

**LC State President's Council  
Summary of September 19, 2022 Meeting**

**PRESENTATION:**

The focus of the President's Council was on Accreditation. The PowerPoint is attached.

# NWCCU Accreditation

President's Council  
September 19, 2022

# Accreditation

- *The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.*
- Regional Vs. National Vs. Programmatic external accreditation

# Accreditation

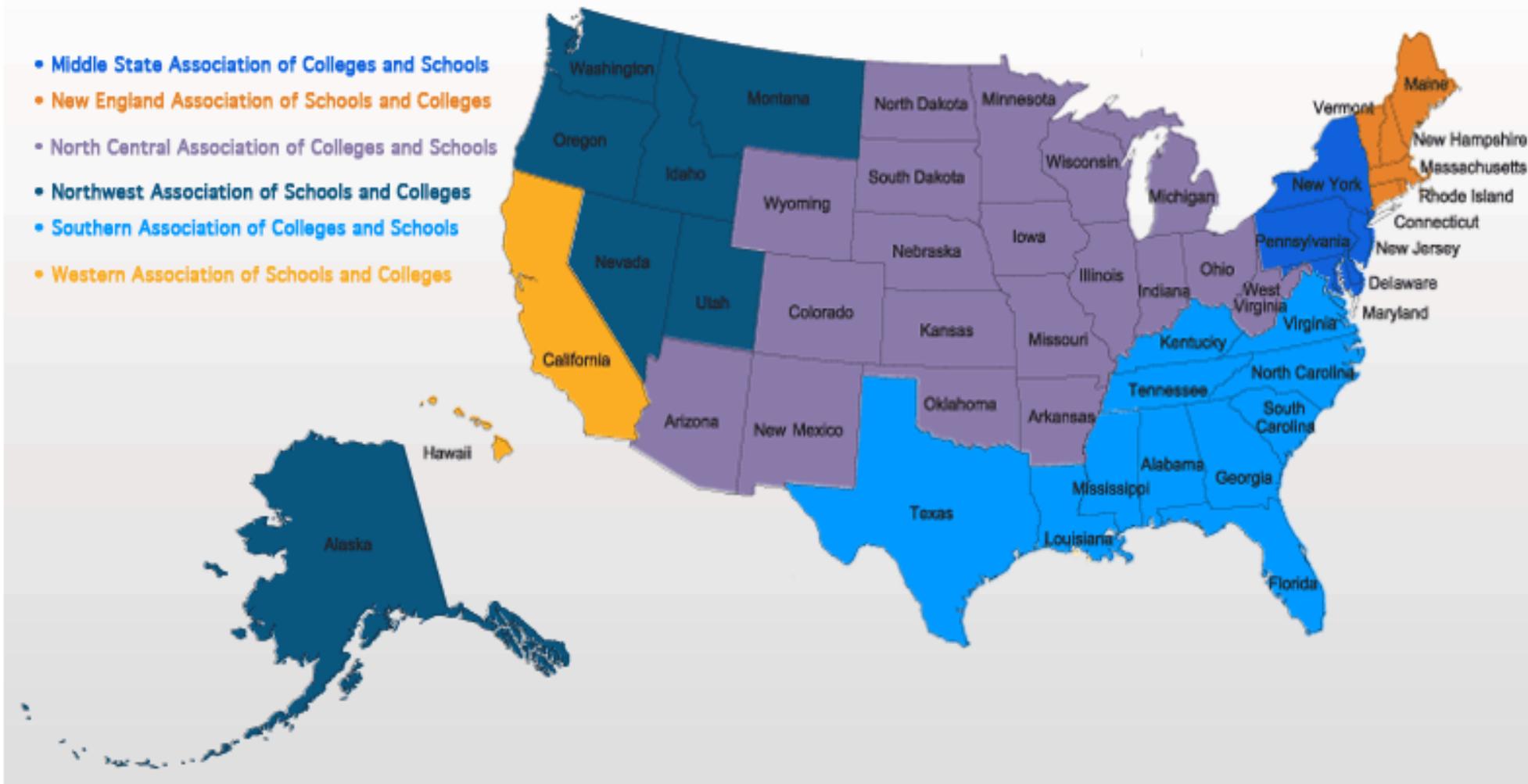
## Regional Accrediting Organizations

1. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher
2. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
3. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC)
4. New England Association of Schools and colleges, Inc., Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE)
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS)
6. Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (WASC-ACCJC)
7. Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (WASC-ACSCU)



# CHEA-Recognized Regional Accreditation Associations

- Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
- Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges



# REGIONALLY vs NATIONALLY ACCREDITED

## REVIEW METHODS



The most prestigious and widely-recognized type of accreditation; each agency reviews institutions in their own geographic areas



Compares institutions across the country with a similar career focus or curriculum (examples: nursing, art & design, skilled trades)

## CREDITS



Accepted by both regionally- and nationally-accredited schools



ONLY accepted at other nationally-accredited schools

## CORPORATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT



Eligible for all plans



Not always eligible



**MAY BE MORE EXPENSIVE**  
than nationally-accredited schools



**MAY BE LESS EXPENSIVE**  
than regionally-accredited schools



**MOSTLY NON-PROFIT**  
Fundraise through private donations, federal grants, legacy giving



**MOSTLY FOR-PROFIT**  
Earn revenue through enrollment or selling educational products



**STRICT STANDARDS**  
More selective during the admissions process



**MORE RELAXED ADMISSION STANDARDS**



- Regional accreditation has existed in the United States for over a century. The process is largely based on peer-review, which means that representatives from regionally accredited schools help determine if other schools meet the quality requirements needed in order to become accredited.



# NWCCU

- To be considered for accreditation by NWCCU, an institution:
- Has the primary mission to provide higher learning/higher education;
- Has similar characteristics to other higher education institutions; and,
- Meets [NWCCU's Eligibility Requirements, Standards for Accreditation, and Policies.](#)



## What do we mean by these Requirements?

- Institutions must have programs that are degree related, which are designed to build on knowledge, abilities, or skills students normally would have achieved by completing high school or a similar form of education.
- Programs are based on achieving knowledge that is verified by competent experts.
- Institution must continue to meet [NWCCU's Eligibility Requirements, Standards for Accreditation, and the Policies](#) that are in place to make sure institutions are effective, offer a high-quality education, and are constantly working to improve student outcomes.



## ■ What does membership look like?

Accredited institutions must follow a schedule of accreditation-related activities known as the Seven Year Cycle and abide by NWCCU's Eligibility Requirements, Standards, and Policies.

### • These activities include:

- **Submission of an Annual Report;**
- Submission of self-study reports in years **Three** (Mid-Cycle Report), **Six** (Policies, Regulations, and Financial Resources Report), and **Seven** (Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Report) of the accreditation cycle;
- Additional ad hoc reports, as requested by the Board of Commissioners; and,
- Reports of any changes that fall under the Commission's [Substantive Change Policy](#).
- Throughout the seven-year cycle, every institution is reviewed by NWCCU staff, teams of peer evaluators, and the Board of Commissioners to confirm institution is working to fulfill its mission, addressing problems identified previously, continuously improving, offering high quality education, and supporting student success and closing equity gaps.



- **Benefits of Accreditation**
  - Evidence of Quality
  - Sharing of Best Practices
  - Public Accountability
  - Continuous improvement

**Assignment: Read Mid-cycle review and be prepared to bring back information from your areas**

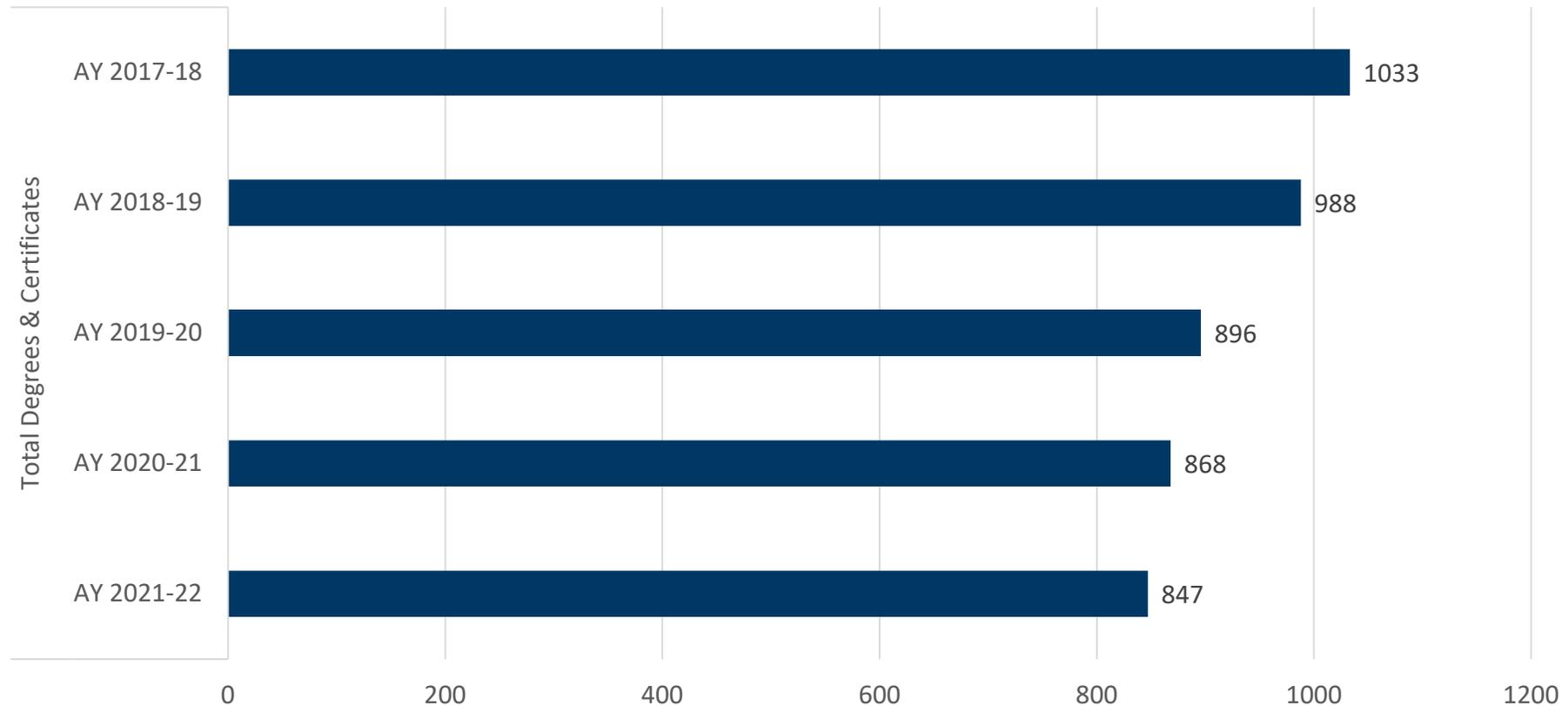
[https://www.lcsc.edu/media/8621/lc-state\\_mid-cycle\\_report\\_draft\\_08132021.pdf](https://www.lcsc.edu/media/8621/lc-state_mid-cycle_report_draft_08132021.pdf)



# And now for some data...

- ...and disaggregating these data by institutionally meaningful student groups to identify potential equity gaps.

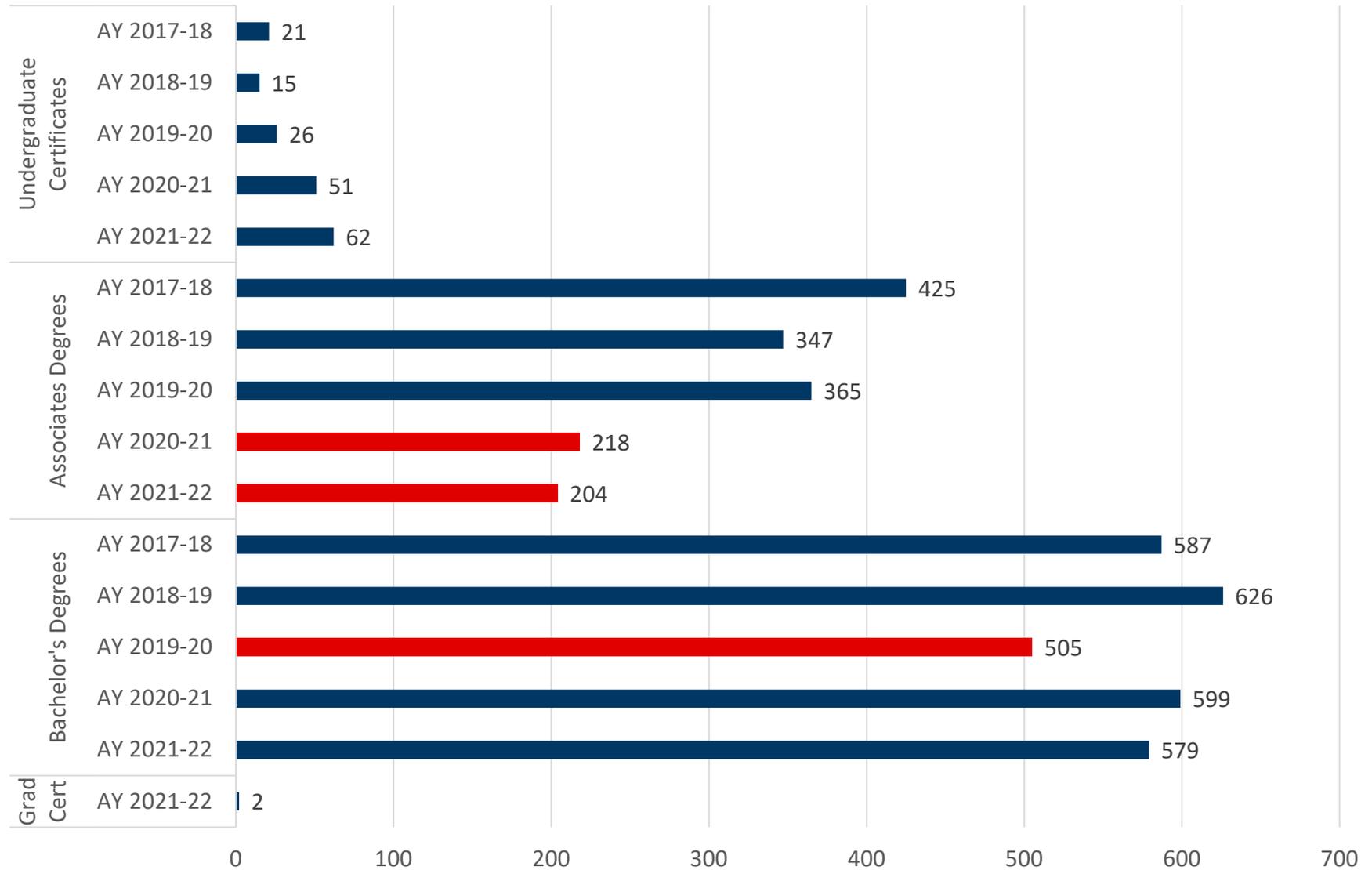
## Total Degrees & Certificates Awarded at LC State



- The number of degrees and certificates awarded have declined by 18% in the last five years.
- Annual FTE declined by approx. 10% during same time period.



# Total Degrees & Certificates Awarded at LC State

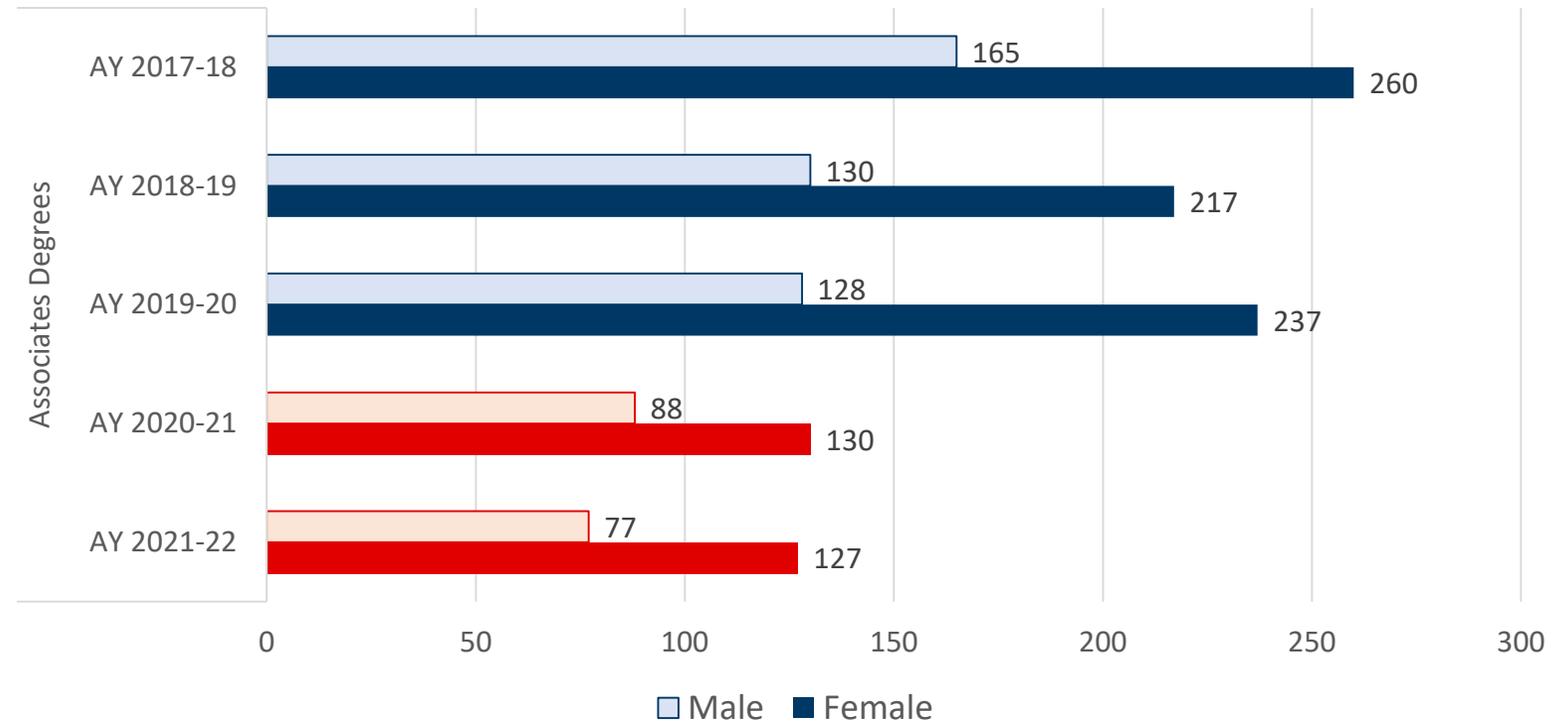


# Next steps

- Disaggregating these data by institutionally meaningful student groups to identify potential equity gaps.
  - Gender
  - Race/Ethnicity
  - Adult Learner
  - First Generation
  - Economic Disadvantaged



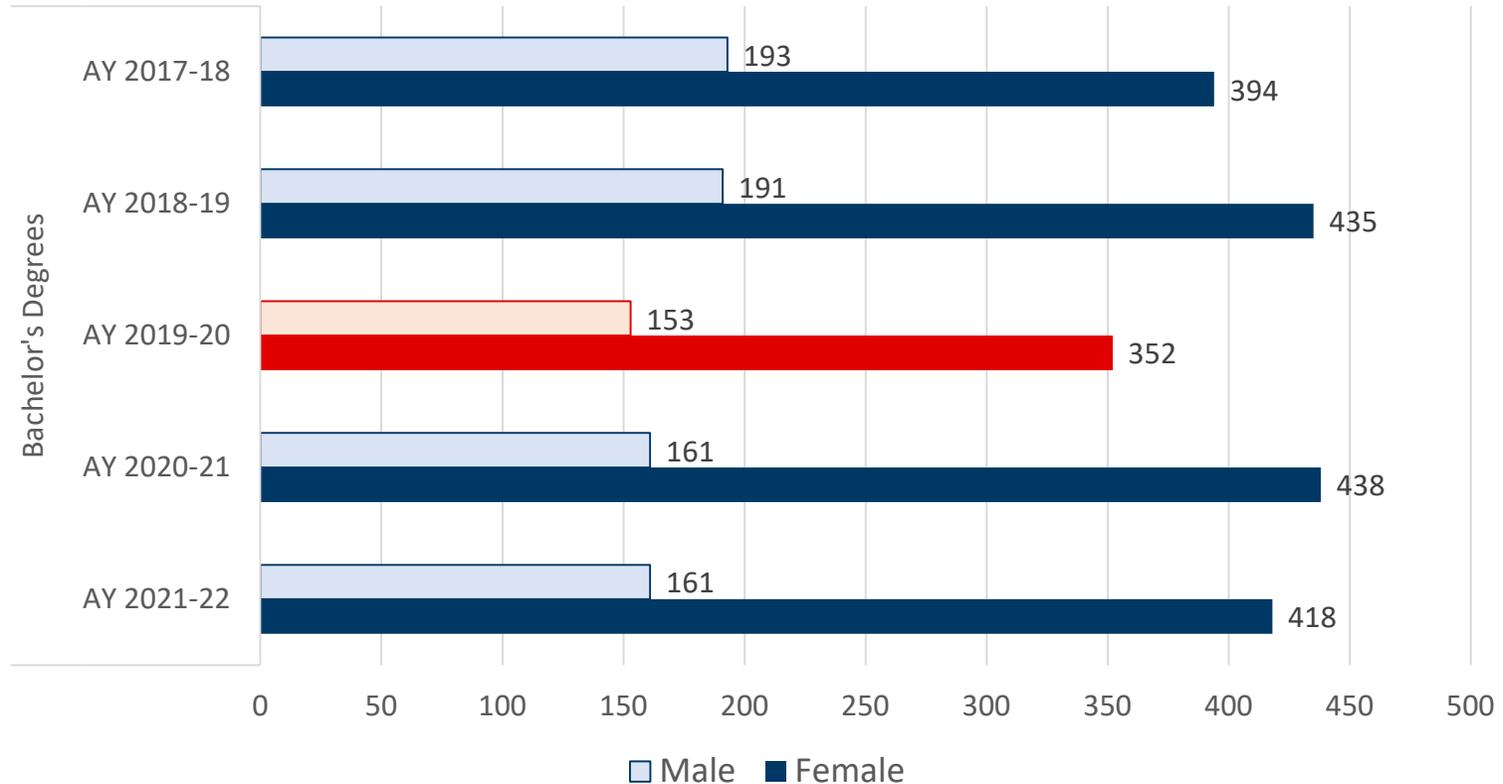
## Total Associates Degrees Awarded at LC State



- While the number of associate degrees declined among both males and females, the share of males awarded assoc's degrees has declined.



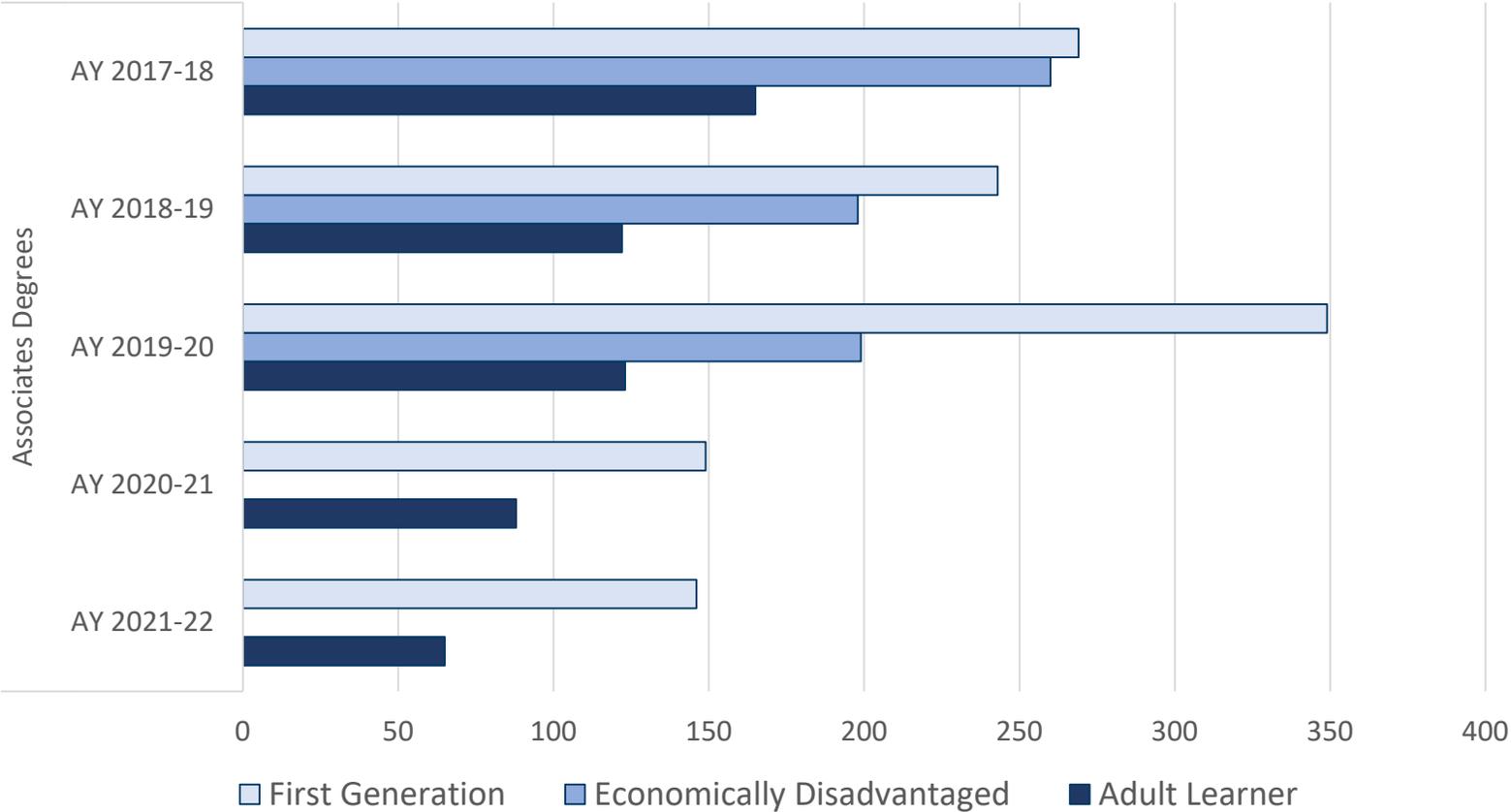
## Total Bachelor's Degrees Awarded at LC State



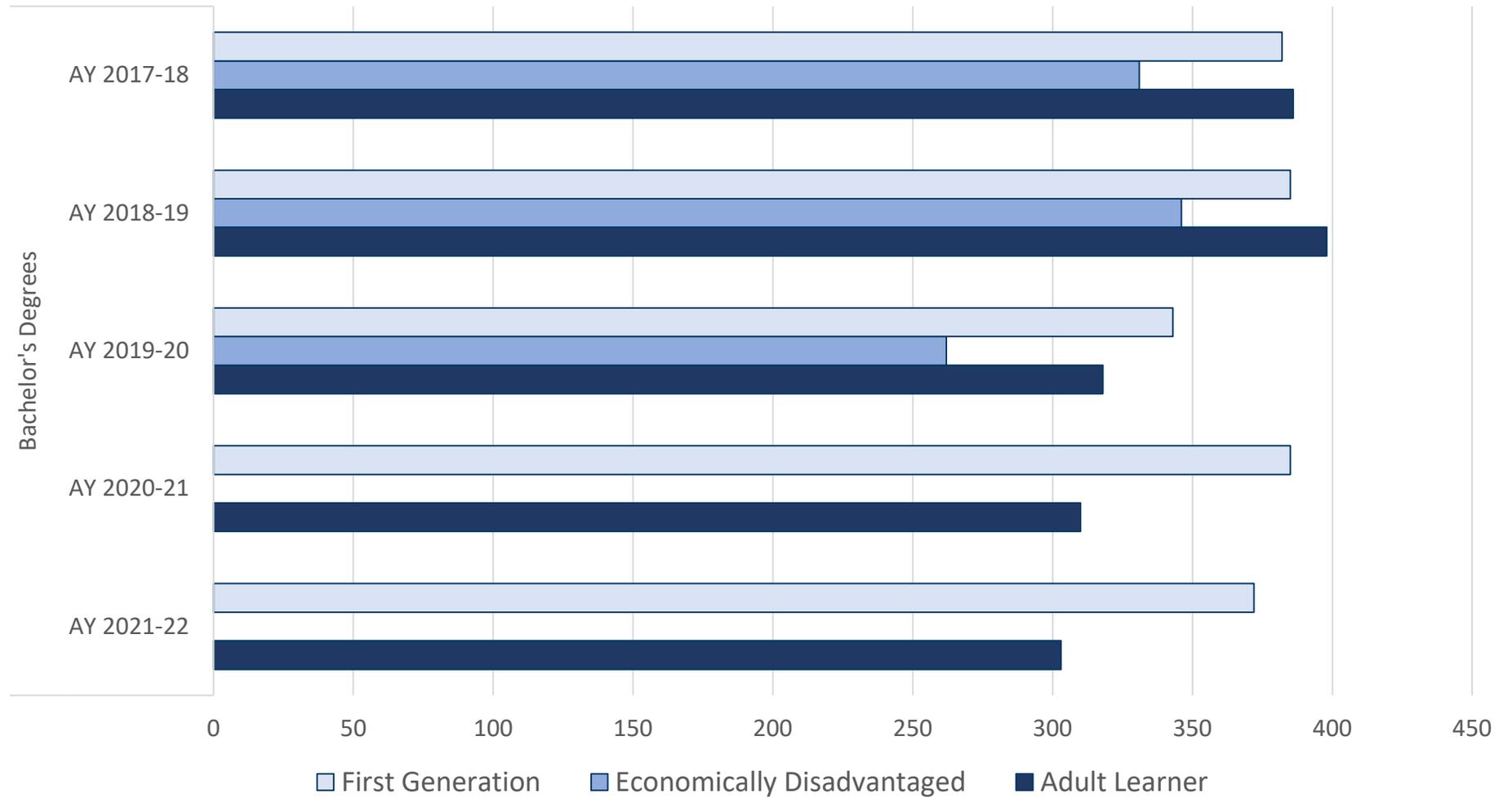
- While the number of bachelors degrees declined among both males and females, the share or males awarded bachelor's degrees has declined.



# Total Associates Degrees Awarded at LC State



## Total Bachelor's Degrees Awarded at LC State





**Thank you. Questions?**

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