

# Health Physics Enrollments and Degrees Survey, 2008 Data

Number 65

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education

2009

## SURVEY UNIVERSE

The survey includes degrees granted between September 1, 2007 and August 31, 2008. Enrollment information refers to the fall term 2008. Twenty-six academic programs were included in the survey universe, and all 26 programs provided data.

## DEGREE DATA

**Bachelor's Degrees.** The number of B.S. degrees granted in 2008 decreased slightly from 2007, but continued the trend of 70 to 80 degrees granted per year since 2005. (See Table 1.) The current number of B.S. degrees is still approximately 25% below the number of B.S. degrees reported in the mid-1990s. Health physics programs accounted for 75% of all B.S. degrees. (See Table 2.)

**Graduate Degrees.** The number of master's degrees granted in 2008 was 18% higher than in 2007, and the highest reported since 1999. In contrast, the number of doctorate degrees granted was the lowest reported since the survey began over 40 years ago. (See Table 1.) Eight universities reported decreases in the number of Ph.D.s in 2008 compared to 2007. Given the continued growth in graduate student enrollments and the high number of Ph.D. degrees granted in 2007, this low number for 2008 is likely to be a one-year occurrence. Health physics programs accounted for 60% of the master's degrees and 75% of the doctorate degrees. (See Table 2.)

**Table 1. Health Physics Degrees, 1999-2008**

Year	Degrees		
	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
2008	73	108	8
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

**Table 2. Health Physics Degrees by Curriculum, 2008**

Curriculum	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
Health Physics Program	55	64	6
Medical Health Physics	9	35	2
Other Health Physics Option	9	9	0

## ENROLLMENTS AND SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR DEGREE TRENDS

**Undergraduate Students.** In 2008, the reported enrollment of junior and senior undergraduate students was approximately 225, a decrease of 10% from 2007. The 2008 enrollment was still double the undergraduate student enrollments reported at the turn of the century. This is the first decrease in reported undergraduate enrollments in six years. The leveling off in undergraduate enrollments indicates that the number of B.S. degrees is likely to remain in the 70 to 80 range for the next two years.

**Graduate Students.** Graduate enrollment in 2008 was approximately 425 students, a decrease of 4% from 2007. This decrease follows five years of increases in graduate student enrollments. The graduate enrollments are about one-half the annual number of graduate students reported during the mid 1990s. The number of graduate degrees is likely to continue to increase even with the slight decline in graduate enrollments in 2008. During the preceding five years graduate enrollments increased 20 percent and most of these students are still in the pipeline. The number of M.S. degrees should continue to increase for at least the next two or three years by 10% to 20%, and the number of doctorate degrees should rebound during the next several years.

## EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER POST-GRADUATION STATUS

Data on employment/post-graduation status were not collected in 2007. Continued study is the largest post-degree activity for the B.S. and M.S. level graduates, and medical facilities continues to be a large employment source for M.S. graduates.

The 2008 and 2006 post-graduation distribution of employment and post-graduation plans are fairly similar within each of the degree levels. (See Table 3.) A notable exception is among the B.S. degree recipients, where, for the first time since the 1990s, several found employment in nuclear utilities and other nuclear-related businesses.

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**Table 3. Employment or Other Post-Graduation Plans, 2008**

	B.S. degree	M.S. degree	Ph.D. degree
Continued Study	23	26	2
Academic Employment	4	2	3
Federal Government Employment	2	4	0
DOE Contractor Employment	3	5	0
State and Local Government Employment	0	2	0
Medical Facility Employment	0	21	2
Nuclear Utility Employment	8	4	0
Other Nuclear-Related Employment	6	4	0
Other Business Employment	2	8	0
Foreign (non-U.S.) Employment	0	1	0
U.S. Military, active duty	4	4	0
Other Employment	2	1	0
Still Seeking Employment	5	2	0
Unknown/Not reported	14	24	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>8</b>

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**Table 4. Health Physics Degrees, 2008, by Academic Institution**  
*(alphabetical by state and then university)*

State	Name of Institution	Degrees Sept. 1, 2007 – Aug. 31, 2008		
		B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
CA	San Diego State University	0	3	0
CO	Colorado State University	0	6	0
DC	Georgetown University	0	1	0
FL	University of Florida	6	1	0
ID	Idaho State University	1	4	2
IL	Illinois Institute of Technology	0	8	0
IN	Purdue University	15	10	1
LA	Louisiana State University	0	4	0
MA	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	0	5	1
ME	University of Maine	0	0	1
MI	University of Michigan	0	1	0
MO	University of Missouri - Columbia	0	16	0
NJ	Thomas Edison State College	8	0	0
NM	University of New Mexico	0	5	0
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	1	4	0
NY	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	3	1	1
OH	University of Cincinnati	0	4	1
OR	Oregon State University	10	10	0
PA	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	6	0	0
SC	Clemson University	0	4	0
SC	Francis Marion University	4	0	0
TN	University of Tennessee	9	5	1
TN	Vanderbilt University	0	2	0
TX	Texas A&M University	9	11	0
TX	University of Texas	0	0	0
WA	Washington State University, Tri-Cities	1	3	0
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>8</b>

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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.

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