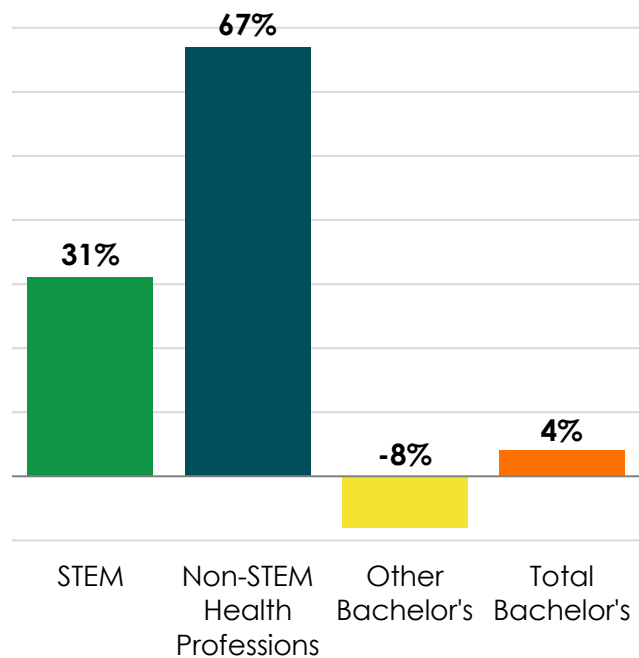


Bachelor's Degree Production Trends at Illinois Public Universities (2006-2016)

Over the last decade, bachelor's degree production in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)¹ and in the Health Professions² at Illinois Public Universities has significantly increased both in real numbers and in the proportion of all bachelor's degrees awarded. This is noteworthy as such degrees have been included in IBHE's performance funding formula as bonus metrics for a couple of reasons: 1) the expense associated with the academic programs, as many require laboratories, clinical settings, etc.; and 2) their importance to growing the Illinois economy.

- As shown in *Figure 1*, in 2016, Illinois public universities produced 31% more bachelor's degrees in STEM relative to 2006 (+2,141). In that same time, they also produced 67% more bachelor's degrees in the health professions (+1,066).
- As illustrated in *Figure 2*, in 2006, STEM and Health degrees accounted for just over one-quarter (26%) of all of the bachelor's degrees awarded by the public universities. However, in 2016, such degrees accounted for 35% of all bachelor's degrees awarded.
- More importantly, the proportional increase in STEM and Health degrees was accompanied by a 4% overall increase in the number of bachelor's degree awarded. In other words, STEM and Health degrees have become relatively larger pieces of a larger pie.

Figure 1
Relative Change in the Number of Bachelor's Degree Awarded at Illinois Public Universities: 2006 to 2016



¹ As defined by the United States Department of Homeland Security. Retrieved from: <http://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2014/stem-list.pdf>

² All programs with a 2-digit CIP code of 51 that aren't included in the STEM definition.

Figure 2

Bachelor's Degree Production at Illinois Public Universities from 2006 through 2016

