



Enic-Naric

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Higher Education in The State of Palestine

MOEHE - Palestine



Higher Education

- Higher education and research are tools for sustainable development socially, culturally and economically.
- So Ministry of Education and Higher Education works on developing this sector after it's establishment in 1994.
- And determine the aims of the higher education sector, expand capacity, increases access, enhance quality and improve relevancy in order to create a knowledge-based economy.

Higher Education

[CONT.]

- Number of improvements took place including:
 - The introduction of higher education law.
 - Introduction of the higher education organizational structure.
 - Establishment of the council of Higher Education.
 - Establishment of the National Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance.
 - Establishment of the Council for Scientific Research.
 - Establishment of the University Student Loan Fund.

Higher Education

[CONT.]

- The ministry believed that strategic planning is one of the most effective and useful administrative works as it defines priorities and fields of change and provides the necessary resources and follow-up mechanisms. In order that, the ministry Established a rationalization plan for the higher education sector for the period 1999 – 2001 and the latest strategic plan has launched for the period 2014 – 2016.
- However there are major problems such as the increasing enrolment fees, lack of sufficient infrastructure, lack of qualified academic staff and lack of support for research and very little financial support for academic research.

Overall Description

Overall Description

- Palestinian HE has witnessed fast development in the past four decades; it started to present educational and learning models whose outcomes brought out students and graduates capable in the local, regional and international labor markets as a competent human power with high qualifications.
- HE in Palestine commenced by the establishment of two-year colleges in 1950's which focused on teacher training, technical education , or liberal arts.

Overall Description

[CONT.]

- It is only since the 1970s that universities came into existence. Created during Israeli occupation, these institutions were part of a Palestinian collective effort to preserve the Palestinian identity as well as to provide young Palestinians with the opportunity to pursue HE, after it became increasingly difficult for them to go abroad for such studies.
- In 1994, Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOHE), established as a result of the Oslo accords between PLO and Israel.

Legislations

- ❖ HE in State of Palestine was legislated through the law of the Higher Education **No. (11)** for the year of 1998.
- ❖ Regulations for recognizing & equalizing non-Palestinian diplomas & Certificates **No. (25)** for the year of **2006** and thereto.

Legislations

[CONT.]

- ❖ HE in State of Palestine was legislated through the law of the Higher Education No. (11), for the year of 1998, the Law combines two approaches:
 1. Central national planning and supervision by MOEHE and the Council for Higher Education.
 2. And (ii) self-management, self-monitoring and self-control at institutional level.
- This means that higher education institutions enjoy autonomy and self-management. And are responsible for admissions, recruitment of staff, assessment of students ,granting of degrees and diplomas , and the development of facilities.

Legislations

[CONT.]

- The law gave legal status to HE institutions and provided the legal framework for the organization and management.
- The law recognizes three types of institutions in HE , government , public (established by non-governmental organizations) and private.
- ❖ Regulations for recognizing & equalizing non-Palestinian diplomas & Certificates **No. (25)** for the year of **2006**.
 - The above regulation determine the criteria and standards for recognition of non Palestinian HEIs and their qualifications (intermediate diploma , bachelor , post graduate diploma , master degree and doctorate).

Higher education institutions

Higher education institutions

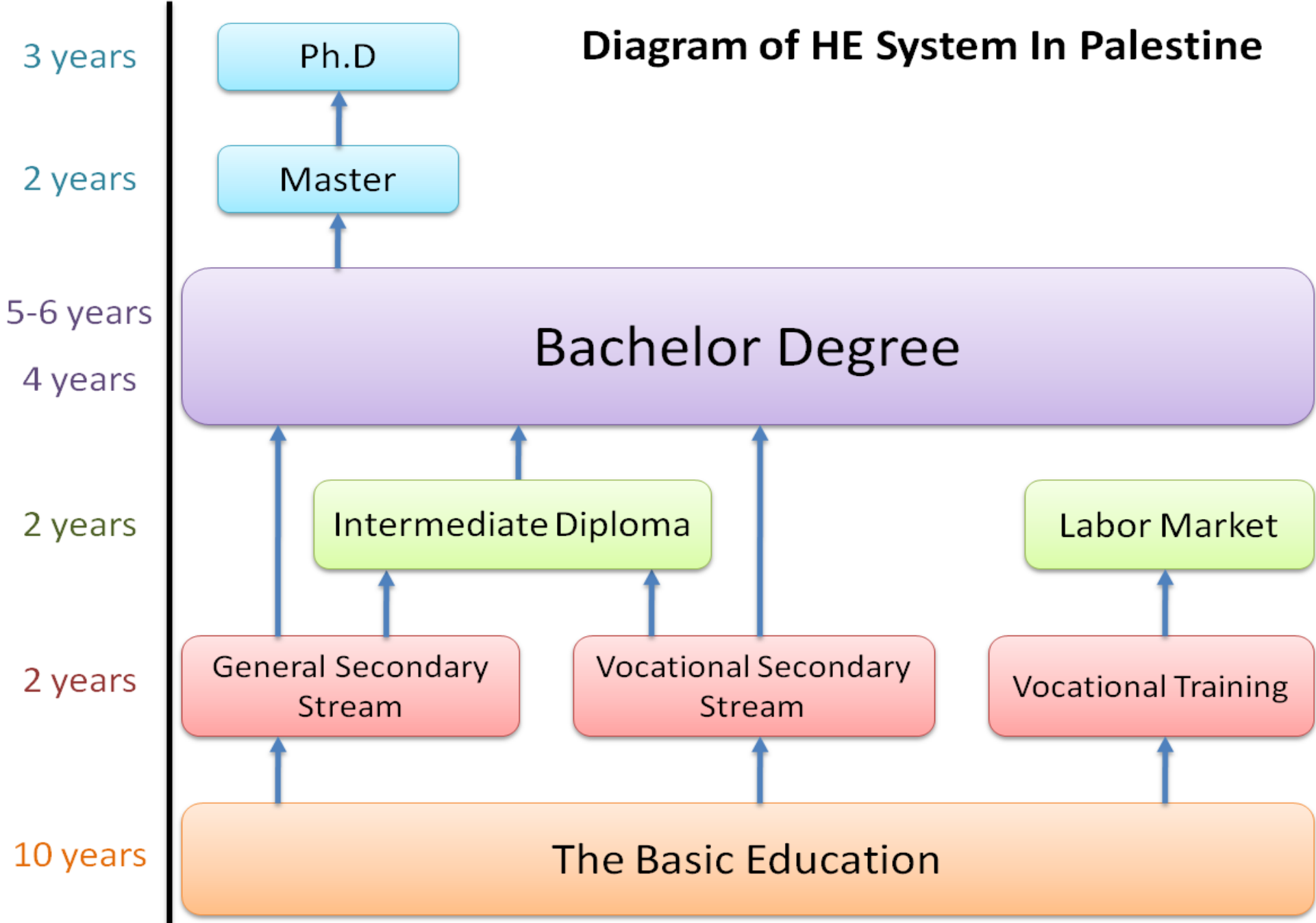
According to the Law of Higher Education, HE institutions can be one of the following:

- Universities (*AL-Jamiaah*): consisting of no less than three colleges or faculties, and granting Bachelor degrees or higher.
- University colleges (*Alkulliah Al-Jamiaaiah*): offering academic, technical or professional programs and conferring two year diplomas or Bachelor degrees.
- Polytechnics (*Alpolytechnik*): granting diplomas or Bachelor and higher degrees in professional and technical fields.
- Community colleges (*Kulliat Al-Mujtamaah*): offering academic, professional diplomas or technical programs.

School leaving and higher education credentials

- General Secondary Education Certificate 12 years. (10 years of basic education and two years of secondary education).
- Intermediate diploma (66) credit hours (two years, four semesters).
- Bachelor degree: minimum 121 credit hours:
 - 4 years for most specializations.
 - 5 years in Pharmacy, Stomatology, Engineering.
 - 6 years in Medicine.
- Master: 36 credit hours plus thesis or comprehensive exam.
- Doctorate: 36 credit hours plus thesis.

Diagram of HE System In Palestine



Joint Programs

Joint Programmes

Joint programmes started recently in Palestine, only Master or PhD degrees are carried out in two or more universities recognized by the MOEHE.

The main characteristics of those programmes are:

1. The components of any joint program are approved by two or maximum three universities. The courses should be allocated between those universities so the students will move among them, as well as the teaching staff.
2. Joint programmes are intended to make use of the educational and human resources of the different universities in order to be accessible for the students.

Joint Programmes

[CONT.]

3. Joint programmes should be recognized by the MOEHE like other programmes and aimed to improve the quality of the graduate programmes while maintaining the quality assurance.
4. At the end of a program, students will have a joint diploma from the participant universities.
5. Palestinian universities have only limited number of accredited joint programmes.

National Qualification Framework (NQF)

Stages towards establishing a National Qualification Framework.

Not yet started formally.

- Step 1: Decision taken. Process just started.
- Step 2: The purpose of the NQF has been agreed and the process is underway including discussions and consultations. Various committees have been established.
- Step 3: The NQF has been adopted formally and the implementation has started.

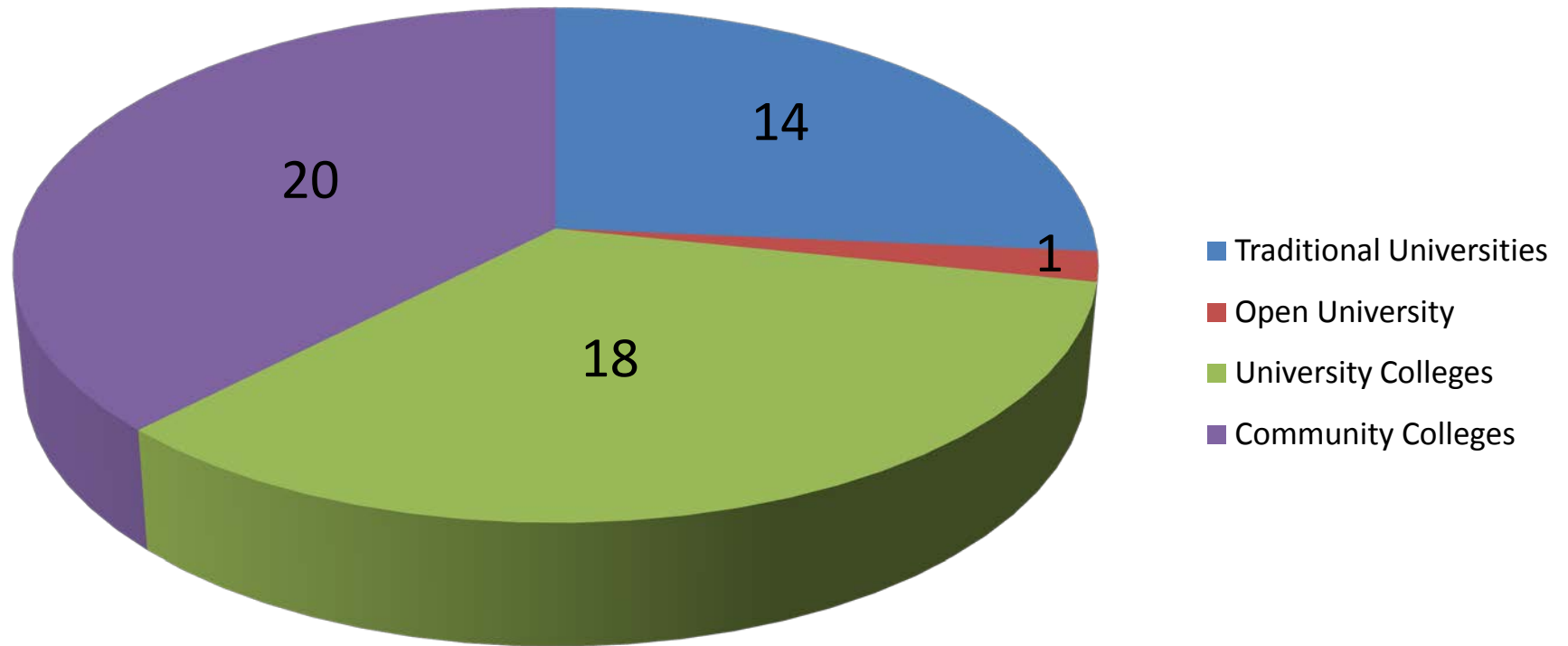
Summary of Statistics for Palestinian Higher Education For the Academic Year 2012/2013

HE Institutions in State of Palestine

The number of accredited institutions in State of Palestine is 53 distributed as follows:

- 14 Traditional Universities (3 Governmental, 8 Public, 3 Private).
- 1 Open University.
- 18 University Colleges (8 Governmental, 3 Public, 6 Private, 1 UNRWA).
- 20 Community Colleges (2 Governmental, 10 Public, 6 Private, 2 UNRWA).

HE Institutions in the State of Palestine

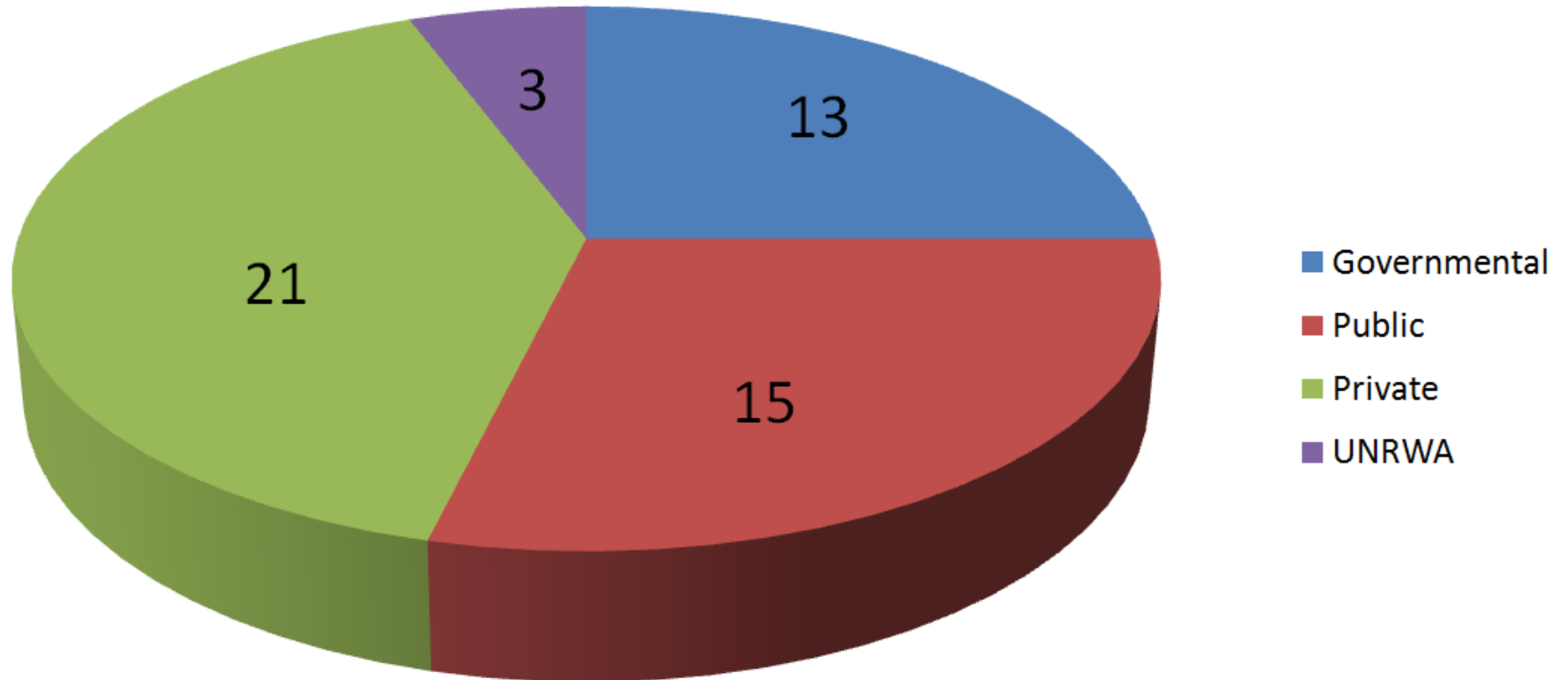


HE Institutions – Type

The distribution of the HE institutions according to their type as follows:

- 13 Governmental.
- 21 Public.
- 15 Private.
- 3 UNRWA.

HE Institutions – Type



HE Institutions – Type

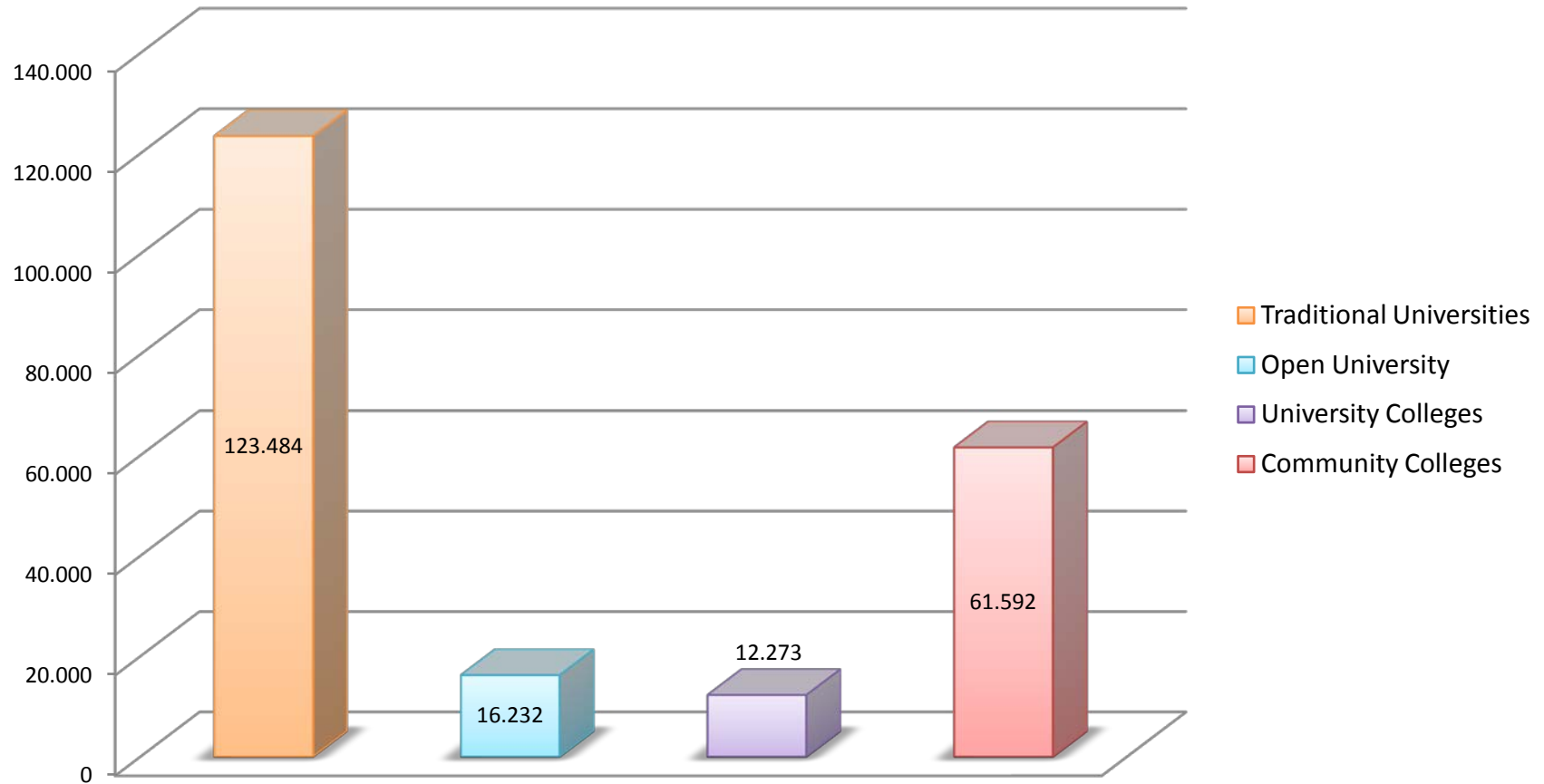
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- Open Education: there is **1 open-education university (Al-Quds Open University)** with 22 branches distributed all over the country (17 in the WB, 5 in Gaza Strip).

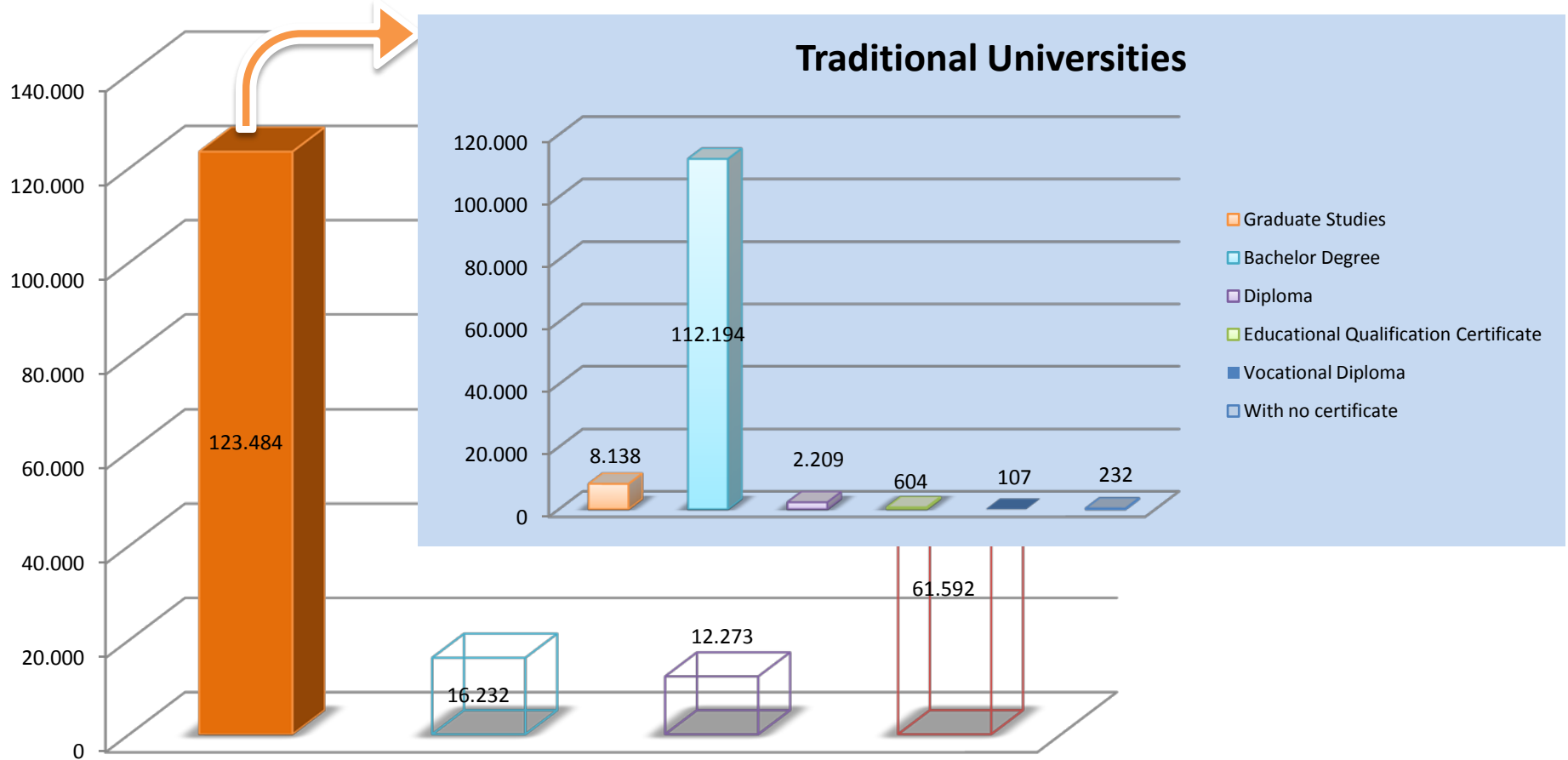
Registered Students:

- Registered students for the academic year 2012/2013 were 213,581 (126,138 female & 87,443 male) distributed as follows:
 - Traditional universities: 123,484.
 - Open Education: 61,592.
 - University colleges: 16,232.
 - Community colleges: 12,273.

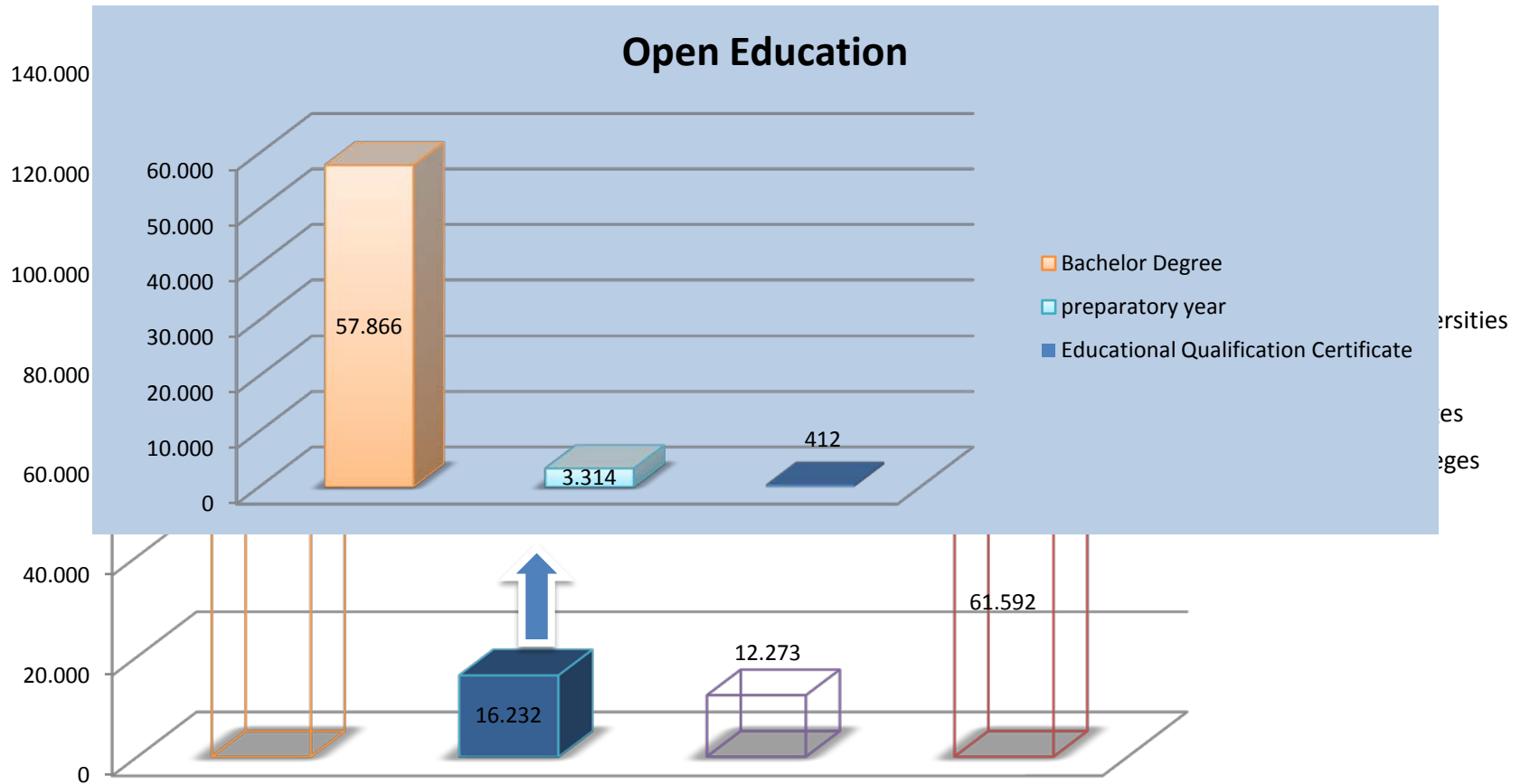
Registered Students



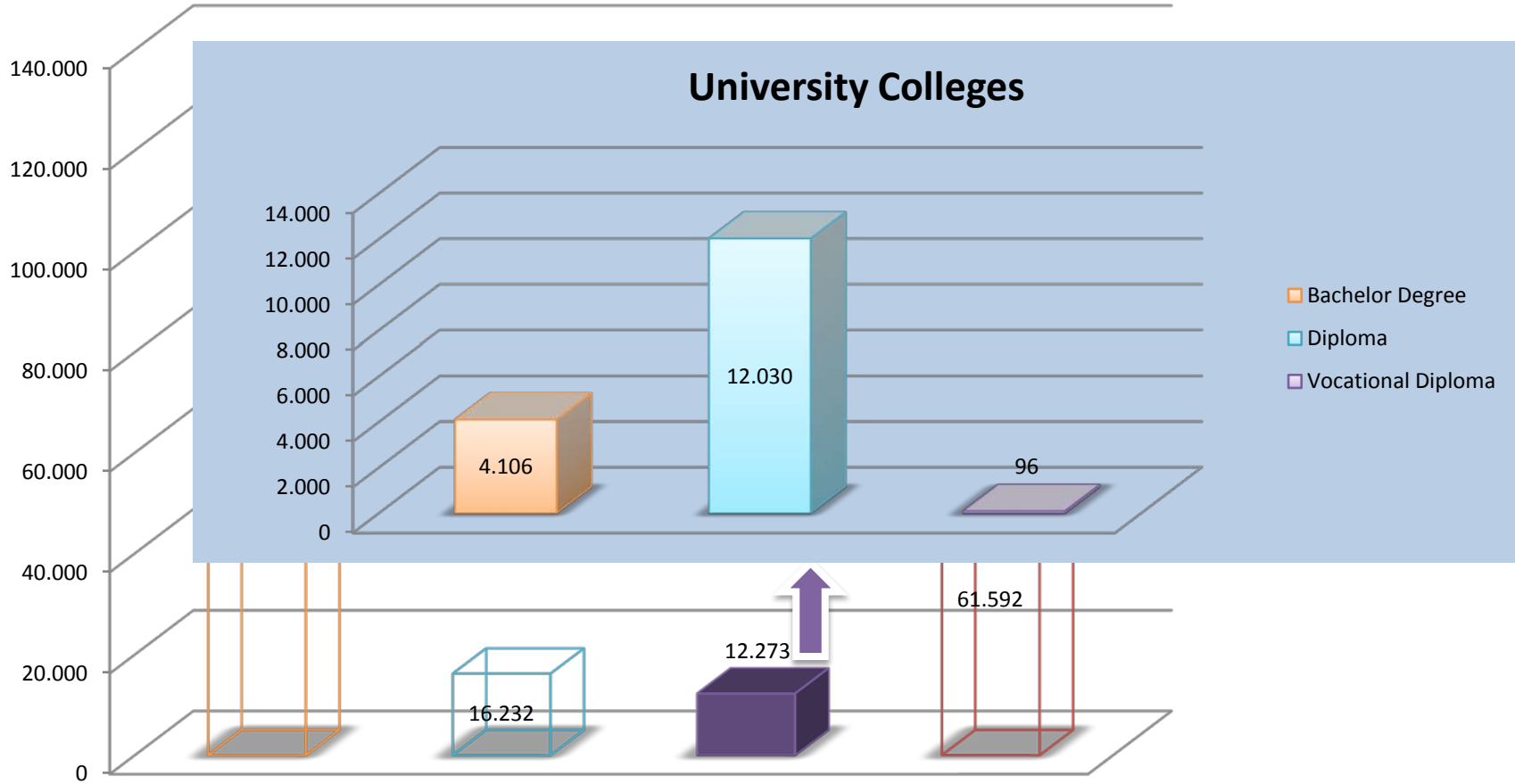
Registered Students



Registered Students

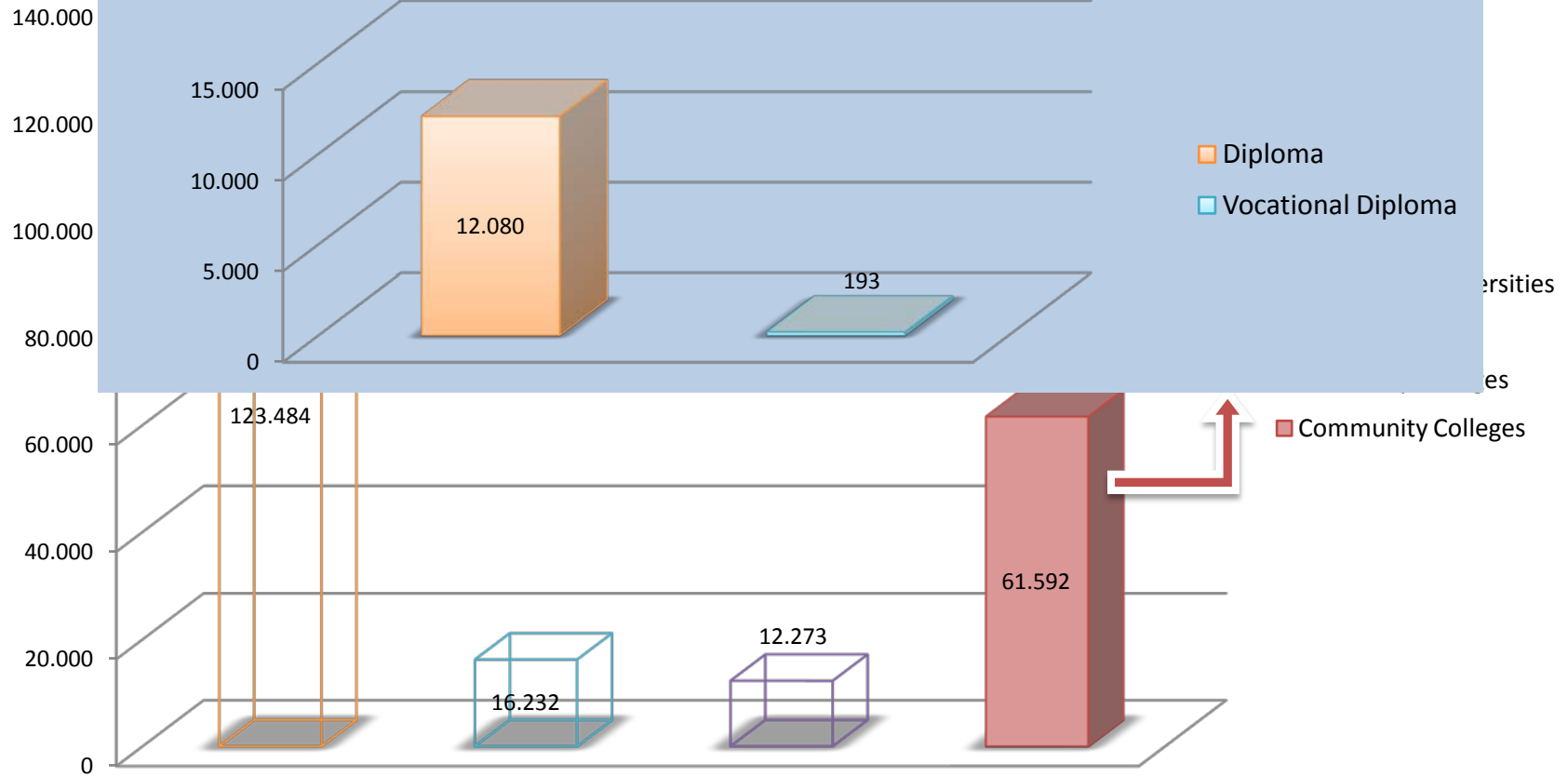


Registered Students



Registered Students

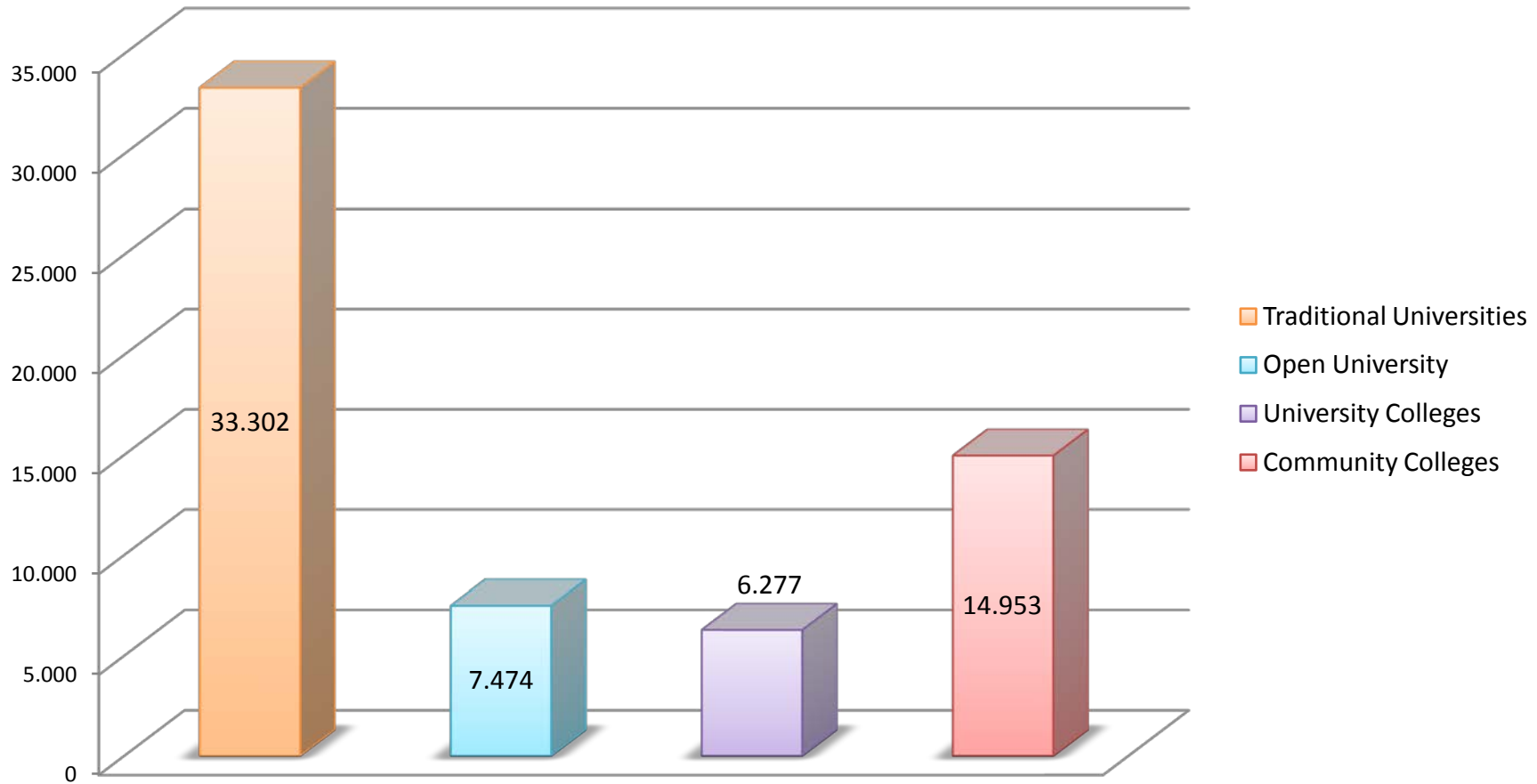
Community Colleges



New-Enrolled Students:

- New enrolled students for the year 2012-2013 was 62,006 (35,846 female & 26,160 male) distributed as follows:
 - Traditional universities: 33,302.
 - Open Education: 14,953.
 - University colleges: 7,474.
 - Community colleges: 6, 277.

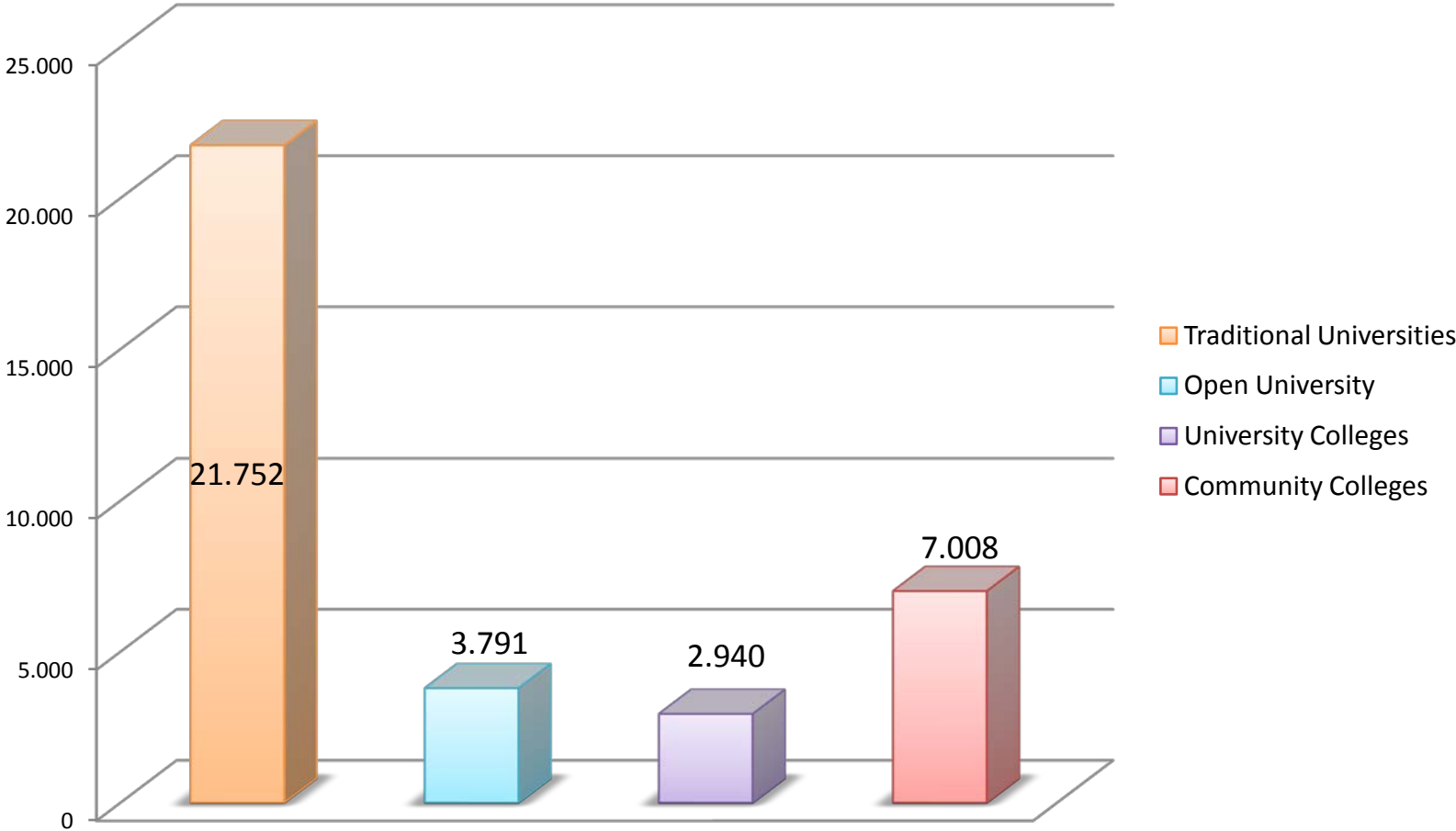
New-Enrolled Student



Graduate Students:

- Graduate students for the year 2012-2013 was 35,491 (21,030 female & 14,461 male) distributed as follows:
 - Traditional universities: 21,752.
 - Open Education: 7,008.
 - University colleges: 3,791 .
 - Community colleges: 2,940.

Graduate Students



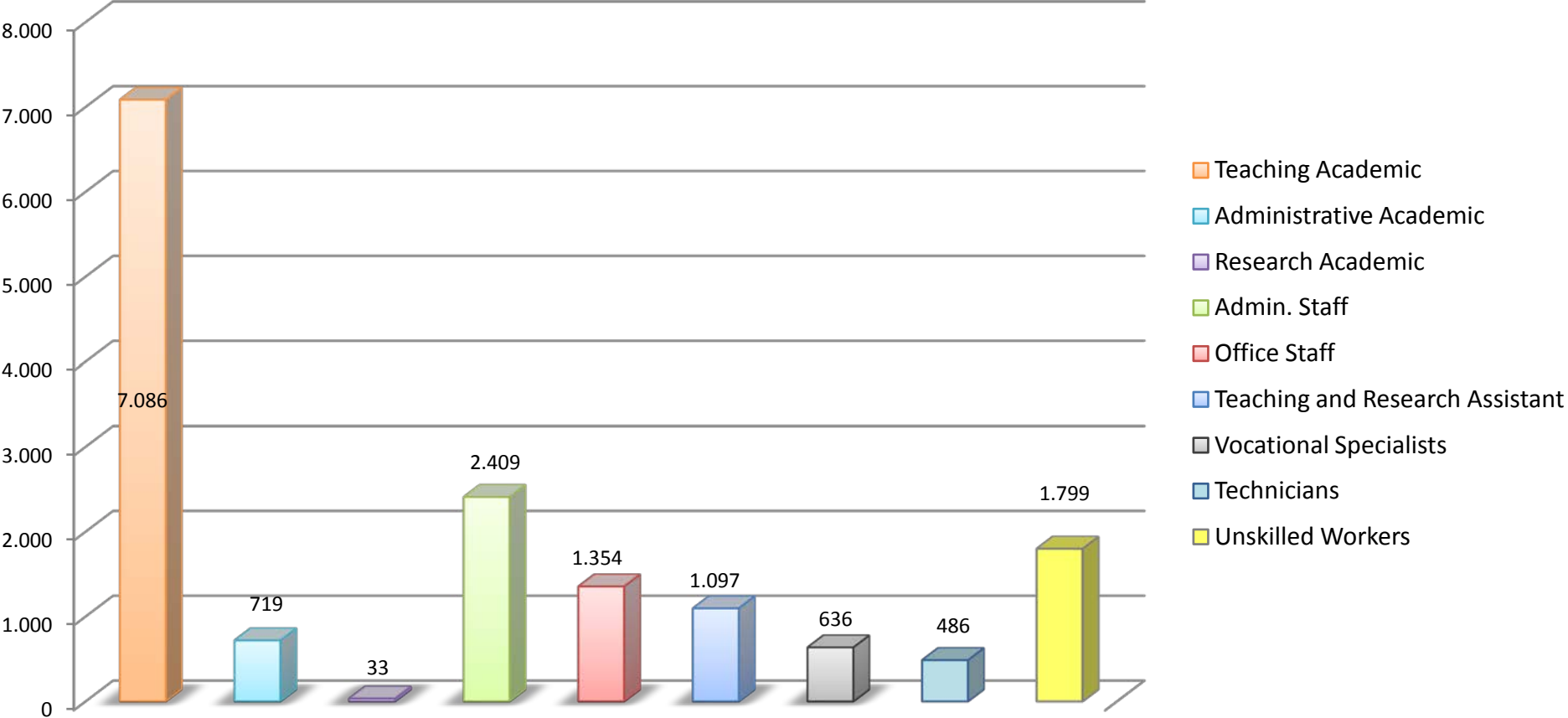
Distribution of the Registered Students according to their majors (2012)

Major	No.	Percentage	No. of Graduated Std. (2011)
Education	68929	31.7%	11207
Humanities	17733	8.1%	3083
Sciences	17577	8.1%	2840
Social and commercial Sciences, and Law.	74211	34.1%	10359
Engineering	15893	7.3%	2387
Health Sciences	15861	7.3%	2778
Agricultural Sciences	1188	0.5%	123
Services	721	0.3%	175
Generic	5389	2.5%	—
Total	217502	100%	32952

Employees – Job Classification

- 15,515 classified according to their job classification as follows:
 - 7,086 Teaching Academic.
 - 719 Administrative Academic.
 - 33 Research Academic.
 - 2,409 Admin. Staff.
 - 1,354 Office Staff.
 - 1,097 Teaching and Research Assistant.
 - 636 Vocational Specialists.
 - 486 Technicians.
 - 1,799 Unskilled Workers.

Employees - Job Classification



Employees – scientific degree

According to their scientific degree:

- Traditional universities: 10,246 (2,456 Ph.D. degree- 2,452 Master degree- 12 high diploma- 2,669 bachelor degree- 792 diploma- 1,865 less than diploma).
- University colleges: 1,881 (142 Ph.D. degree- 488 Master degree- 25 high diploma- 712 bachelor degree- 246 diploma- 182 less than diploma).

Employees – scientific degree

- Community colleges: 826 (35 Ph.D. degree- 260 Master degree- 14 high diploma- 339 bachelor degree- 88 diploma- 90 less than diploma).
- Open Education: 2,648 (486 Ph.D. degree- 1,155 Master degree- 2 high diploma- 453 bachelor degree- 164 diploma- 388 less than diploma).

Employees – academic rank

Teaching Academic staff was classified according to their academic rank as follows:

- Traditional Universities: 4,216 (180 professor- 350 Associate Professor- 1,475 Assistant Professor- 1,022 Lecturer- 1066 Instructor).
- University colleges: 897 (4 professor- 4 Associate Professor- 68 Assistant Professor- 305 Lecturer- 513 Instructor).
- Community colleges: 427 (3 professor- 2 Associate Professor- 3 Assistant Professor- 170 lecturer- 188 instructor).
- Open Education: 1,528 (8 professor- 55 Associate Professor- 364 Assistant Professor- 1,014 lecturer- 67 instructor).

Financing

- Insufficient funding is ongoing major concern and it is having a seriously negative impact on the quality and relevance of higher education in State of Palestine.
- Between 60-70% of the operating budget of universities are covered by tuition fees , and since there is no regularity and consistency in the payment of tuition fees budgets of universities suffer yearly deficits.
- The ministry of education and higher education allocated government support to the public universities through ministry of finance reaching USD 20 million in 2002 and the support increased USD 40 million in 2010.
- Ministry of education and higher education launched the student loan fund in 2000/2001 , the amount received by donors reached USD 180 million until 2012 (loans and aids).

Licensing, quality assurance and accreditation of institutions and/or programs

- The Palestinian quality assurance policy was upgraded in 2002 simultaneously with the establishment of the 'Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission' (AQAC) as the only authorized agency responsible for accreditation and quality assurance of Higher Education in State of Palestine.
- The AQAC is a member of several international networks for quality assurance, such as the International Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE).

Licensing, quality assurance and [CONT.]

- The Palestinian QA system is based on the fact that internal QA is the basis for external QA evaluation. External QA system is compulsory, and concerns public and private institutions, university and non-university sectors and all types of academic and vocational programmes.

Accreditation comprises three elements and generally involves three steps with specific activities as follows:

- Self-assessment is a self-evaluation process conducted by the faculty, the administrators, and the staff of the higher education institution (HEI) or academic programs, resulting in a report that takes as its reference the set of standards of AQAC.

Licensing, quality assurance and [CONT.]

- Peer review: a study visit conducted by a team of peers selected by the AQAC, which reviews the documentation, visits the premises, and interviews the academic and administrative staff, resulting in an assessment report, including a recommendation to the AQAC.
- Decision-making: examination by the AQAC board on the basis of a given set of criteria concerning quality and resulting in a final judgment and the communication of the formal decision to the institution and other concerned parties.

Research activities

- The scientific research activities in State of Palestine were initiated after 1995 as a result of grants received from international fundraisers.
- The scientific research council was founded in 2002.
- Palestinian researchers managed to participate in many joint cooperation programs in the fields of technology and development, in addition to the Dual Programs which were set up to develop Palestinian competence.
- There are four main bodies which perform the research activities in State of Palestine including: Higher Education Institutions (precisely the Palestinian universities), governmental research institutions, NGOs and the private sector.

Research activities

[CONT.]

- In the HEIs the scientific research activities are focused on basic research. There are now sixteen scientific research centers at the Palestinian universities in the fields of agriculture , environment, water, energy, and health.
- However, it should be mentioned that research still has not enough funding and a national policy for science, technology and research is required.