

TABLE 1-2a

Sex of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health: 1977–2021

(Number and percent)

Year	Graduate students					Postdoctoral appointees					Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers				
	Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1977	345,374	244,924	70.9	100,450	29.1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1978	339,912	NA	NA	NA	NA	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1979	357,578	240,839	67.4	116,739	32.6	18,101	14,761	81.5	3,340	18.5	2,687	2,076	77.3	611	22.7
1980	367,078	242,956	66.2	124,122	33.8	18,399	14,856	80.7	3,543	19.3	3,260	2,571	78.9	689	21.1
1981	375,130	243,558	64.9	131,572	35.1	19,634	15,554	79.2	4,080	20.8	3,559	2,809	78.9	750	21.1
1982	382,291	246,298	64.4	135,993	35.6	19,363	14,992	77.4	4,371	22.6	4,026	3,183	79.1	843	20.9
1983	390,432	250,928	64.3	139,504	35.7	20,712	15,919	76.9	4,793	23.1	4,896	3,915	80.0	981	20.0
1984	394,670	252,653	64.0	142,017	36.0	21,535	16,494	76.6	5,041	23.4	5,042	3,896	77.3	1,146	22.7
1985	404,021	258,216	63.9	145,805	36.1	22,387	16,973	75.8	5,414	24.2	5,103	3,826	75.0	1,277	25.0
1986	415,520	264,733	63.7	150,787	36.3	23,721	17,741	74.8	5,980	25.2	4,846	3,586	74.0	1,260	26.0
1987	421,497	267,941	63.6	153,556	36.4	24,881	18,498	74.3	6,383	25.7	4,597	3,354	73.0	1,243	27.0
1988	424,523	265,390	62.5	159,133	37.5	26,123	19,321	74.0	6,802	26.0	4,869	3,603	74.0	1,266	26.0
1989	434,478	268,725	61.9	165,753	38.1	27,932	20,560	73.6	7,372	26.4	4,908	3,623	73.8	1,285	26.2
1990	452,113	275,672	61.0	176,441	39.0	29,565	21,572	73.0	7,993	27.0	5,255	3,879	73.8	1,376	26.2
1991	471,212	284,897	60.5	186,315	39.5	30,865	22,406	72.6	8,459	27.4	5,478	4,026	73.5	1,452	26.5
1992	493,522	294,222	59.6	199,300	40.4	32,747	23,450	71.6	9,297	28.4	5,482	4,036	73.6	1,446	26.4
1993	504,304	294,476	58.4	209,828	41.6	34,322	24,381	71.0	9,941	29.0	6,001	4,376	72.9	1,625	27.1
1994	504,399	288,355	57.2	216,044	42.8	36,377	25,471	70.0	10,906	30.0	6,209	4,487	72.3	1,722	27.7
1995	499,640	279,305	55.9	220,335	44.1	35,926	25,024	69.7	10,902	30.3	6,534	4,785	73.2	1,749	26.8
1996	494,079	271,660	55.0	222,419	45.0	37,107	25,841	69.6	11,266	30.4	6,604	4,692	71.0	1,912	29.0
1997	487,208	264,497	54.3	222,711	45.7	38,481	26,506	68.9	11,975	31.1	6,722	4,733	70.4	1,989	29.6
1998	485,627	261,019	53.7	224,608	46.3	40,086	27,249	68.0	12,837	32.0	7,100	4,985	70.2	2,115	29.8
1999	493,256	262,675	53.3	230,581	46.7	40,800	27,831	68.2	12,969	31.8	7,573	5,244	69.2	2,329	30.8
2000	493,311	262,109	53.1	231,202	46.9	43,115	29,606	68.7	13,509	31.3	7,879	5,493	69.7	2,386	30.3
2001	509,607	271,155	53.2	238,452	46.8	43,311	29,310	67.7	14,001	32.3	7,531	5,041	66.9	2,490	33.1
2002	540,404	287,059	53.1	253,345	46.9	45,034	29,850	66.3	15,184	33.7	7,906	5,329	67.4	2,577	32.6
2003	567,121	298,682	52.7	268,439	47.3	46,728	30,692	65.7	16,036	34.3	8,473	5,700	67.3	2,773	32.7
2004	574,463	296,714	51.7	277,749	48.3	47,240	30,867	65.3	16,373	34.7	9,075	6,049	66.7	3,026	33.3
2005	582,226	295,291	50.7	286,935	49.3	48,555	31,515	64.9	17,040	35.1	9,527	6,305	66.2	3,222	33.8
2006	597,643	299,818	50.2	297,825	49.8	49,343	31,760	64.4	17,583	35.6	10,814	7,190	66.5	3,624	33.5
2007old ^a	607,823	308,152	50.7	299,671	49.3	50,712	32,860	64.8	17,852	35.2	10,736	7,060	65.8	3,676	34.2
2007new ^a	619,499	312,009	50.4	307,490	49.6	50,840	32,942	64.8	17,898	35.2	10,752	7,065	65.7	3,687	34.3
2008	631,489	320,310	50.7	311,179	49.3	54,164	33,943	62.7	20,221	37.3	13,747	8,667	63.0	5,080	37.0
2009	631,645	328,525	52.0	303,120	48.0	57,805	35,987	62.3	21,818	37.7	14,059	8,795	62.6	5,264	37.4
2010 ^{b,c}	632,652	335,481	53.0	297,171	47.0	63,439	38,869	61.3	24,570	38.7	21,345	12,927	60.6	8,418	39.4
2011 ^c	626,820	335,270	53.5	291,550	46.5	62,639	38,167	60.9	24,472	39.1	21,498	13,105	61.0	8,393	39.0
2012	627,243	336,187	53.6	291,056	46.4	62,851	38,166	60.7	24,685	39.3	21,908	13,250	60.5	8,658	39.5
2013	633,010	341,630	54.0	291,380	46.0	61,942	37,585	60.7	24,357	39.3	22,465	13,617	60.6	8,848	39.4
2014old ^d	650,738	356,011	54.7	294,727	45.3	62,379	37,752	60.5	24,627	39.5	23,290	14,099	60.5	9,191	39.5
2014new ^d	666,586	365,841	54.9	300,745	45.1	63,593	38,491	60.5	25,102	39.5	23,706	14,314	60.4	9,392	39.6
2015	685,397	376,296	54.9	309,101	45.1	63,861	38,566	60.4	25,295	39.6	25,292	15,249	60.3	10,043	39.7
2016	684,825	375,569	54.8	309,256	45.2	64,712	39,118	60.4	25,594	39.6	25,747	15,437	60.0	10,310	40.0
2017old ^e	684,096	369,326	54.0	314,770	46.0	64,888	38,936	60.0	25,952	40.0	na	na	na	na	na
2017new ^e	649,112	356,447	54.9	292,665	45.1	64,733	38,870	60.0	25,863	40.0	28,180	16,580	58.8	11,600	41.2
2018	668,307	359,333	53.8	308,974	46.2	64,783	38,661	59.7	26,122	40.3	29,284	17,468	59.7	11,816	40.3
2019	690,117	364,995	52.9	325,122	47.1	66,247	39,173	59.1	27,074	40.9	30,349	17,980	59.2	12,369	40.8

TABLE 1-2a

Sex of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health: 1977–2021

(Number and percent)

Year	Graduate students					Postdoctoral appointees					Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers				
	Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2020	697,813	359,913	51.6	337,900	48.4	65,681	38,239	58.2	27,442	41.8	29,661	17,255	58.2	12,406	41.8
2021	760,156	387,277	50.9	372,879	49.1	63,328	36,520	57.7	26,808	42.3	30,548	17,630	57.7	12,918	42.3
Master's students															
2017new ^e	378,587	200,748	53.0	177,839	47.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2018	391,211	201,314	51.5	189,897	48.5	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2019	408,228	205,768	50.4	202,460	49.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2020	414,478	202,148	48.8	212,330	51.2	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2021	466,613	226,856	48.6	239,757	51.4	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Doctoral students															
2017new ^e	270,525	155,699	57.6	114,826	42.4	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2018	277,096	158,019	57.0	119,077	43.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2019	281,889	159,227	56.5	122,662	43.5	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2020	283,335	157,765	55.7	125,570	44.3	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2021	293,543	160,421	54.6	133,122	45.4	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

na = not applicable; master's and doctoral students were not reported separately until 2017, and data on postdoctoral appointees (postdocs) and nonfaculty researchers (NFRs) were not collected until 1979. NA = not available; master's-granting institutions were not surveyed in 1978, and the survey of doctorate-granting institutions did not collect data by sex.

^a In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. "2007new" presents data as collected in 2007; "2007old" shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. See appendix A in <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/> for more detail.

^b In 2010, the postdoctoral (postdoc) and nonfaculty researcher (NFR) section of the survey was expanded and significant effort was made to ensure that appropriate personnel were providing postdoc and NFR data. Thus, it is unclear how much of the increases in 2010 and later years over 2009 and prior years are from growth in postdocs and NFRs and how much are from improved data collection. More information on the changes to the data collection is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13334/>.

^c Postdoc and NFR data from 2010 and 2011 were reimputed following the 2012 data collection; these data supersede those contained in previous reports.

^d In 2014, the survey frame was updated following a comprehensive frame evaluation study. The study identified potentially eligible but not previously surveyed academic institutions in the United States with master's- or doctorate-granting programs in science, engineering, or health. A total of 151 newly eligible institutions were added, and two private for-profit institutions offering mostly practitioner-based graduate degrees were determined to be ineligible. For more information, see <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2016/nsf16314>.

^e As part of 2017 Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) redesign, the GSS taxonomy was changed to align with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) Taxonomy of Disciplines (TOD), thus increasing comparability with other NCSES surveys. As a result, some eligible fields were reclassified and a small number of fields became fully or partially ineligible. Comparisons to prior years should use the 2017old estimates and should be limited to broad areas of study—detailed field comparisons are not recommended. Due to changes in reporting, NFR estimates for 2017old are not available.

Note(s):

Percentages may not add to total because of rounding.

Source(s):

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