



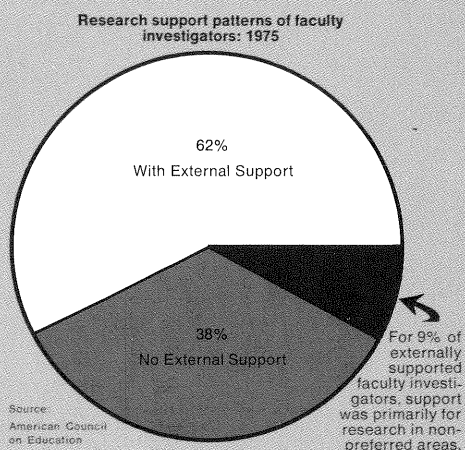
THIRD CLASS
Bulk Rate

External Separately Budgeted Support For Faculty Research, 1975

A special survey of 1,149 doctorate-level science and engineering departments in 16 selected fields found that in 1975 approximately 85 percent of the full-time doctorate faculty spent 20 percent or more of their time in research. Just over three-fifths of these doctorate faculty investigators¹ had external separately budgeted research support. The proportion of externally supported faculty investigators ranged from a high of 88 percent for mining and mineral engineering to a low of 39 percent for economics. Other fields in which fewer than one-half of the faculty investigators had external separately budgeted research support were mathematics, psychology, and sociology.

Overall, about 9 percent of the externally supported faculty investigators had support primarily for research in an area different from their preferred area, i.e., the research area a faculty member would choose to work in, if support were available. Well over one-third of the departments reported one or more faculty investigators with support for research in nonpreferred areas. Furthermore, there were substantial variations, by field, in the proportion of faculty investigators with external support primarily for research in nonpreferred areas, ranging from 3 percent for botany and mathematics to 17 percent for botany and sociology. These data, from an NSF-sponsored Higher Education Panel survey, conducted by the American Council on Education, provide the first quantitative account of externally supported research in nonpreferred areas.

¹ Those spending 20 percent or more of their time in research.



For the faculty investigators with support primarily in areas different from their preferred areas of research, department heads indicated that fewer than one-tenth were in a different field altogether; that two-fifths were in their preferred field but doing research in a non-preferred subfield, and that slightly more than one-half were in their preferred subfield but doing research in a non-preferred specialty. The most frequently cited reason that influenced faculty investigators in the selection of research areas different from their preferred areas was that the researcher selected an area he believed to have better chance for support.

Research support patterns of faculty investigators: 1975

Faculty spending 20% or more of time in research

Field (1)	Number of departments (2)	Total (3)	With external support			
			Number (4)	Percent of total (5)	Number (6)	Percent of column 4 (7)
Total	1,125	19,514	12,085	62	1,076	9
Biochemistry	66	813	653	80	23	4
Biology	73	1,561	1,061	68	105	10
Botany	36	479	308	64	51	17
Chemical engineering	68	576	447	78	53	12
Chemistry	112	2,219	1,638	74	148	9
Economics	77	1,353	540	40	81	15
Electrical engineering	75	1,125	829	74	136	16
Geology	64	771	536	70	64	12
Mathematics	97	2,534	1,089	43	32	3
Microbiology	71	732	579	79	49	8
Mining and mineral engineering	13	124	110	89	12	11
Physics	104	2,620	1,861	71	87	5
Physiology	62	894	700	78	35	5
Psychology	97	1,997	885	44	75	8
Sociology	75	1,060	470	44	79	17
Zoology	35	626	379	61	46	12

¹ Those spending 20 percent or more of their time in research.

Source: American Council on Education.