

TABLE 1-8

Primary mechanism of support for full-time graduate students in science, engineering, and health: 1975–2022

(Number and percent)

| Year | Total | Fellowships | | Research assistantships | | Teaching assistantships | | Traineeships | | Other types of support | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Self-support | | Other | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| 1975 | 219,648 | 37,163 | 16.9 | 39,964 | 18.2 | 47,156 | 21.5 | na | na | 79,860 | 36.4 | 15,505 | 7.1 |
| 1976 | 223,412 | 36,200 | 16.2 | 42,555 | 19.0 | 48,124 | 21.5 | na | na | 74,428 | 33.3 | 22,105 | 9.9 |
| 1977 | 226,738 | 37,679 | 16.6 | 43,657 | 19.3 | 48,481 | 21.4 | na | na | 74,173 | 32.7 | 22,748 | 10.0 |
| 1978 ^a | 223,030 | na | na | na | na | na | na | na | na | 69,920 | 31.4 | 153,110 | 68.6 |
| 1979 | 231,760 | 20,214 | 8.7 | 48,976 | 21.1 | 51,779 | 22.3 | 17,965 | 7.8 | 73,849 | 31.9 | 18,977 | 8.2 |
| 1980 | 238,416 | 20,515 | 8.6 | 51,566 | 21.6 | 53,889 | 22.6 | 17,545 | 7.4 | 75,457 | 31.6 | 19,444 | 8.2 |
| 1981 | 242,049 | 20,095 | 8.3 | 52,711 | 21.8 | 55,745 | 23.0 | 16,771 | 6.9 | 76,522 | 31.6 | 20,205 | 8.3 |
| 1982 | 244,757 | 20,855 | 8.5 | 52,580 | 21.5 | 58,334 | 23.8 | 14,637 | 6.0 | 77,896 | 31.8 | 20,455 | 8.4 |
| 1983 | 252,017 | 21,342 | 8.5 | 54,904 | 21.8 | 60,071 | 23.8 | 13,512 | 5.4 | 81,233 | 32.2 | 20,955 | 8.3 |
| 1984 | 253,922 | 21,624 | 8.5 | 57,735 | 22.7 | 61,256 | 24.1 | 13,465 | 5.3 | 79,150 | 31.2 | 20,692 | 8.1 |
| 1985 | 257,287 | 22,540 | 8.8 | 60,995 | 23.7 | 61,822 | 24.0 | 13,665 | 5.3 | 77,630 | 30.2 | 20,635 | 8.0 |
| 1986 | 266,168 | 22,954 | 8.6 | 66,010 | 24.8 | 62,552 | 23.5 | 13,526 | 5.1 | 78,880 | 29.6 | 22,246 | 8.4 |
| 1987 | 271,056 | 21,953 | 8.1 | 70,214 | 25.9 | 62,847 | 23.2 | 14,096 | 5.2 | 79,780 | 29.4 | 22,166 | 8.2 |
| 1988 | 275,127 | 22,353 | 8.1 | 74,588 | 27.1 | 63,053 | 22.9 | 14,397 | 5.2 | 79,160 | 28.8 | 21,576 | 7.8 |
| 1989 | 282,648 | 23,450 | 8.3 | 79,045 | 28.0 | 64,296 | 22.7 | 14,524 | 5.1 | 80,251 | 28.4 | 21,082 | 7.5 |
| 1990 | 292,782 | 25,254 | 8.6 | 80,746 | 27.6 | 64,950 | 22.2 | 15,198 | 5.2 | 84,384 | 28.8 | 22,250 | 7.6 |
| 1991 | 307,010 | 26,695 | 8.7 | 85,175 | 27.7 | 65,214 | 21.2 | 15,403 | 5.0 | 91,583 | 29.8 | 22,940 | 7.5 |
| 1992 | 322,555 | 28,627 | 8.9 | 88,030 | 27.3 | 65,702 | 20.4 | 15,361 | 4.8 | 101,299 | 31.4 | 23,536 | 7.3 |
| 1993 | 329,644 | 29,132 | 8.8 | 90,154 | 27.3 | 67,290 | 20.4 | 15,445 | 4.7 | 106,276 | 32.2 | 21,347 | 6.5 |
| 1994 | 332,088 | 28,892 | 8.7 | 92,008 | 27.7 | 66,844 | 20.1 | 15,681 | 4.7 | 107,035 | 32.2 | 21,628 | 6.5 |
| 1995 | 329,283 | 28,887 | 8.8 | 89,946 | 27.3 | 65,976 | 20.0 | 15,943 | 4.8 | 106,687 | 32.4 | 21,844 | 6.6 |
| 1996 | 328,536 | 28,862 | 8.8 | 87,694 | 26.7 | 65,756 | 20.0 | 15,481 | 4.7 | 109,475 | 33.3 | 21,268 | 6.5 |
| 1997 | 327,289 | 28,956 | 8.8 | 88,001 | 26.9 | 65,425 | 20.0 | 14,488 | 4.4 | 108,741 | 33.2 | 21,678 | 6.6 |
| 1998 | 327,389 | 29,106 | 8.9 | 88,097 | 26.9 | 65,173 | 19.9 | 14,946 | 4.6 | 108,224 | 33.1 | 21,843 | 6.7 |
| 1999 | 334,423 | 30,112 | 9.0 | 91,279 | 27.3 | 66,294 | 19.8 | 14,707 | 4.4 | 109,416 | 32.7 | 22,615 | 6.8 |
| 2000 | 341,283 | 31,330 | 9.2 | 94,323 | 27.6 | 66,423 | 19.5 | 14,171 | 4.2 | 112,432 | 32.9 | 22,604 | 6.6 |
| 2001 | 354,522 | 32,270 | 9.1 | 99,923 | 28.2 | 68,267 | 19.3 | 14,154 | 4.0 | 116,636 | 32.9 | 23,272 | 6.6 |
| 2002 | 378,991 | 34,849 | 9.2 | 108,185 | 28.5 | 70,732 | 18.7 | 15,006 | 4.0 | 126,654 | 33.4 | 23,565 | 6.2 |
| 2003 | 397,420 | 34,460 | 8.7 | 114,256 | 28.7 | 73,105 | 18.4 | 15,126 | 3.8 | 134,730 | 33.9 | 25,743 | 6.5 |
| 2004 | 402,573 | 35,034 | 8.7 | 114,768 | 28.5 | 73,009 | 18.1 | 14,903 | 3.7 | 137,078 | 34.1 | 27,781 | 6.9 |
| 2005 | 406,620 | 36,414 | 9.0 | 114,304 | 28.1 | 74,238 | 18.3 | 14,570 | 3.6 | 139,403 | 34.3 | 27,691 | 6.8 |
| 2006 | 419,015 | 36,689 | 8.8 | 114,774 | 27.4 | 75,911 | 18.1 | 14,571 | 3.5 | 146,606 | 35.0 | 30,464 | 7.3 |
| 2007 ^{old} ^b | 430,860 | 38,340 | 8.9 | 115,192 | 26.7 | 77,817 | 18.1 | 13,437 | 3.1 | 154,293 | 35.8 | 31,781 | 7.4 |
| 2007 ^{new} ^b | 437,365 | 38,631 | 8.8 | 116,043 | 26.5 | 79,948 | 18.3 | 13,497 | 3.1 | 157,029 | 35.9 | 32,217 | 7.4 |
| 2008 | 449,613 | 38,599 | 8.6 | 118,349 | 26.3 | 83,135 | 18.5 | 13,317 | 3.0 | 165,658 | 36.8 | 30,555 | 6.8 |
| 2009 | 456,115 | 38,931 | 8.5 | 121,443 | 26.6 | 81,828 | 17.9 | 12,830 | 2.8 | 169,956 | 37.3 | 31,127 | 6.8 |
| 2010 | 461,185 | 39,899 | 8.7 | 123,698 | 26.8 | 83,252 | 18.1 | 12,476 | 2.7 | 170,564 | 37.0 | 31,296 | 6.8 |
| 2011 | 457,292 | 41,297 | 9.0 | 122,480 | 26.8 | 84,173 | 18.4 | 12,629 | 2.8 | 165,807 | 36.3 | 30,906 | 6.8 |
| 2012 | 459,498 | 42,005 | 9.1 | 119,347 | 26.0 | 86,295 | 18.8 | 11,646 | 2.5 | 166,900 | 36.3 | 33,305 | 7.2 |
| 2013 | 468,953 | 43,432 | 9.3 | 116,377 | 24.8 | 88,689 | 18.9 | 10,514 | 2.2 | 176,788 | 37.7 | 33,153 | 7.1 |
| 2014 ^{old} ^c | 484,880 | 42,804 | 8.8 | 115,274 | 23.8 | 90,564 | 18.7 | 11,207 | 2.3 | 191,148 | 39.4 | 33,883 | 7.0 |
| 2014 ^{new} ^c | 492,170 | 43,084 | 8.8 | 115,700 | 23.5 | 90,947 | 18.5 | 11,251 | 2.3 | 196,687 | 40.0 | 34,501 | 7.0 |
| 2015 | 506,262 | 43,460 | 8.6 | 116,425 | 23.0 | 92,513 | 18.3 | 11,175 | 2.2 | 205,678 | 40.6 | 37,011 | 7.3 |
| 2016 | 508,773 | 42,584 | 8.4 | 116,222 | 22.8 | 91,545 | 18.0 | 11,833 | 2.3 | 208,182 | 40.9 | 38,407 | 7.5 |
| 2017 ^{old} ^d | 498,619 | 42,120 | 8.4 | 110,408 | 22.1 | 91,615 | 18.4 | 12,380 | 2.5 | 200,850 | 40.3 | 41,246 | 8.3 |
| 2017 ^{new} ^d | 480,788 | 41,408 | 8.6 | 108,633 | 22.6 | 88,323 | 18.4 | 12,249 | 2.5 | 190,693 | 39.7 | 39,482 | 8.2 |
| 2018 | 491,449 | 41,779 | 8.5 | 111,469 | 22.7 | 87,682 | 17.8 | 12,896 | 2.6 | 196,114 | 39.9 | 41,509 | 8.4 |
| 2019 | 502,442 | 45,834 | 9.1 | 115,320 | 23.0 | 88,144 | 17.5 | 12,282 | 2.4 | 199,077 | 39.6 | 41,785 | 8.3 |

TABLE 1-8

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(Number and percent)

| Year | Total | Fellowships | | Research assistantships | | Teaching assistantships | | Traineeships | | Other types of support | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Self-support | | Other | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| 2020 | 491,515 | 43,462 | 8.8 | 115,101 | 23.4 | 85,292 | 17.4 | 12,019 | 2.4 | 192,671 | 39.2 | 42,970 | 8.7 |
| 2021 | 543,823 | 50,212 | 9.2 | 124,894 | 23.0 | 84,293 | 15.5 | 11,621 | 2.1 | 225,770 | 41.5 | 47,033 | 8.6 |
| 2022 | 579,301 | 47,647 | 8.2 | 130,185 | 22.5 | 84,893 | 14.7 | 11,717 | 2.0 | 244,299 | 42.2 | 60,560 | 10.5 |
| Master's students | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2017new ^d | 245,010 | 6,535 | 2.7 | 21,681 | 8.8 | 24,193 | 9.9 | 1,992 | 0.8 | 165,485 | 67.5 | 25,124 | 10.3 |
| 2018 | 248,552 | 6,880 | 2.8 | 20,147 | 8.1 | 22,636 | 9.1 | 2,253 | 0.9 | 171,930 | 69.2 | 24,706 | 9.9 |
| 2019 | 254,532 | 7,717 | 3.0 | 20,406 | 8.0 | 23,284 | 9.1 | 2,185 | 0.9 | 176,457 | 69.3 | 24,483 | 9.6 |
| 2020 | 243,859 | 6,112 | 2.5 | 19,274 | 7.9 | 21,699 | 8.9 | 2,268 | 0.9 | 169,099 | 69.3 | 25,407 | 10.4 |
| 2021 | 286,954 | 8,928 | 3.1 | 21,173 | 7.4 | 22,172 | 7.7 | 2,009 | 0.7 | 202,659 | 70.6 | 30,013 | 10.5 |
| 2022 | 319,618 | 8,119 | 2.5 | 22,556 | 7.1 | 23,877 | 7.5 | 2,007 | 0.6 | 222,506 | 69.6 | 40,553 | 12.7 |
| Doctoral students | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2017new ^d | 235,778 | 34,873 | 14.8 | 86,952 | 36.9 | 64,130 | 27.2 | 10,257 | 4.4 | 25,208 | 10.7 | 14,358 | 6.1 |
| 2018 | 242,897 | 34,899 | 14.4 | 91,322 | 37.6 | 65,046 | 26.8 | 10,643 | 4.4 | 24,184 | 10.0 | 16,803 | 6.9 |
| 2019 | 247,910 | 38,117 | 15.4 | 94,914 | 38.3 | 64,860 | 26.2 | 10,097 | 4.1 | 22,620 | 9.1 | 17,302 | 7.0 |
| 2020 | 247,656 | 37,350 | 15.1 | 95,827 | 38.7 | 63,593 | 25.7 | 9,751 | 3.9 | 23,572 | 9.5 | 17,563 | 7.1 |
| 2021 | 256,869 | 41,284 | 16.1 | 103,721 | 40.4 | 62,121 | 24.2 | 9,612 | 3.7 | 23,111 | 9.0 | 17,020 | 6.6 |
| 2022 | 259,683 | 39,528 | 15.2 | 107,629 | 41.4 | 61,016 | 23.5 | 9,710 | 3.7 | 21,793 | 8.4 | 20,007 | 7.7 |

na = not applicable.

^a Master's-granting institutions were not surveyed in 1978; totals represent estimates based on 1977 and 1979 data.^b 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.^c 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, and 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>.^d As part of the 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.**Note(s):**

Percentages may not add to total because of rounding. Master's and doctoral students were not reported separately until 2017. Graduate student data in this table include master's students in health sciences. For more information on the comparability of these counts to other NCSES published data, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

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