

Table 1.5. BACHELOR'S DEGREE MAJOR: Percentage distribution of 2015–16 bachelor's degree recipients' undergraduate major, by demographic and enrollment characteristics in 2017

Demographic, enrollment, and employment characteristics	STEM major <sup>1</sup>										
	Total	Computer and information sciences	Engineering and engineering technology	Biological and physical sciences, science technology, mathematics, and agricultural sciences	General studies and other <sup>2</sup>	Social sciences	Humanities	Health care fields	Business	Education	Other applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>15.0</b>
Sex											
Female	15.0	1.0	2.3	11.8	2.6	17.3	10.2	16.8	16.3	6.5	15.3
Male	31.0	6.8	11.6	12.6	2.1	11.3	9.7	4.4	24.7	2.2	14.7
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>											
White, not Hispanic or Latino	21.8	3.2	6.3	12.2	2.1	13.6	10.4	12.1	20.0	5.5	14.4
Black, not Hispanic or Latino	14.4	3.4	3.9	7.1	3.6	17.0	6.2	11.7	22.6	3.6	20.9
Hispanic or Latino/a, of any race	18.7	2.8	5.4	10.5	3.4	18.3	11.1	10.3	18.3	3.0	16.8
Asian, not Hispanic or Latino	36.0	6.6	10.9	18.6	1.1 !	14.4	7.2	10.1	19.8	2.3	9.1
Other or Two or more races, not Hispanic or Latino	22.2	2.6	4.4	15.2	3.5 !	17.1	13.8	8.7	15.7	2.8	16.2
Age completed requirements for bachelor's degree											
23 or younger	25.0	2.7	7.1	15.3	1.5	16.4	11.3	8.1	17.7	4.7	15.3
24–29	18.6	3.9	6.0	8.6	3.5	12.5	8.9	14.1	22.4	4.5	15.6
30 or older	13.2	5.8	3.2	4.2	4.7	11.1	5.9	22.3	25.1	4.7	12.9
Highest education attained by either parent											
High school diploma or less <sup>5</sup>	17.3	4.4	4.0	8.9	3.2	13.6	7.5	13.9	23.5	4.3	16.8
Some postsecondary education/ subbaccalaureate credential <sup>6</sup>	19.0	3.7	5.0	10.2	3.1	14.8	8.7	14.1	19.2	5.2	16.0
Bachelor's degree	23.4	3.0	7.5	12.8	2.0	13.9	10.0	10.7	20.4	4.3	15.3
Graduate or professional degree	25.4	3.0	7.3	15.0	1.7	16.3	12.4	8.9	17.8	4.7	12.8
Dependency status in 2015– 16 academic year <sup>7</sup>											

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Dependent	25.2	2.8	7.0	15.4	1.3	16.7	11.7	8.0	17.7	4.6	14.9
Independent	17.3	4.3	5.3	7.8	3.9	12.1	7.6	16.4	22.8	4.7	15.1
Ever received a Pell Grant											
Yes	18.8	3.8	4.9	10.1	3.1	15.0	9.6	12.9	19.5	5.1	16.0
No	24.9	3.0	7.7	14.3	1.7	14.5	10.3	10.2	20.2	4.2	14.0
Control and level of first institution attended											
2-year or less	19.2	3.4	5.5	10.3	3.2	14.7	8.6	13.9	19.5	5.1	15.7
Public 2-year	19.1	3.2	5.6	10.2	3.2	15.0	8.6	13.5	19.7	5.2	15.8
Other 2-year or less <sup>8</sup>	21.0	7.3 !	3.3 !	10.4 !	‡	9.3	8.6 !	24.1	15.3	4.2	14.3
4-year	22.8	3.5	6.5	12.9	2.1	14.8	10.5	10.6	20.0	4.4	14.7
Public	23.7	3.2	7.1	13.4	2.4	14.5	9.0	11.0	20.3	4.6	14.6
Private nonprofit	22.3	3.2	5.9	13.2	1.6	16.2	13.9	9.4	18.2	4.2	14.1
Private for-profit	15.4	9.2	3.0	3.3	2.0 !	8.5	5.9	14.3	29.2	4.3	20.4
Control of bachelor's degree institution											
Public	23.4	3.0	7.4	13.1	3.1	15.6	8.8	10.4	18.7	5.0	15.1
Private nonprofit	20.0	3.0	4.6	12.4	1.4	14.7	13.2	11.6	21.4	4.0	13.8
Private for-profit	14.4	10.5	2.9	1.1	0.6	5.8	6.2	23.8	24.8	4.1	20.3
Number of institutions attended before completing bachelor's degree											
One	24.3	3.5	6.9	14.0	1.5	16.0	10.8	8.2	18.9	4.4	15.8
Two	21.3	3.2	6.5	11.6	3.0	14.4	9.9	12.2	19.9	4.8	14.5
Three or more	15.8	3.7	4.1	8.0	3.9	12.0	7.6	19.5	22.5	4.9	13.7
Number of months from first enrollment to bachelor's degree completion											
48 or less	25.7	3.1	6.2	16.4	1.0	17.5	12.1	7.3	17.6	4.1	14.7
49–72	22.5	3.0	8.1	11.4	3.0	13.3	9.3	10.0	19.9	5.1	16.9
73 or more	15.2	4.5	4.4	6.4	3.9	12.1	7.3	19.8	23.3	4.9	13.5
Military status as of 2017											
Veteran	19.1	8.6	5.0	5.4	4.4	8.8	7.7	10.5	28.5	2.0	19.0
Active duty, Reserves, or National Guard	28.3	2.6	10.5	15.3	5.4 !	10.4	6.4 !	7.2	18.5	‡	23.5
No military service	21.8	3.2	6.2	12.4	2.3	15.1	10.1	11.7	19.5	4.8	14.7
Family status 12 months after bachelor's degree completion <sup>9</sup>											
Unmarried with no dependent children	23.8	3.1	6.9	13.8	2.0	15.9	11.1	9.2	18.6	4.2	15.1
Unmarried with dependent children	10.9	2.9	3.7	4.3	4.5	11.0	3.6	18.7	28.2	5.7	17.4

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Married with no dependent children	19.8	4.6	5.7	9.6	2.5	12.1	8.3	15.5	21.2	6.5	14.1
Married with dependent children	13.3	5.8	2.3	5.1	4.8	10.2	6.0	23.1	23.9	5.6	13.2

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error is between 30 and 50 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or because there were too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup> STEM majors include those in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

<sup>2</sup> "General studies and other" includes liberal arts and sciences, general studies and humanities; multi/interdisciplinary studies; other; basic skills; citizenship activities; health-related knowledge and skills; interpersonal and social skills; leisure and recreational activities; personal awareness and self-improvement; and high school/secondary diplomas and certificates.

<sup>3</sup> "Other applied" includes personal and consumer services; manufacturing, construction, repair, and transportation; military technology and protective services; architecture; communications; public administration and human services; design and applied arts; law and legal studies; library sciences; and theology and religious vocations.

<sup>4</sup> "Black, not Hispanic or Latino" includes African American; and "Other or Two or more races, not Hispanic or Latino" includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and respondents who identify as more than one race.

<sup>5</sup> "High school diploma or less includes" the 0.2 percent of graduates who did not know either parent's highest level of education.

<sup>6</sup> "Some postsecondary education/subbaccalaureate credential" means that at least one parent began postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.

<sup>7</sup> Students classified as independent include those age 24 or over and those under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other students under age 24 are considered dependent.

<sup>8</sup> "Other 2-year or less" includes private nonprofit 2-year, private for-profit 2-year, and all less-than-2-year institutions.

<sup>9</sup> "Unmarried" includes respondents who were widowed, divorced, separated, or never married. Students are considered to have a dependent child if they have a child for whom they are the caretaker or have financial responsibility.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to individuals who completed the requirements for a bachelor's degree in 2015–16 and were awarded their degree by a Title IV eligible postsecondary institution in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico no later than June 30, 2017. This table includes the 6 percent of respondents for whom the 2015–16 bachelor's degree was not their first bachelor's degree. Respondents with multiple majors were classified by the first major field of study reported. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2016/17 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:16/17).