Table 1-13. Primary mechanism of support for full-time graduate students in science, engineering, and health: 1975–2025

(Number and percent)

Year	Total	Fellowships		Research assistantships		Teaching assistantships		Traineeships		Other types of support			
										Self-support		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	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
2007old[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
2007new[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

Table 1-13. Primary mechanism of support for full-time graduate students in science, engineering, and health: 1975–2025

(Number and percent)

Year	Total	Fellowships		Research assistantships		Teaching assistantships		Traineeships		Other types of support			
										Self-support		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
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
2014old[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
2014new[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
2017old[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
2017new[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
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
2023	598,588	50,387	8.4	133,930	22.4	85,312	14.3	11,872	2.0	254,087	42.4	63,000	10.5
2024	596,638	50,559	8.5	136,582	22.9	86,581	14.5	12,113	2.0	245,095	41.1	65,708	11.0
2025	573,138	47,867	8.4	135,102	23.6	88,615	15.5	11,157	1.9	231,574	40.4	58,823	10.3
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
2023	329,971	8,749	2.7	23,225	7.0	23,509	7.1	2,256	0.7	229,119	69.4	43,113	13.1
2024	322,037	9,494	2.9	22,510	7.0	22,115	6.9	2,438	0.8	221,014	68.6	44,466	13.8
2025	296,301	8,442	2.8	21,125	7.1	20,563	6.9	2,289	0.8	205,063	69.2	38,819	13.1
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

Table 1-13. Primary mechanism of support for full-time graduate students in science, engineering, and health: 1975–2025

(Number and percent)

Year	Total	Fellowships		Research assistantships		Teaching assistantships		Traineeships		Other types of support			
										Self-support		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2023	268,617	41,638	15.5	110,705	41.2	61,803	23.0	9,616	3.6	24,968	9.3	19,887	7.4
2024	274,601	41,065	15.0	114,072	41.5	64,466	23.5	9,675	3.5	24,081	8.8	21,242	7.7
2025	276,837	39,425	14.2	113,977	41.2	68,052	24.6	8,868	3.2	26,511	9.6	20,004	7.2

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 2 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, 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.