

Bachelor's Degrees in S&E Growing Twice as Fast as in Non-S&E Disciplines

Over the last five years, the overall number of science and engineering (S&E) bachelor's degree completions has grown by 19%, compared to 9% growth for non-S&E disciplines.

Among women, S&E bachelor's degree completions grew by 20%, compared to 12% growth for non-S&E disciplines.

Among men, S&E bachelor's degree completions grew by 21%, compared to 8% growth for non-S&E disciplines.

The definition of science and engineering used in this snapshot includes social sciences and psychology and is based on classifications used by the National Science Foundation.



"All students" includes students for whom gender was not reported and could not be imputed. These students represent less than 8% of all students in the years studied.



Women Earn Half of All S&E Bachelor's Degrees

In the 2012-13 academic year, women earned 57% of bachelor's degrees in all disciplines, 50% of bachelor's degrees in S&E, and 61% of bachelor's degrees in non-S&E disciplines.

In all three discipline categories, the percentage of bachelor's degrees earned by women has remained largely unchanged over the last five academic years.

The definition of science and engineering used in this snapshot includes social sciences and psychology and is based on classifications used by the National Science Foundation.



Note: Analysis is based on Clearinghouse bachelor's degree records with a known field of study, which represent 90% of all bachelor's degrees reported to IPEDS for both the 2008-09 and 2012-13 academic years.



Gender Distributions in S&E Disciplines Largely Unchanged Since 2009

In 2012-13, the majority of bachelor's degrees in engineering, mathematics, computer science, and the physical sciences were completed by men.

Women continued to earn the majority of bachelor's degrees in the biological and agricultural sciences, social sciences, and psychology.

With the exception of the physical sciences, the share of bachelor's degrees earned by women in each of these disciplines has remained nearly constant since 2008-09. In the physical sciences, a decrease of three percentage points occurred over this time frame.

Gender Distribution of Bachelor's Degrees in Science and Engineering Disciplines: 2009, 2013



Note: Analysis is based on Clearinghouse bachelor's degree records with a known field of study, which represent 90% of all bachelor's degrees reported to IPEDS for both the 2008-09 and 2012-13 academic years.



Science and Engineering Bachelor's Degrees as Percentage of all Bachelor's Degrees, by Gender: 2009, 2013 40% 37% 35% 14% 35% 32% 14% 30% 15% 30% 28% 15% 26% 17% 25% 16% 24% 20% 21% **Social Sciences** and Psychology 15% 16% 15% All other S&E 10% 11% 10% 5% 0% 2009 2013 2009 2013 2009 2013 All Degree Recipients Women Men

Note: Analysis is based on Clearinghouse bachelor's degree records with a known field of study, which represent 90% of all bachelor's degrees reported to IPEDS for both the 2008-09 and 2012-13 academic years. Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Growing Prevalence of S&E Bachelor's Degrees among Both Genders

In 2012-13, S&E bachelor's degrees accounted for 32% of all bachelor's degrees, up from 30% in 2008-09.

In the 2012-13 academic year, 28% of all bachelor's degrees earned by women were in S&E disciplines, compared to 37% of all bachelor's degrees earned by men.

Over the last five years, attainment of S&E degrees, as a percentage of all bachelor's degrees, increased by two percentage points for both genders.

Excluding social sciences and psychology, the remaining S&E disciplines accounted for 11% of all bachelor's degrees earned by women, and 24% of all bachelor's degrees earned by men in 2012-13.

With data current through October 2013



Within S&E, Choice of Discipline Varies by Gender

In 2012-13, women and men each completed the largest share of their S&E bachelor's degrees in social sciences and psychology: 61% of the degrees completed by women compared to 37% of the degrees completed by men.

However, over the last five years, the percentage of S&E bachelor's degrees accounted for by social sciences and psychology has slightly decreased for each gender.

Biological and agricultural sciences was the second most common S&E category for women, accounting for 25% of their S&E bachelor's degrees in 2012-13.

Engineering was the second most common S&E category for men, accounting for 24% of their S&E bachelor's degrees in 2012-13.

Percentage Distribution of Science and Engineering Bachelor's Degrees, by Discipline and Gender: 2009, 2013



Note: Analysis is based on Clearinghouse bachelor's degree records with a known field of study, which represent 90% of all bachelor's degrees reported to IPEDS for both the 2008-09 and 2012-13 academic years. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Earth, Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences account for approximately one percent of all S&E degrees for each year and gender.