Table 1-10. First-time status among full-time graduate students in science, engineering, and health, by degree level: 1975–2025

(Number and percent)

Year	All full-time graduate students			Full-time master's students			Full-time doctoral students		
	Total	First time		Total	First time		Total	First time	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1975	219,648	76,686	34.9	na	na	na	na	na	na
1976	223,412	90,811	40.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
1977	226,738	93,116	41.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
1978[a]	223,030	70,578	31.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
1979	231,760	76,788	33.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
1980	238,416	81,259	34.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
1981	242,049	80,003	33.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
1982	244,757	80,257	32.8	na	na	na	na	na	na
1983	252,017	81,606	32.4	na	na	na	na	na	na
1984	253,922	80,186	31.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
1985	257,287	80,678	31.4	na	na	na	na	na	na
1986	266,168	82,548	31.0	na	na	na	na	na	na
1987	271,056	80,843	29.8	na	na	na	na	na	na
1988	275,127	80,580	29.3	na	na	na	na	na	na
1989	282,648	84,532	29.9	na	na	na	na	na	na
1990	292,782	87,401	29.9	na	na	na	na	na	na
1991	307,010	93,147	30.3	na	na	na	na	na	na
1992	322,555	95,802	29.7	na	na	na	na	na	na
1993	329,644	92,748	28.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
1994	332,088	92,171	27.8	na	na	na	na	na	na
1995	329,283	89,482	27.2	na	na	na	na	na	na
1996	328,536	88,984	27.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
1997	327,289	89,177	27.2	na	na	na	na	na	na
1998	327,389	90,828	27.7	na	na	na	na	na	na
1999	334,423	92,214	27.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
2000	341,283	94,340	27.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
2001	354,522	98,112	27.7	na	na	na	na	na	na
2002	378,991	104,184	27.5	na	na	na	na	na	na
2003	397,420	107,715	27.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
2004	402,573	106,544	26.5	na	na	na	na	na	na
2005	406,620	110,219	27.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
2006	419,015	116,482	27.8	na	na	na	na	na	na
2007old[b]	430,860	120,236	27.9	na	na	na	na	na	na
2007new[b]	437,365	122,449	28.0	na	na	na	na	na	na
2008	449,613	130,635	29.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
2009	456,115	134,756	29.5	na	na	na	na	na	na
2010	461,185	136,487	29.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
2011	457,292	136,610	29.9	na	na	na	na	na	na
2012	459,498	137,767	30.0	na	na	na	na	na	na
2013	468,953	143,326	30.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
2014old[c]	484,880	150,653	31.1	na	na	na	na	na	na
2014new[c]	492,170	154,219	31.3	na	na	na	na	na	na
2015	506,262	161,640	31.9	na	na	na	na	na	na
2016	508,773	161,824	31.8	na	na	na	na	na	na
2017old[d]	498,619	162,805	32.7	na	na	na	na	na	na
2017new[d]	480,788	156,157	32.5	245,010	110,980	45.3	235,778	45,177	19.2
2018	491,449	159,724	32.5	248,552	114,214	46.0	242,897	45,510	18.7
2019	502,442	163,032	32.4	254,532	116,507	45.8	247,910	46,525	18.8
2020	491,515	143,269	29.1	243,859	102,096	41.9	247,656	41,173	16.6
2021	543,823	193,936	35.7	286,954	147,266	51.3	256,869	46,670	18.2

Table 1-10. First-time status among full-time graduate students in science, engineering, and health, by degree level: 1975–2025

(Number and percent)

Year	All full-time graduate students			Full-time master's students			Full-time doctoral students		
	Total	First time		Total	First time		Total	First time	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
2022	579,301	194,733	33.6	319,618	147,317	46.1	259,683	47,416	18.3
2023	598,588	203,798	34.0	329,971	153,545	46.5	268,617	50,253	18.7
2024	596,638	193,600	32.4	322,037	142,279	44.2	274,601	51,321	18.7
2025	573,138	174,357	30.4	296,301	128,093	43.2	276,837	46,264	16.7

na = not applicable; master's and doctoral students were not reported separately until 2017.

[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. 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.