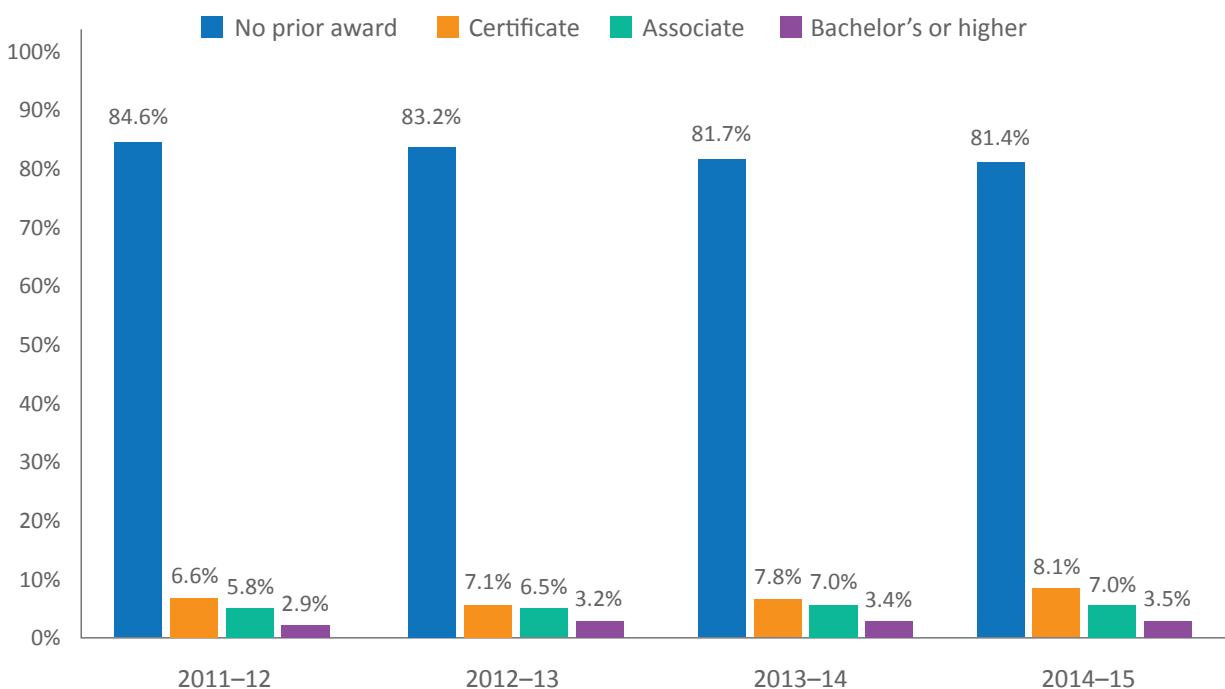


Degree earners

About 3.5 percent of new associate degree earners already had a bachelor's degree.

Associate degree earners and distribution of prior awards



Source: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, "Undergraduate Degree Earners Report: First-time Graduates with Prior Awards," (March 2016).



The percent of associate-degree graduates with a prior credential increased from 2011-12 to 2014-15, according to a recent study by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Those who already had a bachelor's degree or higher increased over that period, from 2.9 percent to 3.5 percent. The percent of graduates who previously earned an associate degree also increased, from 5.8 percent to 7 percent. Associate degree earners with a previous college certificate climbed from 6.6 percent to 8.1 percent. The findings highlight the diverse missions of community colleges, such as preparing students to transfer to bachelor's degree programs, upskilling incumbent workers and training for new job skills. For more click [the report](#).

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