

Appendix table 2-18

Freshmen intending to major in selected S&E fields, by sex and race or ethnicity: 1998–2012

(Percent)

Sex, race or ethnicity, and field	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Male	55.3	56.1	55.9	55.7	55.6	54.8	55.0	53.6	53.2	52.1	53.3	53.8	52.6	53.3	53.0
Female	44.7	43.9	44.1	44.3	44.4	45.2	45.0	46.4	46.8	47.9	46.7	46.2	47.4	46.7	47.0
White or Caucasian	76.4	74.9	72.9	71.6	72.5	72.0	72.5	71.0	72.4	71.0	69.0	69.7	71.3	68.8	66.7
Physical sciences	84.1	85.6	83.2	81.7	81.2	79.2	80.6	79.7	79.5	80.6	76.7	77.4	78.3	75.4	75.5
Biological/agricultural sciences	78.2	77.1	73.3	70.7	70.0	66.8	66.8	66.2	67.5	66.4	64.7	65.1	69.1	65.8	64.6
Mathematics/statistics/computer sciences	68.3	65.9	66.3	64.9	71.0	73.4	74.1	73.0	76.0	71.8	70.2	72.8	70.1	70.7	63.2
Social/behavioral sciences	76.5	76.9	74.3	71.9	73.0	73.2	74.1	72.3	72.4	71.3	67.7	68.9	69.7	67.3	65.8
Engineering	78.0	74.5	73.3	74.1	72.6	72.8	73.6	71.3	74.9	72.6	72.7	72.7	73.8	71.4	69.0
Asian American or Asian ^a	7.7	9.2	9.6	10.2	11.0	12.4	12.8	12.7	11.9	12.4	13.1	13.4	11.8	13.2	15.5
Physical sciences	6.1	5.8	6.1	6.9	7.6	9.6	9.4	9.7	10.2	9.9	11.0	10.6	10.5	11.6	13.5
Biological/agricultural sciences	8.0	8.7	10.1	11.0	13.0	16.9	17.2	17.2	16.2	16.7	17.1	17.1	14.4	15.5	17.6
Mathematics/statistics/computer sciences	10.2	15.0	13.9	14.6	11.9	11.4	10.0	10.0	9.6	10.9	12.5	11.5	12.7	15.3	20.2
Social/behavioral sciences	4.4	5.0	5.6	6.3	7.1	8.1	8.7	8.2	8.5	8.2	9.5	9.7	8.4	96.0	9.9
Engineering	9.8	10.8	11.1	11.7	13.8	14.4	14.7	15.2	12.7	14.5	14.2	14.7	12.9	14.3	16.9
African American or black	11.3	10.2	11.3	10.8	10.5	9.7	9.9	11.4	10.8	11.1	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.8	10.5
Physical sciences	6.6	6.1	7.1	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.5	8.3	7.4	7.4	7.8	8.2	7.8	9.2	7.5
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.3	8.9	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.3	10.7	11.7	10.6	11.0	11.0	11.4	10.4	10.4	10.7
Mathematics/statistics/computer sciences	17.5	14.5	14.5	14.4	12.8	11.0	12.4	13.8	11.5	13.0	12.5	12.3	13.4	10.3	11.6
Social/behavioral sciences	13.8	11.9	12.1	13.3	12.1	11.3	11.4	13.3	12.7	13.3	13.3	12.9	13.2	13.1	13.5
Engineering	7.6	7.9	9.7	6.9	8.7	7.5	7.6	9.0	9.3	8.7	7.1	7.0	7.9	8.9	7.8
Hispanic or Latino ^b	5.4	6.4	7.0	7.5	6.7	7.4	8.0	8.5	9.1	9.4	12.1	12.0	12.8	14.6	15.6
Physical sciences	3.6	3.7	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.3	6.5	5.3	8.4	8.9	10.8	11.0	12.0
Biological/agricultural sciences	5.1	5.9	7.0	7.2	6.6	7.1	7.7	7.7	9.0	9.2	11.4	11.4	11.9	14.8	14.4
Mathematics/statistics/computer sciences	4.8	4.9	5.7	6.1	5.3	6.2	7.0	6.5	6.9	7.6	9.0	8.6	10.5	10.8	13.3
Social/behavioral sciences	6.4	7.5	9.1	9.2	8.7	9.0	9.5	10.8	11.6	12.2	15.6	15.2	16.1	18.8	19.2
Engineering	5.6	7.0	6.1	7.1	5.8	6.7	7.6	8.4	7.0	8.2	10.5	10.6	11.1	12.0	13.8
American Indian or Alaska Native ^c	2.1	2.4	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.3	2.0	1.8	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5
Physical sciences	2.4	3.1	2.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	2.1	1.8	2.6	2.0	2.8	2.3	2.2	3.3	2.5
Biological/agricultural sciences	2.2	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.5	2.0	1.8	2.5	2.1	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.7
Mathematics/statistics/computer sciences	2.0	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.0	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.4	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.1
Social/behavioral sciences	2.6	2.6	2.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.4	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.9
Engineering	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.1
Other/unknown	3.0	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.9	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.6
Physical sciences	3.0	3.8	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.2	2.7	3.8	2.9	3.9	2.9	2.9	3.8	3.3
Biological/agricultural sciences	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.5	4.1	3.9	3.7	4.4	4.3	4.9	4.0	3.7	4.3	3.9

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Freshmen intending to major in selected S&E fields, by sex and race or ethnicity: 1998–2012

(Percent)

Sex, race or ethnicity, and field	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mathematics/statistics/computer sciences	2.5	3.9	4.1	3.2	2.7	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.9	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.2
Social/behavioral sciences	3.4	4.0	4.2	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.5	4.5	4.3	4.9	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.0
Engineering	2.6	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.4	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.8	3.2

^a In 1997, the Asian American or Asian category was broken out into six categories: Chinese American or Chinese, Filipino American or Filipino, Japanese American or Japanese, Korean American or Korean, South East Asian American (Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, etc.), and other Asian American or Asian. In 1998, the Asian American or Asian category used in prior years was restored. In 2001, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander was added as a category under Asian American or Asian.

^b Hispanic or Latino includes Mexican American or Chicano, Puerto Rican, and other Latino.

^c The category American Indian was changed to American Indian or Alaska Native in 2001.

NOTES: Physical sciences include physics; chemistry; astronomy; and earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences. Detail does not add to total because students may check more than one race or ethnicity (e.g., white and Hispanic).

SOURCE: Higher Education Research Institute, University of California at Los Angeles, Survey of the American Freshman: National Norms, special tabulations (2013).

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