



## Part-time Graduate Enrollment in Science and Engineering in 2011 Grew at a Higher Rate than Full-time Enrollment

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**O**ver the past decade, enrollment of full-time graduate students in science and engineering (S&E) grew approximately 25%, from approximately 325,500 students in 2002 to approximately 411,200 in 2011. Enrollment of part-time graduate students increased approximately 15% during this period. From 2010 to 2011, growth in part-time graduate enrollment (1.6%) outpaced that of full-time enrollment (0.5%) for the first time since 2005 (table 1).

Graduate student enrollment among U.S. citizens and permanent residents in S&E grew from approximately 309,100 students in 2002 to approximately 392,200 in 2011, an increase of approximately 25%. Enrollment among foreign students on temporary visas showed slower growth over the course of the past decade, from approximately 145,700 to approximately 168,800 (approximately 15% growth). The growth in foreign graduate enrollment from 2010 to 2011 was higher than that of U.S. citizens and permanent residents (1.6% compared with 0.5%), in contrast to the previous 2 years.

These and other findings in this InfoBrief are from the fall 2011 Survey of

Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS), cosponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This InfoBrief focuses primarily on the graduate students and postdocs within S&E fields, although totals in selected health fields are presented for comparison. Further analysis of GSS data on graduate enrollment in selected health fields can be obtained from NIH.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the extra variability that may have resulted from the methodological changes in the 2007 GSS, all numbers and growth rate calculations comparing pre- and post-2007 counts are rounded to the nearest 100 and to the nearest 5%, respectively. See “Data Sources and Limitations” for more information.

### Graduate Student Enrollment in S&E

A total of 560,941 full- or part-time graduate students were enrolled in S&E fields in 2011. Growth in S&E graduate enrollment slowed to 0.8% from 2010 to 2011, down from the 2%–3% annual growth in each of the prior 3 years (table 2).

Women’s enrollment in S&E graduate programs increased at a faster rate

than men’s from 2010 to 2011 (0.9% vs. 0.7%, respectively) (table 1). This reestablished the long-term trend toward gender parity in S&E enrollment, following a 3-year period during which male enrollment increased more rapidly than female enrollment. In 2011, women made up 43.3% of the S&E graduate student population, up from 41.5% in 2002.

Nearly two-thirds (65.3%) of U.S. citizens and permanent resident graduate students in 2011 were white. The remaining one-third consisted of graduate students who were Asian (8.5%), black or African American (8.2%), Hispanic or Latino (7.9%), of unknown race or ethnicity (7.8%), more than one race (1.6%), American Indian or Alaska Native (0.6%), or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (0.3%). This distribution is the most diverse enrollment to date, with whites representing 65.3% of U.S. citizens and permanent resident graduate students in 2011, down from 68.9% in 2002.

The number of graduate students enrolled in science fields has grown steadily over the past decade (approximately 25% from 2002 to 2011), with 1.8% growth from 2010 to 2011.

TABLE 1. Graduate enrollment in science and engineering fields, by enrollment status, sex, citizenship, ethnicity, and race: 2002–11

Characteristic	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% change	
						old <sup>a</sup>	new <sup>a</sup>					2002–11 <sup>b</sup>	2010–11
All graduate students in surveyed fields	454,834	474,645	475,873	478,275	486,287	502,375	516,199	529,275	545,685	556,532	560,941	25	0.8
Full time	325,472	339,028	340,529	341,742	349,802	362,976	371,542	383,560	398,498	409,107	411,168	25	0.5
Part time	129,362	135,617	135,344	136,533	136,485	139,399	144,657	145,715	147,187	147,425	149,773	15	1.6
Male	266,217	276,248	274,008	271,967	275,181	284,080	288,926	297,278	307,936	316,051	318,209	20	0.7
Female	188,617	198,397	201,865	206,308	211,106	218,295	227,273	231,997	237,749	240,481	242,732	30	0.9
U.S. citizens and permanent residents <sup>c</sup>	309,119	327,181	332,022	338,513	343,603	353,142	365,091	369,781	382,342	390,403	392,160	25	0.5
Hispanic or Latino	19,634	21,241	22,212	23,387	24,140	25,032	25,739	26,098	27,265	28,609	30,808	55	7.7
Not Hispanic or Latino													
American Indian or Alaska Native	1,734	1,879	1,848	1,958	2,112	2,168	2,262	2,618	2,549	2,500	2,392	40	-4.3
Asian <sup>d</sup>	28,290	30,746	29,570	29,547	29,232	30,134	30,697	30,356	31,754	32,185	33,147	15	3.0
Black or African American	22,668	24,174	24,624	25,248	25,664	26,565	27,637	28,680	29,973	31,094	32,197	40	3.5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <sup>d</sup>	939	1,040	1,075	1,027	947	1,145	1,200	1,121	1,125	1,088	1,008	5	-7.4
White	213,135	222,674	224,850	225,776	227,993	232,043	240,204	242,623	250,443	255,256	256,096	20	0.3
More than one race <sup>d</sup>	384	423	493	528	501	543	551	1,319	2,300	4,989	6,103	1,490	22.3
Unknown ethnicity or race	22,335	25,004	27,350	31,042	33,014	35,512	36,801	36,966	36,933	34,682	30,409	35	-12.3
Temporary visa holders	145,715	147,464	143,851	139,762	142,684	149,233	151,108	159,494	163,343	166,129	168,781	15	1.6

<sup>a</sup> In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. "2007new" presents data as collected in 2007; "2007old" shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. Due to survey methodological changes, counts should be used with caution for trend analysis. See <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/> for more detail.

<sup>b</sup> Amounts for "% change 2002–11" are rounded to the nearest 5% to reflect the imprecision of this estimate due to the survey methodological changes in 2007.

<sup>c</sup> Ethnicity and race data are available for U.S. citizens and permanent residents only.

<sup>d</sup> Reporting of race and ethnicity in the 2008–11 GSS has been affected by changes in reporting of race and ethnicity in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Starting in 2008 IPEDS respondents were asked to use new race classification that included a category for two or more races and separate reporting of Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders from Asians. New classification was optional in 2008 and 2009 IPEDS but mandatory in 2010 and may have contributed to significant increase in GSS reporting of "More than one race," not Hispanic.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, NSF-NIH Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.

Growth in engineering shows signs of leveling off, with the number of engineering graduate students decreasing (-1.8%) for the first year since 2005. Certain fields within engineering—most notably, biomedical engineering and metallurgical or materials engineering—continue to climb at a higher rate (8.0% and 6.0%, respectively, from 2010 to 2011) than other engineering fields. The notable decline in architecture (-54.2%) is likely due to the exclusion of landscape architecture from GSS eligible fields in 2011.

## Postdoctoral Appointees in S&E

The GSS also collects information about postdoctoral appointees (postdocs) employed at U.S. academic institutions (and their affiliates, such

as research centers and hospitals) with graduate programs in S&E and selected health fields. A total of 44,249 S&E postdocs were reported in 2011, a slight increase (0.4%) over 2010 (table 3).

The gender gap among S&E postdocs continues to close, with women making up 35.3% of the S&E postdocs in 2011, up from 34.7% in 2010 and 31.7% in 2002. Over the past decade, the number of female postdocs in S&E grew by approximately 55%, compared with approximately 30% for the male postdocs. The proportion of foreign S&E postdocs with temporary visas has declined over the past decade, from 57.7% in 2002 to 53.3% in 2011.

The number of science postdocs has grown consistently over the past decade

(about 30% between 2002 and 2011), with a 1.1% increase from 2010 to 2011 (table 3 and figure 1). Among science fields, the number of postdocs in social sciences and "other sciences" grew the most between 2010 and 2011, with increases of 19.7% and 30.2%, respectively.<sup>3</sup> The growth in other sciences was largely due to an increase in neuroscience, the result of improvements in field coding. Starting in 2007, neuroscience was specified as a separate field. Neuroscience units that were previously reported within neurology (clinical medicine) and biological sciences are reported within the neuroscience field.

The notable decrease in the number of engineering postdocs (-2.8%) in 2011 is in contrast with the tremendous growth over the past decade (approximately

TABLE 2. Graduate enrollment in science, engineering, and health, by field: 2002–11

Field	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% change	
						old <sup>a</sup>	new <sup>a</sup>					2002–11 <sup>b</sup>	2010–11
All surveyed fields	540,404	567,121	574,463	582,226	597,643	607,823	619,499	631,489	631,645	632,652	626,820	15	-0.9
Science and engineering	454,834	474,645	475,873	478,275	486,287	502,375	516,199	529,275	545,685	556,532	560,941	25	0.8
Science	335,166	347,268	352,307	357,710	363,246	372,120	384,523	391,419	401,008	407,291	414,440	25	1.8
Agricultural sciences	12,698	13,197	13,445	13,123	13,016	13,222	13,528	14,153	15,200	15,656	16,129	25	3.0
Biological sciences	61,088	64,701	66,565	68,479	69,941	71,663	71,932	72,666	73,304	74,928	75,423	25	0.7
Computer sciences	55,269	53,696	50,016	47,978	47,653	48,959	48,246	49,553	51,161	51,546	51,234	-5	-0.6
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	14,240	14,620	15,131	14,836	14,920	14,675	14,100	14,389	14,839	15,655	15,820	10	1.1
Mathematical sciences	18,163	19,465	19,931	20,210	20,815	21,335	20,975	21,400	22,226	23,136	23,801	30	2.9
Physical sciences	32,341	34,298	35,761	36,375	36,901	37,111	36,824	37,319	38,149	38,973	39,694	25	1.8
Psychology <sup>c</sup>	51,152	52,162	54,126	57,282	57,653	60,284	59,617	58,991	56,184	53,419	54,486	5	2.0
Social sciences	90,215	95,129	97,332	99,427	102,347	104,871	103,150	103,384	107,820	109,220	111,661	25	2.2
Other sciences <sup>a,d</sup>	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	16,151	19,564	22,125	24,758	26,192	-	5.8
Engineering	119,668	127,377	123,566	120,565	123,041	130,255	131,676	137,856	144,677	149,241	146,501	20	-1.8
Aerospace engineering	3,685	4,048	4,089	4,170	4,482	4,616	4,616	4,902	5,266	5,540	5,691	55	2.7
Architecture <sup>a</sup>	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	4,601	5,905	6,804	6,795	3,111	-	-54.2
Biomedical engineering	4,338	5,301	5,807	6,067	6,482	6,881	6,904	7,339	7,904	8,497	9,175	110	8.0
Chemical engineering	7,414	7,516	7,452	7,173	7,261	7,383	7,584	7,892	8,188	8,668	8,828	20	1.8
Civil engineering <sup>a</sup>	17,713	18,890	18,561	18,114	17,802	19,867	16,071	16,931	18,638	19,559	19,596	10	0.2
Electrical engineering	39,948	41,763	38,995	37,450	38,265	40,207	40,588	41,164	41,218	41,336	41,580	5	0.6
Industrial engineering	14,033	14,313	13,852	13,650	13,829	14,290	14,474	15,692	15,825	15,205	14,494	5	-4.7
Mechanical engineering	17,139	18,393	17,852	17,373	17,919	18,366	18,347	19,585	21,243	22,509	21,883	30	-2.8
Metallurgical/materials engineering	4,992	5,131	5,059	5,160	5,268	5,365	5,314	5,539	5,863	6,274	6,649	35	6.0
Other engineering	10,406	12,022	11,899	11,408	11,733	13,280	13,177	12,907	13,728	14,858	15,494	50	4.3
Health	85,570	92,476	98,590	103,951	111,356	105,448	103,300	102,214	85,960	76,120	65,879	-25	-13.5
Clinical medicine <sup>a,e</sup>	19,166	20,574	20,866	21,414	23,441	24,616	22,751	23,939	24,125	25,699	26,634	40	3.6
Other health <sup>c</sup>	66,404	71,902	77,724	82,537	87,915	80,832	80,549	78,275	61,835	50,421	39,245	-40	-22.2

- = not calculable. ne = not eligible; data were not collected for this field prior to 2007.

<sup>a</sup> In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. "2007new" presents data as collected in 2007; "2007old" shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. Due to survey methodological changes, counts should be used with caution for trend analysis. See <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/> for more detail.

<sup>b</sup> Amounts for "% change 2002–11" are rounded to the nearest 5% to reflect the imprecision of this estimate due to the survey methodological changes in 2007.

<sup>c</sup> Beginning with 2008, more rigorous follow-up was done with institutions regarding exclusion of practitioner-oriented graduate degree programs in psychology and in other health. This change may affect interpretation of trends in these fields.

<sup>d</sup> Includes communication, family and consumer sciences/human sciences, neuroscience, and multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary studies. These fields were added in 2007, although some programs reported within them had been reported prior to 2007 within other fields.

<sup>e</sup> Includes research-oriented graduate students in anesthesiology, cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology, neurology, obstetrics/gynecology, oncology/cancer research, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, pediatrics, preventive medicine/community health, psychiatry, pulmonary disease, radiology, surgery, and clinical medicine, not elsewhere classified.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, NSF-NIH Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.

90%). The numbers of biomedical engineering and industrial engineering postdocs increased by approximately 280% and approximately 180%, respectively, between 2002 and 2011. Chemical engineering, biomedical engineering, and electrical engineering were the top three engineering

fields with the most postdocs in 2011; however, the number of electrical engineering postdocs declined (-3.2%), whereas the numbers of chemical engineering and biomedical engineering postdocs continued to grow (4.1% and 3.9%, respectively) from 2010 to 2011.

## Data Sources and Limitations

Conducted since 1966, the GSS is an annual survey of all academic institutions in the United States granting research-based master's or doctoral degrees in science, engineering, or selected health (SEH) fields. The 2011

TABLE 3. Postdoctoral appointees in science, engineering, and health, by sex, citizenship, ethnicity, race, and field: 2002–11

Characteristic	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		2008	2009	2010	2011	% change	
						old <sup>a</sup>	new <sup>a</sup>					2002–11 <sup>b</sup>	2010–11
All postdocs in surveyed fields	45,034	46,728	47,240	48,555	49,343	50,712	50,840	54,164	57,805	63,415	62,947	40	-0.7
Science and engineering	31,937	33,666	34,065	34,456	34,887	35,894	36,223	38,203	40,804	44,051	44,249	40	0.4
Male	21,807	22,882	23,080	23,227	23,361	24,412	24,631	25,119	26,647	28,752	28,650	30	-0.4
Female	10,130	10,784	10,985	11,229	11,526	11,482	11,592	13,084	14,157	15,299	15,599	55	2.0
U.S. citizens and permanent residents <sup>c</sup>	13,524	13,542	13,969	14,078	14,111	14,903	15,107	16,274	18,175	20,419	20,684	55	1.3
Hispanic or Latino	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	763	866	-	13.5
Not Hispanic or Latino													
American Indian or Alaska Native	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	59	65	-	10.2
Asian <sup>d</sup>	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	3,371	3,384	-	0.4
Black or African American	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	529	585	-	10.6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <sup>d</sup>	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	51	52	-	2.0
White	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	11,084	11,399	-	2.8
More than one race <sup>d</sup>	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	79	159	-	101.3
Unknown or not reported ethnicity or race	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	4,483	4,174	-	-6.9
Temporary visa holders	18,413	20,124	20,096	20,378	20,776	20,991	21,116	21,929	22,629	23,632	23,565	30	-0.3
Science	28,371	29,856	30,116	30,290	30,245	30,986	31,281	32,741	34,388	37,095	37,485	30	1.1
Agricultural sciences	963	1,054	959	1,007	927	948	985	1,147	1,083	1,195	1,257	30	5.2
Biological sciences	17,640	18,625	18,716	18,747	18,807	19,218	19,109	19,827	20,159	21,537	21,342	20	-0.9
Computer sciences	356	355	384	406	467	516	456	493	594	748	769	115	2.8
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,129	1,182	1,263	1,364	1,495	1,322	1,250	1,339	1,424	1,760	1,771	55	0.6
Mathematical sciences	395	449	468	500	579	621	624	723	737	756	805	105	6.5
Physical sciences	6,619	6,829	7,059	7,011	6,703	6,760	6,719	6,885	7,447	7,703	7,511	15	-2.5
Psychology	815	960	902	884	873	1,106	1,088	1,077	1,219	1,077	1,079	30	0.2
Social sciences	454	402	365	371	394	495	483	508	561	646	773	70	19.7
Other sciences <sup>a,e</sup>	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	567	742	1,164	1,673	2,178	-	30.2
Engineering	3,566	3,810	3,949	4,166	4,642	4,908	4,942	5,462	6,416	6,956	6,764	90	-2.8
Aerospace engineering	140	141	141	153	165	178	178	154	168	191	195	40	2.1
Architecture <sup>a</sup>	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	ne	5	11	22	10	17	-	70.0
Biomedical engineering	284	388	425	477	591	640	640	710	960	1,036	1,076	280	3.9
Chemical engineering	758	686	689	702	735	758	790	880	1,084	1,092	1,137	50	4.1
Civil engineering <sup>a</sup>	342	300	313	384	458	419	417	465	535	570	551	60	-3.3
Electrical engineering	613	646	654	689	721	885	884	987	1,025	1,097	1,062	75	-3.2
Industrial engineering	43	45	50	51	51	73	71	115	109	163	121	180	-25.8
Mechanical engineering	441	543	514	562	644	725	722	784	948	1,009	896	105	-11.2
Metallurgical/materials engineering	507	539	567	578	571	555	564	605	758	835	861	70	3.1
Other engineering	438	522	596	570	706	675	671	751	807	953	848	95	-11.0
Health <sup>a</sup>	13,097	13,062	13,175	14,099	14,456	14,818	14,617	15,961	17,001	19,364	18,698	45	-3.4

- = not calculable; na = not applicable; data were not collected at this level of detail. ne = not eligible; data were not collected for this field prior to 2007.

<sup>a</sup> In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. "2007new" presents data as collected in 2007; "2007old" shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. Due to survey methodological changes, counts should be used with caution for trend analysis. See <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/> for more detail.

<sup>b</sup> Values for 2002–11 are rounded to the nearest 5% to reflect the imprecision of this estimate due to the survey methodological changes in 2007.

<sup>c</sup> Ethnicity and race data are available for U.S. citizens and permanent residents only.

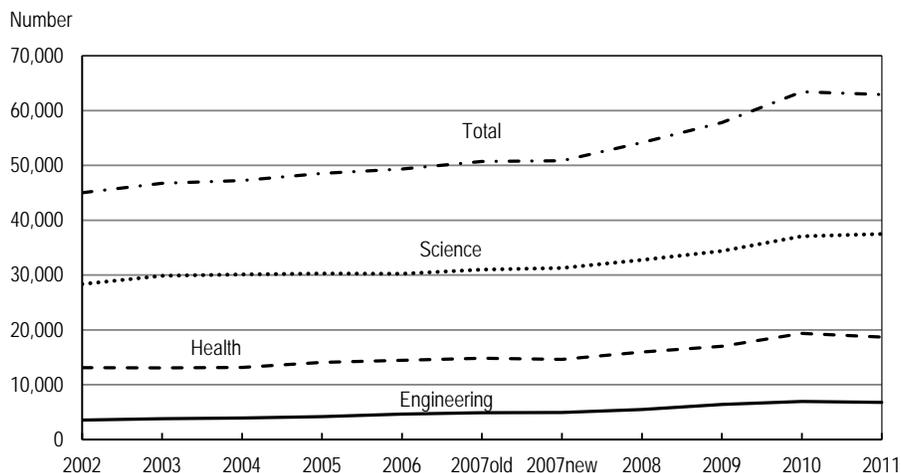
<sup>d</sup> Reporting of race and ethnicity in the 2008–11 GSS has been affected by changes in reporting of race and ethnicity in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Starting in 2008 IPEDS respondents were asked to use new race classification that included a category for two or more races and separate reporting of Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders from Asians. New classification was optional in 2008 and 2009 IPEDS but mandatory in 2010 and may have contributed to significant increase in GSS reporting of "More than one race," not Hispanic.

<sup>e</sup> Includes communication, family and consumer sciences/human sciences, neuroscience, and multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary studies. These fields were added in 2007, although some programs reported within them had been reported prior to 2007 within other fields.

NOTE: For postdocs, "field" refers to the field of the unit that reports postdocs to the GSS.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, NSF-NIH Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.

FIGURE 1. Postdoctoral appointees in science, engineering, and health fields: 2002–11



NOTES: For postdocs, “field” refers to the field of the unit that reports postdocs to the GSS. In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. “2007new” presents data as collected in 2007; “2007old” shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. Due to survey methodological changes, trend data should be used with caution. See <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/> for more detail.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, NSF-NIH Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.

GSS collected data from 13,785 organizational units (departments, programs, affiliated research centers, and health care facilities) at 565 institutions of higher education and their affiliates in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The institutional response rate was 98.8%. An overview of the survey is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvygradpostdoc/>.

GSS data are collected for the organizational units where graduate students, postdocs, or other doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in research-oriented SEH fields are located. Practitioner-oriented degrees within these units (e.g., master’s degrees in nursing or physical therapy) are not eligible to be surveyed by the GSS. Declines in graduate enrollments in psychology and other health fields since 2008 are likely due to more rigorous follow-up with institutions regarding the exclusion of ineligible practitioner-oriented graduate degree programs. These decreases may

not reflect changes in enrollment, and care should be used when examining trends.

In 2010, the postdoc section of the survey was expanded, and significant effort was made to ensure that appropriate personnel were providing the postdoc data (see <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/gradpostdoc/> for more detail). Thus it is unclear how much of the increase reported in 2010 and 2011 represents growth in the number of postdocs and how much results from improved data collection. More information on changes in postdoc data will be available in a forthcoming InfoBrief at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/gradpostdoc/>.

There were a number of changes to the 2011 GSS based on field taxonomy updates to the 2010 U.S. Department of Education Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes; however, impact on overall counts was minimal.

See appendix A, “Technical Notes,” in *Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering: Fall 2011* (forthcoming at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/gradpostdoc/>) for additional information about the 2011 GSS field taxonomy updates.

In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. “2007new” presents data as collected in 2007, and “2007old” presents data as they would have been collected in 2006. Due to methodological changes in 2007, the data collected from 2007 through 2011 are not strictly comparable to those collected prior to 2007. As a result, care should be used when assessing trends within the GSS data. Ten-year trends reported in the tables are labeled “% change 2002–11.” Note that these percentages are rounded to the nearest 5% and counts are rounded to the nearest 100 to reflect

the extra variability in the estimate that may have resulted from the methodological changes that occurred in 2007. Please see appendix A, “Technical Notes,” in *Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering: Fall 2007* (NSF 10-307) for a more detailed discussion of these changes.

Reporting of ethnicity and race in 2008–11 has been affected by changes in reporting of ethnicity and race in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Starting in 2008, IPEDS respondents were asked to use a new classification that included a category for two or more races (see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/reic/resource.asp>) and separate reporting of Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders from Asians. The new classification was optional in 2008 and 2009 IPEDS but mandatory

in 2010 and may have contributed to a significant increase in reporting of “Not Hispanic or Latino, More than one race” within the GSS data.

This publication provides the first release of data from the fall 2011 cycle of the GSS. The full set of detailed statistical tables from this survey will be available in the forthcoming report *Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering: Fall 2011* at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/gradpostdoc/>. Individual detailed tables may be available upon request in advance of publication of the full report. For further information, contact Kelly H. Kang.

### Notes

1. Ruth Heuer and Peter Einaudi are research analysts with RTI Interna-

tional. For further information, contact Kelly H. Kang, Human Resources Statistics Program, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 965, Arlington, VA 22230 ([kkang@nsf.gov](mailto:kkang@nsf.gov); 703-292-7796).

2. The data on health fields collected in GSS are selected by NIH. These fields make up about one-third of all health fields in the U.S. Department of Education’s Classification of Instructional Programs taxonomy. NIH information on trends seen within these selected health fields can be found at <http://www.report.nih.gov/nihdatabook/>.

3. In the GSS, field of postdoc refers to the field of the unit that reports postdocs to the survey.

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