

TABLE 66

Federal obligations for basic 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	20,071,452.7	19,474,515.9
Computer sciences and mathematics	1,371,895.9	1,358,770.8
Computer sciences	924,890.0	NA
Mathematics	397,034.3	NA
Other computer sciences and mathematics	49,971.6	NA
Engineering	1,791,749.2	1,796,051.5
Aeronautical engineering	48,702.9	NA
Astronautical engineering	2,240.0	NA
Chemical engineering	73,160.3	NA
Civil engineering	7,840.0	NA
Electrical engineering	152,730.3	NA
Mechanical engineering	74,829.8	NA
Metallurgy and materials engineering	215,875.2	NA
Other engineering	1,216,370.7	NA
Environmental sciences	1,175,817.6	1,063,035.8
Atmospheric sciences	179,396.3	NA
Geological sciences	176,447.3	NA
Oceanography	413,641.0	NA
Other environmental sciences	406,332.9	NA
Life sciences	11,270,936.8	11,225,928.8
Agricultural sciences	189,945.9	NA
Biological sciences (excluding environmental biology)	6,043,158.8	NA
Environmental biology	235,991.5	NA
Medical sciences	3,713,913.1	NA
Other life sciences	1,087,927.6	NA
Physical sciences	2,266,145.9	1,612,544.4
Astronomy	174,279.3	NA
Chemistry	483,985.0	NA
Physics	754,148.0	NA
Other physical sciences	853,733.6	NA
Psychology	1,002,707.5	1,024,700.0
Biological aspects	12,748.5	NA
Social aspects	11,185.6	NA
Other psychological sciences	978,773.4	NA
Social sciences	307,483.7	310,079.2
Anthropology	17,237.9	NA
Economics	24,044.4	NA
Political science	4,554.1	NA
Sociology	13,317.6	NA
Other social sciences	248,329.7	NA
Other sciences nec	884,715.9	1,083,405.4

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. Basic research obligations of these seven agencies represented more than 99% of total federal basic 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.