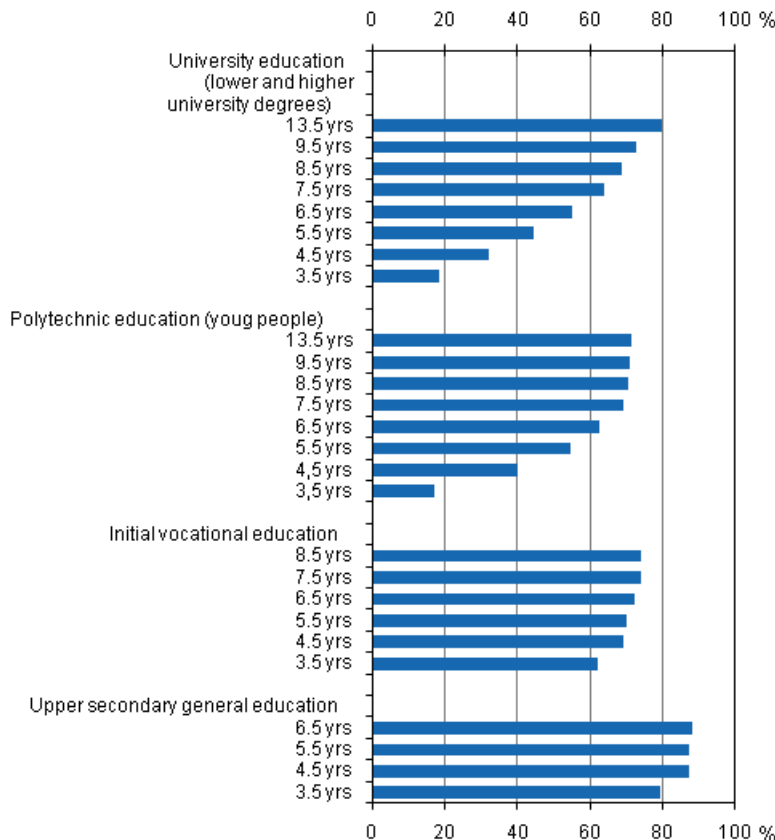


Progress of studies 2008

Completion of university degrees improved by over 10 percentage points

According to Statistics Finland, 44 per cent completed a university degree in five-and-a-half years, while the year before the figure was 12 percentage points lower. In the other sectors of education the pass rates were on level with the previous year. In four-and-a-half years polytechnic education aimed at young people was passed by 40 per cent of the new students. An initial vocational qualification was passed in three-and-a-half years by 62 per cent and a matriculation examination by 79 per cent.

Pass rate by educational sector in different reference periods by the end of 2008



The rise in the number of university degrees is explained by the university degree revision. According to the new degree system everybody as a rule attains a lower university degree before completing a higher university degree. Students also have the option to complete only a lower university degree. The figures also show those studying according to the old degree system who strived to complete their degree by the end of 2008, when the transition period to the new degree system ended. As many as 80 per cent of those having started studies in 1995 had graduated by 2008.

The pass rate of men was lower in all sectors of education than that of women, when viewing new students in university education in 2003, in polytechnic education in 2004 and in upper secondary general education and initial vocational education in 2005 at the end of 2008. Three-and-a-half years after starting upper secondary general education the pass rate of men was a few percentage points lower and in initial vocational education the pass rate of men was one percentage point lower compared with women. In tertiary level degrees the difference between men's and women's pass rates was considerably greater. Four-and-a-half years after starting studies 23 per cent of men had attained a polytechnic qualification, while the corresponding percentage for women was 54 per cent. A higher or lower university degree was attained in five-and-a-half years by 30 per cent of men and by 56 per cent of women. In the longer term the difference seems to level off. Among new university students in 1995, 72 per cent of men and 86 per cent of women had attained a degree after thirteen-and-a-half years of studies.

In all sectors of education there are big field-specific differences in the pass rates. Of the students who started their studies in 2003, relatively the highest numbers of higher university degrees were attained by the end of 2008 by students in the fields of social sciences, economics and administration and relatively the lowest numbers of degrees were attained by students of technology and transport. Among the students who started studies in 2004 in polytechnic education, the highest pass rate after four-and-a-half years was in the field of welfare, health and sports, where it stood at 64 per cent. The lowest pass rate, at 20 per cent, was in the field of technology and transport. In vocational education the highest pass rates after three-and-a-half years of starting studies were in the fields of humanities and education, and in welfare, health and sports, where a qualification had been attained by 66 per cent of the students. The pass rate was the lowest in the field of natural sciences, at 49 per cent.

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Appendix tables

1. Progress of new upper secondary school students' studies by end 2008, youth education

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	
			%			%			%
2002	35 695	31 388	87,9	15 307	13 287	86,8	20 388	18 101	88,8
2003	36 714	32 037	87,3	15 764	13 539	85,9	20 950	18 498	88,3
2004	36 020	31 468	87,4	15 497	13 245	85,5	20 523	18 223	88,8
2005	35 065	27 722	79,1	15 243	11 876	77,9	19 822	15 846	79,9

2. Progress of new students' studies in initial vocational education by end 2008

Year of starting	New students in initial 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	37 522	74,2	25 941	18 622	71,8	24 611	18 900	76,8
2001	48 330	35 646	73,8	24 938	17 907	71,8	23 392	17 739	75,8
2002	46 815	33 832	72,3	24 216	17 056	70,4	22 599	16 776	74,2
2003	46 000	32 302	70,2	24 084	16 512	68,6	21 916	15 790	72,0
2004	48 482	33 450	69,0	25 174	17 090	67,9	23 308	16 360	70,2
2005	48 041	29 755	61,9	24 792	15 230	61,4	23 249	14 525	62,5

3. Progress of new polytechnic students' studies by end 2008, youth education

Year of starting	New polytechnic students, total	Attainers of polytechnic degrees		New male students	Male attainers of polytechnic degrees		New female students	Female attainers of polytechnic degrees	
			%			%			%
1995	8 361	5 958	71,3	4 139	2 652	64,1	4 222	3 306	78,3
1999	25 888	18 380	71,0	11 555	7 091	61,4	14 333	11 289	78,8
2000	26 091	18 359	70,4	11 595	7 127	61,5	14 496	11 232	77,5
2001	26 223	18 178	69,3	11 546	6 807	59,0	14 677	11 371	77,5
2002	28 526	17 846	62,6	13 412	6 828	50,9	15 114	11 018	72,9
2003	28 776	15 776	54,8	13 347	5 429	40,7	15 429	10 347	67,1
2004	29 332	11 744	40,0	13 190	3 060	23,2	16 142	8 684	53,8
2005	29 053	4 993	17,2	13 141	860	6,5	15 912	4 133	26,0

4. Progress of new university students' studies by end 2008, lower and 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	13 218	79,7	7 526	5 441	72,3	9 056	7 777	85,9
1999	19 054	13 833	72,6	8 501	5 284	62,2	10 553	8 549	81,0
2000	19 783	13 635	68,9	8 590	4 837	56,3	11 193	8 798	78,6
2001	21 018	13 454	64,0	9 201	4 648	50,5	11 817	8 806	74,5
2002	21 245	11 708	55,1	9 456	3 762	39,8	11 789	7 946	67,4
2003	20 763	9 214	44,4	9 092	2 706	29,8	11 671	6 508	55,8
2004	20 827	6 706	32,2	8 977	1 857	20,7	11 850	4 849	40,9
2005	20 744	3 888	18,7	8 979	976	10,9	11 765	2 912	24,8

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