

SIDEBAR**Sources of Support for S&E Graduate Education of Women**

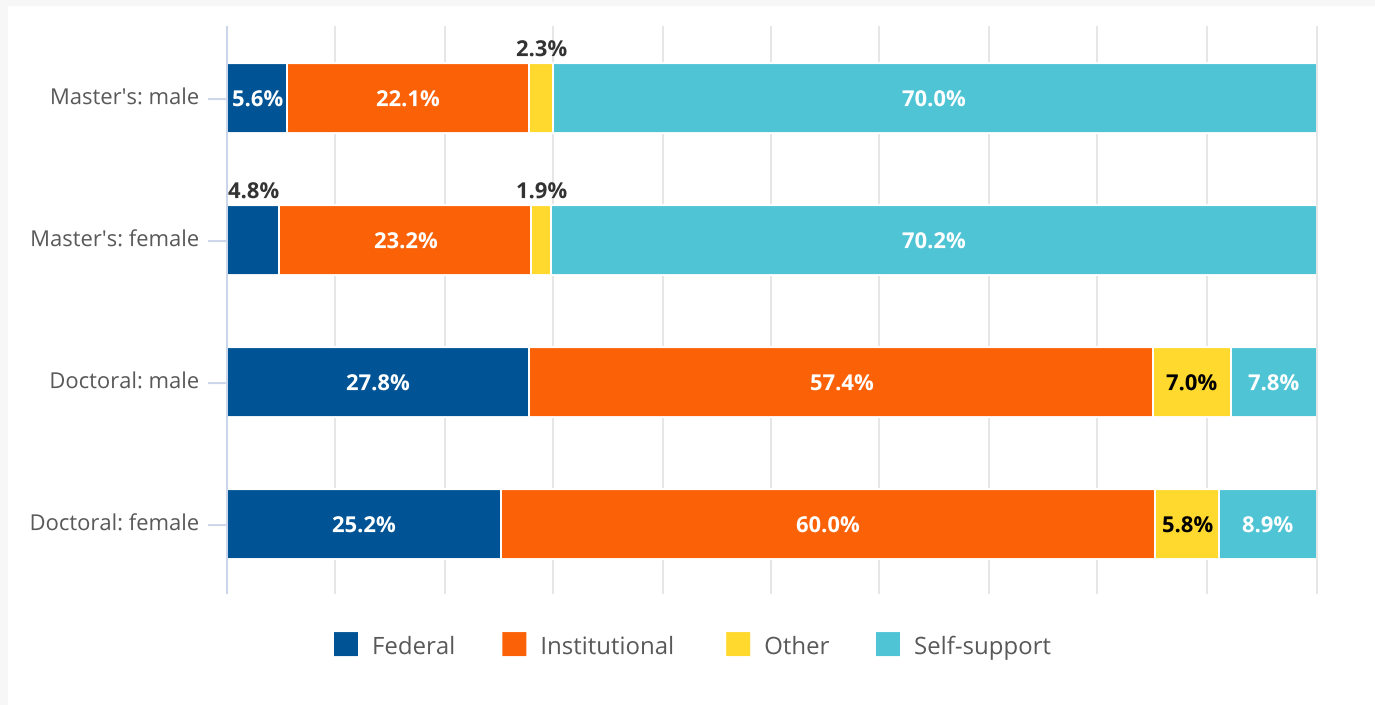
A slightly lower share of women than men who are full-time S&E graduate students receive federal financial support for their education.

Three main sources of graduate funding for tuition, living expenses, and other education-related costs are self-support, which includes loans and family sources; federal funding; and institutional support. In 2021, the majority (70%) of full-time science and engineering (S&E) master's students primarily relied on their own funds, including loans, to support their studies. More than 9 out of 10 full-time S&E doctoral students, however, receive substantial financial support for their studies through assistantships, scholarships, or other means.* The federal government provides some of this support, and slightly lower percentages of women than men receive federal funding at both the master's and doctoral levels (figure 8-A).

Federal support for graduate students varies according to degree level and field. Women receive slightly lower rates of federal funding than men within some fields of S&E, but funding rates for both women and men follow the same broad pattern by field. Federal funding supports larger percentages of students in agricultural and biological sciences, physical and earth sciences, and engineering than in other fields at both the master's and doctoral levels (table 3-3). In contrast, the percentage of full-time students in social and behavioral sciences supported by federal funding in 2021 was low at both the master's (3% of women and 5% of men) and doctoral (9% and 7%) levels. Because women are concentrated in behavioral and social sciences, the low rate of federal funding for graduate students in this field contributes to the lower rates of funding for female compared to male graduate students (figure 8-2).

Figure 8-A

Primary source of support for full-time S&E graduate students, by level of enrollment and sex: 2021



S&E = science and engineering.

Note(s):

Other includes support from nonfederal domestic and foreign sources.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering, 2021.

* From NCSES's Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.