

TABLE 56

Federal obligations for research performed at universities and colleges for selected agencies, by detailed field of science and engineering: FYs 2020–21

(Dollars in thousands)

Field	2020	2021 (preliminary)
All fields	34,618,983.6	33,453,041.8
Computer sciences and mathematics	1,911,534.3	1,880,338.0
Computer sciences	1,341,780.5	NA
Mathematics	507,878.6	NA
Other computer sciences and mathematics	61,875.2	NA
Engineering	3,377,909.6	3,301,000.6
Aeronautical engineering	123,050.8	NA
Astronautical engineering	14,567.6	NA
Chemical engineering	228,631.9	NA
Civil engineering	9,796.7	NA
Electrical engineering	242,088.6	NA
Mechanical engineering	99,032.7	NA
Metallurgy and materials engineering	264,222.2	NA
Other engineering	2,396,519.1	NA
Environmental sciences	1,436,331.5	1,319,992.2
Atmospheric sciences	186,043.7	NA
Geological sciences	177,217.5	NA
Oceanography	471,741.4	NA
Other environmental sciences	601,328.8	NA
Life sciences	21,665,684.0	21,214,977.9
Agricultural sciences	373,128.4	NA
Biological sciences (excluding environmental biology)	11,295,277.3	NA
Environmental biology	338,145.0	NA
Medical sciences	7,451,064.4	NA
Other life sciences	2,208,068.9	NA
Physical sciences	2,404,712.6	1,734,666.7
Astronomy	174,279.3	NA
Chemistry	563,612.4	NA
Physics	793,315.0	NA
Other physical sciences	873,505.9	NA
Psychology	1,935,726.2	1,917,826.9
Biological aspects	12,788.5	NA
Social aspects	14,206.7	NA
Other psychological sciences	1,908,731.0	NA
Social sciences	450,586.5	447,985.4
Anthropology	17,274.0	NA
Economics	47,682.1	NA
Political science	4,554.1	NA
Sociology	20,712.1	NA
Other social sciences	360,364.2	NA
Other sciences nec	1,436,498.9	1,636,254.1

NA = not available; data were not collected at that level for that fiscal year.

nec = not elsewhere classified.

Note(s):

Because of rounding, detail may not add to total. Seven agencies are required to report data for this section of the survey: the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and the National Science Foundation. Research obligations of these seven agencies represented more than 97% of total federal research obligations to universities and colleges in FYs 2020–21. FYs 2020 and 2021 obligations include additional funding provided by supplemental COVID-19 related appropriations (e.g., Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act).

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development, FYs 2020–21.