Table 2

Graduate enrollment in science, engineering, and health, by degree level and field: 2017–21

(Number and percent change)

Characteristic	Master's							Doctoral						
						Percent change							Percent change	
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017–21	2020–21	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017–21	2020–21
All graduate students	378,587	391,211	408,228	414,478	466,821	23.3	12.6	270,525	277,096	281,889	283,335	293,682	8.6	3.7
Science and engineering	325,925	334,391	351,734	354,354	401,059	23.1	13.2	255,224	261,165	265,961	268,021	277,022	8.5	3.4
Science	229,169	241,327	259,795	267,904	305,949	33.5	14.2	186,399	190,928	193,896	196,742	204,077	9.5	3.7
Agricultural and veterinary sciences	5,603	5,658	5,629	6,487	6,801	21.4	4.8	3,744	3,880	3,889	4,313	4,443	18.7	3.0
Biological and biomedical sciences	33,926	35,306	38,078	39,920	42,775	26.1	7.2	51,291	52,627	53,915	54,905	58,213	13.5	6.0
Computer and information sciences	75,618	77,351	84,092	80,690	102,232	35.2	26.7	14,291	16,127	17,192	18,174	19,574	37.0	7.7
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	6,006	5,629	5,327	5,277	5,520	-8.1	4.6	6,539	6,704	6,551	6,515	6,773	3.6	4.0
Mathematics and statistics	16,568	18,073	19,594	18,284	20,639	24.6	12.9	13,101	13,388	13,565	13,687	13,619	4.0	-0.5
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies	6,923	7,414	8,203	10,980	11,997	73.3	9.3	2,931	2,924	2,978	3,553	3,775	28.8	6.2
Natural resources and conservation	7,311	7,691	8,066	8,793	10,021	37.1	14.0	3,568	3,716	3,677	3,705	3,911	9.6	5.6
Physical sciences	6,368	6,075	6,361	6,275	6,404	0.6	2.1	35,461	36,000	36,506	36,341	37,747	6.4	3.9
Psychology	29,638	35,404	40,838	47,279	51,936	75.2	9.9	20,395	20,303	20,231	21,115	21,445	5.1	1.6
Social sciences	41,208	42,726	43,607	43,919	47,624	15.6	8.4	35,078	35,259	35,392	34,434	34,577	-1.4	0.4
Engineering	96,756	93,064	91,939	86,450	95,110	-1.7	10.0	68,825	70,237	72,065	71,279	72,945	6.0	2.3
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	3,322	3,342	3,701	4,326	5,065	52.5	17.1	2,386	2,506	2,554	2,645	2,776	16.3	5.0
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	4,108	4,282	4,424	4,536	5,194	26.4	14.5	7,008	7,481	7,934	8,239	8,879	26.7	7.8
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	4,208	3,815	3,274	2,942	2,983	-29.1	1.4	7,536	7,599	7,664	7,612	7,718	2.4	1.4
Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields	13,506	12,729	11,873	10,819	11,730	-13.1	8.4	7,626	7,732	7,752	7,485	7,880	3.3	5.3
Electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering	29,816	28,108	28,177	25,312	27,687	-7.1	9.4	17,936	18,119	18,577	17,720	17,572	-2.0	-0.8
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering and operations research	12,272	12,389	11,912	11,030	11,949	-2.6	8.3	3,633	3,598	3,762	3,839	3,920	7.9	2.1
Mechanical engineering	16,279	15,434	14,861	14,305	15,710	-3.5	9.8	11,149	11,159	11,247	11,477	11,539	3.5	0.5
Metallurgical, mining, materials and related engineering fields	2,427	2,395	2,266	2,299	2,516	3.7	9.4	4,655	4,821	4,817	4,882	4,904	5.3	0.5
Other engineering	10,818	10,570	11,451	10,881	12,276	13.5	12.8	6,896	7,222	7,758	7,380	7,757	12.5	5.1
Health	52,662	56,820	56,494	60,124	65,762	24.9	9.4	15,301	15,931	15,928	15,314	16,660	8.9	8.8
Clinical medicine	25,283	27,494	26,251	29,748	34,068	34.7	14.5	4,410	4,508	4,571	4,796	5,623	27.5	17.2
Other health	27,379	29,326	30,243	30,376	31,694	15.8	4.3	10,891	11,423	11,357	10,518	11,037	1.3	4.9

Note(s):
In 2020, the GSS revised its field taxonomy, and the revisions resulted in some disciplines moving between broad fields; see “Data Sources and Limitations” for details. For more information about fields collected in this survey, please see table A-17 in *Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering: Fall 2021*.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.