

Federal Support for Universities

Federal obligations to universities and colleges totalled \$3.2 billion in 1970, the first year institutions of higher education have experienced a decline in Federal funds. This decline follows a leveling trend that began in 1967 when the increase in Federal support dropped to 10 percent from an average annual growth of 29 percent during the 1963-66 period. The rapid growth in Federal support that occurred during the earlier period was due primarily to Office of Education programs for construction of new facilities and general improvement of educational and training programs. Most of these are classified as "non-science" activities. During

1970, however, Government policy shifted away from direct Federal support of facilities toward the subsidizing of interest payments on loans financed through non-Government sources. This accounted for a major portion of the \$227 million reduction in Federal support to universities and colleges.

Although continuing to decline in relation to total Federal funds to universities and colleges, Federal academic science support still exceeded nonscience support by a ratio of better than 2:1. Research and educational programs sponsored by HEW (mainly in health-related fields) have consistently comprised the major part of Federal academic science funding. During 1970, HEW's share of the Government's academic science support amounted to 47 percent, more than two and one-half times the share reported by NSF, which was the second largest supplier of Federal academic science funds.

Despite a 2.1 percent decrease, scientific research and development continues to be the largest federally supported activity at universities and colleges—45 percent of the total in 1970. Federal funds for R&D facilities decreased 52 percent and "other" science activities decreased 16 percent. HEW accounted for 42 percent of the support for research and development, followed by DOD (18 percent) and NSF (15 percent).

The 100 institutions of higher education that accounted for the largest amounts of Federal academic science funds in 1970 received \$1.8 billion, or 82 percent of the total. Within this group of institutions, the 65 publicly controlled schools received \$1.0 billion, down slightly from 1969. These first 100 institutions granted 87 percent of all Ph.D. degrees awarded in science and engineering in 1967-68, 62 percent of the M.S. degrees, 36 percent of the B.S. degrees, and 70 percent of the M.D. degrees.

Federal support to universities and colleges, 1970

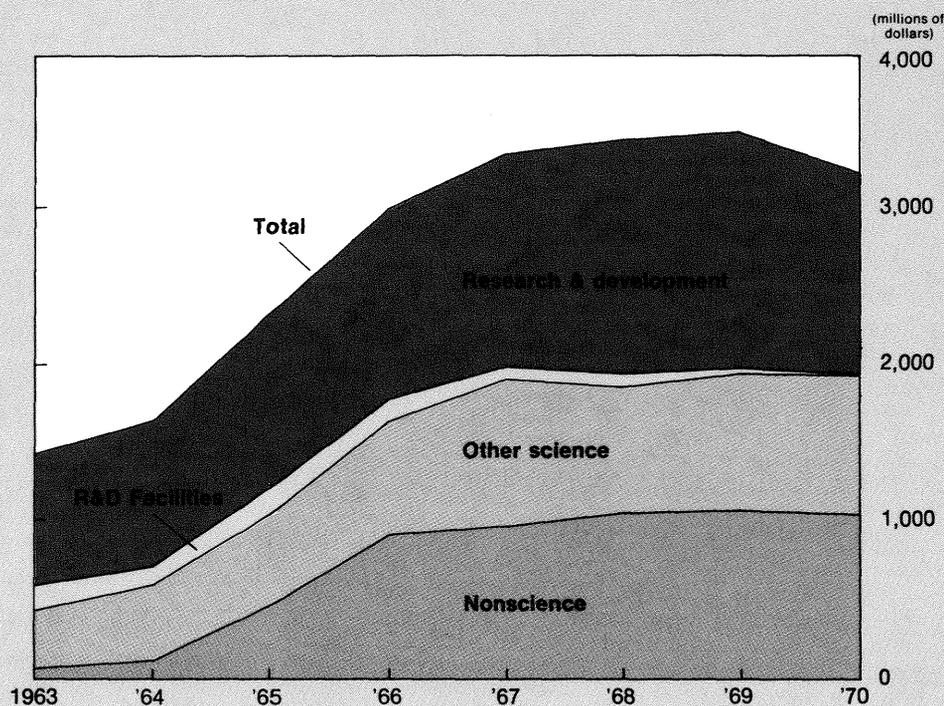
(Dollars in millions)

	HEW	NSF	DOD	USDA	NASA	AEC	Interior	Commerce	Other	Total
Nonscience activities	1,034.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	23.8	1,058.8
Academic science	1,017.0	387.4	265.5	182.1	131.2	114.5	27.7	3.9	38.6	2,167.9
Research and development	614.9	218.7	265.5	67.4	127.4	101.4	27.1	3.2	38.6	1,464.1
R&D facilities	0.3	19.0	-	1.1	-	7.1	-	-	-	27.6
Other science	401.9	149.8	-	113.5	3.8	5.9	0.6	0.7	-	676.3
Total	2,051.0	387.4	265.5	182.1	131.2	114.5	27.7	4.9	62.4	3,226.7

NOTE: Data may not add to totals because of rounding. SOURCE: National Science Foundation (Committee on Academic Science and Engineering)

Trends in Federal support of higher education, 1963-70

SOURCE: National Science Foundation (CASE).



Data highlights compiled
by NSF's Division of Science
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