

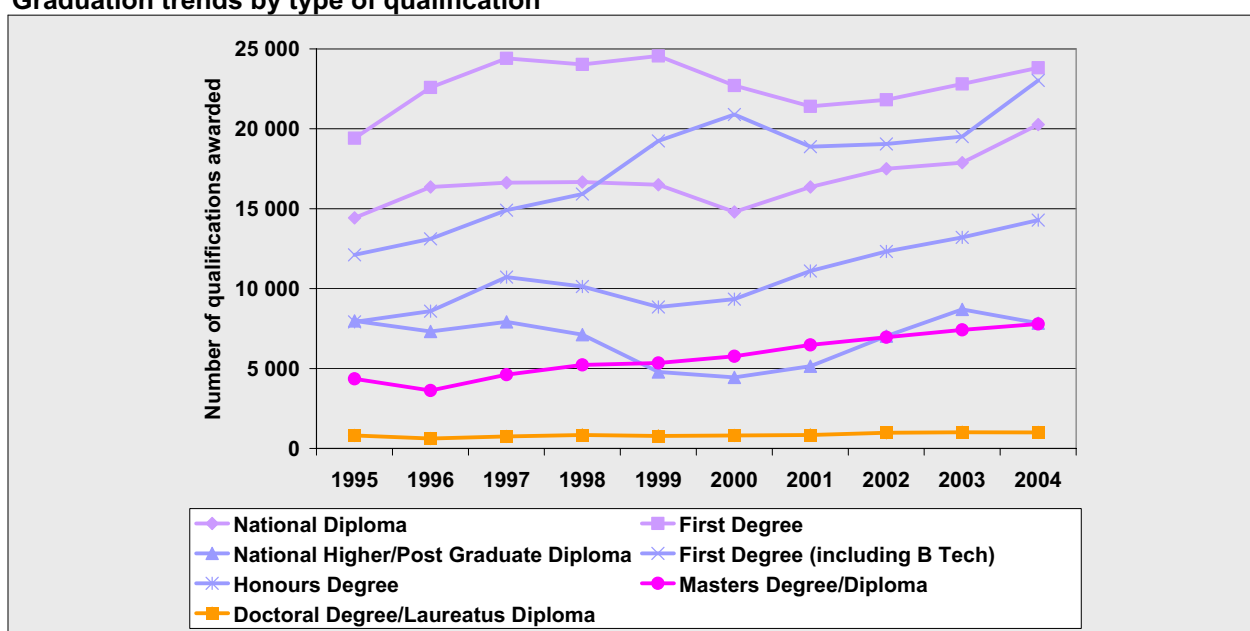
ALL FIELDS OF STUDY - OVERVIEW

GRADUATION TRENDS¹

Trends by Qualification Type

The number of qualifications² that were awarded by South African universities grew at a steady pace over the review period, the decade from 1995 to 2004. The total number of qualifications awarded per year increased from 67 013 in 1995 to 98 029 in 2004. This constitutes an average annual growth rate of 4.3%. Three-year first degrees increased from 19 418 in 1995 to 23 823 in 2004: an average annual increase of 2.3%, while there was a slight decline in the number of National Higher Diplomas or Post Graduate Diplomas awarded over the period. The highest growth in qualifications per year occurred in four-year first degrees (7.4%), honours degrees (6.8%) and master's degrees/diplomas (6.7%).

Graduation trends by type of qualification



Type of qualification	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Average annual growth (%)
National Diploma	14 423	16 356	16 630	16 675	16 495	14 795	16 358	17 500	17 885	20 262	3.8
First Degree 3 years	19 418	22 591	24 412	24 025	24 561	22 710	21 402	21 817	22 807	23 823	2.3
National Higher/Post Graduate Diploma	7 976	7 320	7 917	7 114	4 787	4 443	5 149	7 026	8 705	7 836	-0.2
First Degree 4 years (including B Tech)	12 115	13 121	14 912	15 920	19 245	20 895	18 879	19 049	19 517	23 031	7.4
Honours Degree	7 921	8 593	10 727	10 135	8 851	9 345	11 103	12 327	13 206	14 286	6.8
Master's Degree/Diploma	4 353	3 628	4 617	5 226	5 342	5 766	6 476	6 963	7 423	7 792	6.7
Doctoral Degree/Laureatus Diploma	807	618	748	844	783	807	841	981	1 014	999	2.4
Total	67 013	72 226	79 963	79 939	80 064	78 761	80 208	85 663	90 557	98 029	4.3

¹ The concept, 'graduation trends', refers to the number of qualifications conferred within a specific academic year, irrespective of the previous qualifications attained by the learners. Learners who have achieved more than one qualification in the period reflected in the statistics have been counted each time they have achieved a new qualification.

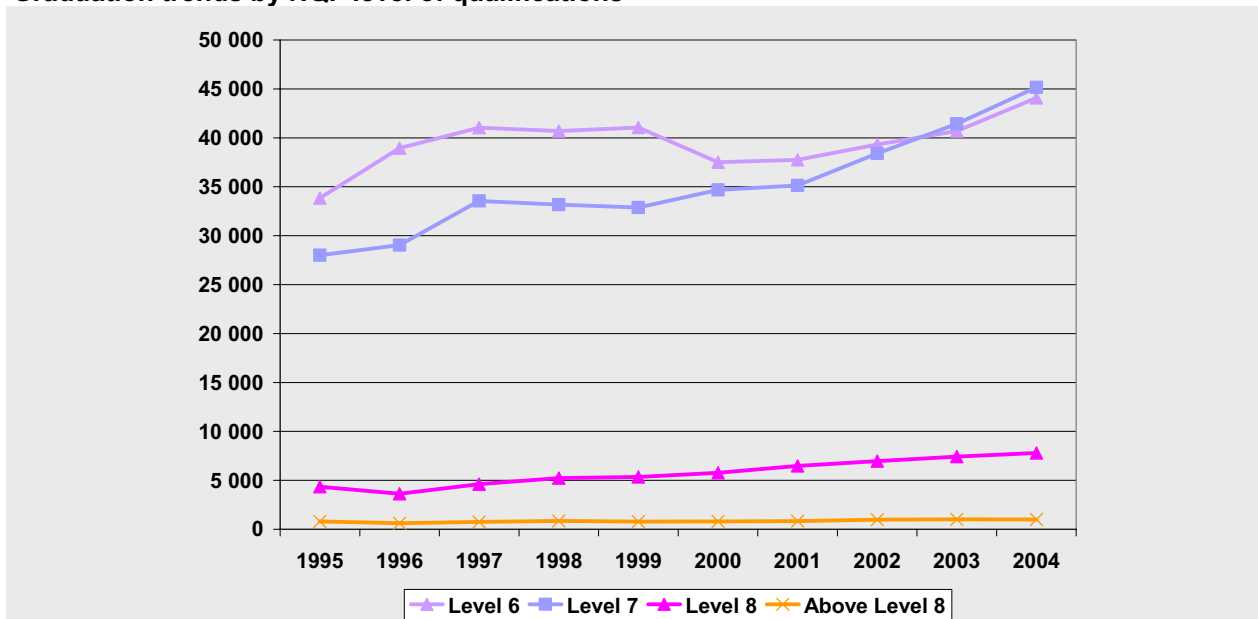
² The totals in this chapter will not necessarily correspond with the totals in the chapters where the separate fields are discussed. Some of the qualifications could not be coded into the respective fields of study, but they are included in this overview.

ALL FIELDS OF STUDY - OVERVIEW

Trends by NQF Level

The highest growth (6.7%) in the number of qualifications awarded between 1995 and 2004 occurred at Level 8 (Master's degrees/ diplomas). This was followed by Level 7 qualifications (5.4%). Level 6 qualifications grew by only 3.0% per year, although this growth occurred from a large base (33 841 qualifications in 1995). Qualifications above Level 8 also showed relatively low growth (2.4%).

Graduation trends by NQF level of qualifications

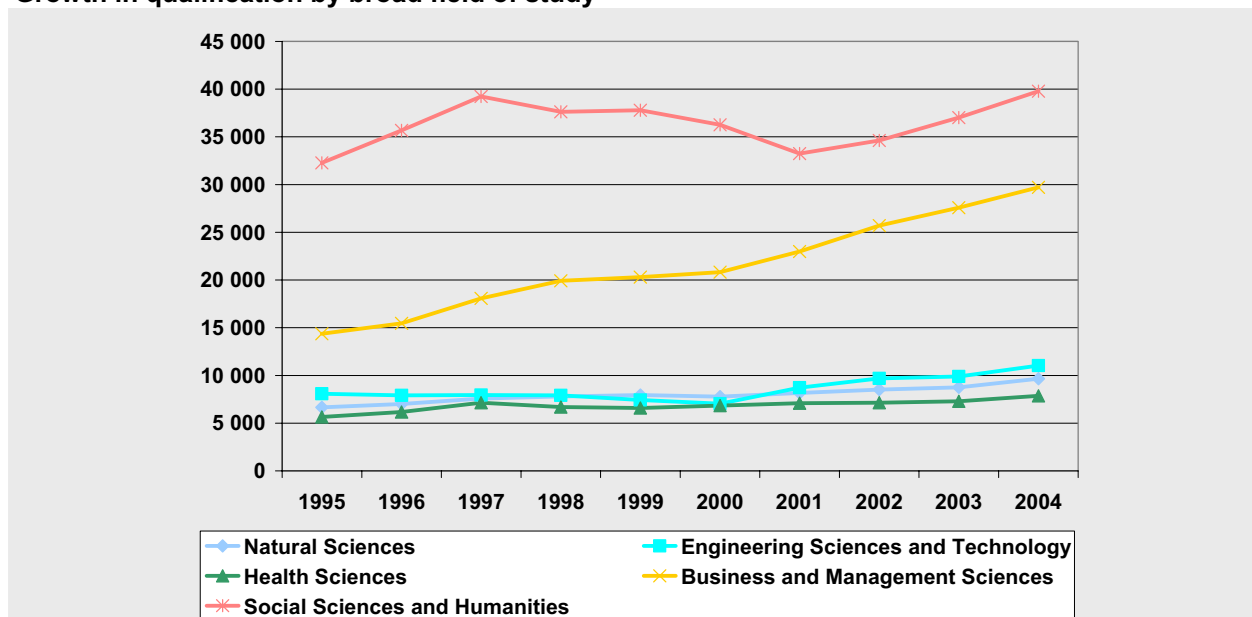


Level of qualification	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Average annual growth (%)
Level 6	33 841	38 947	41 042	40 700	41 056	37 505	37 760	39 317	40 692	44 085	3.0
Level 7	28 012	29 033	33 556	33 169	32 883	34 683	35 131	38 402	41 428	45 153	5.4
Level 8	4 353	3 628	4 617	5 226	5 342	5 766	6 476	6 963	7 423	7 792	6.7
Above Level 8	807	618	748	844	783	807	841	981	1 014	999	2.4
Total	67 013	72 226	79 963	79 939	80 064	78 761	80 208	85 663	90 557	98 029	4.3

Trends by Broad Field of Study³

The highest growth (8.4%) in the number of qualifications awarded between 1995 and 2004 occurred in the broad study field of Business and Management Sciences. This was followed by the Natural Sciences (4.2%), Health Sciences (3.7%) and Engineering Sciences and Technology (3.5%). Social Sciences showed the lowest annual growth (2.4%) over the period. However, this growth occurred from a large base (32 267 qualifications in 1995), while Health Sciences and Natural Sciences grew from bases of approximately one-fifth that of Social Sciences.

Growth in qualification by broad field of study



Broad field	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Average annual growth (%)
Natural Sciences	6 662	7 004	7 578	7 788	7 943	7 785	8 173	8 510	8 754	9 650	4.2
Engineering Sciences and Technology	8 079	7 917	7 944	7 918	7 428	7 047	8 720	9 685	9 897	11 038	3.5
Health Sciences	5 642	6 165	7 136	6 687	6 595	6 847	7 088	7 149	7 297	7 858	3.7
Business and Management Sciences	14 363	15 466	18 070	19 925	20 310	20 816	22 986	25 705	27 584	29 702	8.4
Social Sciences and Humanities	32 267	35 675	39 236	37 622	37 788	36 266	33 241	34 614	37 025	39 781	2.4
Total	67 013	72 226	79 963	79 939	80 064	78 761	80 208	85 663	90 557	98 029	4.3

³ Broad field of study refers to the five broad fields used to group the information in this book. The five fields are Natural Sciences; Engineering Sciences and Technology; Health Sciences Business and Management Sciences; and Social Sciences and Humanities.

ALL FIELDS OF STUDY - OVERVIEW

Trends by Population Group

The proportion of all qualifications awarded by South African universities to African, coloured and Indian (Black) learners increased from 44.9% in 1995 to 63.7% in 2004. However Black graduates' share decreased as the level of qualification awarded increased. For example, by 2004 more than two-thirds of the graduates who received qualifications at Level 6 were Black, 63.4% at Level 7 and only 47.7% at Level 8 and above. This was, however, an increase of 25.3%, while the other levels showed increases of just over 18%.

More than two-thirds of all qualifications awarded in the Social Sciences and Humanities in 2004 went to Black graduates.

Most professional qualifications, for example engineers, medical practitioners and accountants, are awarded on Level 7. The broad fields with the highest growth in Black graduates' share at Level 7 between 1995 and 2004 were Engineering Sciences and Technology: Black graduates' share increased from 18.9% in 1995 to 51.7% in 2004. In Business and Management Sciences their share increased from 19.6% in 1995 to 50.2% in 2004.

Black graduates' share in qualifications awarded according to broad field of study: 1995 and 2004

Broad field	Percentage of qualifications awarded to Black learners							
	Level 6		Level 7		Level 8 and above		Total	
	1995	2004	1995	2004	1995	2004	1995	2004
Natural Sciences	38.8	66.0	33.1	57.3	17.7	45.8	34.5	61.0
Engineering Sciences and Technology	26.9	74.6	18.9	51.7	15.1	37.9	22.1	63.3
Health Sciences	57.6	74.5	43.9	60.1	18.2	49.7	43.9	62.0
Business and Management Sciences	34.5	67.4	19.6	50.2	13.0	42.0	29.0	60.5
Social Sciences and Humanities	65.8	62.7	60.7	71.8	31.7	52.7	60.8	67.2
Total	48.4	67.2	45.3	63.4	22.4	47.7	44.9	63.7

Trends by Gender

Women gradually increased their share in the qualifications awarded over the decade under review. In 1994, 47.9% of all university qualifications were awarded to female graduates. Women's share increased to 56.0% of all qualifications awarded in 2004.

In 2004, women had the highest share (58.7%) in the total number of qualifications awarded at Level 7, while their share in the total number of qualifications on Level 8 and above was 43.1%. Women are still largely underrepresented in the broad field of Engineering Sciences and Technology (26% in 2004).

Women's share in qualifications awarded according to broad field of study: 1995 and 2004

Broad field	Percentage of qualifications awarded to Women learners							
	Level 6		Level 7		Level 8 and above		Total	
	1995	2004	1995	2004	1995	2004	1995	2004
Natural Sciences	50.2	57.2	44.9	51.2	34.7	42.9	46.7	53.7
Engineering Sciences and Technology	19.0	28.9	11.3	23.0	16.8	19.6	15.0	26.0
Health Sciences	62.4	79.6	64.7	73.2	44.6	60.1	62.3	73.1
Business and Management Sciences	44.7	57.0	40.2	48.4	20.8	30.2	41.8	52.6
Social Sciences and Humanities	57.8	63.8	57.9	66.4	48.1	50.8	57.1	64.1
Total	48.8	55.8	49.1	58.7	36.6	43.1	47.9	56.0

AVAILABILITY⁴

Availability by Qualification Type

The total pool of university graduates under the age of 65 grew by 116.9%, from 542 398 in 1994 to 1 176 496 in 2004. The largest component of the pool of graduates was those with three-year first degrees (286 329 graduates in 2004). The group that showed the highest growth (195.7%) was that of graduates with national diplomas while the graduates with doctoral degrees or laureatus diplomas grew by only 59.3%.

Growth in the number of graduates according to type of highest qualification: 1994 - 2004

Type of qualification	1994	2004	Growth (%)
National Diploma	76 684	226 741	195.7
First Degree 3 years	144 835	286 329	97.7
National Higher/Post Graduate Diploma	66 744	114 466	71.5
First Degree 4 years (including B Tech)	115 022	264 420	129.9
Honours Degree	87 635	177 036	102.0
Master's Degree/ Diploma	41 009	90 822	121.5
Doctoral Degree/ Laureatus Diploma	10 469	16 682	59.3
Total	542 398	1 176 496	116.9

Availability by NQF Level and Broad Field of Study⁵

The total number of university graduates grew by 116.9% from the end of 1994 to the end of 2004. Highest growth occurred at Level 6 (131.6%). At Level 7 the growth in the number of graduates was 106.4% while nearly the same overall growth occurred at Level 8 and above (108.8%), although growth took place from a much smaller base.

The broad field of study with the highest overall growth in graduates (153.8%) was Business and Management Sciences. From 1994, the Level 6 graduates in Business and Management Sciences grew by 164.4% and the Level 7 graduates by 146.2%. Social Sciences also showed high growth (118.1%) while growth in the Natural Sciences (99.8%), Engineering Sciences and Technology (92.0%) and Health Sciences (91.6%) was moderate.

Graduates with Level 6 qualifications in Engineering Sciences and Technology grew by 141.9%. However, those with Level 7 qualifications (i.e. engineering professionals and technologists) grew by only 60.8% from 1994.

⁴ Availability refers to the number of individuals with their highest qualifications in a particular field – the “pool”. In this chapter graduates were counted only once. The broad fields of study reflect the fields in which their highest qualifications were obtained. Similarly, the qualification types and NQF levels reflect the highest qualifications of the individuals. Availability was counted at the end of the years 1994 and 2004.

⁵ Broad field of study refers to the five broad fields used to group the information in this book. The five fields are Natural Sciences; Engineering Sciences and Technology; Health Sciences; Business and Management Sciences; and Social Sciences and Humanities.

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Growth in the number of graduates according to broad field of study: 1994 - 2004

Broad field	Level 6			Level 7			Level 8 and above			Total		
	1994	2004	Growth (%)	1994	2004	Growth (%)	1994	2004	Growth (%)	1994	2004	Growth (%)
Natural Sciences	25 612	56 624	121.1	20 672	38 590	86.7	9 807	16 882	72.1	56 091	112 097	99.8
Engineering Sciences and Technology	27 009	65 348	141.9	41 258	66 359	60.8	6 255	11 356	81.5	74 522	143 062	92.0
Health Sciences	12 286	24 715	101.2	42 869	80 828	88.5	6 057	11 760	94.2	61 211	117 303	91.6
Business and Management Sciences	63 391	167 627	164.4	35 787	88 091	146.2	11 085	24 086	117.3	110 263	279 803	153.8
Social Sciences and Humanities	93 221	198 756	113.2	128 815	282 054	119.0	18 273	43 421	137.6	240 309	524 230	118.1
Total	221 519	513 070	131.6	269 401	555 922	106.4	51 478	107 504	108.8	542 398	1 176 496	116.9

Availability by Population Group

At the beginning of the ten-year period under review, black graduates constituted only 23.8% of the pool of university graduates under the age of 65. Since then the situation has changed dramatically. By 2004, Black graduates' overall share of the pool had increased to 46.3%. The increase in Black graduates can be ascribed mainly to an increase in the number of African graduates. However Black graduates' share decreased as the level of qualification increased. For example, 51.7% of all graduates whose highest qualifications were at Level 6 were Black, but only 27.1% of the pool of graduates with their highest qualifications at Level 8 and above was Black.

Black graduates were the best represented (56.3%) in the Social Sciences and Humanities while only 31.2% of all graduates with highest qualifications in Engineering Sciences and Technology were Black by 2004.

Black graduates as percentage of all graduates⁶: 1994 and 2004

Broad field of study	Level 6		Level 7		Level 8 and above		Total	
	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004
Natural Sciences	23.9	47.0	13.4	34.7	6.4	23.0	16.9	39.1
Engineering Sciences and Technology	17.7	42.4	7.9	22.4	4.4	17.2	11.2	31.2
Health Sciences	42.8	60.2	22.4	40.2	8.5	24.7	25.3	43.0
Business and Management Sciences	19.1	47.9	10.2	30.5	4.5	20.2	14.7	40.0
Social Sciences and Humanities	38.1	58.5	33.1	58.0	13.1	35.7	33.4	56.3
Total	28.7	51.7	22.8	45.1	8.4	27.1	23.8	46.3

Availability by Gender

By the end of 2004, women constituted 48.4% of the total pool of graduates under the age of 65 with university qualifications. Of the total number of graduates with highest qualifications on Level 6 and Level 7, almost half were female.

From 1994, the highest growth in women's share of qualifications occurred in the broad field of Business and Management Sciences. Women remained a relatively small proportion of graduates in Engineering Sciences and Technology: in 2004 they formed only 16.0% of the graduates in this field.

Women as percentage of all graduates⁷: 1994 and 2004

Broad field of study	Level 6		Level 7		Level 8 and above		Total	
	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004
Natural Sciences	46.6	51.7	35.8	42.4	24.5	35.4	38.8	46.1
Engineering Sciences and Technology	15.5	20.8	7.2	11.7	8.0	13.5	10.3	16.0
Health Sciences	68.6	74.5	51.0	60.7	27.1	42.3	52.2	61.7
Business and Management Sciences	37.5	48.5	23.6	37.5	9.3	20.5	30.1	42.6
Social Sciences and Humanities	53.6	56.9	54.9	60.1	39.8	48.0	53.3	57.9
Total	44.4	49.8	41.3	49.6	25.0	35.6	41.0	48.4

⁶ The figures in the table include all graduates whose population group was known.

⁷ The figures in the table include all graduates whose gender was known.