

Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

It is estimated that in FY 2008 over 240,000 people will be directly involved in NSF programs and activities, receiving salaries, stipends, or participant support. In addition, NSF programs indirectly impact many millions of people. These programs reach K-12 students, K-12 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.

Number of People Involved in NSF Activities			
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
	Estimate	Estimate	Request Estimate
Senior Researchers	34,915	35,675	37,285
Other Professionals	13,140	13,675	14,380
Postdoctoral Associates	5,540	5,845	6,125
Graduate Students	31,990	32,990	34,475
Undergraduate Students	21,345	22,350	23,530
K-12 Students	22,850	23,320	25,350
K-12 Teachers	96,040	96,535	100,590
Total, Number of People	225,820	230,390	241,735

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, who 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 degrees and who are not members of the faculty of the performing institution. Roughly 98 percent of postdoctoral associates are supported through funds included in research projects, centers or facilities awards. Others are recipients of postdoctoral fellowships.

Graduate Students include students compensated from NSF grant funds. Approximately 13 percent of these students receive support through programs such as NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship, and NSF Graduate Teaching Fellowships in K-12 Education. The balance assists senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research, and are supported through funds included in research projects, centers, or facilities awards. NSF provides support for approximately five percent of the science and engineering graduate students in the U.S.

Undergraduate Students include students enrolled in technical colleges or baccalaureate programs compensated from NSF grant funds. 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 and the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation.

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 such as teacher and student development projects.

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.