

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia



Progress in Meeting Degree Production in Data Science & Technology, Education, Healthcare, and Science & Engineering

August 2026



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OVERVIEW

Beginning in 2018, the General Assembly of Virginia has appropriated \$28.4 million annually to increase degree production in Data Science and Technology, Science and Engineering, Healthcare and Education (STEM-H) fields across 14 of the Commonwealth's public four-year institutions. The General Assembly has included language that details corresponding requirements and expectations for each institution in the appropriation act since 2018. Collectively, the funding aims to produce an annual total of 880 new bachelors, masters, doctoral and first professional degrees above the 2016-2017 academic year baseline of approximately 22,000. As Virginia's coordinating body for higher education, SCHEV is mandated to track each institution's progress and reports to the chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees annually.

Since 2017, awardee institutions have produced 5,506 additional STEM-H degrees. However, growth trends have varied both by degree field and institution. Degree production in Data Science and Technology has grown consistently under the initiative, increasing by 99% between 2017 and 2025, whereas other fields have seen fluctuating trends over the same period. Notably, the number of degrees awarded in Science and Engineering has declined by 0.7% and those in Education declined by 7.9% from their 2017 levels.

Across institutions, rates of degree production also have skewed.

- In **Data Science and Technology** fields, the combined increase in awards from the University of Virginia (UVA) and Virginia Tech (VT) account for 50.5% of total growth for the Commonwealth, while that from George Mason University (GMU) accounts for another 22.7%.
- Degree production in **Education** has increased consistently at both James Madison University (JMU) and UVA, while other institutions experienced less predictable award rates. Christopher Newport University (CNU), Norfolk State University (NSU), Old Dominion University (ODU), Virginia State University (VSU), and VT decreased degree awards annually.
- Radford University (RU) has contributed considerably to growth in **Healthcare** degrees following its 2020 merger with the Jefferson College of Health Science.
- VT continues to see the largest growth in **Science and Engineering** degree production, followed by GMU. However, Longwood University (LU), NSU and ODU reduced degree awards over the 2017 level annually since the funding began.

The following narrative, tables and charts describe the total awards produced by area/field and institution within the context of the General Assembly's goals.

Awards by Field

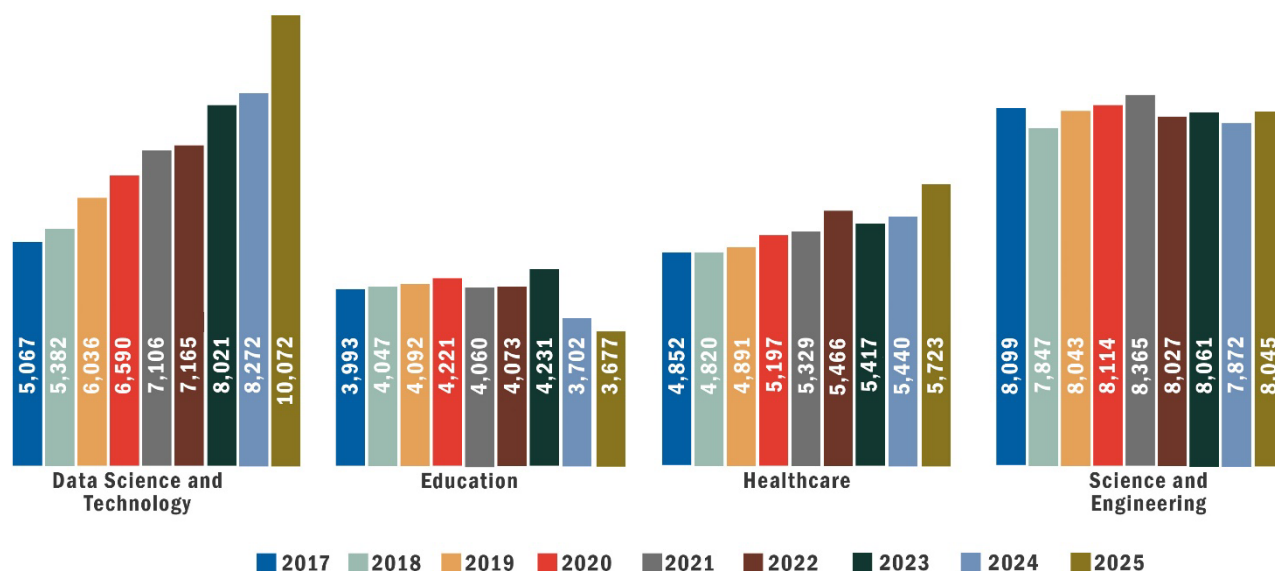
Cumulative award production in STEM-H fields grew by 5,506 awards from the 2017 baseline to 2025.

Table 1. Total Degrees Awarded, 2017-2025

Area (2 Digt CIP Code)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Data Science and Tech (11,14,27,52)	5,067	5,382	6,036	6,590	7,106	7,165	8,021	8,272	10,072
Education (13)	3,993	4,047	4,092	4,221	4,060	4,073	4,231	3,702	3,677
Healthcare (51)	4,852	4,820	4,891	5,197	5,329	5,466	5,417	5,440	5,723
Science and Engineering (14*)	8,099	7,847	8,043	8,114	8,365	8,027	8,061	7,872	8,045
Grand Total	22,011	22,096	23,062	24,122	24,860	24,731	25,730	25,286	27,517

*Excludes CIP 14.0901, 14.0903, and 14.1001 as they are reported as data science and technology degrees.

Chart 1: Annual Degree Awarded by STEM-H Field, 2017-2025

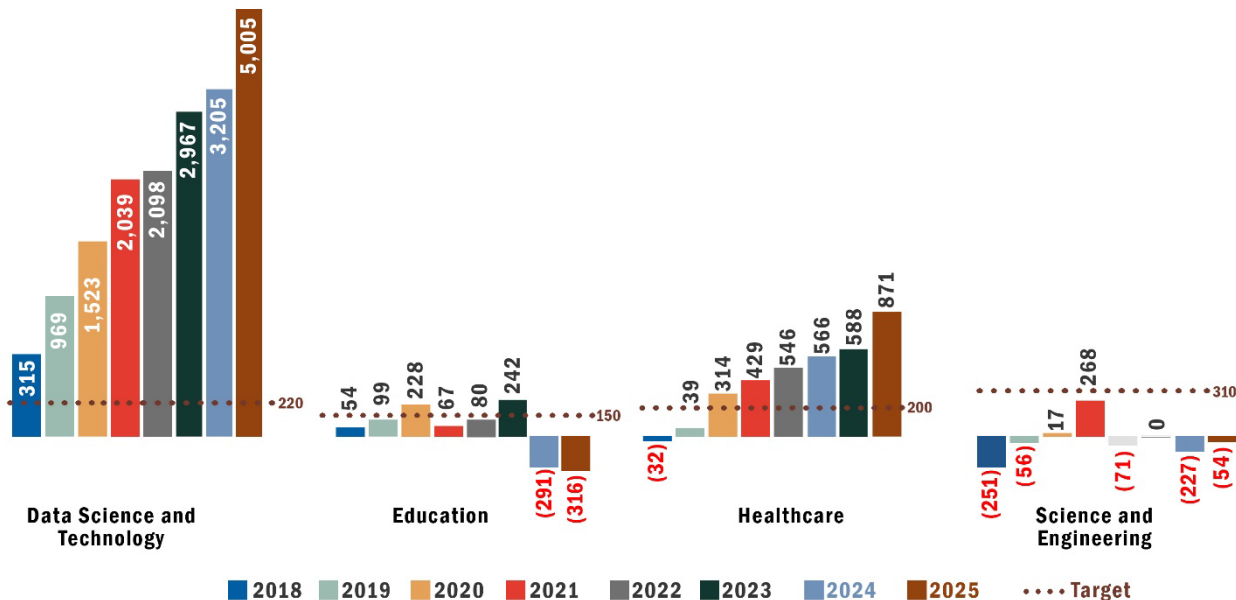


*Excludes CIP 14.0901, 14.0903, and 14.1001 as they are reported as data science and technology degrees.

Data Science and Technology fields have produced the highest increases in awards, growing by 99% from baseline production, followed by healthcare (18%). Each of these fields has experienced relatively consistent growth over the period of implementation, with both fields exceeding their respective targets beginning in 2020. Awards in Education and Science and Engineering programs, meanwhile, have declined by 7.9% and 0.7%, respectively from their 2017 levels. While statewide Education degree awards met anticipated targets in 2020 and 2023, they have otherwise fallen below expected levels. Numbers for Science and Engineering have consistently failed to meet target figures.

The following compares annual degree production for each field since 2017 against its target. A table comparing actual awards against targets in numeric form can be found in the Appendix.

Chart 2: Actual v. Expected Change in STEM-H Degree Production, 2017-2025



Awards by Institution

Half of participating institutions (GMU, JMU, ODU, RU, UVA, VT and WM) have increased total production in STEM-H fields since 2017. Another five institutions (LU, NSU, University of Mary Washington (UMA), VCU and VSU) total production in 2025 were below their 2017 levels of no more than 10%. Two institutions, CNU and Virginia Military Institute (VMI), declined 2025-degree production by more than 10% from their 2017 levels.

Many institutions had enrollment decreases during the pandemic period. The good news is that many institutions have increased their enrollments since 2023. However, CNU and VMI enrollments in 2025 were still below their 2017 levels. Enrollments affect the degree productions. Institutions experiencing steady enrollment growth have contributed to their higher degree production in STEM-H fields. For instance, GMU and VT each increased their undergraduate enrollment by approximately 4,000 students between 2017 and 2025.

Table 2. Total Awards of STEM-H Degrees by Institution, 2017-2025

Inst.	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CNU	396	379	405	385	427	369	414	336	342
GMU	3,698	3,913	4,148	4,369	4,628	4,254	4,481	4,465	4,732
JMU	1,973	2,018	2,019	2,170	2,247	2,125	2,160	2,134	2,169
LU	322	342	326	323	334	413	346	374	316
NSU	388	348	260	278	257	300	301	290	362
ODU	3,060	2,983	2,900	2,879	2,892	2,847	2,843	2,771	3,265
RU	700	678	745	1,059	1,035	1,016	1,059	964	983
UMW	357	327	356	424	390	410	349	330	320
UVA	2,589	2,690	3,042	3,212	3,438	3,647	3,816	3,732	4,720
VCU	3,110	3,043	3,215	3,190	3,220	3,179	3,014	2,964	3,058
VMI	183	226	183	180	203	191	141	174	144
VSU	308	287	266	264	246	235	266	259	276
VT	4,158	4,064	4,443	4,585	4,757	4,737	5,637	5,515	5,739
WM	769	798	754	804	786	1,013	959	978	1,091
Total	22,011	22,096	23,062	24,122	24,860	24,736	25,786	25,286	27,517

Table 3 shows each institution's annual degree production as it relates to the corresponding anticipated number of degrees produced over the 2017 baseline. The data reflects the individual institutional experiences described above.

Table 3. Actual v. Expected Change in STEM-H Degree Production over Base Year 2017, by Institution

	Expected Total Annual Increase	2017 Base Year	2018 Annual Change over 2017	2019 Annual Change over 2017	2020 Annual Change over 2017	2021 Annual Change over 2017	2022 Annual Change over 2017	2023 Annual Change over 2017	2024 Annual Change over 2017	2025 Annual Change over 2017
CNU	20	396	(17)	9	(11)	31	(27)	18	(60)	(54)
GMU	160	3,698	215	450	671	930	556	783	767	1,034
JMU	85	1,973	45	46	197	274	152	187	161	196
LU	15	322	20	4	1	12	91	24	52	(6)
NSU	20	388	(40)	(128)	(110)	(131)	(88)	(87)	(98)	(26)
ODU	125	3,060	(77)	(160)	(181)	(168)	(213)	(217)	(289)	205
RU	30	700	(22)	45	359	335	316	359	264	283
UMW	10	357	(30)	(1)	67	33	53	(8)	(27)	(37)
UVA	80	2,589	101	453	623	849	1,058	1,227	1,143	2,131
VCU	110	3,110	(67)	105	80	110	69	(96)	(146)	(52)
VMI	10	183	43	0	(3)	20	8	(42)	(9)	(39)
VSU	15	308	(21)	(42)	(44)	(62)	(73)	(42)	(49)	(32)
VT	160	4,158	(94)	285	427	599	579	1,479	1,357	1,581
WM	40	769	29	(15)	35	17	244	190	209	322
Total	880	22,011	85	1,051	2,111	2,849	2,725	3,775	3,275	5,506

Finally, the following data sets depict degree production by institutions and compare those figures to their respective targets for each field.

Table 4.1 Annual Awards in Data Science and Technology

Inst.	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
CNU	107	109	129	130	147	126	163	124	134
GMU	1,313	1,434	1,527	1,683	1,876	1,723	1,863	2,063	2,284
JMU	297	312	317	365	359	318	333	327	365
LU	26	29	29	30	19	21	24	20	21
NSU	85	82	59	77	65	95	81	81	96
ODU	382	420	442	477	514	521	641	730	872
RU	93	92	108	69	82	75	65	51	54
UMW	74	69	90	92	75	84	72	85	96
UVA	572	590	956	1,203	1,306	1,326	1,597	1,586	2,511
VCU	454	456	441	464	476	517	399	419	508
VMI	38	64	55	50	58	57	35	56	47
VSU	79	76	60	70	75	59	79	66	67
VT	1,320	1,400	1,592	1,608	1,774	1,854	2,332	2,313	2,579
WM	227	249	231	272	280	389	350	351	438
Total	5,067	5,382	6,036	6,590	7,106	7,165	8,034	8,272	10,072

Table 4.2 Annual Award Change over 2017 Base Year in Data Science and Technology

Inst.	Expected Annual Increase	2018 Annual Change over 2017	2019 Annual Change over 2017	2020 Annual Change over 2017	2021 Annual Change over 2017	2022 Annual Change over 2017	2023 Annual Change over 2017	2024 Annual Change over 2017	2025 Annual Change over 2017
CNU	5	2	22	23	40	19	56	17	27
GMU	50	121	214	370	563	410	550	750	971
JMU	10	15	20	68	62	21	36	30	68
LU		3	3	4	(7)	(5)	(2)	(6)	(5)
NSU	5	(3)	(26)	(8)	(20)	10	(4)	(4)	11
ODU	15	38	60	95	132	139	259	348	490
RU	5	(1)	15	(24)	(11)	(18)	(28)	(42)	(39)
UMW		(5)	16	18	1	10	(2)	11	22
UVA	20	18	384	631	734	754	1,025	1,014	1,939
VCU	20	2	(13)	10	22	63	(55)	(35)	54
VMI	5	26	17	12	20	19	(3)	18	9
VSU	5	(3)	(19)	(9)	(4)	(20)	0	(13)	(12)
VT	60	80	272	288	454	534	1,012	993	1,259
WM	20	22	4	45	53	162	123	124	211
Total	220	315	969	1,523	2,039	2,098	2,967	3,205	5,005

Table 5.1 Annual Awards in Education

Inst.	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
CNU	70	77	60	52	49	47	56	34	32
GMU	907	954	1,026	1,115	1,053	834	869	769	769
JMU	325	362	334	386	372	396	488	416	406
LU	111	137	86	116	167	217	188	213	170
NSU	71	70	69	43	36	37	37	37	48
ODU	708	663	615	602	608	586	611	491	475
RU	286	264	285	294	276	239	296	180	225
UMW	120	106	106	133	113	119	108	83	61
UVA	314	358	404	388	349	482	483	396	382
VCU	559	552	655	652	659	627	585	579	551
VMI									
VSU	116	115	85	76	56	98	109	100	114
VT	261	214	206	190	182	171	162	182	198
WM	145	175	161	174	140	225	243	222	246
Total	3,993	4,047	4,092	4,221	4,060	4,078	4,235	3,702	3,677

Table 5.2 Annual Award Change over 2017 Base Year in Education

Inst.	Expected Annual Increase	2018 Annual Change over 2017	2019 Annual Change over 2017	2020 Annual Change over 2017	2021 Annual Change over 2017	2022 Annual Change over 2017	2023 Annual Change over 2017	2024 Annual Change over 2017	2025 Annual Change over 2017
CNU		7	(10)	(18)	(21)	(23)	(14)	(36)	(38)
GMU	40	47	119	208	146	(73)	(38)	(138)	(138)
JMU	15	37	9	61	47	71	163	91	81
LU	5	26	(25)	5	56	106	77	102	59
NSU	5	(1)	(2)	(28)	(35)	(34)	(34)	(34)	(23)
ODU	30	(45)	(93)	(106)	(100)	(122)	(97)	(217)	(233)
RU	10	(22)	(1)	8	(10)	(47)	10	(106)	(61)
UMW	5	(14)	(14)	13	(7)	(1)	(12)	(37)	(59)
UVA	10	44	90	74	35	168	169	82	68
VCU	20	(7)	96	93	100	68	26	20	(8)
VMI									
VSU	5	(1)	(31)	(40)	(60)	(18)	(7)	(16)	(2)
VT		(47)	(55)	(71)	(79)	(90)	(99)	(79)	(63)
WM	5	30	16	29	(5)	80	98	77	101
Total	150	54	99	228	67	85	242	(291)	(316)

Table 6.1 Annual Awards in Healthcare

Inst.	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
CNU									
GMU	700	701	726	744	831	798	872	799	796
JMU	976	979	1,011	1,042	1,087	1,034	983	1,044	1,007
LU	112	115	143	112	106	135	99	110	88
NSU	103	92	71	73	59	76	87	85	140
ODU	1,004	964	890	853	855	904	795	808	1,103
RU	188	210	218	553	563	610	603	654	627
UMW	22	30	40	52	48	55	39	37	48
UVA	508	534	524	532	552	589	563	543	527
VCU	1,197	1,159	1,203	1,153	1,145	1,115	1,148	1,147	1,166
VMI									
VSU				0		1	5	2	5
VT	42	36	65	83	83	149	224	211	216
WM									
Total	4,852	4,820	4,891	5,197	5,329	5,466	5,418	5,440	5,723

Table 6.2 Annual Award Change over 2017 Base Year in Healthcare

	Expected Annual Increase	2018 Annual Change over 2017	2019 Annual Change over 2017	2020 Annual Change over 2017	2021 Annual Change over 2017	2022 Annual Change over 2017	2023 Annual Change over 2017	2024 Annual Change over 2017	2025 Annual Change over 2017
CNU									
GMU	35	1	26	44	131	98	172	99	96
JMU	45	3	35	66	111	58	7	68	31
LU	5	3	31	0	(6)	23	(13)	(2)	(24)
NSU	5	(11)	(32)	(30)	(44)	(27)	(16)	(18)	37
ODU	40	(40)	(114)	(151)	(149)	(100)	(209)	(196)	99
RU	10	22	30	365	375	422	415	466	439
UMW		8	18	30	26	33	17	15	26
UVA	20	26	16	24	44	81	55	35	19
VCU	40	(38)	6	(44)	(52)	(82)	(49)	(50)	(31)
VMI									
VSU						0	4	1	4
VT		(6)	23	41	41	107	182	169	174
WM									
Total	200	(32)	39	345	477	613	565	587	870

Table 7.1 Annual Awards in Science and Engineering*

Inst.	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
CNU	219	193	216	203	231	196	195	178	176
GMU	778	824	869	827	868	899	877	834	883
JMU	375	365	357	377	429	377	356	347	391
LU	73	61	68	65	42	40	35	31	37
NSU	129	104	61	85	97	92	96	87	78
ODU	966	936	953	947	915	836	796	742	815
RU	133	112	134	143	114	92	95	79	77
UMW	141	122	120	147	154	152	130	125	115
UVA	1,195	1,208	1,158	1,089	1,231	1,250	1,173	1,207	1,300
VCU	900	876	916	921	940	920	882	819	833
VMI	145	162	128	130	145	134	106	118	97
VSU	113	96	121	118	115	77	73	91	90
VT	2,535	2,414	2,580	2,704	2,718	2,563	2,919	2,809	2,746
WM	397	374	362	358	366	399	366	405	407
Total	8,099	7,847	8,043	8,114	8,365	8,027	8,099	7,872	8,045

Note: *Excludes CIP 14.0901, 14.0903, and 14.1001 as they are reported as Data Science and Technology degree awards.

Table 7.2 Annual Award Change over 2017 Base Year in Science and Engineering Fields*

Inst.	Expected Annual Increase	2018 Annual Change over 2017	2019 Annual Change over 2017	2020 Annual Change over 2017	2021 Annual Change over 2017	2022 Annual Change over 2017	2023 Annual Change over 2017	2024 Annual Change over 2017	2025 Annual Change over 2017
CNU	15	(26)	(3)	(16)	12	(23)	(24)	(41)	(43)
GMU	35	46	91	49	90	121	99	56	105
JMU	15	(10)	(18)	2	54	2	(19)	(28)	16
LU	5	(12)	(5)	(8)	(31)	(33)	(38)	(42)	(36)
NSU	5	(25)	(68)	(44)	(32)	(37)	(33)	(42)	(51)
ODU	40	(30)	(13)	(19)	(51)	(130)	(170)	(224)	(151)
RU	5	(21)	1	10	(19)	(41)	(38)	(54)	(56)
UMW	5	(19)	(21)	6	13	11	(11)	(16)	(26)
UVA	30	13	(37)	(106)	36	55	(22)	12	105
VCU	30	(24)	16	21	40	20	(18)	(81)	(67)
VMI	5	17	(17)	(15)	0	(11)	(39)	(27)	(48)
VSU	5	(17)	8	5	2	(36)	(40)	(22)	(23)
VT	100	(121)	45	169	183	28	384	274	211
WM	15	(23)	(35)	(39)	(31)	2	(31)	8	10
Total	310	(252)	(56)	15	266	(72)	0	(227)	(54)

Note: *Excludes CIP 14.0901, 14.0903, and 14.1001 as they are reported as Data Science and Technology degree awards.

APPENDIX: ACTUAL V. EXPECTED ANNUAL AWARD CHANGE

Actual v. Expected Change in STEM-H Degree Production Over Base Year 2017, by Degree Field

*Excludes CIP 14.0901, 14.0903, and 14.1001 as they are reported as data science and technology degrees.

Year over 2016-17 Base	Awards & Change	Data Science & Tech (11,14,27,52)	Education (13)	Healthcare (51)	Science & Engineering (14*)	Grand Total
Expected Annual Increase		220	150	200	310	880
2018 Annual Change over 2017	#Awards	315	54	(32)	(252)	85
	%Change	6.2%	1.4%	-0.7%	-3.1%	0.4%
2019 Annual Change over 2017	#Awards	969	99	39	(56)	1,051
	%Change	19.1%	2.5%	0.8%	-0.7%	4.8%
2020 Annual Change over 2017	#Awards	1,523	228	345	15	2,111
	%Change	30.1%	5.7%	7.1%	0.2%	9.6%
2021 Annual Change over 2017	#Awards	2,039	67	477	266	2,849
	%Change	40.2%	1.7%	9.8%	3.3%	12.9%
2022 Annual Change over 2017	#Awards	2,098	85	614	(72)	2,725
	%Change	41.4%	2.1%	12.7%	-0.9%	12.4%
2023 Annual Change over 2017	#Awards	2,967	242	566	0	3,775
	%Change	58.6%	6.1%	11.7%	0.0%	17.2%
2024 Annual Change over 2017	#Awards	3,205	(291)	588	(227)	3,275
	%Change	63.3%	-7.3%	12.1%	-2.8%	14.9%
2025 Annual Change over 2017	#Awards	5,005	(316)	871	(54)	5,506
	%Change	98.8%	-7.9%	18.0%	-0.7%	25.0%