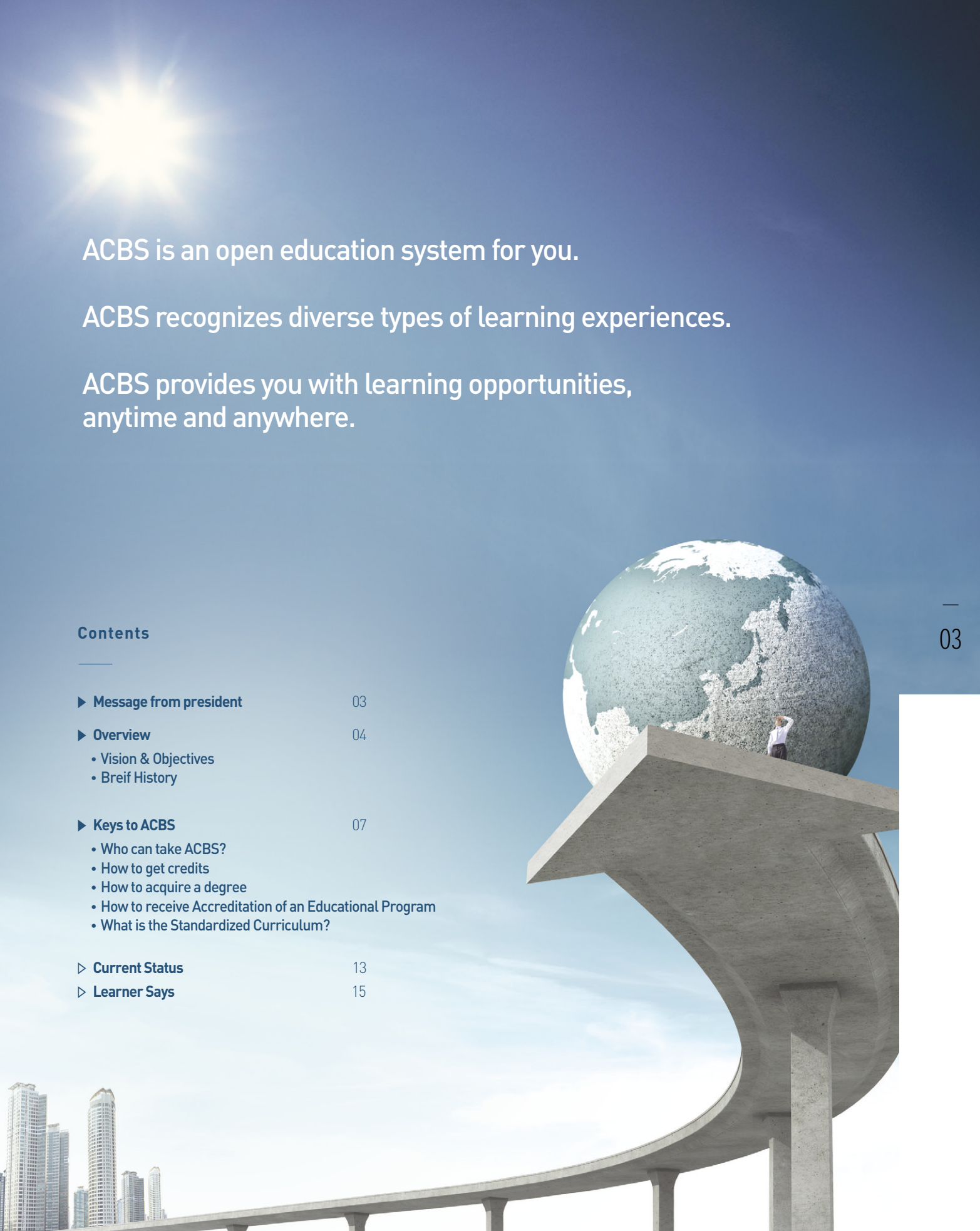


N I L E

Academic  
Credit  
Bank  
System



ACBS is an open education system for you.

ACBS recognizes diverse types of learning experiences.

ACBS provides you with learning opportunities,  
anytime and anywhere.

Contents

▶ Message from president

03

▶ Overview

04

• Vision & Objectives

• Breif History

▶ Keys to ACBS

07

• Who can take ACBS?

• How to get credits

• How to acquire a degree

• How to receive Accreditation of an Educational Program

• What is the Standardized Curriculum?

▷ Current Status

13

▷ Learner Says

15

Message

from president

The Academic Credit Bank System (ACBS) is a unique higher education system. ACBS promotes an open learning society where every individual can learn anytime and anywhere.

ACBS offers people alternatives of acquiring a higher education degree by accumulating a variety of learning experiences. Credentials obtained through ACBS are formally recognized.

Since its inception, ACBS has awarded more than 270,000 degrees. As of 2011, more than 670,000 learners are enrolled in ACBS institutes for getting higher education degrees. ACBS was also introduced by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development as a representative lifelong education system through which every individual can access to various learning opportunities in formal, informal, and non-formal settings.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology [MEST] and the National Institute for Lifelong Education [NILE] continue to formulate and implement various measures to enhance the efficiency of ACBS.

NILE will continue to make every effort to improve and enhance ACBS. It is my hope that ACBS will offer flexible and diverse learning opportunities and contribute to the realization of a lifelong learning society.



Choi, Un-Shil

Choi, Un-Shil Ph.D

President

National Institute for Lifelong Education

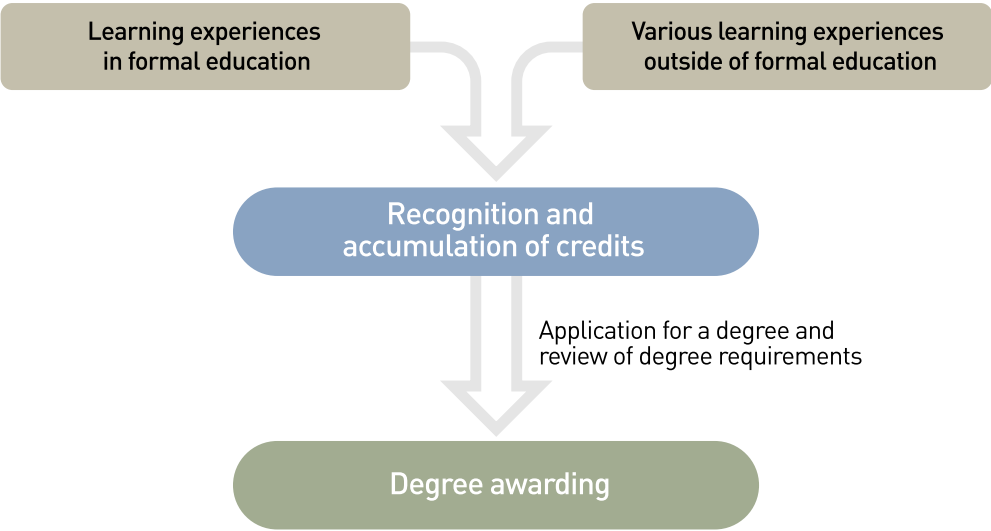
# Overview

The Academic Credit Bank System (ACBS) is an educational system which officially recognizes diverse types of learning experiences acquired inside and outside of formal education by law. Through ACBS, people with various educational backgrounds may obtain bachelor's or associate degrees.

Under 「The Higher Education Act」, a degree through ACBS is equivalent to a traditional university or college degree.

A degree through ACBS is conferred by MEST. NILE oversees ACBS.

Anyone with a high school diploma or the equivalent is eligible to ACBS.



## ► Vision & Objectives

### ○ Vision

- Helping to realize a Lifelong Learning Society
- Establishing an open higher education system

### ○ 3 Objectives

- 1 Offering alternatives for higher education
- 2 Establishing a credit recognition system for various learning experiences
- 3 Reinforcing a lifelong learning network and creating links with other institutes



► Breif History

2011	The 17 <sup>th</sup> standardized curriculum and the 19 <sup>th</sup> syllabus were proclaimed (218 majors and 6, 111 courses).
2008	With the amendment of 「The Lifelong Education Act」, NILE was newly launched and the Center for ACBS was incorporated into NILE.
2000	The first commencement was held and 111 students were awarded bachelor's degrees, and 539 students were awarded associate degrees.
1998	Initiation of ACBS. The accreditation and standardized curriculum were 1 <sup>st</sup> developed. 61 educational institutes were accredited.
1997	「The Act on Recognition of Credit, etc.」 was enacted and promulgated.
1995	The Presidential Commission on Education Reform suggested the ACBS.

# Keys to ACBS

- Who can take ACBS?
- How to get credits
- How to acquire a degree
- How to receive Accreditation of an Educational Program
- What is the Standardized Curriculum?





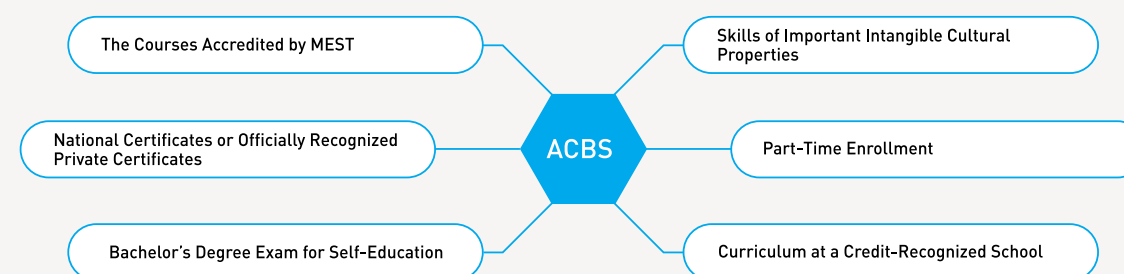
## Who can take ACBS?

- Anyone who withdrew from college or university and intends to obtain recognition for credits accumulated prior to the withdrawal
- Anyone who holds professional certificates and intends to acquire formal credits for them
- Anyone who holds degree(s) and intends to acquire second or subsequent higher education degrees
- Anyone who intends to obtain accreditation for any credits acquired from accredited educational or vocational training institutes
- Anyone who intends to acquire certificates or qualifications for a specific field or occupation such as social welfare work or early childhood caregiving
- Anyone who holds the skills or artisanship belonging to the category of Important Intangible Cultural Properties or has completed training courses for inheriting such skills or artisanship, and intends to acquire formal credits
- Anyone who intends to meet the requirements for the national examinations for Certified Public Accountants or attorneys
- Anyone who intends to receive a bachelor's degree in order to enter a graduate school

08

## How to get credits

Individual learners in ACBS may obtain and accumulate credits through six different channels.



### Completing the Courses Accredited by MEST

Persons who have completed MEST accredited programs and courses at lifelong education centers affiliated with universities or colleges, private teaching institutes, vocational education training institutes, community colleges, in-depth programs or special programs, or other educational institutes may apply for credit recognition.

### Acquiring National Certificates or Officially Recognized Private Certificates

Persons who have acquired national certificates and/or officially approved certificates proclaimed by the president of NILE may apply for credit recognition.

### Passing the Bachelor's Degree Exam for Self-Education or Courses for Exam Exemption

Persons who have passed the bachelor's degree exam for self-education or completed the courses for exemption from the examination may apply for credit recognition.

### Completing the Curriculum at a Credit-Recognized School

Persons who have graduated or withdrawn from community colleges or universities may apply for credit recognition for the courses they completed during school.

### Completing the Curriculum through Part-Time Enrollment

Persons who have completed courses through a part-time enrollment system that a college or university offers at its discretion may apply for credit recognition.

### Holding or Completing Training to Acquire Skills of Important Intangible Cultural Properties

Persons who hold the skills or artisanship belonging to the category of Important Intangible Properties or completed training courses for inheriting such skills or artisanship may apply for credit recognition for such a learning experience.

09



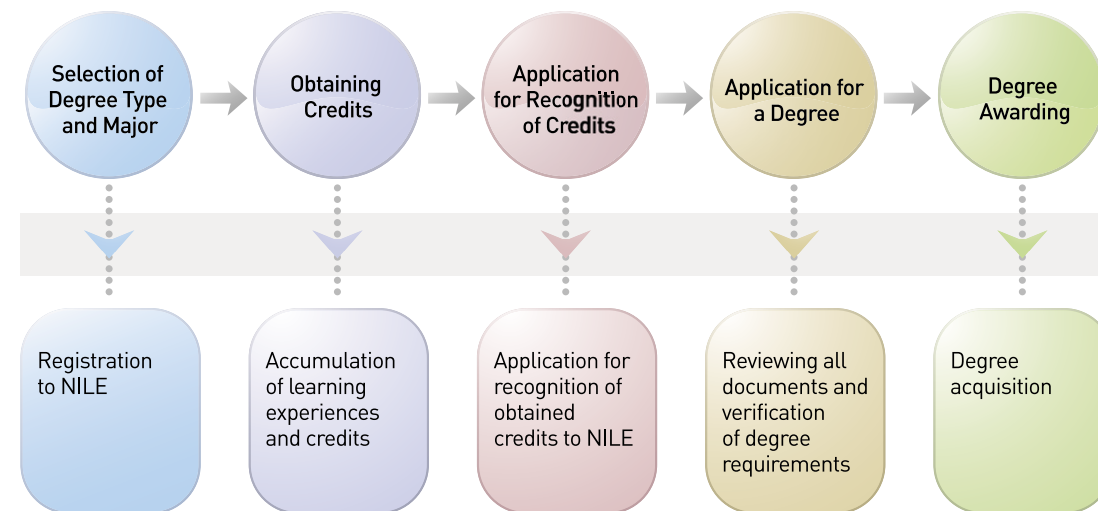
## How to acquire a degree

A learner may earn a higher education degree (e.g., a bachelor's degree or an associate degree) by accumulating the required credits through one or more of the six channels. The following table summarizes the credit requirements for each type of degree:

### ○ Degree Requirements

Classification	Bachelor's Degree	Associate Degree		Remarks
		2 Year	3 Year	
Total Credits	140 credits or more	80 credits or more	120 credits or more	A minimum of 18 credits should be taken from ACBS-affiliated institutes or other recognized institutes
Major Subjects	60 credits or more	45 credits or more	54 credits or more	
General Subjects	30 credits or more	15 credits or more	21 credits or more	

### ○ The degree acquisition process

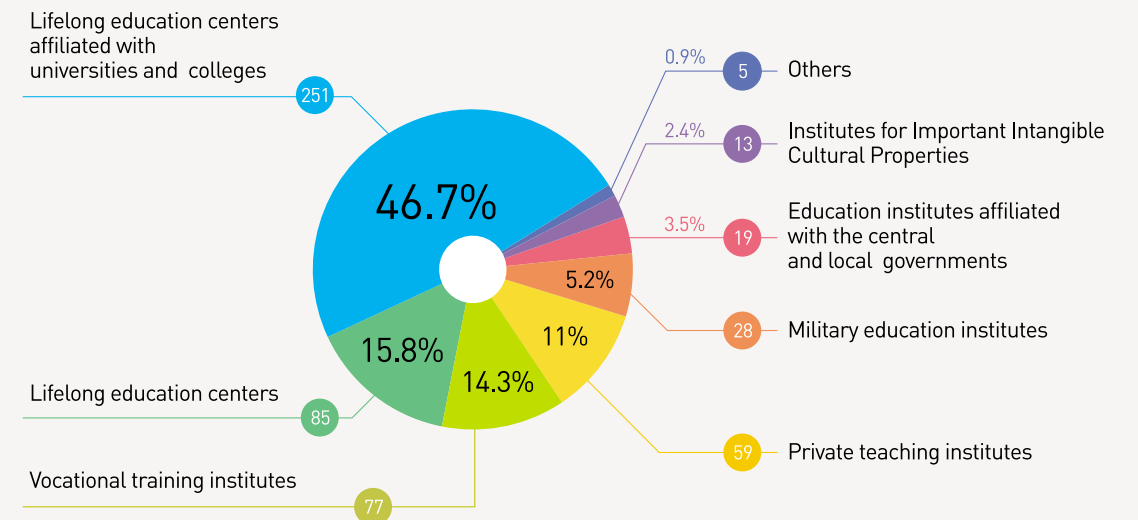


10

## How to receive Accreditation of an Educational Program

Accreditation of an Educational Program refers to the process of evaluation and accreditation of a curriculum offered by an educational or vocational institutes. When certain programs and courses are approved as equivalent to those of a college or university, they are counted as formal credits. An educational program is accredited on the basis of subject (off/on-line learning) and major. There are various educational and vocational institutes that specialize in lifelong learning and offer educational programs; for example, lifelong education centers affiliated with colleges and universities, vocational training institutes, and private teaching institutes.

11



Types and Numbers of Education & Training Institutes Affiliated with ACBS(2011.3.11)

## What is the Standardized Curriculum?

The Standardized Curriculum refers to the educational course regulated by MEST. It provides both learners and educational and vocational training institutes with guidelines of the evaluation of credits and accreditation including degree types and majors, major subjects, electives, and credit hours. Currently, it offers 109 majors in 24 bachelor's degrees and 109 majors in 13 associate degrees. And it offers 119 majors in bachelor's degrees and 119 majors in associate degrees of Important Intangible Cultural Properties.

### ○ Bachelor's Degrees in the Standardized Curriculum

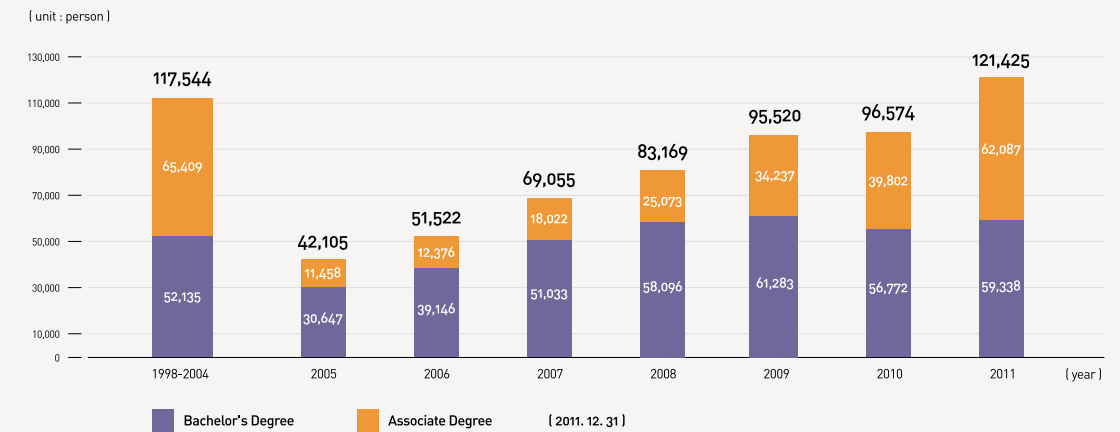
Home Economics, BS in Nursing, Business Administration, Economics, Engineering, Tourism, Advertising, Military Science, Dance, Liberal Arts, Library and Information Science, Fine Arts, Beauty Art, Law, Public Health, Theology, Arts, Arts in Music, Science, Traditional Arts, Science in Leisure and Sport, Oceanography, Science in Public Administration, Fashion, Criminal Investigation

### ○ Associate Degrees in the Standardized Curriculum

Home Economics, Business Administration, Engineering, Tourism, Military Science, Agriculture, Industrial Art, Associate Diploma in Bio Technology, Language, Arts, Riryo, Traditional Arts, Sports, Public Administration

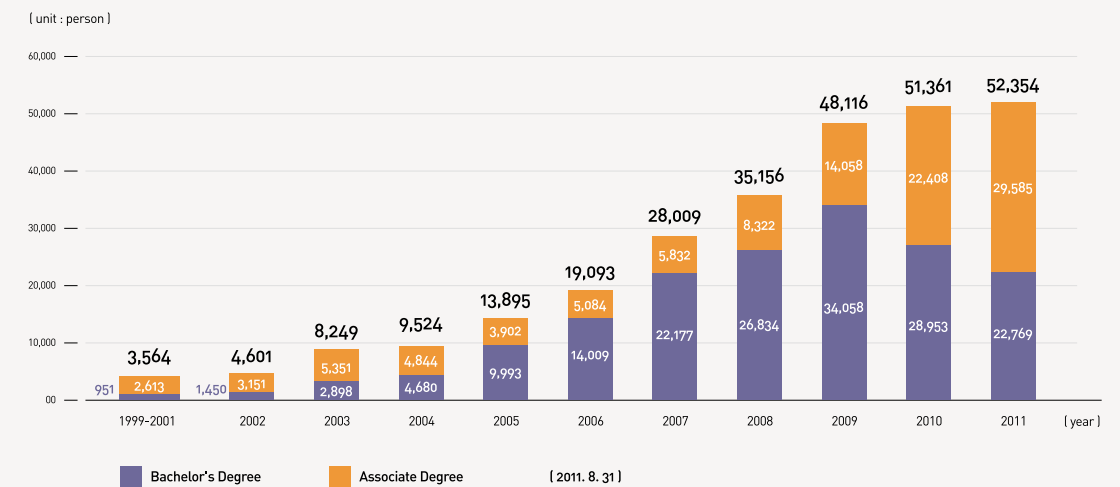
12

## □ Current Status



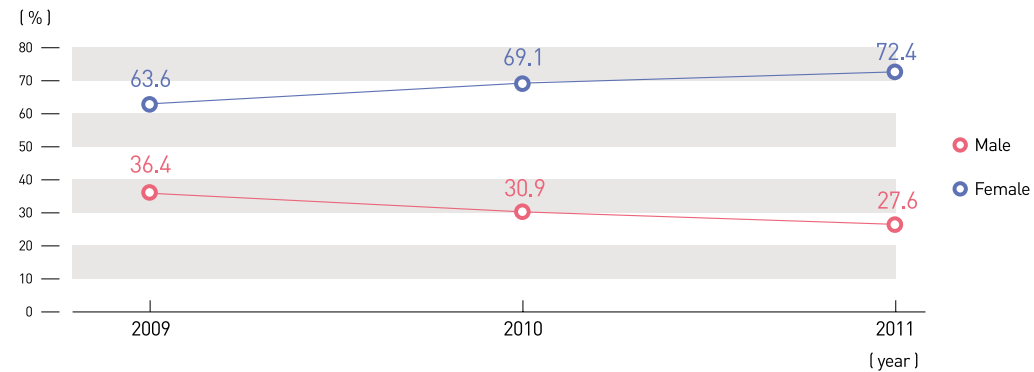
Number of Registered Learners

13

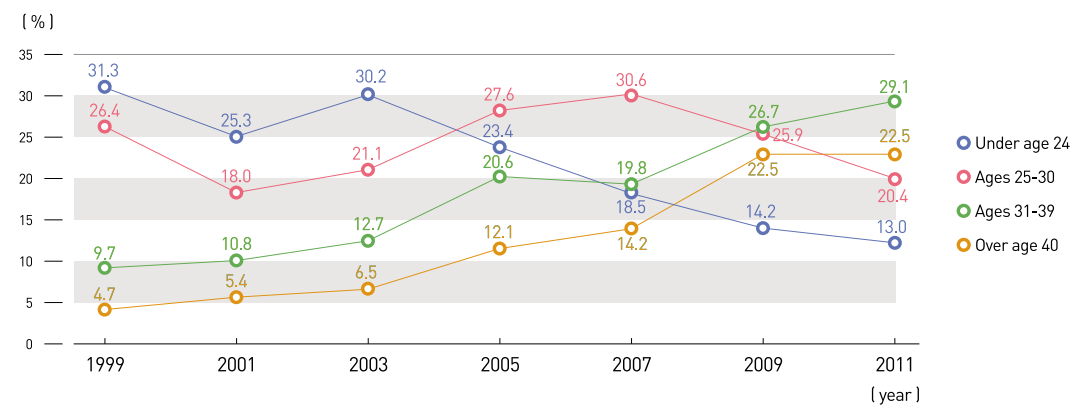


Number of Degrees through ACBS

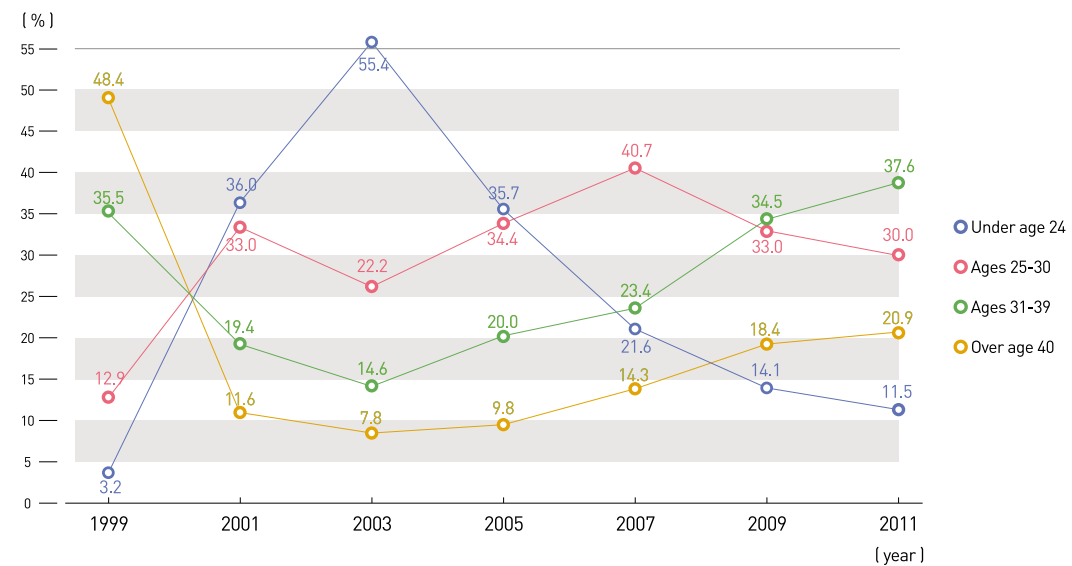




Rate of Degree Earners by Gender



Rate of Registered Learners by Age Groups



Rate of Degree Earners by Age Groups

## □ Learner Says

**“ACBS opened the door to a new phase of my life to serve the handicapped and the local community as a social worker.”**

Song, Tae-Seop (62), Major in social welfare

- Educational background: a high school graduate
- ACBS period: 2009-2010
- Credits earned: 81 credits through part-time enrollment
- Associate degree in administration
- Got employed after receiving the associate degree



**“ACBS allowed me to be completely absorbed in the joy of learning and start a new chapter in my life.”**



Ahn, Byeong-Hyeon (56),  
Major in Dan-O Festival in Gangreung, Department of Korean Traditional Culture

- Educational background: a college withdrawal
- ACBS period: 1981-2010
- Credits earned: 42 credits from accredited courses, 49 credits from a credit-recognized school, 50 credits from acquiring skills of important intangible cultural properties
- Received a B.A. by collecting 141 credits including 49 credits earned from the college before withdrawal
- Started a professional career after receiving a B.A.

**“After college, I did not know how to switch to a different major. Fortunately, ACBS helped me get the required credits for a new major and start the career that I dreamed of.”**

Jeon, Dong-Won (32), Major in electric engineering

- Educational background: a 2-year junior college graduate, a university withdrawal
- ACBS period: 1999-2010
- Credits earned: 60 credits from accredited courses, 40 credits from officially recognized certificates, 58 credits from credit-recognized schools
- Received a B.A. by collecting 158 credits including 58 credits earned from the 2-year junior college and the university before withdrawal
- Earned 7 national certificates in electric engineering
- Switched to a different major and got a job in electric engineering

