

Trends in Graduate Enrollment in Science and Engineering, 1960-69

Data highlights compiled by NSF's Division of Science Resources and Policy Studies

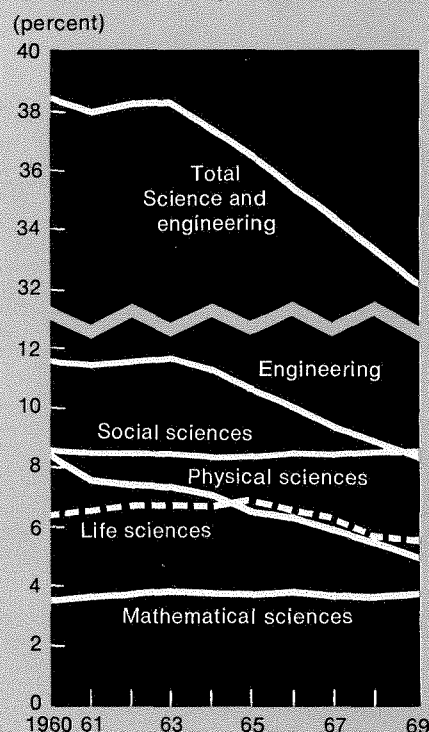
Over the decade 1960-69, while the population group aged 22 to 27 increased from 13.0 to 17.9 million, or about 38 percent, the number of students enrolled for advanced degrees in *all* fields increased 141 percent. The increase in graduate enrollment in *science and engineering* fields was 102 percent.

A statistic that holds special interest as an indicator of future change is first-year enrollment for advanced degrees. The annual percentage increases in those enrollments over the decade were generally parallel to those of the total enrollment. Although the rates of increase for both total and first-year enrollments have fallen since 1964, it is noteworthy that the rate of increase for first-year enrollments increased from 1968 to 1969 while the rate of increase

for total graduate enrollments continued to decline in the same period.

Women now account for about one-third of all enrollment for advanced degrees, but they account for only about one-sixth of the enrollment in science and engineering fields. Since 1966—the first year for which data by sex are available—there has been a steady increase in the proportion of women both in all fields combined and in science and engineering. The rate at which the proportion has increased has been much higher in science than in all fields and, perhaps surprisingly, within the science fields the rate of increase has been highest in engineering and physical sciences. However, the number of women in these fields, especially engineering, remains very low.

Enrollments for advanced degrees in science and engineering as percentages of enrollments in all fields of study, 1960-69



Total and First-Year Enrollment for Advanced Degrees in Science and Engineering (in thousands)

Field	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
TOTAL ENROLLMENT										
All Fields, Total	314.3	339.0	373.8	413.4	477.5	535.3	583.0	649.7	703.7	756.9
Science and Engineering Fields, Total	120.6	128.8	142.4	158.1	178.1	195.3	207.0	224.5	234.7	243.7
Physical Sciences	25.7	26.6	28.6	31.0	34.1	36.5	38.0	40.4	40.9	39.9
Engineering	36.6	39.4	43.9	48.9	54.3	57.5	58.3	62.6	63.7	65.0
Mathematical Sciences	11.8	12.7	14.1	16.0	18.8	21.0	23.2	25.1	26.8	29.2
Life Sciences	19.7	21.4	24.0	26.9	30.8	34.7	37.0	40.0	41.7	44.2
Social Sciences	26.8	28.8	31.9	35.3	40.2	45.6	50.6	56.4	61.5	65.4
FIRST-YEAR ENROLLMENT										
All Fields, Total	197.2	217.5	240.5	270.8	317.8	358.9	389.6	428.0	458.3	494.4
Science and Engineering Fields, Total	63.3	67.5	74.4	84.7	97.3	106.6	111.9	114.8	116.4	126.5
Physical Sciences	12.2	12.2	13.2	14.7	16.1	16.8	17.3	17.2	16.8	16.8
Engineering	19.9	21.6	24.0	27.4	30.2	32.5	33.3	33.7	34.4	36.6
Mathematical Sciences	7.5	7.9	8.8	10.1	12.3	13.5	14.7	15.1	15.9	17.8
Life Sciences	9.7	10.6	11.6	13.0	16.0	18.0	18.8	18.8	19.0	21.0
Social Sciences	14.0	15.3	16.7	19.5	22.7	25.8	28.0	29.9	30.2	34.2

Source: U.S. Office of Education