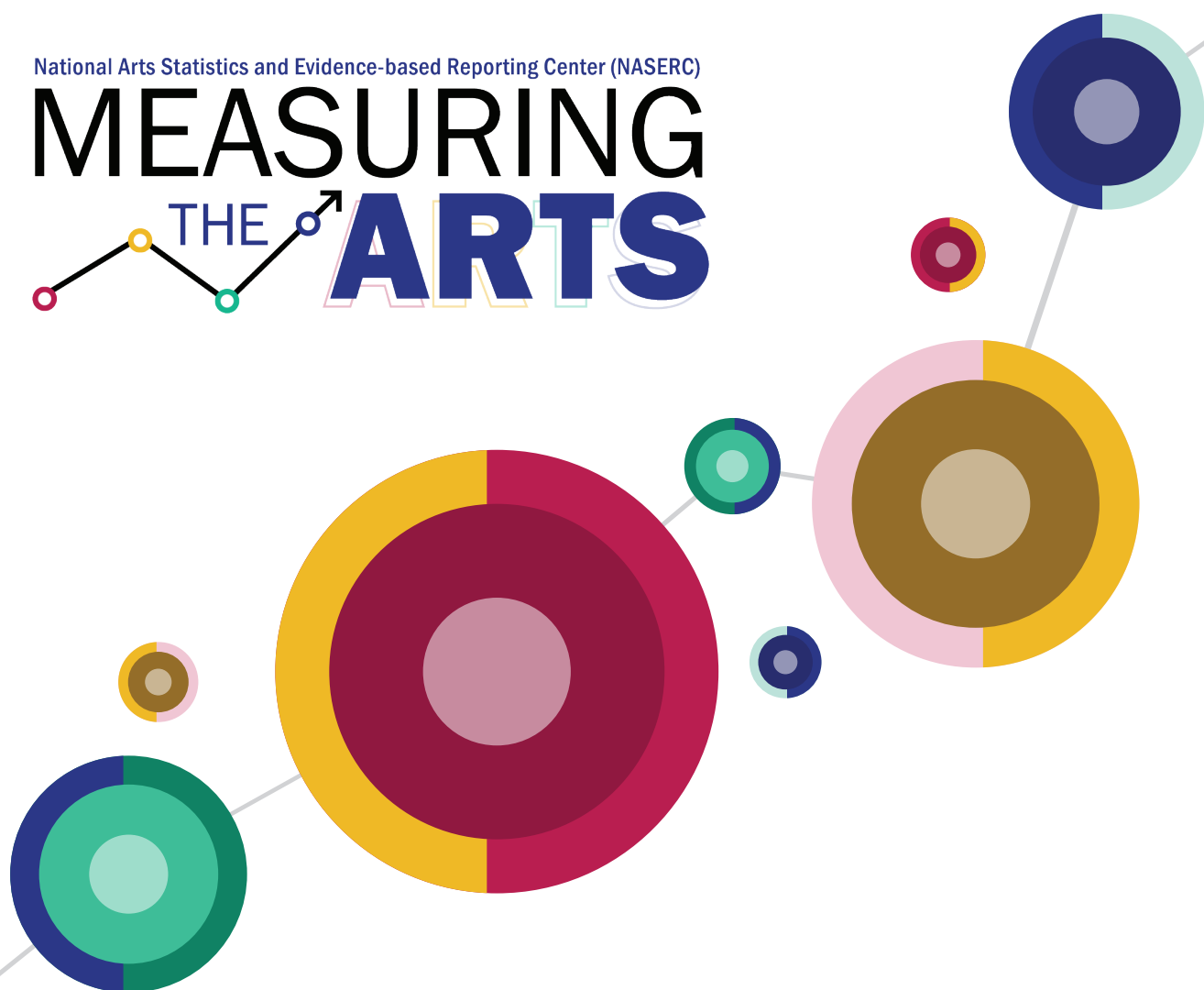


National Arts Statistics and Evidence-based Reporting Center (NASERC)

MEASURING THE ARTS



Domain D

Arts and Education



Indicator D.1: **Who Majors in the Arts?**

Introduction

Postsecondary degrees are the required or preferred entrance qualifications for many arts careers. Two other indicators in the series—**Indicator A.1: Who Are the Artists?** and **Indicator A.2: Who Are the Other Cultural Workers?**—show that artists and other cultural workers in the U.S. labor force are more likely to have a bachelor’s degree or master’s degree or higher than the labor force in general. Thus, the numbers of postsecondary degrees awarded in arts and cultural fields of study may reflect young adults’ aspirations for careers in artistic or other cultural worker occupations.¹ Indicator D.1 looks at the number and percentage of postsecondary degrees awarded in arts and cultural fields of study, which include the visual and performing arts as well as other arts-related fields of study such as arts education, architecture, creative arts therapies, and creative writing. The final section highlights the number and characteristics of degree recipients in the fields of art, music, dance, and drama teacher education. More information on the selection and definitions of arts and cultural fields of

study are provided in *Definition of arts and cultural fields of study*. Another indicator in this series—

Indicator A.4: What Do Artists and Other Cultural Workers Study as Undergraduates?—presents the fields of study that artists and other cultural workers majored in for their bachelor’s degrees and the occupations held by bachelor’s degree recipients in visual and performing arts fields using data from the American Community Survey.

Number and type of postsecondary degrees in arts and cultural fields of study

In 2021–22,² postsecondary institutions in the United States awarded 4.1 million associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. Of those, 127,160 (or 3 percent) were in visual and performing arts fields of study and 161,320 (4 percent) were in other arts-related fields of study (**Figure D1-1** and see **Table D1-1**). Within the visual and performing arts, 19,430 were associate’s degrees, 90,200 were bachelor’s degrees, 15,730 were master’s degrees, and 1,760 were doctoral degrees. Within other arts-related fields of study, 15,690 were associate’s degrees, 115,400 were bachelor’s degrees, 29,110 were master’s degrees, and 1,120 were doctoral degrees.

Between 2010–11 and 2021–22, the total number of postsecondary degrees awarded rose from 3.6 million to 4.1 million (an increase of 16 percent).³ The number of degrees awarded in other arts-related fields of study also grew during this time, but the increase was more modest. Postsecondary institutions awarded 155,110 degrees in other arts-related fields in 2010–11 and 161,320 degrees in 2021–22 (an increase of 4 percent). For the visual and performing arts, the number of postsecondary degrees awarded decreased from 133,260 to 127,160 (a 5 percent decrease) over the 11-year period.

Definition of arts and cultural fields of study

The fields of study selected for analysis in Indicator D.1 include the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) visual and performing arts category and subcategories as well as certain additional fields of study (“other arts-related fields of study”) deemed relevant to the artist labor force. Other arts-related fields of study represent relatively high shares of the artist labor force, as shown by the American Community Survey (ACS). Those fields of study are architecture and architectural engineering; art, dance, and music therapy; art, music, dance, and drama teacher education; communication and communications technologies; computer software and media applications; rhetoric, composition, and creative writing; and religious/sacred music.



¹ For more information on the definitions of artists and other cultural workers, see **Indicator A.1: Who Are the Artists?** and **Indicator A.2: Who Are the Other Cultural Workers?**

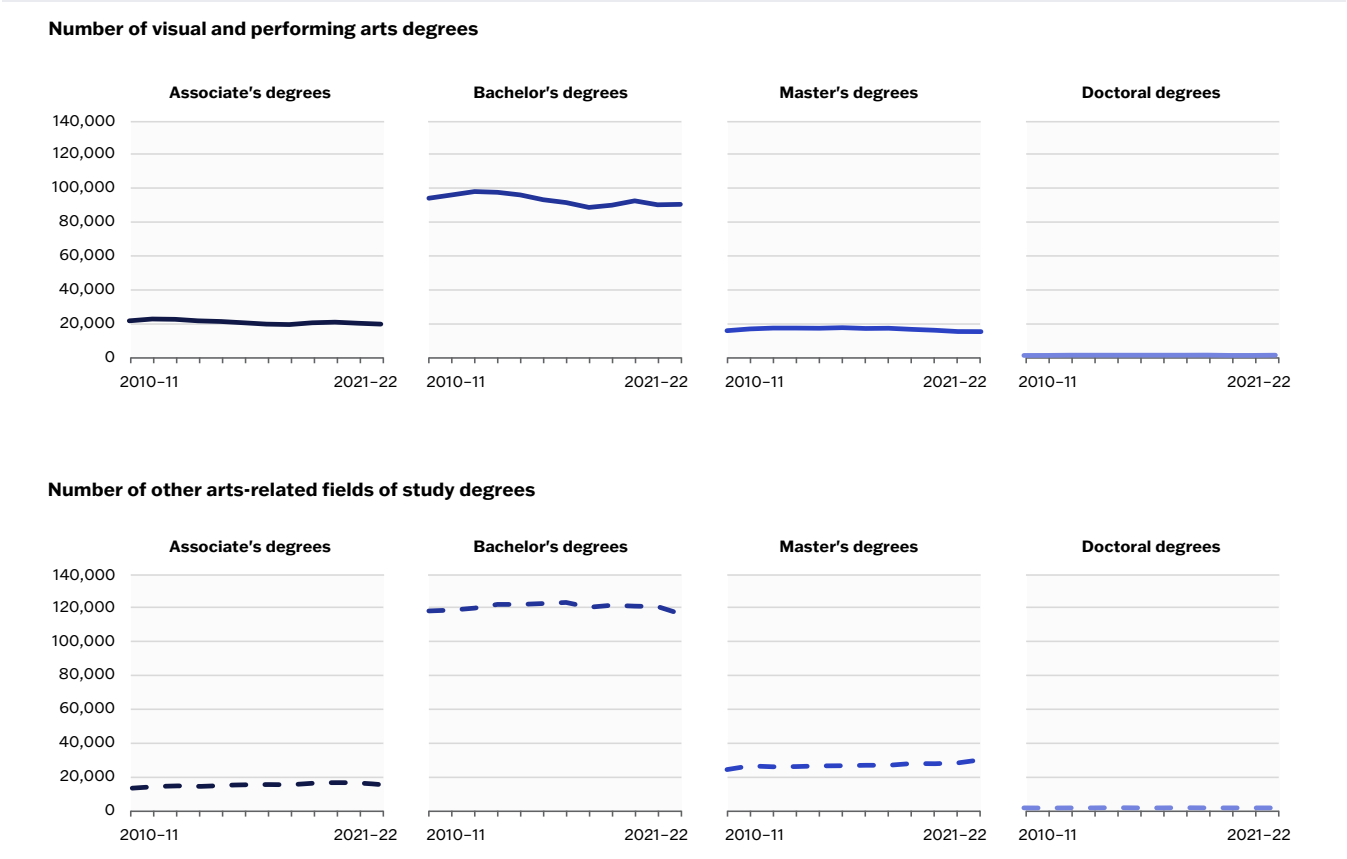
² Postsecondary institutions report all degrees and other awards conferred during an entire reporting period, from July 1 of one calendar year through June 30 of the following year.

³ Differences between estimates (including trends over time) are significant because they are based on administrative data and therefore not subject to statistical testing based on sampling theory. For more information, see *The Arts in the United States: Developing Key National Indicators of Arts Activity* technical report.

The changes in numbers of degrees awarded between 2010–11 and 2021–22 varied by degree level. Institutions awarded 21,390 associate’s degrees in visual and performing arts fields of study in 2010–11 and 19,430 associate’s degrees in these fields in 2021–22 (a decrease of 9 percent). In this same 11-year period, the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded in

visual and performing arts fields went from 93,940 to 90,240 (a decrease of 4 percent), and the number of master’s degrees in these fields decreased from 16,280 to 15,730 (a decrease of 3 percent). In contrast, the number of doctoral degrees awarded in visual and performing arts fields increased from 1,650 in 2010–11 to 1,760 in 2021–22 (an increase of 7 percent).

Figure D1-1. Number of postsecondary degrees awarded in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study, by education level: 2010–11 to 2021–22



NOTE: Estimates are for degrees conferred to U.S. citizens and nonresident aliens. Postsecondary institutions report all degrees and other awards conferred during an entire reporting period, from July 1 of one calendar year through June 30 of the following year. Degrees awarded in visual and performing arts fields of study include all degrees awarded in the visual and performing arts field of study (CIP 50.0000) and subfields. Degrees awarded in other arts-related fields of study include all degrees awarded in architecture and architectural engineering (CIP 4.000, 14.401, and 15.0101); communication and communications technologies (CIP 9.0000 and 10.0000); art, music, dance, and drama teacher education (CIP 13.1302, 13.12, and 13.1324); computer software and media applications (CIP 11.801, 11.802, 11.803, 11.804, 11.899, and 11.1004); rhetoric, composition, and creative writing (CIP 23.1304 and 23.1302); art, dance, and music therapy (CIP 51.2301, 51.2302, and 51.2305); and religious/sacred music (CIP 39.0501).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2011–Fall 2022.

Differences in degrees awarded in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study



The overwhelming majority of postsecondary degrees awarded in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study in 2021–22 were bachelor's degrees. Of all postsecondary degrees in visual and performing arts fields of study, 71 percent were bachelor's degrees. In all other arts-related fields of study, 72 percent of degrees awarded were bachelor's degrees. By comparison, bachelor's degrees accounted for 49 percent of all postsecondary degrees awarded in 2021–22.

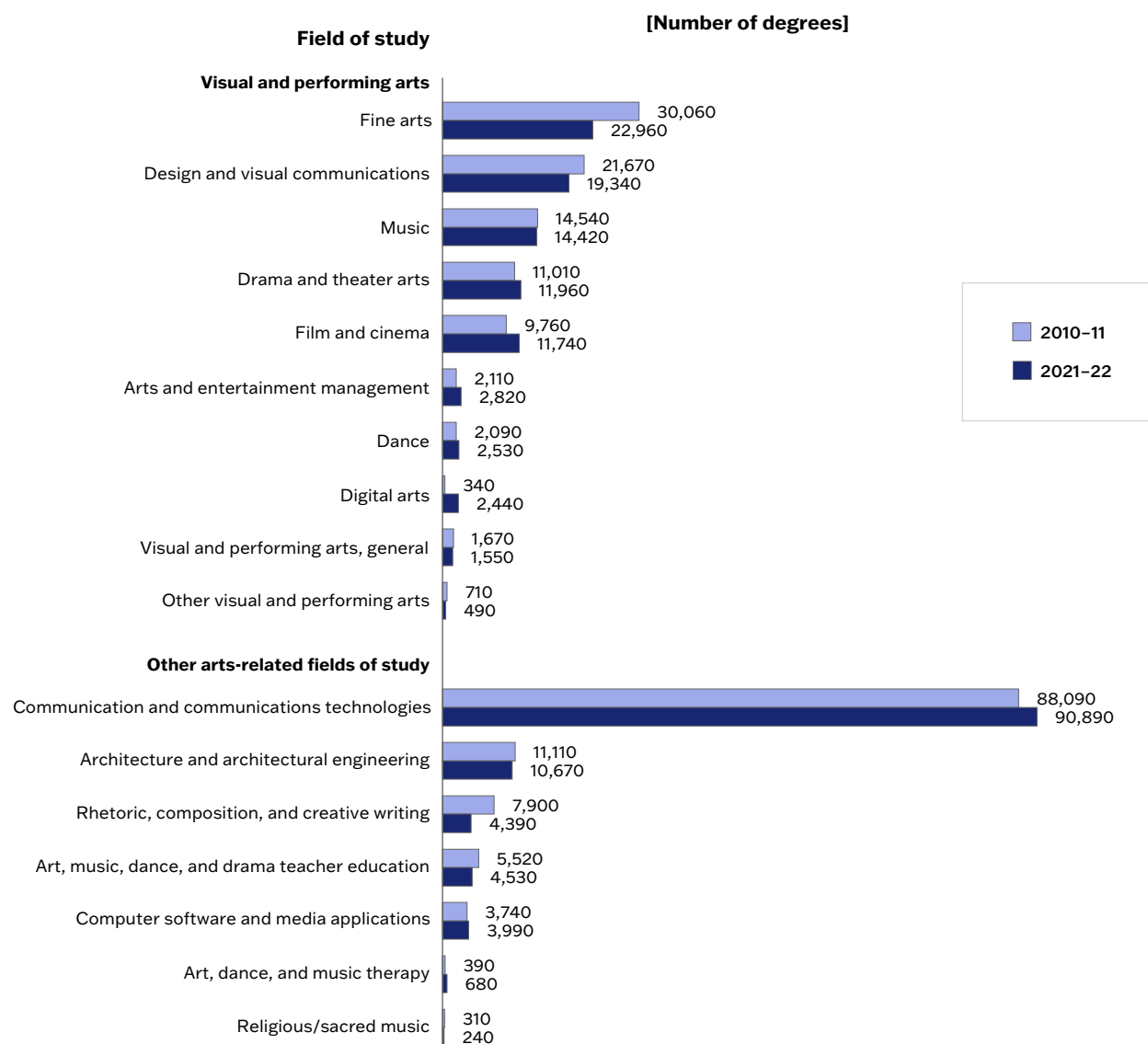
The largest number of bachelor's degrees within visual and performing arts fields of study in 2021–22 was awarded in the fine arts (22,960), followed by design and visual communications (19,340), and music (14,420; **Figure D1-2**). Consistent with the overall trend in visual and performing arts fields of study, the number of bachelor's degrees in these fields of study has decreased since 2010–11. Over the 11-year period, institutions awarded just over 7,000 fewer bachelor's degrees in the fine arts (a 24 percent decrease), 2,330 fewer bachelor's degrees in design and visual communications (an 11 percent decrease), and 120 fewer bachelor's degrees in music (a 1 percent decrease).

However, some visual and performing arts fields of study witnessed increases in bachelor's degrees awarded during this 11-year period. Postsecondary institutions awarded 2,100 more bachelor's degrees in

digital arts in 2021–22 than in 2010–11 (a 618 percent increase), 1,970 more degrees in film and cinema (a 20 percent increase), and 950 more degrees in drama and theater arts (a 9 percent increase). While the numbers of bachelor's degrees awarded in art and entertainment management and dance remain relatively low (both fewer than 3,000 degrees in 2021–22), the two fields experienced substantial growth in terms of percentage change (increases of 34 percent and 21 percent, respectively).

Among other arts-related fields of study in 2021–22, the largest number of bachelor's degrees was awarded in communication and communications technologies (90,890 degrees), followed by architecture and architectural engineering (10,670 degrees); art, music, dance, and drama teacher education (4,530 degrees); and rhetoric, composition, and creative writing (4,390 degrees). The number of communication and communications technologies bachelor's degrees increased by 2,810 (3 percent) between 2010–11 and 2021–22. The largest percent increase in bachelor's degrees awarded was in the field of art, dance, and music therapy, which increased from just 390 degrees in 2010–11 to 680 degrees in 2021–22 (an increase of 77 percent). Conversely, rhetoric, composition, and creative writing remained one of the largest other arts-related fields of study, but one that experienced both the largest absolute and percentage decrease in this period, from 7,900 bachelor's degrees awarded in 2010–11 to 4,390 in 2021–22 (a 44 percent decrease). Postsecondary institutions also awarded 18 percent fewer bachelor's degrees in art, music, dance, and drama teacher education during this period.

Figure D1-2. Number of bachelor's degrees awarded in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study: 2010–11 and 2021–22



NOTE: Estimates are for degrees conferred to U.S. citizens and nonresidents. Postsecondary institutions report all degrees and other awards conferred during an entire reporting period, from July 1 of one calendar year through June 30 of the following year.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2011 and Fall 2022.

Differences in degrees awarded in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study, by demographic characteristics



There were many clear patterns across visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study by sex. In 2021–22, bachelor’s degree recipients in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study were more likely to be female (**Figure D1-3**). Among bachelor’s degree recipients in the visual and performing arts, 63 percent were female, and 37 percent were male. Among bachelor’s degree recipients in other arts-related fields, 61 percent were female, and 39 percent were male. This is a slight change from 2010–11, when females were awarded 61 percent of bachelor’s degrees in visual and performing arts fields of study and 60 percent in other arts-related fields of study. The proportion of females receiving bachelor’s degrees in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study was also higher than the overall proportion of females receiving bachelor’s degrees in all fields in 2021–22 (59 percent).

Within the visual and performing arts fields in 2021–22, the largest difference by sex in bachelor’s degrees awarded was in dance (89 percent female). Females received the majority of bachelor’s degrees in all visual and performing arts fields of study except for film and cinema (47 percent) and music (46 percent). Digital arts and arts and entertainment management saw the largest increases in the proportion of females receiving bachelor’s degrees in 2021–22, compared to 2010–11. In both fields, females went from receiving fewer bachelor’s degrees than males to receiving the majority of degrees awarded (34 percent to 52 percent in digital arts and 48 percent to 58 percent in arts and entertainment management).

Among other arts-related fields of study more generally, the largest difference by sex in bachelor’s degrees in 2021–22 was in art, dance, and music therapy (89 percent of degrees were awarded to females), followed by rhetoric, composition, and creative writing (70 percent) and art, music, dance, and drama teacher education (65 percent). The greatest change in the proportion of bachelor’s degrees awarded to females between 2010–11 and 2021–22 was in the computer software and media applications field. While females did not comprise the majority of bachelor’s degree recipients in this field in 2021–22 (42 percent), the proportion had increased by 15 percentage points from 2010–11, when females received just 27 percent of bachelor’s degrees in this field.

There were also several differences in the distribution of bachelor’s degree recipients in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study by race/ethnicity. In 2021–22, the majority of bachelor’s degree recipients in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study were White, but the proportions have decreased since 2010–11. In 2010–11, 76 percent of visual and performing arts bachelor’s degree recipients were White, compared to 61 percent 11 years later (**Figure D1-4**). Among those awarded bachelor’s degrees in visual and performing arts fields of study in 2021–22, 61 percent were White, 17 percent were Hispanic, 9 percent were Black, 7 percent were Asian, 5 percent were of two or more races, and fewer than 1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native or Pacific Islander. Similarly, among bachelor’s degree recipients in arts-related fields of study more generally, 62 percent were White, 17 percent were Hispanic, 11 percent were Black, 6 percent were Asian, 5 percent were of two or more races, and fewer than 1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native or Pacific Islander.

Figure D1-3. Percentage distribution of bachelor's degrees in visual and performing arts and other arts-related fields of study, by sex: 2010–11 and 2021–22

Total, all degrees

2010–11	43%	57%
2021–22	41%	59%

Total, visual and performing arts

2010–11	39%	61%
2021–22	37%	63%

Total, other arts-related fields

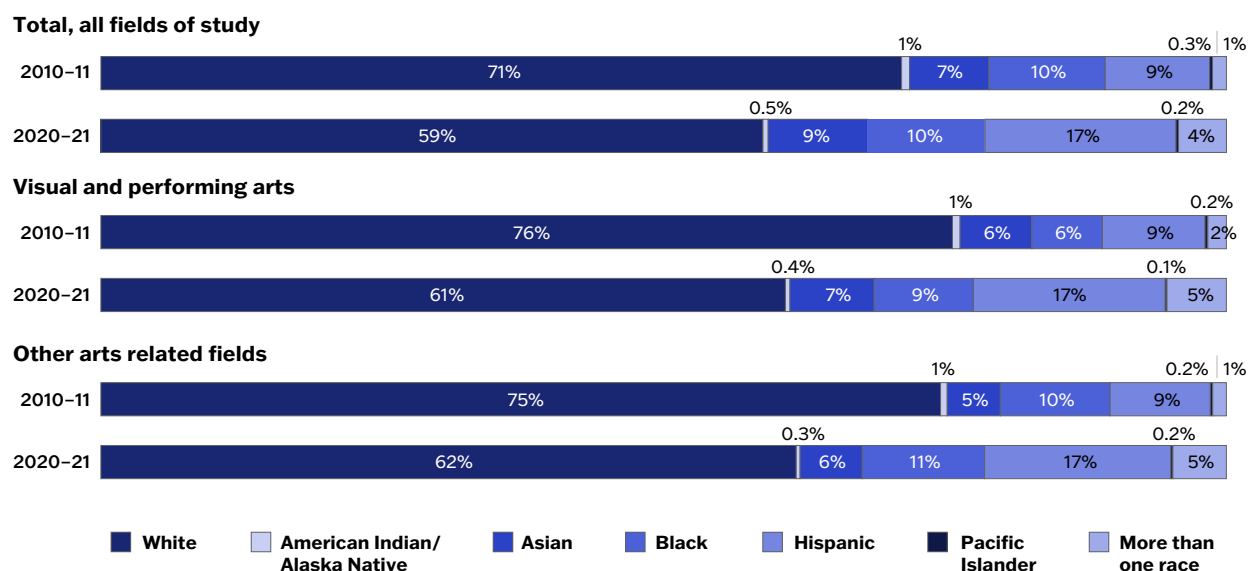
2010–11	40%	60%
2021–22	39%	61%

Field of study	Year	Male	Female
Dance	2010–11	12%	88%
	2021–22	11%	89%
Fine arts	2010–11	29%	71%
	2021–22	27%	73%
Design and visual communications	2010–11	33%	67%
	2021–22	29%	71%
Visual and performing arts, general	2010–11	37%	63%
	2021–22	35%	65%
Drama and theater arts	2010–11	38%	62%
	2021–22	35%	65%
Other visual and performing arts	2010–11	39%	61%
	2021–22	36%	64%
Arts and entertainment management	2010–11	52%	48%
	2021–22	42%	58%
Music	2010–11	54%	46%
	2021–22	54%	46%
Film and cinema	2010–11	61%	39%
	2021–22	53%	47%
Digital arts	2010–11	66%	34%
	2021–22	48%	52%
Architecture and architectural engineering	2010–11	61%	39%
	2021–22	52%	48%
Communication and communication technologies	2010–11	37%	63%
	2021–22	37%	63%
Art, music, dance, and drama teacher education	2010–11	33%	67%
	2021–22	35%	65%
Computer software and media applications	2010–11	73%	27%
	2021–22	58%	42%
Rhetoric, composition, and creative writing	2010–11	35%	65%
	2021–22	30%	70%
Art, dance, and music therapy	2010–11	13%	87%
	2021–22	11%	89%
Religious/sacred music	2010–11	55%	45%
	2021–22	49%	51%

NOTE: Estimates are for degrees conferred to U.S. citizens and nonresidents. Postsecondary institutions report all degrees and other awards conferred during an entire reporting period, from July 1 of one calendar year through June 30 of the following year.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2011 and Fall 2022.

Figure D1-4. Percentage distribution of bachelor's degrees awarded to U.S. citizens in visual and performing arts, other arts-related fields, and all fields of study, by race/ethnicity: 2010–11 and 2021–22



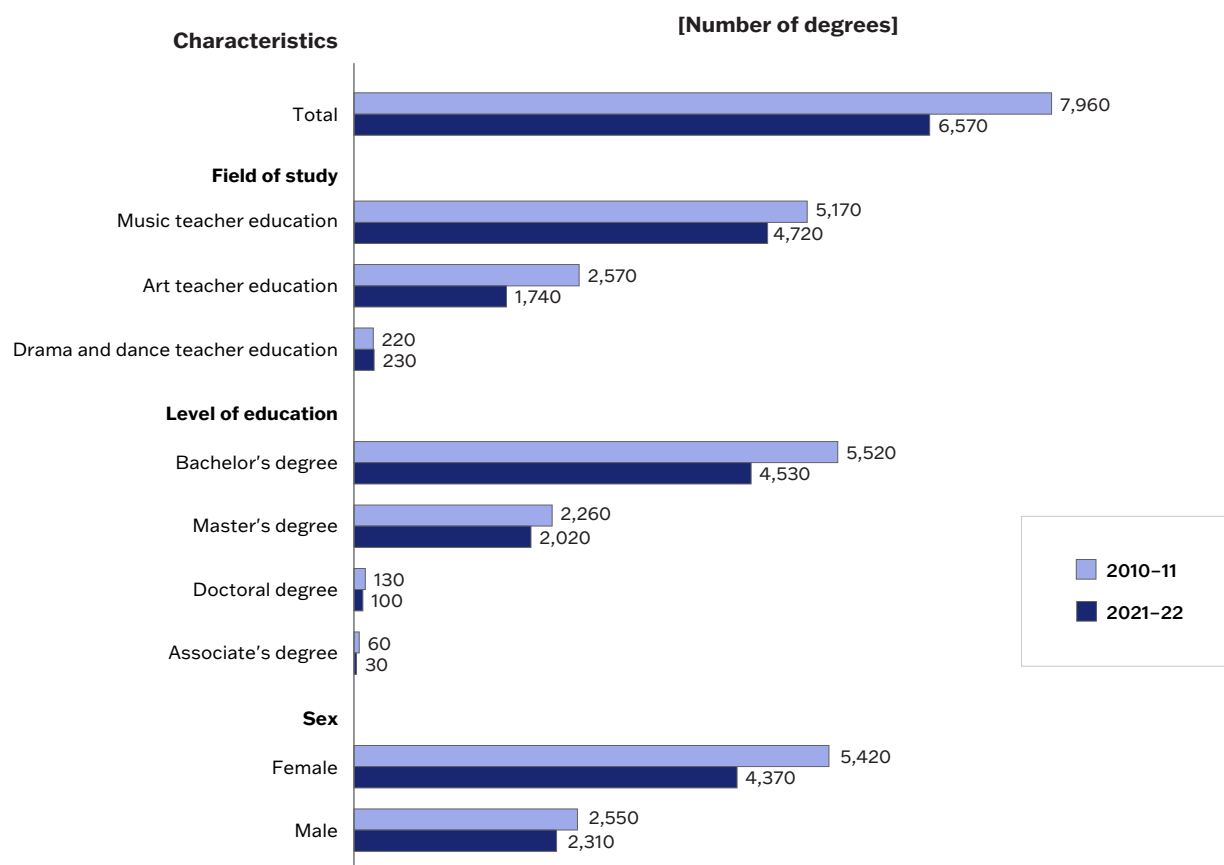
NOTE: Data on race/ethnicity available only for U.S. citizens. Postsecondary institutions report all degrees and other awards conferred during an entire reporting period, from July 1 of one calendar year through June 30 of the following year. Race groups are mutually exclusive; persons of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2011 and Fall 2022.

Field of study highlight: Art, music, dance, and drama teacher education

Teachers of the arts, whether at the elementary, secondary, or postsecondary educational levels, facilitate their students' development of artistic talent and depth of appreciation for the arts. The arts teacher workforce is described in **Indicator D.2: Who Teaches the Arts in Schools?** It is also of value to explore who is graduating with degrees in art, music, dance, and drama teacher education. In 2021–22, approximately 6,680 total postsecondary degrees were awarded in

art, music, dance, and drama teacher education. The number represents a decrease of 16 percent from 2010–11 (**Figure D1-5**). Of these 6,680 total postsecondary degrees, 1,740 were awarded in art teacher education, 4,720 in music teacher education, and 230 in drama and dance teacher education. The majority of art, music, dance, and drama teacher education degrees were at the bachelor's degree level (4,530, or 68 percent of all degrees in this field). In addition, degree recipients in art, music, dance, and drama teacher education were almost two times more likely to be female than male (65 percent versus 35 percent).

Figure D1-5. Characteristics of art, music, dance, and drama teacher education degree recipients: 2010–11 and 2021–22



NOTE: Estimates are for degrees conferred to U.S. citizens and nonresidents. Postsecondary institutions report all degrees and other awards conferred during an entire reporting period, from July 1 of one calendar year through June 30 of the following year.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2011 and Fall 2022.

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