

TABLE 23. Reasons for attending community college given by recent graduates with bachelor's degrees in science, engineering, or health, by major field of degree: October 2008

Major field	Reasons for attending community college										
	All graduates attending community college	Earn college credits while in high school	Complete an associate's degree	Prepare for college or increase chance of 4-year college acceptance	Earn credits for a bachelor's degree	Financial reasons	Gain further skills or knowledge in academic/occupational field	Facilitate change in academic/occupational field	Increase opportunities for promotion/advancement	Leisure or personal interest	Other
All fields	589,000	157,000	172,000	253,000	450,000	266,000	251,000	158,000	126,000	162,000	23,000
Science	397,000	117,000	108,000	170,000	299,000	168,000	164,000	97,000	82,000	123,000	17,000
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	87,000	31,000	16,000	33,000	65,000	33,000	33,000	18,000	13,000	23,000	4,000
Agricultural/food sciences	8,000	3,000	2,000	4,000	7,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	D
Biological sciences	73,000	27,000	13,000	27,000	55,000	28,000	29,000	16,000	11,000	20,000	3,000
Environmental life sciences	5,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	D
Computer and information sciences	43,000	10,000	17,000	21,000	33,000	22,000	23,000	11,000	13,000	14,000	2,000
Mathematics and statistics	14,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	11,000	7,000	6,000	3,000	2,000	4,000	*
Physical and related sciences	15,000	5,000	2,000	6,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	5,000	1,000
Chemistry, except biochemistry	8,000	2,000	1,000	3,000	5,000	3,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	D
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences <sup>a</sup>	4,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	D
Physics/astronomy	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	*	1,000	*
Psychology	95,000	27,000	28,000	39,000	74,000	38,000	37,000	26,000	21,000	30,000	5,000
Social and related sciences	143,000	40,000	40,000	67,000	106,000	63,000	59,000	35,000	31,000	47,000	5,000
Economics	19,000	5,000	4,000	10,000	15,000	8,000	7,000	5,000	4,000	6,000	D
Political and related sciences	46,000	15,000	7,000	18,000	32,000	16,000	17,000	8,000	6,000	12,000	2,000
Sociology/anthropology	46,000	10,000	15,000	24,000	35,000	22,000	21,000	15,000	11,000	16,000	2,000
Other social sciences	32,000	9,000	14,000	16,000	24,000	16,000	14,000	8,000	9,000	12,000	1,000
Engineering	56,000	16,000	9,000	23,000	45,000	25,000	21,000	9,000	8,000	14,000	1,000
Chemical	4,000	1,000	*	1,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	*	1,000	D
Civil/architectural	8,000	2,000	1,000	4,000	7,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	*
Electrical/computer	16,000	4,000	2,000	6,000	13,000	8,000	7,000	3,000	2,000	4,000	D
Industrial	3,000	*	*	1,000	2,000	1,000	*	*	*	*	D
Mechanical	14,000	4,000	3,000	7,000	11,000	7,000	6,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	D
Other	11,000	4,000	1,000	4,000	8,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	1,000	3,000	*
Health	136,000	24,000	56,000	60,000	106,000	73,000	66,000	52,000	37,000	25,000	4,000

\* = value < 500; D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

<sup>a</sup> Other physical sciences are included in earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences.

NOTES: Numbers are rounded to nearest 1,000. Detail may not add to total because of multiple responses. Estimates are from sample survey of college graduates who received bachelor's or master's degrees in science, engineering, or health fields in 2006 and 2007 academic years; estimates may differ from degree counts published elsewhere.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation/National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of Recent College Graduates, 2008.