Table 1-14. Graduate students in science broad fields: 1975–2025

(Number)

Year	Total	Agricultural and veterinary sciences[a,b]	Biological and biomedical sciences[a]	Communication[a,c,d]	Computer and information sciences	Family and consumer sciences and human sciences[a,c,d]	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Mathematics and statistics	Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences[a,d]	Natural resources and conservation[a]	Neurobiology and neuroscience[a,d]	Physical sciences[a]	Psychology[b,e]	Social sciences[a,b]
1975	234,649	10,804	46,185	ne	8,415	ne	12,079	16,892	ne	NA	NA	26,310	36,191	77,773
1976	238,675	11,427	47,453	ne	8,627	ne	12,809	17,071	ne	NA	NA	26,641	37,458	77,189
1977	242,932	11,812	48,975	ne	9,108	ne	13,446	16,052	ne	NA	NA	26,864	38,617	78,058
1978[f]	236,465	11,981	47,665	ne	9,847	ne	13,268	14,812	ne	NA	NA	26,282	37,522	75,088
1979	247,235	12,365	47,932	ne	11,690	ne	13,731	15,031	ne	NA	NA	26,701	39,766	80,019
1980	251,265	12,689	47,261	ne	13,578	ne	14,051	15,311	ne	NA	NA	26,934	40,610	80,831
1981	252,404	12,585	46,302	ne	16,437	ne	14,263	15,881	ne	NA	NA	27,360	40,666	78,910
1982	255,146	12,826	45,627	ne	19,812	ne	15,018	17,157	ne	NA	NA	28,188	40,073	76,445
1983	255,820	12,728	45,253	ne	23,333	ne	15,443	17,358	ne	NA	NA	29,463	40,905	71,337
1984	256,903	12,528	45,353	ne	25,526	ne	15,500	17,443	ne	NA	NA	30,061	40,931	69,561
1985	261,973	11,846	45,709	ne	29,769	ne	15,414	17,563	ne	NA	NA	30,987	40,721	69,964
1986	266,077	11,771	46,302	ne	31,349	ne	15,053	17,949	ne	NA	NA	32,259	41,241	70,153
1987	269,256	11,405	46,317	ne	32,051	ne	14,357	18,508	ne	NA	NA	32,741	42,612	71,265
1988	272,309	11,438	47,126	ne	32,227	ne	13,854	19,077	ne	NA	NA	32,975	43,963	71,649
1989	278,577	11,461	48,449	ne	32,482	ne	13,630	19,247	ne	NA	NA	33,629	45,528	74,151
1990	289,383	11,563	49,602	ne	34,257	ne	13,977	19,774	ne	NA	NA	34,082	48,167	77,961
1991	299,057	11,766	51,365	ne	34,681	ne	14,466	19,952	ne	NA	NA	34,724	51,343	80,760
1992	312,478	12,153	53,693	ne	36,325	ne	15,324	20,355	ne	NA	NA	35,357	53,484	85,787
1993	318,851	12,305	55,950	ne	36,213	ne	15,721	20,000	ne	NA	NA	35,328	54,557	88,777
1994	318,118	12,611	57,676	ne	34,158	ne	15,957	19,573	ne	NA	NA	34,466	54,554	89,123
1995	315,265	12,768	58,344	ne	33,458	ne	15,716	18,504	ne	NA	NA	33,399	53,641	89,435
1996	311,957	12,301	57,749	ne	34,626	ne	15,183	18,008	ne	NA	NA	32,333	53,122	88,635
1997	306,482	12,203	56,705	ne	35,991	ne	14,548	16,719	ne	NA	NA	31,105	53,126	86,085
1998	304,818	12,168	56,695	ne	38,027	ne	14,258	16,485	ne	NA	NA	30,575	52,557	84,053
1999	309,491	12,312	56,959	ne	42,478	ne	14,083	16,257	ne	NA	NA	30,691	51,727	84,984
2000	309,424	12,023	56,282	ne	47,350	ne	13,941	15,650	ne	NA	NA	30,385	50,466	83,327
2001	319,736	12,235	57,639	ne	52,196	ne	13,841	16,651	ne	NA	NA	31,038	50,454	85,682
2002	335,166	12,698	61,088	ne	55,269	ne	14,240	18,163	ne	NA	NA	32,341	51,152	90,215
2003	347,268	13,197	64,701	ne	53,696	ne	14,620	19,465	ne	NA	NA	34,298	52,162	95,129
2004	352,307	13,445	66,565	ne	50,016	ne	15,131	19,931	ne	NA	NA	35,761	54,126	97,332
2005	357,710	13,123	68,479	ne	47,978	ne	14,836	20,210	ne	NA	NA	36,375	57,282	99,427
2006	363,246	13,016	69,941	ne	47,653	ne	14,920	20,815	ne	NA	NA	36,901	57,653	102,347
2007old[d]	372,120	13,222	71,663	ne	48,959	ne	14,675	21,335	ne	NA	NA	37,111	60,284	104,871
2007new[d]	384,523	13,528	71,932	7,303	48,246	2,780	14,100	20,975	4,484	NA	1,584	36,824	59,617	103,150
2008	391,419	14,153	72,666	8,444	49,553	3,549	14,389	21,400	5,559	NA	2,012	37,319	58,991	103,384
2009	401,008	15,200	73,304	9,418	51,161	3,794	14,839	22,226	6,557	NA	2,356	38,149	56,184	107,820

Table 1-14. Graduate students in science broad fields: 1975–2025

(Number)

Year	Total	Agricultural and veterinary sciences[a,b]	Biological and biomedical sciences[a]	Communication[a,c,d]	Computer and information sciences	Family and consumer sciences and human sciences[a,c,d]	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Mathematics and statistics	Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences[a,d]	Natural resources and conservation[a]	Neurobiology and neuroscience[a,d]	Physical sciences[a]	Psychology[b,e]	Social sciences[a,b]
2010	407,291	15,656	74,928	9,825	51,546	4,191	15,655	23,136	7,944	NA	2,798	38,973	53,419	109,220
2011	414,440	16,129	75,423	11,029	51,234	4,509	15,820	23,801	6,537	NA	4,117	39,694	54,486	111,661
2012	413,033	16,234	76,447	11,010	51,789	4,110	16,069	24,575	6,038	NA	4,547	39,928	54,117	108,169
2013	417,251	16,429	76,649	11,114	56,339	4,014	15,816	24,804	5,892	NA	4,795	40,019	54,102	107,278
2014old[g]	425,148	16,947	76,029	11,382	68,766	4,180	15,423	25,502	6,417	NA	4,923	40,196	50,938	104,445
2014new[g]	437,395	17,505	78,490	11,942	76,546	4,302	15,710	25,874	7,196	NA	4,923	40,332	48,833	105,742
2015	448,654	18,610	80,096	11,759	86,192	4,134	15,447	26,444	8,138	NA	5,002	40,386	49,740	102,706
2016	452,046	18,284	79,146	12,347	92,650	3,750	15,015	28,050	9,251	NA	5,226	40,518	47,609	100,200
2017old[a]	450,343	17,674	82,603	11,983	90,657	3,709	14,430	28,990	9,934	NA	5,457	41,081	49,896	93,929
2017new[a]	415,568	9,347	85,217	ne	89,909	ne	12,545	29,669	9,854	10,879	NA	41,829	50,033	76,286
2018	432,255	9,538	87,933	ne	93,478	ne	12,333	31,461	10,338	11,407	NA	42,075	55,707	77,985
2019	453,691	9,518	91,993	ne	101,284	ne	11,878	33,159	11,181	11,743	NA	42,867	61,069	78,999
2020[b]	464,646	10,800	94,825	ne	98,864	ne	11,792	31,971	14,533	12,498	NA	42,616	68,394	78,353
2021	509,784	11,244	100,883	ne	121,730	ne	12,290	34,258	15,768	13,922	NA	44,141	73,325	82,223
2022	538,166	11,596	102,700	ne	150,555	ne	11,970	34,387	20,945	13,762	NA	44,092	69,442	78,717
2023	561,489	11,755	105,566	ne	166,014	ne	11,594	33,893	26,429	13,490	NA	44,329	73,828	74,591
2024	564,367	12,017	109,018	ne	161,368	ne	11,766	33,979	31,641	13,332	NA	45,337	72,924	72,985
2025	547,280	11,760	110,060	ne	141,085	ne	11,732	32,997	31,848	13,179	NA	45,711	76,697	72,211
Master's students														
2017new[a]	229,169	5,603	33,926	ne	75,618	ne	6,006	16,568	6,923	7,311	NA	6,368	29,638	41,208
2018	241,327	5,658	35,306	ne	77,351	ne	5,629	18,073	7,414	7,691	NA	6,075	35,404	42,726
2019	259,795	5,629	38,078	ne	84,092	ne	5,327	19,594	8,203	8,066	NA	6,361	40,838	43,607
2020[b]	267,904	6,487	39,920	ne	80,690	ne	5,277	18,284	10,980	8,793	NA	6,275	47,279	43,919
2021	305,796	6,801	42,728	ne	102,199	ne	5,520	20,639	11,994	10,012	NA	6,409	51,878	47,616
2022	331,983	6,949	43,062	ne	129,972	ne	5,186	20,798	16,931	9,807	NA	6,256	48,321	44,701
2023	348,520	6,901	44,703	ne	143,530	ne	4,793	20,105	21,928	9,486	NA	6,000	49,474	41,600
2024	347,469	6,973	46,661	ne	137,358	ne	4,909	19,948	26,426	9,150	NA	6,008	49,516	40,520
2025	327,669	6,692	47,776	ne	115,892	ne	4,898	18,790	26,282	8,946	NA	6,217	51,695	40,481
Doctoral students														
2017new[a]	186,399	3,744	51,291	ne	14,291	ne	6,539	13,101	2,931	3,568	NA	35,461	20,395	35,078
2018	190,928	3,880	52,627	ne	16,127	ne	6,704	13,388	2,924	3,716	NA	36,000	20,303	35,259
2019	193,896	3,889	53,915	ne	17,192	ne	6,551	13,565	2,978	3,677	NA	36,506	20,231	35,392
2020[b]	196,742	4,313	54,905	ne	18,174	ne	6,515	13,687	3,553	3,705	NA	36,341	21,115	34,434
2021	203,988	4,443	58,155	ne	19,531	ne	6,770	13,619	3,774	3,910	NA	37,732	21,447	34,607

Table 1-14. Graduate students in science broad fields: 1975–2025

(Number)

Year	Total	Agricultural and veterinary sciences[a,b]	Biological and biomedical sciences[a]	Communication[a,c,d]	Computer and information sciences	Family and consumer sciences and human sciences[a,c,d]	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Mathematics and statistics	Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences[a,d]	Natural resources and conservation[a]	Neurobiology and neuroscience[a,d]	Physical sciences[a]	Psychology[b,e]	Social sciences[a,b]
2022	206,183	4,647	59,638	ne	20,583	ne	6,784	13,589	4,014	3,955	NA	37,836	21,121	34,016
2023	212,969	4,854	60,863	ne	22,484	ne	6,801	13,788	4,501	4,004	NA	38,329	24,354	32,991
2024	216,898	5,044	62,357	ne	24,010	ne	6,857	14,031	5,215	4,182	NA	39,329	23,408	32,465
2025	219,611	5,068	62,284	ne	25,193	ne	6,834	14,207	5,566	4,233	NA	39,494	25,002	31,730

NA = not available; these fields were collected as part of other fields in other years (see footnotes a and d). ne = not eligible; the fields collected have changed over time.

[a] 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 (TOD), 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. Redesign includes the following: natural resources splitting from agricultural sciences; neuroscience being reported under biological and biomedical sciences; human development being reported under social sciences; physical sciences adding materials sciences; social sciences no longer including public administration (no longer collected); and multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences no longer including nanoscience (which was moved to engineering); and communication as well as family and consumer sciences were removed.

[b] In 2020, for better alignment to the NCSES TOD and Classification of Instructional Programs, human development was moved from social sciences to psychology, and veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences was moved to agricultural sciences. The broad field of agricultural sciences was renamed to agricultural and veterinary sciences to reflect this change.

[c] The field communication and the field family and consumer sciences and human sciences were added as part of the 2007 field eligibility changes. These fields were dropped in 2017 to align the GSS with other NCSES surveys.

[d] 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. The science field communication and the science field family and consumer sciences and human sciences were newly eligible in 2007; data for these two fields begin in 2007new. The science field multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies was also added to the GSS code list in 2007 (and changed from "studies" to "sciences" in 2022); some data reported in this field were reported under other fields before 2007 and are included in those fields in 2007old; neuroscience is reported as a separate field of science in 2007new; data were reported under health field neurology in 2007old and previous years. See appendix A in https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/ for more detail.

[e] Beginning in 2008, more rigorous follow-up was done with institutions regarding the exclusion of practitioner-oriented graduate degree programs in psychology. This change may affect interpretation of trends in this field. This follow-up was discontinued in 2017.

[f] Master's-granting institutions were not surveyed in 1978; totals represent estimates based on 1977 and 1979 data.

[g] 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.

Note(s):
Sum of the broad fields may not add to total because of rounding. Master's and doctoral students were not reported separately until 2017. For more information on the mapping of GSS fields and codes, see table A-6.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.