

NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NSF ACTIVITIES

NSF estimates that in FY 2022 approximately 366,800 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 2020		FY 2021 Estimate	FY 2022 Request Estimate
	FY 2020 Actual Estimate	CARES Act Actual Estimate		
Senior Researchers	47,633	864	48,700	57,500
Other Professionals	12,799	191	13,200	16,100
Postdoctoral Associates	5,919	128	6,000	7,300
Graduate Students	42,204	501	42,800	51,600
Undergraduate Students ¹	39,573	333	40,500	48,700
K-12 Teachers	40,343	2	40,500	46,500
K-12 Students	118,047	15	119,700	139,100
Total Number of People	306,519	2,034	311,400	366,800

¹ The FY 2020 Actual for Undergraduates is adjusted downward from prior agency reported levels to correct an award reporting error.

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. These individuals are supported through funds included in research projects, centers, or facilities awards, as well as by postdoctoral fellowships.

Graduate Students include those compensated from NSF grant funds. NSF supports graduate students through NSF’s fellowship and traineeship programs as well as research assistantships and funds to 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 four percent of the science and engineering graduate students in the U.S. overall.¹

¹ Science and Engineering Indicators 2020: Chapter 2 Higher Education in Science and Engineering, NCSES GSS 2017: Table 1- 7, <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/gradpostdoc/2017/html/gss17-dt-tab001-7.html> and NCSES GSS 2017: Table 3-1, <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/gradpostdoc/2017/html/gss17-dt-tab003-1.html>.

Summary Tables

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.

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.