

Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

NSF estimates that in FY 2016 approximately 356,500 people will be directly involved in NSF programs and activities, receiving salaries, stipends, participant support, and other types of direct involvement. Beyond these figures, NSF programs indirectly impact millions of people, reaching K-12 students and teachers, the general public, and researchers through activities including workshops; informal science activities such as museums, television, videos, and journals; outreach efforts; and dissemination of improved curriculum and teaching methods.

FY 2016 Request			
Number of People Involved in NSF Activities			
	FY 2014 Actual Estimate	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Request Estimate
Senior Researchers	40,788	42,500	44,350
Other Professionals	17,151	17,370	18,770
Postdoctoral Associates	5,629	5,720	5,920
Graduate Students	39,806	41,750	43,650
Undergraduate Students	34,080	34,800	37,700
K-12 Teachers	40,079	41,600	46,000
K-12 Students	143,395	147,100	160,100
Total Number of People	320,928	330,840	356,490

Senior Researchers include scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and educators receiving funding through NSF awards. These include both researchers who are principal or co-principal investigators on research and education projects, and researchers working at NSF-supported centers and facilities.

Other Professionals are individuals who may or may not hold a doctoral degree or its equivalent, are considered professionals but are not reported as senior researchers, postdoctoral associates, or students. Examples are technicians, systems experts, etc.

Postdoctoral Associates are individuals who have received Ph.D., M.D., D.Sc., or equivalent and are not faculty members of the performing institution. About 97 percent are supported through funds included in research projects, centers, or facilities awards. Others are recipients of postdoctoral fellowships.

Graduate Students include those compensated from NSF grant funds. Approximately 20 percent receive support through NSF's fellowship and traineeship programs. Others are supported through research assistantships and assist senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research through awards for research projects, centers, or facilities. NSF provides support for approximately 28 percent of the U.S. science and engineering graduate students receiving federal funds and about 5 percent of the science and engineering graduate students in the U.S. overall.¹

Undergraduate Students include students compensated from NSF grant funds who are enrolled in technical colleges or baccalaureate programs. They may be assisting senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research, or participating in NSF programs aimed at undergraduate students, such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates.

¹ Science and Engineering Indicators 2014: Chapter 2 Higher Education in Science and Engineering, Appendix tables 02-06 and 02-09. www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind14/index.cfm/appendix

Summary Tables

K-12 Teachers include teachers at elementary, middle, and secondary schools. These individuals actively participate in intensive professional development experiences in the sciences and mathematics.

K-12 Students are those attending elementary, middle, and secondary schools. They are supported through program components that directly engage students in science and mathematics experiences.