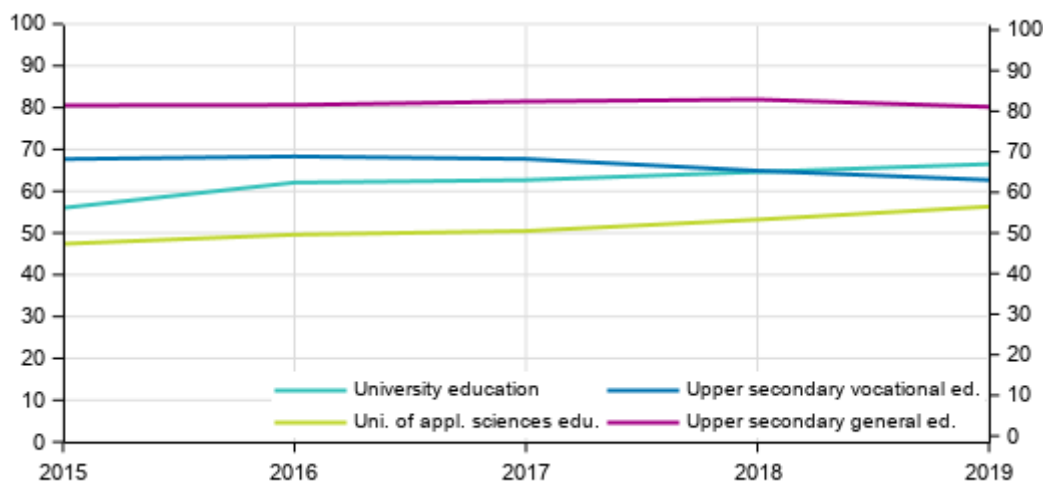


# Progress of studies 2019

## Completion of university of applied sciences education faster than before, large differences between sexes

According to Statistics Finland’s education statistics, completion of university of applied sciences education and university education accelerated. In turn, the completion of vocational education and upper secondary general school education slowed down. In all, 57 per cent of those having started studies completed a university of applied sciences degree in four-and-a-half years in 2019, while in the previous statistical year 53 per cent completed a university of applied sciences degree within the target period.

Pass rates by sector of education, %



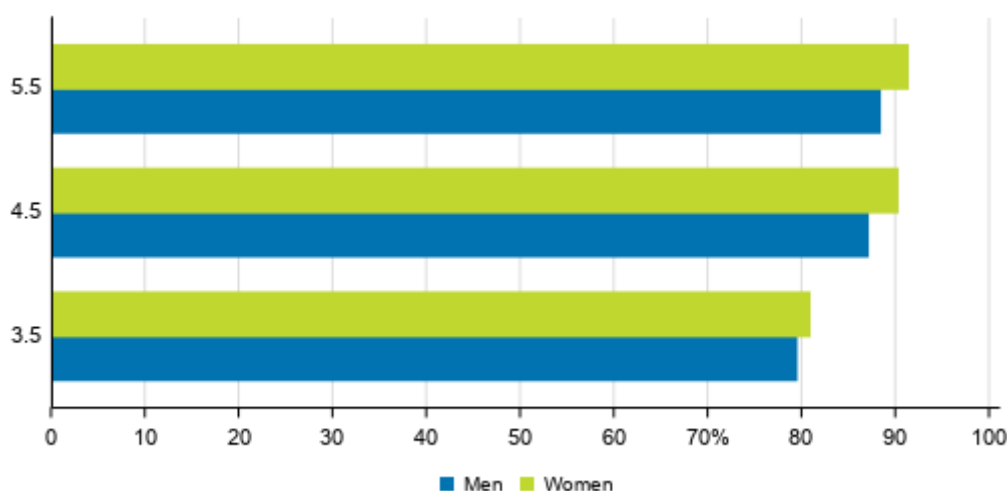
The pass rate tells how many per cent of those that started education have completed a qualification within the examined study time. The examined time is 3.5 years for upper secondary general and vocational education. 4.5 years for university of applied sciences education and 5.5 years for university education.

In upper secondary general school education, 80 per cent passed the matriculation examination in at most three-and-a-half years. The pass rate of upper secondary general school education is stable and a high percentage of those having started the education pass the examination. In 2015, altogether 81 per cent of those having started upper secondary general school education passed it, in which case the share of those having passed the education within the target period has fallen by one percentage point in five years. Of those having started initial vocational qualifications, 63 per cent completed a qualification within the target period, while 68 per cent completed a qualification within the target period in 2015. During the reference

period, the pass rate of initial vocational education was at its highest in 2016, when 68 per cent of the students having started the education completed it within the target period. The pass rate of initial vocational education has fallen for the past four statistical years in a row.

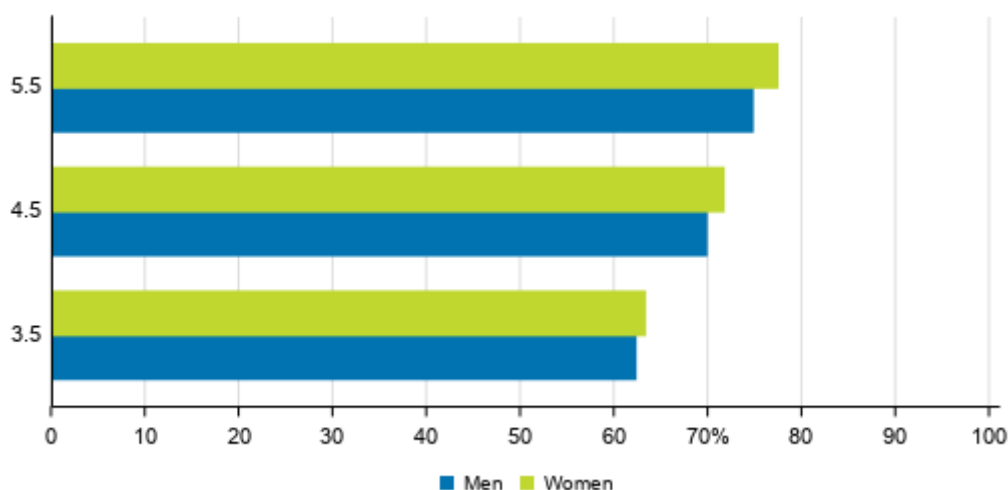
In 2019, more students completed both university of applied sciences education and university education than before. In all, 57 per cent of those having started university of applied sciences education completed it within the target period, while in 2015 the share of those having completed it within the target period was 47 per cent. The share of those having completed education within the target period has grown by ten percentage points in five years. Sixty-six per cent of university students completed a higher or lower university degree in at most five-and-a-half years. The pass rate of university education has grown by 10 percentage points in five years.

**Pass rates for upper secondary general education by gender in different reference periods in 2019**



According to the data for 2019, upper secondary general school education was completed typically in 3.5 to 4.5 years: Eighty per cent of new students in upper secondary general schools completed the upper secondary general school syllabus in at most three-and-a-half years and 89 per cent in at most four-and-a-half years. Men studying in upper secondary general school passed their qualifications slightly slower than women studying there did. Altogether 81 per cent of women and 79 per cent of men completed upper secondary general school education in three-and-a-half years, whereby the difference between the sexes was two percentage points. Ninety per cent of women and 87 per cent of men completed upper secondary general school education in four-and-a-half years, which meant that the difference between the sexes was three percentage points.

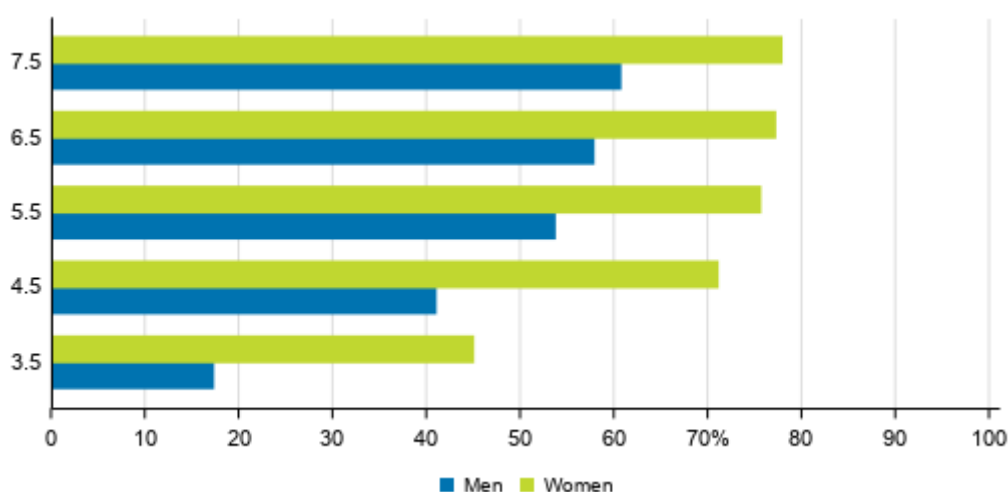
**Pass rates for initial vocational education by gender in different reference periods in 2019**



The duration of completing initial vocational education varies more than that of upper secondary general qualifications. Sixty-five per cent of vocational education students passed their vocational qualifications in three and a half years or faster. Seventy-three per cent of students completed their education in at most four and a half years

The completion time for vocational education varied between men and women. Sixty-two per cent of male students passed a vocational qualification in three-and-a-half years and 70 per cent in four-and-a-half years. Sixty-three per cent of female students passed a vocational qualification in three-and-a-half years and 72 per cent in four-and-a-half years.

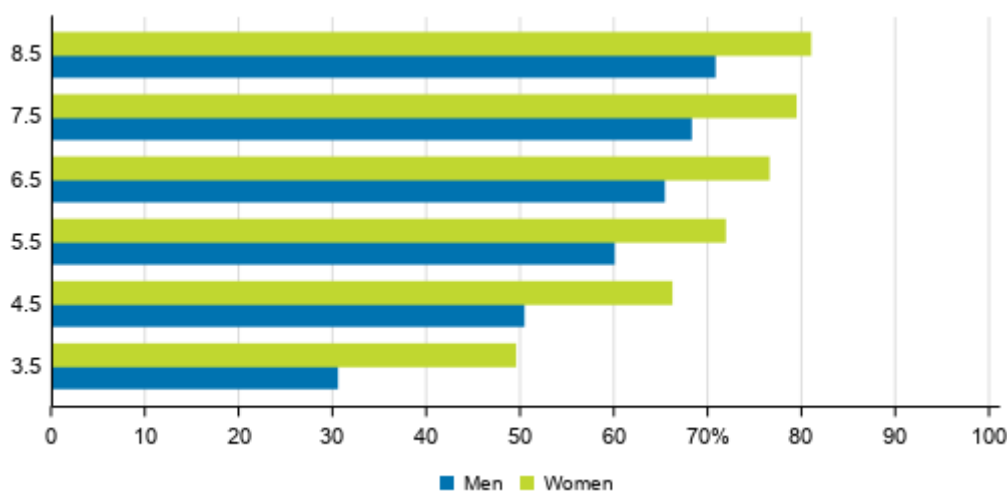
**Pass rates for university of applied sciences education by gender in different reference periods in 2019**



Fifty-seven per cent of those who started studying for a university of applied sciences degree completed their studies in four-and-a-half years. Sixty-five per cent of those having started studies completed a qualification in five-and-a-half years. Six-and-a-half years after starting studies the pass rate rose to 68 per cent.

There are large differences in attainment of university of applied sciences education between the genders. Forty-one per cent of men completed a qualification in four-and-a-half years and 71 per cent of women, so the difference between the pass rates was 30 percentage points. Men's pass rate rose to 54 per cent and women's to 76 per cent five-and-a-half years after starting studies. The difference in the pass rates was then 22 percentage points. Sixty-one per cent of men and 78 per cent of women completed education in seven-and-a-half years, that is, the difference between the pass rates was 17 percentage points.

**Pass rates for university education by gender in different reference periods in 2018**



Sixty-seven per cent of university students completed a higher or lower university degree in at most five-and-a-half years. The older the cohort of new students is examined, the higher the pass rate became: 74 per cent of students completed a higher or lower university degree in at most seven-and-a-half years.

As in university of applied sciences education, there were large differences between sexes in completing university education. Sixty per cent of male students and 72 per cent of female students had completed a higher or lower university degree in five-and-a-half years, so the difference between sexes in pass rates was 12 per cent. In at most seven-and-a-half years, 79 per cent of women and 68 per cent of men completed university education.

The database tables of these statistics contain information on the differences between the pass rates for different fields of sectors of education (see [Tables in databases](#)). The database tables also include information on those students who did not attain their qualification in the target time.

More statistics on student flow statistics. ([Discontinuation of education](#), [Employment of students](#)).

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## Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Progress of new upper secondary school students (aimed at young people) studies by end 2019**

Year of starting	New upper secondary school students, total	Completers of matriculation examination		New male students	Male completers of matriculation examination		New female students	Female completers of matriculation examination	
			%			%			%
2000	37 709	33 513	88,9	15 883	13 729	86,4	21 826	19 784	90,6
2001	36 957	32 851	88,9	15 580	13 536	86,9	21 377	19 315	90,4
2002	35 695	31 753	89,0	15 307	13 409	87,6	20 388	18 344	90,0
2003	36 714	32 604	88,8	15 764	13 736	87,1	20 950	18 868	90,1
2004	36 020	32 064	89,0	15 497	13 533	87,3	20 523	18 531	90,3
2005	35 065	31 259	89,1	15 243	13 394	87,9	19 822	17 865	90,1
2006	35 007	31 189	89,1	14 872	13 097	88,1	20 135	18 092	89,9
2007	34 510	30 751	89,1	14 436	12 723	88,1	20 074	18 028	89,8
2008	34 793	31 241	89,8	14 770	13 218	89,5	20 023	18 023	90,0
2009	34 064	30 515	89,6	14 509	12 861	88,6	19 555	17 654	90,3
2010	33 705	30 310	89,9	14 472	12 859	88,9	19 233	17 451	90,7
2011	32 897	29 733	90,4	14 194	12 682	89,3	18 703	17 051	91,2
2012	32 183	29 069	90,3	13 758	12 241	89,0	18 425	16 828	91,3
2013	31 884	28 707	90,0	13 391	11 906	88,9	18 493	16 801	90,9
2014	31 638	28 469	90,0	13 406	11 833	88,3	18 232	16 636	91,2
2015	32 103	28 514	88,8	13 494	11 737	87,0	18 609	16 777	90,2
2016	32 264	25 868	80,2	13 721	10 890	79,4	18 543	14 978	80,8

**Appendix table 2. Progress of new students studies in vocational education (aimed at young people) by end 2019**

Year of starting	New students in vocational education, total	Attainers of vocational qualifications		New male students	Male attainers of vocational qualifications		New female students	Female attainers of vocational qualifications	
			%			%			%
2000	50 552	41 283	81,7	25 941	20 255	78,1	24 611	21 028	85,4
2001	48 330	39 757	82,3	24 938	19 750	79,2	23 392	20 007	85,5
2002	46 815	38 418	82,1	24 216	19 159	79,1	22 599	19 259	85,2
2003	46 000	37 560	81,7	24 084	18 937	78,6	21 916	18 623	85,0
2004	48 482	39 882	82,3	25 174	20 041	79,6	23 308	19 841	85,1
2005	48 041	39 683	82,6	24 792	19 922	80,4	23 249	19 761	85,0
2006	48 705	40 825	83,8	25 399	20 832	82,0	23 306	19 993	85,8
2007	48 247	40 471	83,9	24 925	20 556	82,5	23 322	19 915	85,4
2008	48 336	40 673	84,1	24 965	20 771	83,2	23 371	19 902	85,2
2009	50 671	41 971	82,8	26 131	21 401	81,9	24 540	20 570	83,8
2010	50 533	41 786	82,7	26 047	21 247	81,6	24 486	20 539	83,9
2011	50 499	41 375	81,9	25 772	20 810	80,7	24 727	20 565	83,2
2012	49 759	40 189	80,8	25 873	20 502	79,2	23 886	19 687	82,4
2013	48 679	38 349	78,8	25 330	19 636	77,5	23 349	18 713	80,1
2014	47 459	36 043	75,9	25 228	18 846	74,7	22 231	17 197	77,4

Year of starting	New students in vocational education, total	Attainers of vocational qualifications		New male students	Male attainers of vocational qualifications		New female students	Female attainers of vocational qualifications	
			%			%			%
2015	47 284	33 401	70,6	25 335	17 681	69,8	21 949	15 720	71,6
2016	45 878	28 756	62,7	24 880	15 480	62,2	20 998	13 276	63,2

**Appendix table 3. Progress of new university of applied sciences students studies by end 2019, youth education**

Year of starting	New university of applied sciences students, total	Attainers of university of applied sciences degrees		New male students	Male attainers of university of applied sciences degrees		New female students	Female attainers of university of applied sciences degrees	
			%			%			%
1995	8 361	6 193	74,1	4 139	2 762	66,7	4 222	3 431	81,3
1999	25 888	19 393	74,9	11 555	7 616	65,9	14 333	11 777	82,2
2000	26 091	19 552	74,9	11 595	7 703	66,4	14 496	11 849	81,7
2001	26 223	19 657	75,0	11 546	7 587	65,7	14 677	12 070	82,2
2002	28 526	20 467	71,7	13 412	8 387	62,5	15 114	12 080	79,9
2003	28 776	20 465	71,1	13 347	8 253	61,8	15 429	12 212	79,1
2004	29 332	20 872	71,2	13 190	8 136	61,7	16 142	12 736	78,9
2005	29 053	20 728	71,3	13 141	8 195	62,4	15 912	12 533	78,8
2006	28 531	20 447	71,7	13 045	8 220	63,0	15 486	12 227	79,0
2007	28 329	20 334	71,8	13 037	8 261	63,4	15 292	12 073	78,9
2008	28 302	20 487	72,4	12 711	8 171	64,3	15 591	12 316	79,0
2009	28 400	20 187	71,1	13 127	8 292	63,2	15 273	11 895	77,9
2010	29 030	20 409	70,3	13 558	8 370	61,7	15 472	12 039	77,8
2011	28 646	20 219	70,6	13 447	8 344	62,1	15 199	11 875	78,1
2012	28 093	19 667	70,0	12 719	7 708	60,6	15 374	11 959	77,8
2013	26 894	18 327	68,1	12 441	7 183	57,7	14 453	11 144	77,1
2014	27 881	18 195	65,3	13 053	6 997	53,6	14 828	11 198	75,5
2015	26 451	14 942	56,5	12 736	5 208	40,9	13 715	9 734	71,0
2016	26 072	8 120	31,1	12 941	2 223	17,2	13 131	5 897	44,9

**Appendix table 4. Progress of new university students studies by end 2019, lower or higher university degrees**

Year of starting	New university students, total	Attainers of lower or higher university degrees		New male students	Male attainers of lower or higher university degrees		New female students	Female attainers of lower or higher university degrees	
			%			%			%
1995	16 582	13 789	83,2	7 526	5 767	76,6	9 056	8 022	88,6
1999	19 054	15 542	81,6	8 501	6 275	73,8	10 553	9 267	87,8
2000	19 783	15 919	80,5	8 590	6 164	71,8	11 193	9 755	87,2
2001	21 018	16 885	80,3	9 201	6 635	72,1	11 817	10 250	86,7
2002	21 245	16 897	79,5	9 456	6 718	71,0	11 789	10 179	86,3
2003	20 763	16 609	80,0	9 092	6 563	72,2	11 671	10 046	86,1
2004	20 827	16 405	78,8	8 977	6 384	71,1	11 850	10 021	84,6
2005	20 744	16 475	79,4	8 979	6 449	71,8	11 765	10 026	85,2
2006	19 988	16 052	80,3	8 687	6 447	74,2	11 301	9 605	85,0
2007	19 461	15 435	79,3	8 274	5 993	72,4	11 187	9 442	84,4
2008	19 396	15 349	79,1	8 483	6 176	72,8	10 913	9 173	84,1
2009	19 940	15 559	78,0	8 820	6 317	71,6	11 120	9 242	83,1
2010	19 766	15 247	77,1	8 780	6 208	70,7	10 986	9 039	82,3
2011	19 827	15 133	76,3	8 786	6 207	70,6	11 041	8 926	80,8
2012	22 815	16 978	74,4	9 944	6 773	68,1	12 871	10 205	79,3
2013	23 162	16 558	71,5	10 189	6 647	65,2	12 973	9 911	76,4
2014	23 919	15 902	66,5	10 614	6 357	59,9	13 305	9 545	71,7
2015	23 837	14 050	58,9	10 730	5 394	50,3	13 107	8 656	66,0
2016	23 561	9 638	40,9	10 508	3 193	30,4	13 053	6 445	49,4



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[www.stat.fi](http://www.stat.fi)  
Source: Education Statistics, Statistics Finland