Table 1-1. Graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health: 1975–2025

(Number)

Year	Graduate students				Postdoctoral appointees				Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers			
	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health
1975	328,510	234,649	68,332	25,529	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1976	333,716	238,675	66,723	28,318	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1977	345,374	242,932	68,757	33,685	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1978[a]	339,912	236,465	67,787	35,660	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1979	357,578	247,235	71,808	38,535	18,101	12,519	1,067	4,515	2,687	1,915	273	499
1980	367,078	251,265	74,335	41,478	18,399	13,042	981	4,376	3,260	2,184	423	653
1981	375,130	252,404	79,585	43,141	19,634	13,731	1,040	4,863	3,559	2,445	503	611
1982	382,291	255,146	83,720	43,425	19,363	13,698	980	4,685	4,026	2,809	670	547
1983	390,432	255,820	91,146	43,466	20,712	14,562	1,108	5,042	4,896	3,348	631	917
1984	394,670	256,903	92,739	45,028	21,535	14,979	1,203	5,353	5,042	3,442	589	1,011
1985	404,021	261,973	96,018	46,030	22,387	15,576	1,356	5,455	5,103	3,529	615	959
1986	415,520	266,077	101,905	47,538	23,721	16,512	1,405	5,804	4,846	3,356	521	969
1987	421,497	269,256	103,983	48,258	24,881	17,369	1,446	6,066	4,597	3,250	443	904
1988	424,523	272,309	102,854	49,360	26,123	18,024	1,690	6,409	4,869	3,348	566	955
1989	434,478	278,577	104,065	51,836	27,932	18,978	1,928	7,026	4,908	3,470	581	857
1990	452,113	289,383	107,658	55,072	29,565	19,853	1,950	7,762	5,255	3,745	609	901
1991	471,212	299,057	113,535	58,620	30,865	20,595	2,262	8,008	5,478	3,872	659	947
1992	493,522	312,478	118,039	63,005	32,747	21,514	2,369	8,864	5,482	3,660	737	1,085
1993	504,304	318,851	116,872	68,581	34,322	22,219	2,446	9,657	6,001	4,003	805	1,193
1994	504,399	318,118	113,024	73,257	36,377	23,181	2,606	10,590	6,209	4,156	825	1,228
1995	499,640	315,265	107,201	77,174	35,926	23,512	2,648	9,766	6,534	4,395	789	1,350
1996	494,079	311,957	103,224	78,898	37,107	23,892	2,677	10,538	6,604	4,426	731	1,447
1997	487,208	306,482	101,148	79,578	38,481	24,293	2,971	11,217	6,722	4,408	848	1,466
1998	485,627	304,818	100,038	80,771	40,086	25,023	2,853	12,210	7,100	4,497	810	1,793
1999	493,256	309,491	101,691	82,074	40,800	25,784	3,196	11,820	7,573	4,761	940	1,872
2000	493,311	309,424	104,112	79,775	43,115	26,911	3,313	12,891	7,879	4,931	896	2,052
2001	509,607	319,736	109,493	80,378	43,311	27,044	3,152	13,115	7,531	4,707	801	2,023
2002	540,404	335,166	119,668	85,570	45,034	28,371	3,566	13,097	7,906	5,019	903	1,984
2003	567,121	347,268	127,377	92,476	46,728	29,856	3,810	13,062	8,473	5,493	952	2,028
2004	574,463	352,307	123,566	98,590	47,240	30,116	3,949	13,175	9,075	5,880	1,043	2,152
2005	582,226	357,710	120,565	103,951	48,555	30,290	4,166	14,099	9,527	6,069	946	2,512
2006	597,643	363,246	123,041	111,356	49,343	30,245	4,642	14,456	10,814	6,658	1,118	3,038
2007old[b]	607,823	372,120	130,255	105,448	50,712	30,986	4,908	14,818	10,736	6,517	1,298	2,921
2007new[b]	619,499	384,523	131,676	103,300	50,840	31,281	4,942	14,617	10,752	6,526	1,310	2,916
2008	631,489	391,419	137,856	102,214	54,164	32,741	5,462	15,961	13,747	8,669	1,419	3,659
2009	631,645	401,008	144,677	85,960	57,805	34,388	6,416	17,001	14,059	8,698	1,737	3,624
2010[c,d]	632,652	407,291	149,241	76,120	63,439	37,351	6,969	19,119	21,345	12,751	2,406	6,188

Table 1-1. Graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health: 1975–2025

(Number)

Year	Graduate students				Postdoctoral appointees				Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers			
	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health
2011[d]	626,820	414,440	146,501	65,879	62,639	37,335	6,786	18,518	21,498	13,363	2,312	5,823
2012	627,243	413,033	148,385	65,825	62,851	36,738	7,103	19,010	21,908	13,264	2,497	6,147
2013	633,010	417,251	153,049	62,710	61,942	36,289	7,106	18,547	22,465	13,932	2,494	6,039
2014old[e]	650,738	425,148	162,013	63,577	62,379	36,184	7,292	18,903	23,290	14,283	2,744	6,263
2014new[e]	666,586	437,395	164,488	64,703	63,593	37,316	7,307	18,970	23,706	14,674	2,745	6,287
2015	685,397	448,654	169,354	67,389	63,861	37,639	7,656	18,566	25,292	15,667	2,929	6,696
2016	684,825	452,046	168,443	64,336	64,712	37,941	7,796	18,975	25,747	15,940	3,155	6,652
2017old[f]	684,096	450,343	166,819	66,934	64,888	37,816	7,929	19,143	na	na	na	na
2017new[f]	649,112	415,568	165,581	67,963	64,733	38,241	7,839	18,653	28,180	17,268	3,274	7,638
2018	668,307	432,255	163,301	72,751	64,783	37,564	7,914	19,305	29,284	18,278	3,570	7,436
2019	690,117	453,691	164,004	72,422	66,247	38,503	8,266	19,478	30,349	18,819	3,909	7,621
2020	697,813	464,646	157,729	75,438	65,681	38,741	8,462	18,478	29,661	18,212	3,921	7,528
2021	760,156	509,784	168,050	82,322	63,328	37,189	8,340	17,799	30,548	18,728	3,992	7,828
2022	798,534	538,166	176,000	84,368	62,750	36,673	8,335	17,742	32,279	19,423	4,355	8,501
2023	818,095	561,489	175,559	81,047	65,850	37,982	9,051	18,817	34,342	20,600	4,575	9,167
2024	818,078	564,367	176,012	77,699	69,877	39,702	9,545	20,630	35,142	20,566	4,436	10,140
2025	796,304	547,280	171,878	77,146	68,324	39,233	9,489	19,602	36,021	20,797	4,466	10,758
Master's students												
2017new[f]	378,587	229,169	96,756	52,662	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2018	391,211	241,327	93,064	56,820	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2019	408,228	259,795	91,939	56,494	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2020	414,478	267,904	86,450	60,124	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2021	466,613	305,796	95,126	65,691	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2022	501,311	331,983	103,020	66,308	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2023	510,866	348,520	100,567	61,779	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2024	505,930	347,469	99,571	58,890	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2025	481,206	327,669	95,322	58,215	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Doctoral students												
2017new[f]	270,525	186,399	68,825	15,301	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2018	277,096	190,928	70,237	15,931	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2019	281,889	193,896	72,065	15,928	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2020	283,335	196,742	71,279	15,314	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2021	293,543	203,988	72,924	16,631	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2022	297,223	206,183	72,980	18,060	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2023	307,229	212,969	74,992	19,268	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2024	312,148	216,898	76,441	18,809	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

Table 1-1. Graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health: 1975–2025

(Number)

Year	Graduate students				Postdoctoral appointees				Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers			
	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health	All fields	Science	Engineering	Health
2025	315,098	219,611	76,556	18,931	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

na = not applicable; master's and doctoral students were not reported separately until 2017, and counts of postdoctoral appointees (postdocs) and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers (NFRs) were not collected until 1979.

[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 2010, the postdoc and 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/.

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

[e] 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.

[f] 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. Due to changes in reporting, NFR estimates for 2017old are not available.

Note(s):
For more information on the mapping of GSS fields and codes, see table A-6. 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.