

**Table 1-2. Distribution of master's students across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–24**

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All fields	378,587	391,211	408,228	414,478	466,613	501,311	510,866	505,930
Science	229,169	241,327	259,795	267,904	305,796	331,983	348,520	347,469
Agricultural and veterinary sciences <sup>a</sup>	5,603	5,658	5,629	6,487	6,801	6,949	6,901	6,973
Agricultural sciences	5,603	5,658	5,629	5,589	5,790	6,165	6,218	6,316
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences <sup>b</sup>	na	na	na	898	1,011	784	683	657
Biological and biomedical sciences <sup>a</sup>	33,926	35,306	38,078	39,920	42,728	43,062	44,703	46,661
Biochemistry	791	743	808	889	1,005	911	778	862
Biology	8,791	8,696	8,635	8,381	8,294	7,969	7,988	7,937
Biomedical sciences	4,298	4,379	5,241	5,898	5,794	5,681	6,391	6,471
Biophysics	18	6	7	8	6	8	9	9
Biostatistics and bioinformatics	2,540	2,890	3,036	3,143	3,519	3,852	4,240	4,881
Biotechnology	1,893	1,953	3,157	3,143	3,395	3,916	4,420	4,591
Botany and plant biology	378	373	392	376	363	369	378	411
Cell, cellular biology, and anatomical sciences	926	919	927	954	1,210	1,137	1,031	1,073
Ecology and population biology	921	888	939	1,052	1,201	1,058	1,035	1,085
Epidemiology	2,577	2,669	2,776	3,153	3,623	3,844	3,837	3,914
Genetics	512	557	581	620	718	749	693	712
Microbiological sciences and immunology	1,037	1,254	1,370	1,649	2,011	2,026	1,934	1,930
Molecular biology	277	364	378	378	405	408	388	412
Neurobiology and neuroscience	318	304	362	545	591	515	480	606
Nutrition science	2,144	2,546	2,385	2,370	2,871	2,905	2,959	2,999
Pathology and experimental pathology	122	93	87	105	100	106	143	153
Pharmacology and toxicology	881	873	923	770	926	996	844	916
Physiology	2,229	2,288	2,594	3,044	2,898	2,891	2,951	3,398
Zoology and animal biology	759	829	891	869	927	861	901	941
Biological and biomedical sciences nec	2,514	2,682	2,589	2,573	2,871	2,860	3,303	3,360
Computer and information sciences	75,618	77,351	84,092	80,690	102,199	129,972	143,530	137,358
Computer science	22,786	22,966	24,628	22,670	30,361	42,092	46,477	41,018
Computer and information sciences <sup>c</sup>	30,217	30,568	33,698	27,044	35,308	45,098	48,392	50,032
Computer and information sciences <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	23,625	30,804	39,719	41,959	40,902
Artificial intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	3,419	4,504	5,379	6,433	9,130
Computer and information sciences nec <sup>c</sup>	22,615	23,817	25,766	30,976	36,530	42,782	48,661	46,308
Computer and information systems security <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	7,023	8,401	9,254	10,774	11,295
Information science and studies <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	11,671	13,098	15,478	16,138	16,134
Information technology <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	5,618	7,527	10,601	14,484	11,479
Computer and information sciences nec <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	6,664	7,504	7,449	7,265	7,400
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	6,006	5,629	5,327	5,277	5,520	5,186	4,793	4,909

**Table 1-2. Distribution of master's students across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–24**

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atmospheric sciences and meteorology	464	459	473	458	487	489	441	480
Geological and earth sciences	4,107	3,924	3,610	3,561	3,534	3,183	2,984	3,021
Ocean and marine sciences	1,275	1,246	1,244	1,258	1,499	1,514	1,368	1,408
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences nec	160	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne
Mathematics and statistics	16,568	18,073	19,594	18,284	20,639	20,798	20,105	19,948
Mathematics and applied mathematics <sup>c</sup>	10,387	11,212	11,933	11,058	13,063	13,002	12,600	12,910
Applied mathematics <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	6,678	8,899	9,097	8,977	9,172
Mathematics <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	4,380	4,164	3,905	3,623	3,738
Statistics	6,181	6,861	7,661	7,226	7,576	7,796	7,505	7,038
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences <sup>c</sup>	6,923	7,414	8,203	10,980	11,994	16,931	21,928	26,426
Biological and physical sciences <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	993	874	899	921	810
Computational science <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	1,968	2,088	3,089	2,939	2,880
Data science and data analytics <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	2,124	2,358	6,000	10,243	14,140
International and global studies <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	1,341	1,267	1,083	865	903
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences nec <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	4,554	5,407	5,860	6,960	7,693
Natural resources and conservation	7,311	7,691	8,066	8,793	10,012	9,807	9,486	9,150
Environmental science and studies	3,515	3,683	3,883	4,067	4,851	4,422	4,359	4,240
Forestry, natural resources, and conservation	3,796	4,008	4,183	4,726	5,161	5,385	5,127	4,910
Physical sciences	6,368	6,075	6,361	6,275	6,409	6,256	6,000	6,008
Astronomy and astrophysics	69	72	77	76	85	100	100	112
Chemistry	3,453	3,144	3,152	3,096	3,066	3,015	2,891	2,764
Materials sciences	448	449	539	464	439	402	373	435
Physics	2,182	2,173	2,164	2,141	2,278	2,253	2,179	2,289
Physical sciences nec	216	237	429	498	541	486	457	408
Psychology <sup>a</sup>	29,638	35,404	40,838	47,279	51,878	48,321	49,474	49,516
Clinical psychology	3,098	3,213	3,587	3,480	4,167	4,519	4,603	4,477
Counseling and applied psychology <sup>c</sup>	19,413	24,714	29,322	33,652	36,482	32,491	33,591	33,595
Applied psychology <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	17,673	19,517	20,091	20,430	20,306
Counseling psychology <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	15,979	16,965	12,400	13,161	13,289
Human development <sup>b</sup>	na	na	na	1,499	1,566	1,525	1,321	1,295
Psychology, general	5,905	6,178	6,357	6,826	7,329	7,346	7,321	7,369
Research and experimental psychology	1,222	1,299	1,572	1,822	2,334	2,440	2,638	2,780
Social sciences <sup>a</sup>	41,208	42,726	43,607	43,919	47,616	44,701	41,600	40,520
Agricultural and natural resource economics	806	779	700	603	672	485	436	451
Anthropology	2,363	2,302	2,233	2,167	2,292	2,173	1,971	2,023
Criminal justice and safety studies	3,869	4,506	4,917	5,674	5,602	5,223	4,942	4,924

**Table 1-2. Distribution of master's students across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–24**

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Economics (except agricultural and natural resource)	5,238	5,427	6,084	6,114	6,882	6,734	6,398	6,350
Geography and cartography	2,696	2,717	2,660	2,745	3,147	2,807	2,517	2,309
Human development <sup>b</sup>	1,349	1,329	1,339	na	na	na	na	na
International relations and national security studies	6,755	6,826	6,657	7,322	8,308	7,833	7,147	6,996
Linguistics	1,237	1,175	1,153	1,164	1,188	1,159	1,117	952
Political science and government	2,979	2,706	2,897	3,072	3,270	2,925	2,649	2,506
Public policy analysis	4,718	5,882	6,297	6,352	7,290	6,701	4,645	4,491
Sociology and population studies	2,629	2,395	2,263	2,342	2,331	2,190	1,888	1,965
Social sciences nec <sup>c</sup>	6,569	6,682	6,407	6,364	6,634	6,471	7,890	7,553
Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	2,642	2,767	2,634	2,582	2,421
Criminology <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	1,308	1,272	1,180	1,161	1,113
Urban studies and affairs <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	907	827	671	648	529
Social sciences, other <sup>d</sup>	na	na	na	1,507	1,768	1,986	3,499	3,490
History and philosophy of science and technology <sup>e</sup>	25	31	32	na	na	na	na	na
Social sciences nec <sup>c</sup>	6,544	6,651	6,375	na	na	na	na	na
Engineering	96,756	93,064	91,939	86,450	95,126	103,020	100,567	99,571
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	3,322	3,342	3,701	4,326	5,065	5,263	5,380	5,563
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	4,108	4,282	4,424	4,536	5,192	5,177	5,204	5,475
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering <sup>e</sup>	4,037	4,202	4,335	na	na	na	na	na
Biological and biosystems engineering <sup>e</sup>	71	80	89	na	na	na	na	na
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	4,208	3,815	3,274	2,942	2,983	3,011	2,658	2,664
Chemical engineering	3,292	3,061	2,632	2,426	2,555	2,599	2,271	2,258
Petroleum engineering	916	754	642	516	428	412	387	406
Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields <sup>c</sup>	13,506	12,729	11,873	10,819	11,730	12,621	12,082	11,360
Civil engineering <sup>d</sup>	13,506	12,729	11,873	8,703	9,352	9,692	9,149	8,685
Architectural, environmental, construction and surveying engineering <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	2,116	2,378	2,929	2,933	2,675
Electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering	29,816	28,108	28,177	25,312	27,695	32,316	31,093	30,841
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering <sup>c</sup>	29,816	28,108	28,177	16,746	17,866	19,757	18,215	18,216
Computer engineering <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	8,566	9,829	12,559	12,878	12,625
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering and operations research	12,272	12,389	11,912	11,030	11,949	12,579	11,873	11,704
Industrial and manufacturing engineering <sup>c</sup>	12,272	12,389	11,912	5,569	5,284	6,349	5,821	5,044
Systems engineering and operations research <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	5,461	6,665	6,230	6,052	6,660
Mechanical engineering	16,279	15,434	14,861	14,305	15,718	16,029	15,335	15,136
Metallurgical, mining, materials and related engineering fields	2,427	2,395	2,266	2,299	2,518	2,545	2,462	2,503
Metallurgical and materials engineering <sup>e</sup>	2,115	2,079	1,974	na	na	na	na	na
Mining engineering <sup>e</sup>	312	316	292	na	na	na	na	na

**Table 1-2. Distribution of master's students across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–24**

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Other engineering	10,818	10,570	11,451	10,881	12,276	13,479	14,480	14,325
Agricultural engineering	505	371	494	404	519	389	377	387
Engineering mechanics, physics, and science	679	729	852	740	782	762	696	663
Nuclear engineering	444	407	418	441	484	493	516	566
Engineering, other	na	na	na	9,296	10,491	11,835	12,891	12,709
Engineering nec <sup>c</sup>	9,146	9,016	9,638	na	na	na	na	na
Nanotechnology <sup>e</sup>	44	47	49	na	na	na	na	na
Health	52,662	56,820	56,494	60,124	65,691	66,308	61,779	58,890
Clinical medicine	25,283	27,494	26,251	29,748	34,021	33,251	28,484	26,645
Medical clinical sciences and clinical and medical laboratory sciences	NA	NA	NA	927	1,287	1,168	1,242	1,307
Public health	24,570	26,673	25,403	28,821	32,734	32,083	27,242	25,338
Clinical medicine nec	713	821	848	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne
Other health <sup>a</sup>	27,379	29,326	30,243	30,376	31,670	33,057	33,295	32,245
Communication disorders sciences	14,748	15,803	16,346	16,762	17,406	17,768	18,183	16,986
Dental sciences	1,450	1,478	1,315	1,366	1,500	1,545	1,420	1,420
Nursing science	1,550	1,902	1,861	1,488	1,662	1,535	1,701	1,550
Pharmaceutical sciences	1,078	1,075	1,187	1,619	1,939	2,142	2,265	2,355
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences <sup>b</sup>	458	637	881	na	na	na	na	na
Other health nec <sup>c</sup>	na	na	na	9,141	9,163	10,067	9,726	9,934
Kinesiology and exercise science <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	4,977	4,962	4,743	4,286	4,027
Other health nec <sup>d</sup>	8,095	8,431	8,653	4,164	4,201	5,324	5,440	5,907

na = not applicable. NA = not available; data not collected at this level of detail. ne = not eligible for graduate student reporting; the fields collected have changed over time.

nec = not elsewhere classified.

<sup>a</sup> The following broad fields are not directly comparable between 2019 and 2020 due to changes in detailed fields: Agricultural and veterinary sciences, Biological and biomedical sciences, Psychology, Social sciences, and Other health.

<sup>b</sup> The following detailed fields moved between broad fields between 2019 and 2020: Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences moved from Other health to Agricultural and veterinary sciences; Human development moved from Social sciences to Psychology.

<sup>c</sup> The following detailed fields from 2017 split into multiple fields in 2020; data after 2020 represent the aggregate counts of the new detailed fields split from the original detailed field: Computer and information sciences; Computer and information sciences nec; Mathematics and applied mathematics; Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences; Counseling and applied psychology; Social sciences nec; Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields; Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering; Industrial and manufacturing engineering; Engineering nec; and Other health nec.

<sup>d</sup> The following detailed fields were added or significantly modified in 2020: Computer and information sciences; Artificial intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics; Computer and information systems security; Information science and studies; Information technology; Computer and information sciences nec; Applied mathematics; Mathematics; Biological and physical sciences; Computational science; Data science and data analytics; International and global studies; Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences nec; Applied psychology; Counseling psychology; Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies; Criminology; Urban studies and affairs; Social sciences, other; Civil engineering; Computer engineering; Systems engineering and operations research; Kinesiology and exercise science; and Other health nec.

<sup>e</sup> The following detailed fields from 2017 were moved or consolidated with other detailed fields starting in 2020: History and philosophy of science and technology; Bioengineering and biomedical engineering; Biological and biosystems engineering; Metallurgical and materials engineering; Mining engineering; and Nanotechnology.

**Note(s):**

Percentages may not add to total because of rounding. In the cases where field titles in the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) changed between 2019 and 2020, the titles in this table match the GSS 2020 and later titles. Graduate student data in this table include master's students in health sciences. For more information on the comparability of these counts to other data published by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, see the "Technical Notes." Field titles match the GSS 2020 and later titles in the few cases where field titles changed. Prior to 2020, there were no broad fields in engineering. All fields have been moved to match the current broad field organization. For information on the current fields and codes in the GSS, see table A-5 and table A-6.

**Source(s):**

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