Table 1-2. Distribution of master's students across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–25

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All fields	378,587	391,211	408,228	414,478	466,613	501,311	510,866	505,930	481,206
Science	229,169	241,327	259,795	267,904	305,796	331,983	348,520	347,469	327,669
Agricultural and veterinary sciences[a]	5,603	5,658	5,629	6,487	6,801	6,949	6,901	6,973	6,692
Agricultural sciences	5,603	5,658	5,629	5,589	5,790	6,165	6,218	6,316	6,020
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences[b]	na	na	na	898	1,011	784	683	657	672
Biological and biomedical sciences[a]	33,926	35,306	38,078	39,920	42,728	43,062	44,703	46,661	47,776
Biochemistry	791	743	808	889	1,005	911	778	862	891
Biology	8,791	8,696	8,635	8,381	8,294	7,969	7,988	7,937	8,373
Biomedical sciences	4,298	4,379	5,241	5,898	5,794	5,681	6,391	6,471	7,053
Biophysics	18	6	7	8	6	8	9	9	13
Biostatistics and bioinformatics	2,540	2,890	3,036	3,143	3,519	3,852	4,240	4,881	4,565
Biotechnology	1,893	1,953	3,157	3,143	3,395	3,916	4,420	4,591	4,289
Botany and plant biology	378	373	392	376	363	369	378	411	395
Cell, cellular biology, and anatomical sciences	926	919	927	954	1,210	1,137	1,031	1,073	1,116
Ecology and population biology	921	888	939	1,052	1,201	1,058	1,035	1,085	1,041
Epidemiology	2,577	2,669	2,776	3,153	3,623	3,844	3,837	3,914	3,734
Genetics	512	557	581	620	718	749	693	712	700
Microbiological sciences and immunology	1,037	1,254	1,370	1,649	2,011	2,026	1,934	1,930	2,019
Molecular biology	277	364	378	378	405	408	388	412	403
Neurobiology and neuroscience	318	304	362	545	591	515	480	606	716
Nutrition science	2,144	2,546	2,385	2,370	2,871	2,905	2,959	2,999	3,304
Pathology and experimental pathology	122	93	87	105	100	106	143	153	161
Pharmacology and toxicology	881	873	923	770	926	996	844	916	896
Physiology	2,229	2,288	2,594	3,044	2,898	2,891	2,951	3,398	3,573
Zoology and animal biology	759	829	891	869	927	861	901	941	877
Biological and biomedical sciences nec	2,514	2,682	2,589	2,573	2,871	2,860	3,303	3,360	3,657
Computer and information sciences	75,618	77,351	84,092	80,690	102,199	129,972	143,530	137,358	115,892
Computer science	22,786	22,966	24,628	22,670	30,361	42,092	46,477	41,018	31,509
Computer and information sciences[c]	30,217	30,568	33,698	27,044	35,308	45,098	48,392	50,032	45,528
Computer and information sciences[d]	NA	NA	NA	23,625	30,804	39,719	41,959	40,902	34,586
Super Intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics[d,e]	NA	NA	NA	3,419	4,504	5,379	6,433	9,130	10,942
Computer and information sciences nec[c]	22,615	23,817	25,766	30,976	36,530	42,782	48,661	46,308	38,855
Computer and information systems security[d]	NA	NA	NA	7,023	8,401	9,254	10,774	11,295	11,115
Information science and studies[d]	NA	NA	NA	11,671	13,098	15,478	16,138	16,134	12,314
Information technology[d]	NA	NA	NA	5,618	7,527	10,601	14,484	11,479	8,252
Computer and information sciences nec[d]	NA	NA	NA	6,664	7,504	7,449	7,265	7,400	7,174
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	6,006	5,629	5,327	5,277	5,520	5,186	4,793	4,909	4,898

Table 1-2. Distribution of master's students across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–25

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Atmospheric sciences and meteorology	464	459	473	458	487	489	441	480	445
Geological and earth sciences	4,107	3,924	3,610	3,561	3,534	3,183	2,984	3,021	2,996
Ocean and marine sciences	1,275	1,246	1,244	1,258	1,499	1,514	1,368	1,408	1,457
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences nec	160	ne	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	18,790
Mathematics and applied mathematics[c]	10,387	11,212	11,933	11,058	13,063	13,002	12,600	12,910	12,299
Applied mathematics[d]	NA	NA	NA	6,678	8,899	9,097	8,977	9,172	8,656
Mathematics[d]	NA	NA	NA	4,380	4,164	3,905	3,623	3,738	3,643
Statistics	6,181	6,861	7,661	7,226	7,576	7,796	7,505	7,038	6,491
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences[c]	6,923	7,414	8,203	10,980	11,994	16,931	21,928	26,426	26,282
Biological and physical sciences[d]	NA	NA	NA	993	874	899	921	810	812
Computational science[d]	NA	NA	NA	1,968	2,088	3,089	2,939	2,880	2,388
Data science and data analytics[d]	NA	NA	NA	2,124	2,358	6,000	10,243	14,140	15,113
International and global studies[d]	NA	NA	NA	1,341	1,267	1,083	865	903	770
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences nec[d]	NA	NA	NA	4,554	5,407	5,860	6,960	7,693	7,199
Natural resources and conservation	7,311	7,691	8,066	8,793	10,012	9,807	9,486	9,150	8,946
Environmental science and studies	3,515	3,683	3,883	4,067	4,851	4,422	4,359	4,240	4,264
Forestry, natural resources, and conservation	3,796	4,008	4,183	4,726	5,161	5,385	5,127	4,910	4,682
Physical sciences	6,368	6,075	6,361	6,275	6,409	6,256	6,000	6,008	6,217
Astronomy and astrophysics	69	72	77	76	85	100	100	112	116
Chemistry	3,453	3,144	3,152	3,096	3,066	3,015	2,891	2,764	2,797
Materials sciences	448	449	539	464	439	402	373	435	506
Physics	2,182	2,173	2,164	2,141	2,278	2,253	2,179	2,289	2,411
Physical sciences nec	216	237	429	498	541	486	457	408	387
Psychology[a]	29,638	35,404	40,838	47,279	51,878	48,321	49,474	49,516	51,695
Clinical psychology	3,098	3,213	3,587	3,480	4,167	4,519	4,603	4,477	4,665
Counseling and applied psychology[c]	19,413	24,714	29,322	33,652	36,482	32,491	33,591	33,595	34,764
Applied psychology[d]	NA	NA	NA	17,673	19,517	20,091	20,430	20,306	21,252
Counseling psychology[d]	NA	NA	NA	15,979	16,965	12,400	13,161	13,289	13,512
Human development[b]	na	na	na	1,499	1,566	1,525	1,321	1,295	1,218
Psychology, general	5,905	6,178	6,357	6,826	7,329	7,346	7,321	7,369	8,056
Research and experimental psychology	1,222	1,299	1,572	1,822	2,334	2,440	2,638	2,780	2,992
Social sciences[a]	41,208	42,726	43,607	43,919	47,616	44,701	41,600	40,520	40,481
Agricultural and natural resource economics	806	779	700	603	672	485	436	451	355
Anthropology	2,363	2,302	2,233	2,167	2,292	2,173	1,971	2,023	2,139
Criminal justice and safety studies	3,869	4,506	4,917	5,674	5,602	5,223	4,942	4,924	4,943

Table 1-2. Distribution of master's students across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–25

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Economics (except agricultural and natural resource)	5,238	5,427	6,084	6,114	6,882	6,734	6,398	6,350	6,244
Geography and cartography	2,696	2,717	2,660	2,745	3,147	2,807	2,517	2,309	2,218
Human development[b]	1,349	1,329	1,339	na	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	7,252
Linguistics	1,237	1,175	1,153	1,164	1,188	1,159	1,117	952	884
Political science and government	2,979	2,706	2,897	3,072	3,270	2,925	2,649	2,506	2,535
Public policy analysis	4,718	5,882	6,297	6,352	7,290	6,701	4,645	4,491	4,384
Sociology and population studies	2,629	2,395	2,263	2,342	2,331	2,190	1,888	1,965	1,899
Social sciences nec[c]	6,569	6,682	6,407	6,364	6,634	6,471	7,890	7,553	7,628
Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies[d]	NA	NA	NA	2,642	2,767	2,634	2,582	2,421	2,228
Criminology[d]	NA	NA	NA	1,308	1,272	1,180	1,161	1,113	1,075
Urban studies and affairs[d]	NA	NA	NA	907	827	671	648	529	603
Social sciences, other[d]	na	na	na	1,507	1,768	1,986	3,499	3,490	3,722
History and philosophy of science and technology[f]	25	31	32	na	na	na	na	na	na
Social sciences nec[c]	6,544	6,651	6,375	na	na	na	na	na	na
Engineering	96,756	93,064	91,939	86,450	95,126	103,020	100,567	99,571	95,322
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	3,322	3,342	3,701	4,326	5,065	5,263	5,380	5,563	5,963
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	4,108	4,282	4,424	4,536	5,192	5,177	5,204	5,475	5,694
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering[f]	4,037	4,202	4,335	na	na	na	na	na	na
Biological and biosystems engineering[f]	71	80	89	na	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	2,607
Chemical engineering	3,292	3,061	2,632	2,426	2,555	2,599	2,271	2,258	2,214
Petroleum engineering	916	754	642	516	428	412	387	406	393
Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields[c]	13,506	12,729	11,873	10,819	11,730	12,621	12,082	11,360	10,735
Civil engineering[d]	13,506	12,729	11,873	8,703	9,352	9,692	9,149	8,685	8,247
Architectural, environmental, construction and surveying engineering[d]	NA	NA	NA	2,116	2,378	2,929	2,933	2,675	2,488
Electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering	29,816	28,108	28,177	25,312	27,695	32,316	31,093	30,841	28,746
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering[c]	29,816	28,108	28,177	16,746	17,866	19,757	18,215	18,216	17,984
Computer engineering[d]	NA	NA	NA	8,566	9,829	12,559	12,878	12,625	10,762
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering and operations research	12,272	12,389	11,912	11,030	11,949	12,579	11,873	11,704	10,853
Industrial and manufacturing engineering[c]	12,272	12,389	11,912	5,569	5,284	6,349	5,821	5,044	4,012
Systems engineering and operations research[d]	NA	NA	NA	5,461	6,665	6,230	6,052	6,660	6,841
Mechanical engineering	16,279	15,434	14,861	14,305	15,718	16,029	15,335	15,136	15,105
Metallurgical, mining, materials and related engineering fields	2,427	2,395	2,266	2,299	2,518	2,545	2,462	2,503	2,598
Metallurgical and materials engineering[f]	2,115	2,079	1,974	na	na	na	na	na	na
Mining engineering[f]	312	316	292	na	na	na	na	na	na

Table 1-2. Distribution of master's students across science, engineering, and health fields: 2017–25

(Number)

Detailed field	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Other engineering	10,818	10,570	11,451	10,881	12,276	13,479	14,480	14,325	13,021
Agricultural engineering	505	371	494	404	519	389	377	387	348
Engineering mechanics, physics, and science	679	729	852	740	782	762	696	663	739
Nuclear engineering	444	407	418	441	484	493	516	566	570
Engineering, other	na	na	na	9,296	10,491	11,835	12,891	12,709	11,364
Engineering nec[c]	9,146	9,016	9,638	na	na	na	na	na	na
Nanotechnology[f]	44	47	49	na	na	na	na	na	na
Health	52,662	56,820	56,494	60,124	65,691	66,308	61,779	58,890	58,215
Clinical medicine	25,283	27,494	26,251	29,748	34,021	33,251	28,484	26,645	25,184
Medical clinical sciences and clinical and medical laboratory sciences	NA	NA	NA	927	1,287	1,168	1,242	1,307	982
Public health	24,570	26,673	25,403	28,821	32,734	32,083	27,242	25,338	24,202
Clinical medicine nec	713	821	848	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne
Other health[a]	27,379	29,326	30,243	30,376	31,670	33,057	33,295	32,245	33,031
Communication disorders sciences	14,748	15,803	16,346	16,762	17,406	17,768	18,183	16,986	17,675
Dental sciences	1,450	1,478	1,315	1,366	1,500	1,545	1,420	1,420	1,408
Nursing science	1,550	1,902	1,861	1,488	1,662	1,535	1,701	1,550	2,285
Pharmaceutical sciences	1,078	1,075	1,187	1,619	1,939	2,142	2,265	2,355	2,247
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences[b]	458	637	881	na	na	na	na	na	na
Other health nec[c]	na	na	na	9,141	9,163	10,067	9,726	9,934	9,416
Kinesiology and exercise science[d]	NA	NA	NA	4,977	4,962	4,743	4,286	4,027	3,823
Other health nec[d]	8,095	8,431	8,653	4,164	4,201	5,324	5,440	5,907	5,593

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.

[a] 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.

[b] 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.

[c] 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.

[d] 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; architectural, environmental, construction and surveying engineering; computer engineering; systems engineering and operations research; kinesiology and exercise science; and other health nec.

[e] The detailed field at the time of data collection was listed as artificial intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics, now referred to as Super Intelligence, informatics, and computer and information science topics.

[f] 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.