

Appendix table 2-7

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Freshmen intending to major in selected S&E fields, by sex and race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1983–2004

(Percent)

Sex, race/ethnicity, and field	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Male	62.5	61.4	59.2	57.3	57.9	56.1	54.5	55.6	56.2	55.9	55.8	55.5	54.8	55.0
Female	37.5	38.6	40.8	42.7	42.1	43.9	45.5	44.4	43.8	44.1	44.2	44.4	45.2	45.0
White	85.4	83.7	83.1	81.8	76.9	79.1	76.2	76.3	74.4	72.4	71.2	72.1	71.6	72.1
Physical sciences	90.5	86.3	88.3	87.6	85.0	85.7	84.7	84.6	84.9	82.5	80.8	80.6	78.6	79.7
Biological/agricultural sciences.....	86.3	84.2	82.9	81.9	77.5	79.4	76.6	77.0	75.3	71.5	68.9	68.3	65.1	65.1
Mathematics/statistics.....	90.8	89.7	89.1	89.8	84.7	86.9	83.5	82.9	82.7	82.8	81.4	80.0	78.6	80.8
Computer sciences	79.0	71.2	73.4	68.5	61.3	66.3	65.2	68.0	63.7	64.0	62.6	68.8	71.7	71.6
Social/behavioral sciences.....	86.4	88.2	85.6	83.5	79.0	81.3	78.6	78.5	76.9	74.3	71.9	73.0	73.2	74.1
Engineering	87.2	83.3	81.5	81.1	76.1	77.2	74.3	75.2	74.5	73.3	74.1	72.6	72.8	73.6
Asian American.....	2.7	4.2	4.7	4.7	5.9	5.7	7.2	8.1	9.4	9.7	9.6	10.2	11.6	11.9
Physical sciences	3.2	5.4	4.5	4.0	5.2	4.6	5.5	5.4	6.2	6.5	6.9	7.3	9.5	9.2
Biological/agricultural sciences.....	3.7	5.6	6.9	6.2	8.2	7.4	8.5	8.3	9.4	10.8	10.9	12.7	16.4	16.8
Mathematics/statistics.....	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.3	4.3	4.2	4.5	5.1	6.3	6.9	8.0	8.3	10.3	9.0
Computer sciences	2.0	1.9	4.5	3.4	6.2	5.5	9.3	11.4	16.1	14.8	14.4	11.8	10.6	9.2
Social/behavioral sciences.....	1.5	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.8	5.0	5.6	5.8	6.4	7.2	7.8
Engineering	3.4	5.7	6.0	6.4	6.7	6.3	8.9	10.3	10.8	11.1	10.9	12.8	13.3	13.4
Black	10.0	10.0	9.6	10.5	13.1	11.4	11.6	11.4	10.4	11.5	11.0	10.7	9.8	10.1
Physical sciences	5.2	6.9	5.3	6.1	7.0	7.2	7.2	6.5	6.3	7.4	6.6	6.5	7.0	7.8
Biological/agricultural sciences.....	7.7	7.8	7.3	9.0	10.0	9.3	10.6	10.5	9.6	11.3	11.4	11.3	10.9	11.3
Mathematics/statistics.....	5.1	6.2	6.6	5.3	8.7	7.3	10.0	10.0	8.5	6.6	5.5	6.7	5.6	5.3
Computer sciences	17.3	24.9	19.3	25.1	27.5	24.1	20.8	17.0	15.3	15.6	15.7	14.4	12.7	15.1
Social/behavioral sciences.....	10.2	7.7	9.2	10.3	13.0	10.3	11.4	12.2	11.9	12.1	13.3	12.1	11.3	11.4
Engineering	7.6	8.5	9.8	9.4	13.4	12.7	10.9	10.3	7.9	9.7	6.9	8.7	7.5	7.6
Hispanic	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.6	3.9	5.1	5.0	6.4	7.1	7.6	6.9	7.4	8.1
Physical sciences	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.8	2.6	2.8	3.6	3.8	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.5
Biological/agricultural sciences.....	1.6	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.6	3.6	4.6	5.0	6.1	7.4	7.6	7.0	7.3	8.1
Mathematics/statistics.....	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.9	2.6	3.3	5.2	4.7	6.4	6.1	6.7	6.9
Computer sciences	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.9	3.3	3.6	4.5	4.1	4.9	5.9	6.1	5.2	6.0	7.0
Social/behavioral sciences.....	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.8	5.0	5.9	6.1	7.5	9.1	9.2	8.7	9.0	9.5
Engineering	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.5	3.7	5.9	4.9	7.0	6.1	7.1	5.8	6.7	7.6
American Indian.....	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.7	2.1	3.1	2.3	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.3	2.0
Physical sciences	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.6	1.1	2.1	3.5	3.3	2.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	2.0
Biological/agricultural sciences.....	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.7	1.8	2.2	3.1	2.5	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.5	2.0
Mathematics/statistics.....	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.6	1.6	1.1	2.1	2.4	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.4
Computer sciences	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	2.1	1.9	2.2	3.7	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.2
Social/behavioral sciences.....	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.4	3.7	2.6	2.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.4
Engineering	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.6

Freshmen intending to major in selected S&E fields, by sex and race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1983–2004

(Percent)

Sex, race/ethnicity, and field	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Unknown	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.6	1.9	2.5	3.3	3.9	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.4
Physical sciences	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.5	3.4	4.0	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.1	3.3
Biological/agricultural sciences.....	1.6	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.9	2.0	2.9	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.2	4.0
Mathematics/statistics.....	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.3	2.2	2.1	1.3	2.5	3.6	3.5	1.7	2.5	2.5	2.3
Computer sciences.....	1.2	1.0	2.2	1.6	2.3	1.6	2.2	2.9	4.0	4.1	3.4	2.8	2.0	2.4
Social/behavioral sciences.....	1.6	1.5	2.0	1.9	3.1	2.1	2.5	3.2	4.0	4.2	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7
Engineering	1.5	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.3	1.6	2.5	3.2	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.8

NOTES: Physical sciences include physics, chemistry, astronomy, and earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences. Hispanic includes three group designations from freshman norms survey: Mexican American/Chicano, Puerto Rican American, and other Latino. Detail may not add to total because students may check more than one race/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 (2005).

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