SIDEBAR

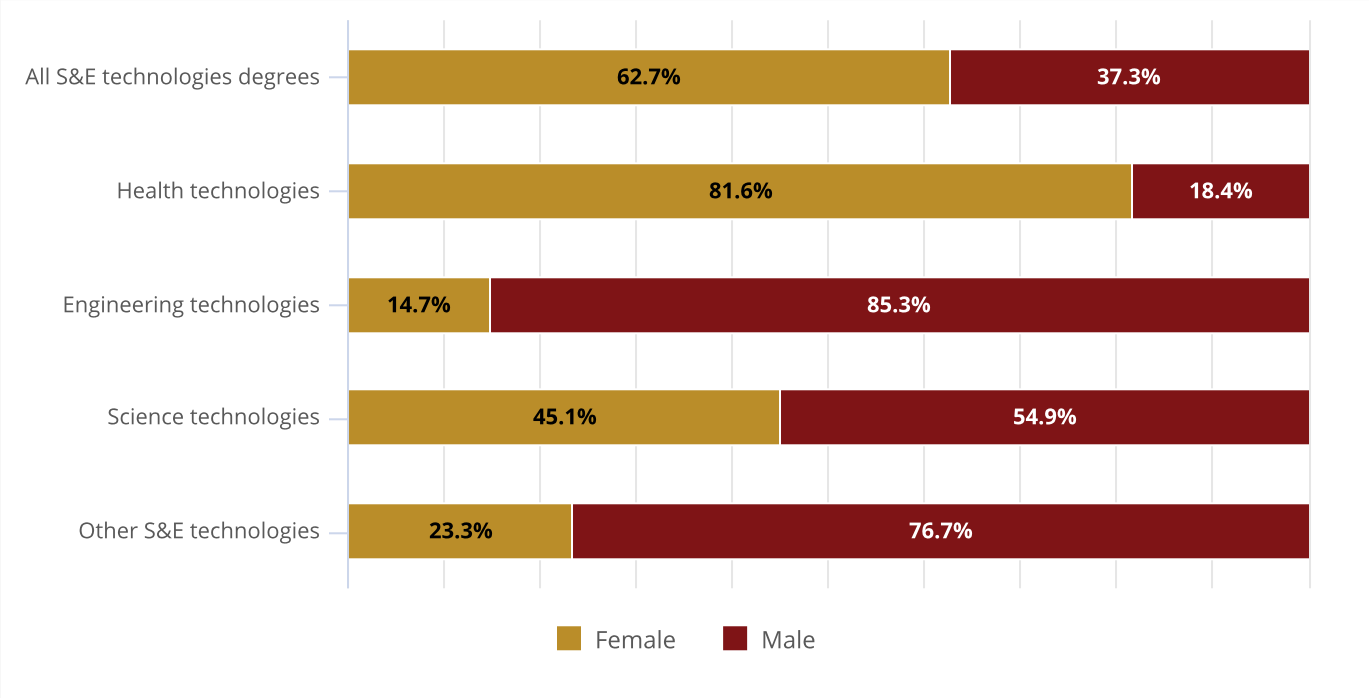
S&E Technology Associate's Degrees

The fields that make up S&E technologies are distinct from but related to the five broad S&E fields. Fields within S&E technologies focus on the application of a defined set of technical skills, with most degrees awarded at the associate's level (table 2-1 in the online data tables). These S&E technologies include technician programs in health, engineering, and other fields. Associate's degrees in these fields provide professional preparation for entering middle-skill and some S&E-related occupations that do not require bachelor's degrees (see sidebar The STEM Workforce of the United States).

Substantial differences in men's and women's shares of S&E technologies associate's degrees are apparent by degree field (figure 7-A). In 2020, women earned the majority (82%) of associate's degrees in health technologies and a small share (15%) of degrees in engineering technologies. Because associate's degrees in health technologies are by far the most common, representing 77,000 out of 110,000 degrees in S&E technologies, women also earned most (63%) of the S&E technologies degrees. Women's share of degrees in engineering technologies and health technologies has changed little over the past decade, although the total number of degrees in these fields awarded to both women and men has declined (table 2-1). Women earned less than half of the degrees in science technologies and other S&E technologies.

Figure 7-A

S&E technologies associate's degrees awarded, by field and sex: 2020



S&E = science and engineering.

Note(s):
Data are based on degree-granting, primarily postsecondary institutions eligible to participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, special tabulations (2022, Table Builder) of the National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Completions Survey, provisional release data.