302	Paralegal	52	8.2%	269
CNCC	030101	Natural Resources Ecology & Management	24	14.5%	44
FRCC	470604	Automotive Technologies	207	8.2%	610
LCC	010505	Horse Training and Management	33	25.0%	49
MCC	010102	Agricultural Business Management	28	8.6%	32
NJC	520201	Business Administration	60	20.5%	4,599
OJC	470604	Automotive Technologies	76	19.8%	610
PCC	520407	Office Administration	327	16.5%	41
PPCC	480508	Welding Technology	103	5.5%	255
RRCC	520302	Accounting	119	6.6%	1,431
TSJC	460303	Electrical Line Worker	140	22.6%	317

*The denominator for the percentage calculation is the specific college's total certificate and AAS degree awards.

High School Awards

Just under 6 percent of the credentials awarded in 2013-14 were earned by high school students. High school students earned 980 awards, 77 percent of which were certificates (Table 17). Automotive Mechanics and Nursing Aide were the program areas with the most awards, each accounting for 14.4 percent of total awards.

Table 17. Awards Earned by High School Students by Degree Level

Degree Level	Number	Percent of Total
1-yr Certificate	721	73.6%
2-yr Certificate	34	3.5%
Total Certificates	755	77.0%
AAS	9	0.9%
AGS	61	6.2%
AA	99	10.1%
AS	56	5.7%
Total Degrees	225	23.0%
Total	980	100.0%

Although the vast majority of students received one award, some students received multiple awards. For example, 35 students received both an AA and AS degree. In total, the 980 awards were earned by 830 high school students. Table 18 depicts the number of students earning awards by the number of awards received.

Table 18. Number of High School Students Receiving Awards

	1 award	2 awards	3 awards	4 awards	5+ awards	Total
Number of Students	734	60	27	5	4	830
% of Degree Students	88.4%	7.2%	3.3%	0.6%	0.5%	100.0%

Data Source

The data for this report was extracted from SURDS degree, enrollment, and course files submitted by institutions to the Colorado Department of Higher Education.