

# Health Physics 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. Enrollment information refers to the fall term 2009. Twenty-four academic programs were included in the survey universe, and all 24 programs provided data. Two programs within engineering departments that have provided data for health physics options programs in past years reported all data in the nuclear engineering survey starting in 2009. The enrollment and degree data includes students majoring in health physics or in an option program equivalent to a major.

## DEGREE DATA

**Bachelor's Degrees.** The number of B.S. degrees granted in 2009 was slightly higher than in 2008 (based on the comparable data shown in parentheses) and continued the higher numbers reported since 2004. (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 over 90% of all B.S. degrees. (See Table 2.)

**Graduate Degrees.** The number of master's degrees granted in 2009 (based on the comparable data) was 21% less than in 2008 and similar to the numbers reported prior to 2008. The number of doctorate degrees granted in 2009 and 2008 are the lowest reported since the survey began over 40 years ago. (See Table 1.) Health physics programs accounted for 59% of the master's degrees and 44% of the doctorate degrees. (See Table 2.)

**Table 1. Health Physics Degrees, 2003 – 2009<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Degrees		
	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
2009	69	76	9
2008	73 (64)	108 (96)	8 (8)
2007	79 (66)	91 (79)	28 (18)
2006	71 (55)	90 (76)	12 (9)
2005	78 (57)	77 (65)	14 (11)
2004	54 (44)	64 (56)	14 (9)
2003	56 (47)	73 (64)	25 (20)

<sup>1</sup>The degree data in parentheses has been adjusted to be comparable to the 2009 data that does not include data from two programs that were reported in earlier years.

**Table 2. Health Physics Degrees by Curriculum, 2009**

Curriculum	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
Health Physics Program	63	45	4
Medical Health Physics	1	29	4
Other Health Physics Option	5	2	1

## ENROLLMENTS AND SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR DEGREE TRENDS

**Undergraduate Students.** In 2009, the reported enrollment of junior and senior undergraduate students was approximately 230, a 5% increase over 2008 (enrollment data was available for one of the two programs no longer providing health physics data). The small increase in 2009 in undergraduate enrollments made up for a small decrease in enrollments in 2008. Together, the enrollment data for these two years indicate that the number of B.S. degrees is likely to remain in the 70 to 75 range in 2010 and to increase modestly in 2011.

**Graduate Students.** Graduate enrollment in 2009 was approximately 370 students. Even on a comparative number basis, this is almost 10% lower than in 2008. The enrollment trends indicate that the number of M.S. degrees is likely to remain constant for the next two to three years. The number of doctorates degrees is likely to increase modestly over the next few years, as graduate enrollments have been higher for the past six years, and most of these students are still in the pipeline.

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

**Gender.** For those with data reported, females comprised 35% of the B.S. degree recipients, 28% of the M.S. degree recipients, and 44% of the Ph.D. recipients.

**Citizenship.** For those with data reported, all 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, 44% were non-U.S. citizens.

**Race/Ethnicity.** For those with data reported, among both the B.S. degree recipients and M.S. degree recipients, 14% of U.S. citizens were minorities. No minorities were reported for Ph.D. degree recipients.

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

	B.S.		M.S.		Ph.D.	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Non-U.S. Citizens	0	0	4	8	1	3
U.S. Citizens						
African/Black Americans	3	1	2	1	0	0
American Indians/Native Americans	0	1	0	1	0	0
Asian/Pacific Island Americans	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hispanic Americans	0	1	2	2	0	0
White/Caucasian Americans	12	24	11	41	2	2
Other or Unknown	0	1	1	1	1	0
(not reported = 26 BS; 1 MS; & 0 PhD )						
Totals	15	28	21	54	4	5

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**Table 4. Health Physics 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	San Diego State University	0	3	0
CO	Colorado State University	0	5	0
DC	Georgetown University	0	2	0
FL	University of Florida	1	0	2
ID	Idaho State University	4	3	0
IL	Illinois Institute of Technology	0	3	0
IN	Purdue University	26	1	0
LA	Louisiana State University	0	5	0
MA	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	2	13	1
ME	University of Maine	4	0	0
MO	University of Missouri - Columbia	0	7	1
NJ	Thomas Edison State College	5	0	0
NM	University of New Mexico	0	6	0
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	0	5	0
NY	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	2	0	1
OH	University of Cincinnati	0	7	2
OR	Oregon State University	7	10	1
PA	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	5	0	0
SC	Clemson University	0	0	1
SC	Francis Marion University	4	0	0
TN	University of Tennessee	9	2	0
TN	Vanderbilt University	0	1	0
TX	University of Texas	0	0	0
WA	Washington State University, Tri-Cities	0	3	0
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>9</b>

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