

# Federal Investments in Science and Engineering to Individual Institutions

## The Survey of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions

Research and development (R&D) efforts at U.S. higher education and nonprofit institutions can lead to the discovery of new solutions to existing and future challenges in science and engineering (S&E). Federal agencies support these efforts through obligations to individual institutions not only for R&D but also for the funding of fellowships, traineeships, training grants, and R&D plant, facilities, and equipment for instruction in S&E.

## What is the Federal S&E Support Survey?

The Survey of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions (Federal S&E Support Survey) is a congressionally mandated survey that collects comprehensive data on federal S&E funding to individual academic and nonprofit institutions. The survey collects data from federal agencies about obligations—the monies set aside to be paid out in the future for goods or services, usually in the form of grants and contracts. The Federal S&E Support Survey is developed and sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation.

## How can I use the Federal S&E Support Survey?

Data from the Federal S&E Support Survey can answer questions like

- Did the amount of federal S&E support to higher education institutions increase compared to previous years?
- How much funding did specific federal agencies obligate to universities and colleges?
- Which institutions received the most federal obligations for support of S&E and from which federal agency?
- What amount of federal obligations did historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) receive for S&E each year? How much do specific HBCUs receive?
- Which federal agencies obligated funds to nonprofit institutions for R&D? How much?



## Why is the Federal S&E Support Survey important?

The Federal S&E Support Survey is the only source of comprehensive data on federal S&E funding to individual academic and nonprofit institutions. Survey results are used by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Government Accountability Office, and the Congressional Research Service for analysis of how federal obligations for S&E support are directed to individual recipient institutions. Many federal and state government agencies use these data to help determine future funding allocations to various types of institutions, analyze trends, as well as examine and compare patterns of support for individual institutions over time.

For more information, the [Federal S&E Support Survey homepage](https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys/federal-support-survey/) (<https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys/federal-support-survey/>) features additional details about the survey, its questionnaires, and links to related publications and products.



## Data details

### Where can I find Federal S&E Support Survey data?

Federal S&E Support Survey data can be found in several places throughout the NCSES website. On the survey's [homepage](#), the Data tab offers data tables that can be downloaded by users, and the Analysis tab chronicles all NCSES publications that use the survey's data. NCSES's interactive [data tools](https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/home) (<https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/home>) allow users to explore Federal S&E Support Survey data and to build charts and tables tailored to their unique research interests.



### Federal agencies report information about the funding they provide such as

#### Category of support

- R&D (research, development, test, and evaluation for the Department of Defense)
- Fellowships, traineeships, and training grants
- R&D plant (facility construction and major equipment)
- Facilities and equipment for instruction in S&E
- General support for S&E
- Other activities related to S&E R&D performance

#### Type of institution that receives support

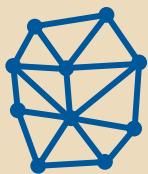
#### Federal agency providing support

- To academic institutions by state
- To academic institutions by characteristic
  - HBCUs
  - High-Hispanic-enrollment institutions
  - Tribal institutions
  - High-American Indian-enrollment institutions
  - Minority-serving institutions
  - Type of control (public vs. private)

The Federal S&E Support Survey collects data from federal agencies about their obligations to individual academic and nonprofit institutions. For information on overall federal funding for R&D in the United States, see the [Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development](https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/surveys/federal-funds-research-development/) (<https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/surveys/federal-funds-research-development/>).

## Products supported by Federal S&E Support Survey data

Federal S&E Support Survey data are used in NCSES publications, such as InfoBriefs and special reports. Its data also supplement Science and Engineering State Profiles and *Science and Engineering Indicators*.



### Survey specifics

**Frequency:** Annual

**Initial survey year:** Fiscal year 1963

**Reference period:** Each fiscal year

**Response unit:** Federal agencies

**Sample or census:** Census

**Population size:** Approximately 18 federal agencies

**Sample size:** The survey is a census of all eligible federal agencies



### National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

For more information about NCSES's products and data collection process, visit <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov>. You can also explore our Surveys page at <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/surveys> to learn more about NCSES surveys and the Federal S&E Support Survey, as well as its methodology, survey design, and questionnaires.