

Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

It is estimated that in FY 2009 over 211,000 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 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Senior Researchers	41,270	41,575	46,630
Other Professionals	13,095	13,150	14,505
Postdoctoral Associates	6,070	6,100	6,940
Graduate Students	35,415	35,705	40,775
Undergraduate Students	22,745	22,970	25,595
K-12 Students	11,415	12,625	13,250
K-12 Teachers	61,235	62,545	64,110
Total, Number of People	191,245	194,670	211,805

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 12 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.