

Health Physics Enrollments and Degrees Survey, 2007 Data

Number 63

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education

2008

SURVEY UNIVERSE

The survey includes degrees granted between September 1, 2006 and August 31, 2007. Enrollment information refers to the fall term 2007. Twenty-nine academic programs were included in the survey universe, and 28 of the 29 responded. The report includes data by degree level including citizenship, gender, and race/ethnicity plus enrollments of junior and senior undergraduate students and graduate students.

DEGREE DATA

Bachelor's Degrees. The number of B.S. degrees granted in 2007 increased by 11% from 2006, but is about the same number as in 2005. (See Table 1.) The number of B.S. degrees earned is still below the numbers reported in the mid-1990s. Health physics programs accounted for 87% of all B.S. degrees. (See Table 2.)

Graduate Degrees. In 2007, the number of master's degrees granted was only one more than in 2006, while the number of doctorate degrees granted more than doubled the number granted in 2006. (See Table 1.) The number of doctorate degrees granted was the largest since 1997 and reflects the continuous increase in graduate enrollments that began in 2003. Health physics programs accounted for 64% of the master's degrees and 54% of the doctorate degrees. (See Table 2.)

Table 1. Health Physics Degrees, 1999-2007

Year	Degrees		
	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
2007	79	91	28
2006	71	90	12
2005	78	77	14
2004	54	64	14
2003	56	73	25
2002	41	76	20
2001	37	71	23
2000	33	79	24
1999	55	115	22

The data reflect the 2002 update of the survey universe of health physics programs.

Table 2. Health Physics Degrees by Curriculum, 2007

Curriculum	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
Health Physics Program	69	58	15
Medical Health Physics	0	24	7
Other Health Physics Option	10	9	6

ENROLLMENTS AND SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR DEGREE TRENDS

Undergraduate Students. In 2007, the reported enrollment of junior and senior undergraduate students was approximately 250, a small increase over 2006. This was the fifth consecutive year in which undergraduate enrollments increased. Undergraduate enrollment in 2007 is more than double the enrollment number in 2002, and more than triple the number in 2000. The increases in undergraduate enrollments have resulted in more B.S. degrees during the last three years, and indicate that the number of B.S. degrees is likely to continue to increase at least for the next two years.

Graduate Students. In 2007, the reported enrollment of graduate students also increased for the fifth consecutive year to approximately 440 students, and is now one-third higher than reported graduate enrollments in 2002. The continuing increases in graduate enrollment indicate that the number of M.S. degrees should continue to increase for at least the next two or three years, and that the increase in doctorate degrees experienced in 2007 will continue over the next several years.

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

Gender. Females comprised 29% of the B.S. degree recipients (for those with gender reported), 34% of the M.S. degree recipients, and 39% of the Ph.D. recipients.

Citizenship. In 2007, 94% of B.S. degree recipients were U.S. citizens. Among M.S. degree recipients, 16% were non-U.S. citizens; and for doctorate degree recipients, 29% 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 science academic programs.

Race/Ethnicity. Excluding the “other or unknown” group and the “not reported,” among the B.S. degree recipients, 15% of the U.S. citizens were members of minority groups; among the M.S. degree recipients, 18% of the U.S. citizens were members of minority groups; and among the Ph.D. degree recipients, 17% were members of minority groups.

Table 3. Gender, Citizenship, and Race/Ethnicity of Degree Recipients, 2007

	B.S.		M.S.		Ph.D.	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Non-U.S. Citizens	2	2	5	10	4	4
U.S. Citizens						
African/Black Americans	0	4	1	2	0	0
American Indians/Native Americans	0	1	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Americans	1	1	3	5	2	1
Hispanic Americans	0	1	0	2	0	0
White/Caucasian Americans	15	32	20	38	5	10
Other or Unknown	0	4	2	3	0	2
(not reported = 16 BS; 0 MS; & 0 PhD)						
Totals	18	45	31	60	11	17

Table 4. Health Physics Degrees, 2007, by Academic Institution
(alphabetical by state and then university)

State	Name of Institution	Degrees Sept. 1, 2006 – Aug. 31, 2007		
		B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
CA	San Diego State University	0	6	0
CO	Colorado State University	0	3	0
DC	Georgetown University	0	1	0
FL	University of Florida	5	1	4
GA	Georgia Institute of Technology	1	0	0
ID	Idaho State University	2	8	1
IL	Illinois Institute of Technology	0	17	0
IN	Purdue University	16	6	1
LA	Louisiana State University	0	6	0
MA	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	2	5	1
ME	University of Maine	0	0	1
MI	University of Michigan	4	5	6
MO	University of Missouri - Columbia	0	7	4
NJ	Thomas Edison State College	10	0	0
NM	University of New Mexico	0	0	0
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	0	4	0
NY	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	7	1	2
OH	Ohio State University	0	1	0
OH	University of Cincinnati	0	3	1
OR	Oregon State University	8	1	1
PA	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	5	0	0
SC	Clemson University	0	6	1
SC	Francis Marion University	3	0	0
TN	University of Tennessee	6	2	0
TN	Vanderbilt University	0	1	0
TX	Texas A&M University	9	7	4
TX	University of Texas	0	0	1
WA	Washington State University, Tri-Cities	1	0	0
	<i>Estimate for missing program</i>	0	0	0
TOTALS:		79	91	28

Prepared by: Analysis and Evaluation Group, Science Education Programs, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, April 2008.

This document was prepared for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). ORISE is managed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities under DOE contract number DE-AC05-06OR23100.

The **Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE)** is a U.S. Department of Energy institute focusing on scientific initiatives to research health risks from occupational hazards, assess environmental cleanup, respond to radiation medical emergencies, support national security and emergency preparedness, and educate the next generation of scientists. ORISE is managed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

All opinions expressed in this report are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the policies and views of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy, or the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education or any of their employees. Nor does it necessarily reflect the policies and views of the sponsoring institutions of Oak Ridge Associated Universities.
