

Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

NSF estimates that in FY 2017 approximately 377,170 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 2017 Request
Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

	FY 2015 Actual Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Discretionary Estimate	FY 2017 Request Estimate
Senior Researchers	42,241	42,690	42,980	45,520
Other Professionals	13,990	13,960	14,145	14,970
Postdoctoral Associates	6,043	6,060	6,180	6,470
Graduate Students	42,114	41,870	42,370	45,080
Undergraduate Students	35,785	35,530	36,075	38,030
K-12 Teachers	41,330	40,900	42,000	44,500
K-12 Students	173,128	169,000	172,800	182,600
Total Number of People	354,631	350,010	356,550	377,170

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 96 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 30 percent of the U.S. science and engineering graduate students receiving federal funds and about five 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

¹ Science and Engineering Indicators 2016: Chapter 2 Higher Education in Science and Engineering, Appendix Tables 02-07 and 02-11. www.nsf.gov/statistics/2016/nsb20161/#/data

Summary Tables

associates in performing research, or participating in NSF programs aimed at undergraduate students, such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates.

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.