

Nuclear Engineering Enrollments and Degrees Survey, 2009 Data

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SURVEY UNIVERSE

The survey includes degrees granted between September 1, 2008, and August 31, 2009, and fall 2009 enrollments. Thirty-two academic programs reported having nuclear engineering programs during 2009, and data was provided by all thirty-two. The enrollment and degree data includes students majoring in nuclear engineering or in an option program equivalent to a major.

DEGREE DATA

Bachelor's Degrees. The number of B.S. degrees in 2009 by nuclear engineering programs decreased after five consecutive years of increases and was 13% fewer than in 2008. (See Table 1.) The number of B.S. degrees in 2009 was still roughly double the numbers reported at the beginning of the decade and 50% greater than the number reported in 2005. Nuclear engineering majors accounted for 95% of all B.S. degrees. (See Table 2.)

Graduate Degrees. The number of master's degrees in 2009 decreased after six consecutive years of increases, and was 10% fewer than in 2008. The number of M.S. degrees in 2009 was still 75% greater than the numbers reported at the beginning of the decade and 35% greater than the number reported in 2005. The number of doctorate degrees decreased in 2009 to approximately the same number earned in 2007. (See Table 1.) The decrease in graduate degrees is unexpected as graduate enrollments have continuously increased since 2001. Nuclear engineering majors accounted for 97% of the M.S. and 85% of the Ph.D. degrees. (See Table 2.)

Table 1. Nuclear Engineering Degrees, 2002 - 2009

Year	Degrees		
	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
2009	395	233	87
2008	454	260	127
2007	413	227	89
2006	346	214	70
2005	268	171	74
2004	219	154	75
2003	166	132	78
2002	195*	130	67

*Three programs were discontinued/out-of-scope after 2002 and not included in the 2003 survey. These three programs reported a total of 17 B.S. degrees in 2002.

Table 2. Nuclear Engineering Degrees, 2009, by Curriculum

Curriculum	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
Nuclear Engineering Major	374	226	74
Nuclear Engineering Option	21	7	13

ENROLLMENTS AND SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR DEGREE TRENDS

Undergraduate Students. In 2009, the reported enrollment of junior and senior nuclear engineering undergraduate students was over 1,500, an increase of about 15% above the number reported in 2008. Undergraduate enrollments in 2009 were the largest reported since the mid 1980s. The growth in enrollments will likely generate an increase in the number of bachelor's degrees earned over the next couple of years. A larger increase is more likely to occur in two years (2011) as the undergraduate junior and senior enrollments in 2008 were basically the same as those in 2007.

Graduate Students. The reported enrollment of graduate student enrollment in 2009 was almost 1,300, about 5% higher than in 2008, and roughly 30% higher than the enrollments reported in 2005. In fact, graduate enrollments have increased annually since 2001, but are still about 10% below the numbers reported from the mid 1970s through the early 1990s. The continued increase in graduate enrollment indicates that the number of both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees should increase for the next several years.

CITIZENSHIP, GENDER, AND RACE/ETHNICITY OF DEGREE RECIPIENTS (TABLE 3.)

Please note that citizenship, gender, and race/ethnicity data were not reported for 37 B.S. degree recipients. Percentages for the B.S. degrees are based on the 358 degrees for which data was reported.

Citizenship. Among B.S. degree recipients, 2.5% were non-U.S. citizens. Among M.S. degree recipients, 13% were non-U.S. citizens; and among Ph.D. degree recipients, almost 38% were non-U.S. citizens. The higher percentages of non-U.S. citizens among graduate degree recipients is a continuation of a long-term trend common across graduate engineering academic programs.

Gender. Females comprised 18% of the B.S. degree recipients, 22% of the M.S. degree recipients, and 20% of the Ph.D. recipients.

Race/Ethnicity. Among the B.S. degree recipients, 13% of the U.S. citizens were members of minority groups. Among the M.S. degree recipients, 16% of the U.S. citizens were members of minority groups. Among the Ph.D. degree recipients, 20% of the U.S. citizens were members of minority groups.

Table 3. Citizenship, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity of Degree Recipients,¹ 2009

	B.S.		M.S.		Ph.D.	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Non-U.S. Citizens	2	7	8	23	3	30
U.S. Citizens						
African/Black Americans	2	11	2	2	0	0
American Indians	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Americans	7	15	8	10	2	8
Hispanic Americans	4	8	2	8	0	1
White/Caucasian Americans	49	235	31	137	11	31
Other or Unknown	1	17	0	2	1	0
Totals	65	293	51	182	17	70

¹Citizenship, gender, and race/ethnicity data was not available for 37 bachelor's degree recipients.

Table 4. Nuclear Engineering Degrees, 2009, by Academic Institution
(alphabetical by state and then university)

State	Name of Institution	Degrees Sept. 1, 2008 – Aug. 31, 2009		
		B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
CA	University of California, Berkeley	11	9	5
FL	University of Florida	23	19	12
GA	Georgia Institute of Technology	32	24	1
ID	Idaho State University	8	2	0
IL	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	17	2	4
IN	Purdue University	20	11	6
KS	Kansas State University	13	1	2
MA	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	15	24	15
MA	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	2	0	0
MD	University of Maryland	0	4	0
ME	University of Maine	0	0	0
MI	University of Michigan	37	21	8
MO	Missouri University, Columbia	0	3	2
MO	Missouri University of Science & Technology	25	6	0
NC	North Carolina State University	24	12	6
NM	University of New Mexico	6	9	2
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	0	2	1
NY	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	30	3	0
NY	United States Military Academy	10	0	0
OH	Air Force Institute of Technology	0	7	0
OH	Ohio State University	0	7	0
OH	University of Cincinnati	5	7	0
OR	Oregon State University	6	5	1
PA	Pennsylvania State University	35	11	3
SC	South Carolina State University	2	0	0
SC	University of South Carolina	0	5	0
TN	University of Tennessee	24	9	4
TX	Texas A&M University	32	13	8
TX	University of Texas	4	2	0
UT	University of Utah	0	3	0
VA	Virginia Commonwealth University ¹	0	0	0
WI	University of Wisconsin	14	12	7
TOTALS:		395	233	87

¹New BS and MS nuclear engineering program, first BS degrees expected Spring 2013, and first MS degrees expected Spring 2010.

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