

**Table 1-21**
**U.S. undergraduates who chose a STEM major, by demographic characteristics: Academic year 2011–12**

(Percent)

Demographic characteristic	STEM major, total	Specific STEM major			
		Math/ computer sciences	Natural sciences	Engineering	Social/ behavioral sciences
All undergraduates	22.6	4.7	5.9	4.9	7.1
First-year students	17.9	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.3
Sex					
Male	26.0	8.7	4.8	9.2	3.3
Female	11.7	1.6	4.2	0.9	5.1
Race or ethnicity <sup>a</sup>					
White	19.1	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.5
Black	13.8	4.1	2.9	3.1	3.7
Hispanic	16.8	3.9	4.0	4.5	4.4
Asian	27.1	6.1	9.0	8.0	4.0
Other	17.7	4.5	4.9	2.6	5.6
Parents' highest education					
High school education or less	15.4	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.4
Some college	17.0	4.6	3.9	3.8	4.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	21.8	4.5	6.0	6.1	5.3

STEM = science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

<sup>a</sup> Hispanic may be any race. Asian, black or African American, white, and other races refer to individuals who are not of Hispanic origin.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to total because of rounding.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, special tabulations (2014) of the 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12), National Center for Education Statistics.

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