Health Physics Enrollments and Degrees Survey, 2013 Data

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SURVEY UNIVERSE

The survey includes degrees granted between September 1, 2012 and August 31, 2013. Enrollment information refers to the fall term 2013. Twenty-two academic programs were included in the survey universe, with all 22 programs providing data. Since 2009, data for two health physics programs located in engineering departments are also included in the nuclear engineering survey. The enrollments and degrees 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 2013 was 7 percent higher than in 2012 and 37.5 percent higher than in 2011. (See Table 1.) The 2013 number of B.S. degrees is still 10 percent below the number of B.S. degrees reported in the mid-1990s and 40 percent below the peak years in the late 1970s. Health physics programs accounted for over 85 percent of all B.S. degrees. (See Table 2.)

Graduate Degrees. The number of M.S. degrees granted in 2013 was 5.5 percent lower than in 2012, but in line with the numbers reported since 2009. The number of Ph.D. degrees granted in 2013 was one less than in 2012 and considerably higher than in 2011. (See Table 1.) The 2011 number of Ph.D. degrees was the lowest reported since the survey began over 45 years ago. Health physics programs accounted for 76 percent of the M.S. degrees and 71 percent of the Ph.D. degrees. (See Table 2.)

Table 1. Health Physics Degrees, 2004-2013

	Degrees		
Year	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
2013	88	86	14
2012[1]	82	91	15
2011	64	85	5
2010	62	89	15
2009	77	83	9
2008	73	108	8
2007	79	91	28
2006	71	90	12
2005	78	77	14
2004	54	64	14

[1]2012 data for four programs estimated by ORISE. See the appendix for more information.

Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

Table 2. Health Physics Degrees by Curriculum, 2013

Curriculum	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
Health Physics Program	75	65	10
Medical Health Physics	0	19	1
Other Health Physics Option	13	2	3

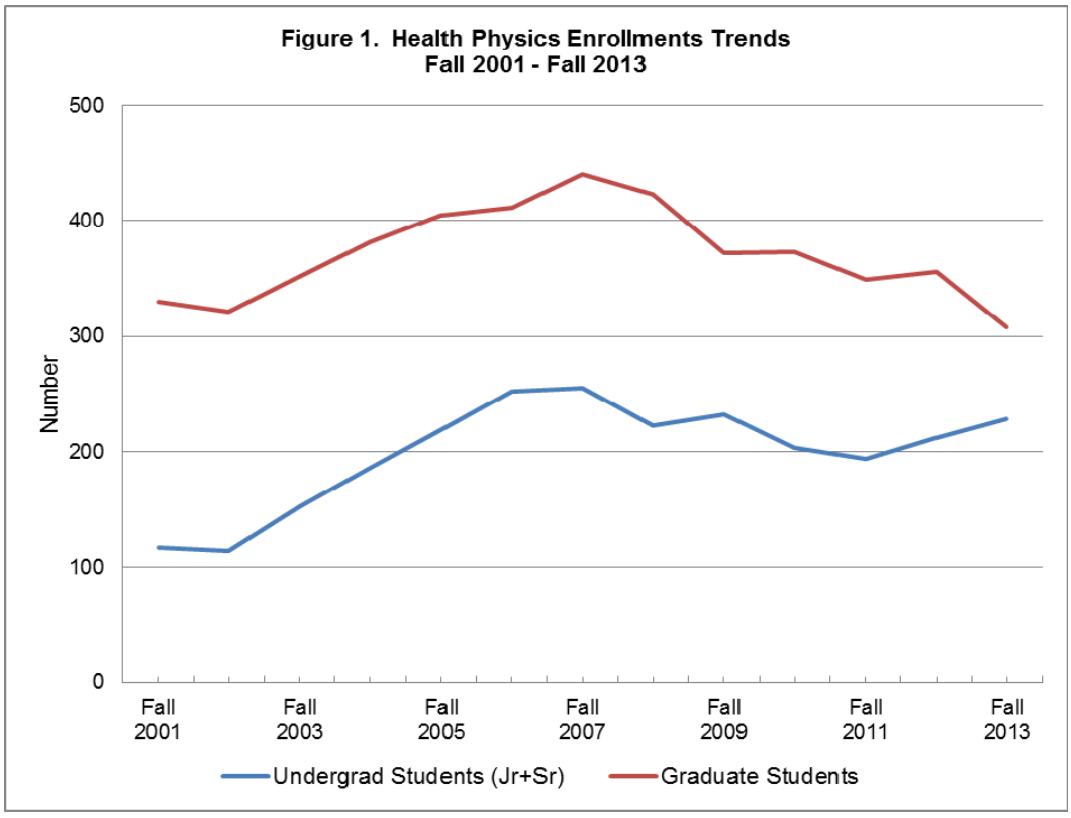
Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

ENROLLMENT TRENDS AND SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR DEGREE TRENDS (Figure 1)

Undergraduate Students. In 2013, the reported enrollment of junior and senior undergraduates was approximately 230, which is a 10 percent increase over 2012, and 18 percent increase over 2011. The 2013 number is the highest number since 2009. The undergraduate enrollment increases since 2011 indicate that the number of B.S. degrees is likely to increase to approximately 95-100 in 2014 and 100-110 in 2015.

Graduate Students. Graduate enrollment in 2013 was approximately 305 students. This is 14 percent lower than in 2012 and 18 percent lower than in 2010. The 2013 graduate enrollment is the lowest reported since the early 1970s. The enrollment trends indicate that the number of M.S. degrees is likely to decrease to 70-75 in 2014 and 2015, while the number of Ph.D. degrees is likely to be in the 5 to 10 range in 2014 and 2015.

Figure 1. Health Physics Enrollments Trends
Fall 2001 - Fall 2013



Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER POST-GRADUATION STATUS

Data on employment/post-graduation status for those graduating in 2013 are shown in Table 3. Unfortunately, the unknown/not reported account for almost one-half of the B.S.-level graduates and one-fifth of the M.S.-level graduates. Excluding the unknown/not reported category, continued study is the largest post-degree activity for the B.S.-level graduates. For B.S. graduates, no employment category had more than two graduates reported, and the relative number reported for nuclear utility employment dropped substantially from the 10 percent to 15 percent of graduates reported in 2008 and 2010.

Excluding unknown/not reported, among M.S. graduates medical facilities with 13 and continued study with 11 had the largest numbers. Academic employment, DOE contractor employment, other nuclear-related employment, active duty military, and other employment accounted for five or more reported M.S. graduates. For Ph.D. graduates, academic employment and medical facility employment each accounted for 33 percent of the employed graduates.

Table 3. Employment or Other Post-Graduation Plans, 2013

	B.S. Degree	M.S. Degree	Ph.D. Degree
Continued Study	24	11	2
Academic Employment	2	5	4
Federal Government Employment	2	4	1
DOE Contractor Employment	1	6	1
State and Local Government Employment	0	0	0
Medical Facility Employment	1	13	4
Nuclear Utility Employment	2	3	0
Other Nuclear-Related Employment	0	5	0
Other Business Employment	0	0	0
Foreign (non-U.S.) Employment	0	4	0
U.S. Military, Active Duty	2	6	2
Other Employment	2	5	0
Still Seeking Employment	9	7	0
Unknown/Not Reported	43	17	0
Totals	**88**	**86**	**14**

Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

Table 4. Health Physics Degrees, 2013, by Academic Institution

(alphabetical by state and then university)

State	Name of Institution	Degrees Sept. 1, 2012 – Aug. 31, 2013 B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
CA	San Diego State University	0	13	0
CO	Colorado State University	0	8	0
DC	Georgetown University	0	3	0
ID	Idaho State University	4	11	2
IL	Illinois Institute of Technology	0	5	0
IN	Purdue University	5	1	0
LA	Louisiana State University	0	1	0
MA	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	3	10	4
ME	University of Maine	4	0	0
MO	University of Missouri - Columbia	0	3	0
NC	Duke University	0	4	0
NJ	Thomas Edison State College	13	0	0
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	0	3	0
NY	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	8	0	0
OH	University of Cincinnati	0	1	0
OR	Oregon State University	10	18	5
PA	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	6	0	0
SC	Clemson University	0	1	0
SC	Francis Marion University	7	0	0
TN	University of Tennessee	7	2	0
TN	Vanderbilt University	0	0	0
TX	Texas A&M University	21	2	3
	TOTALS:	**88**	**86**	**14**

Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

Appendix: 2012 Health Physics Degrees by Academic Program

In 2012, ORISE was not able to complete the Survey of Health Physics Enrollments and Degrees nor provide a report of the data collected as a Federal funding cutoff caused a cessation in the survey work. The appendix table below provides the degree data by university for the 18 academic programs for which 2012 data was collected before the cessation of work occurred, plus an estimate of degrees for four academic programs.

Appendix Table. Health Physics Degrees, 2012, by Academic Institution

(alphabetical by state and then university)

State	Name of Institution	Degrees Sept. 1, 2011 – Aug. 31, 2012 B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
CO	Colorado State University	0	7	0
DC	Georgetown University	0	4	0
ID	Idaho State University	5	6	4
IL	Illinois Institute of Technology	0	2	0
IN	Purdue University	10	1	0
MA	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	2	10	2
ME	University of Maine	4	1	0
MO	University of Missouri - Columbia	0	3	0
NC	Duke University	0	5	0
NJ	Thomas Edison State College	14	0	0
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	3	4	0
NY	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	9	0	1
PA	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	2	0	0
SC	Clemson University	0	4	2
SC	Francis Marion University	6	0	0
TN	University of Tennessee	9	3	3
TN	Vanderbilt University	0	2	0
TX	Texas A&M University	9	7	0
	Estimates for 4 remaining programs.	*9*	*32*	*3*
	TOTALS:	**82**	**91**	**15**

Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

Prepared by: Analysis and Evaluation Group, Science Education Programs, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, January 2014.

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