

TABLE 25. Primary or secondary reason 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	Primary or secondary reason 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	99,000	84,000	132,000	305,000	177,000	68,000	52,000	33,000	48,000	36,000
Science	397,000	76,000	49,000	93,000	204,000	112,000	44,000	33,000	21,000	37,000	25,000
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	87,000	21,000	7,000	18,000	45,000	24,000	11,000	7,000	4,000	7,000	7,000
Agricultural/food sciences	8,000	2,000	S	2,000	5,000	3,000	S	*	D	1,000	1,000
Biological sciences	73,000	19,000	5,000	14,000	38,000	20,000	10,000	7,000	3,000	6,000	6,000
Environmental life sciences	5,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	*	*	*
Computer and information sciences	43,000	5,000	9,000	11,000	20,000	14,000	7,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	2,000
Mathematics and statistics	14,000	4,000	1,000	3,000	7,000	4,000	2,000	1,000	*	2,000	1,000
Physical and related sciences	15,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	8,000	4,000	2,000	1,000	*	2,000	1,000
Chemistry, except biochemistry	8,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	4,000	2,000	1,000	D	D	1,000	1,000
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences <sup>a</sup>	4,000	1,000	*	1,000	2,000	1,000	*	*	*	*	*
Physics/astronomy	3,000	1,000	*	1,000	2,000	1,000	*	*	D	*	*
Psychology	95,000	17,000	12,000	19,000	55,000	26,000	9,000	11,000	6,000	7,000	6,000
Social and related sciences	143,000	26,000	19,000	40,000	70,000	41,000	13,000	10,000	7,000	15,000	7,000
Economics	19,000	4,000	2,000	6,000	10,000	5,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Political and related sciences	46,000	11,000	4,000	12,000	22,000	11,000	6,000	4,000	1,000	5,000	2,000
Sociology/anthropology	46,000	6,000	6,000	14,000	22,000	15,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	6,000	2,000
Other social sciences	32,000	5,000	7,000	8,000	16,000	10,000	2,000	2,000	S	3,000	3,000
Engineering	56,000	10,000	2,000	11,000	34,000	17,000	6,000	2,000	2,000	5,000	4,000
Chemical	4,000	1,000	*	1,000	2,000	1,000	*	D	D	*	D
Civil/architectural	8,000	1,000	*	2,000	5,000	2,000	1,000	D	D	1,000	1,000
Electrical/computer	16,000	2,000	D	3,000	10,000	5,000	2,000	1,000	D	2,000	S
Industrial	3,000	*	D	*	2,000	1,000	D	D	D	*	*
Mechanical	14,000	3,000	1,000	2,000	8,000	5,000	2,000	D	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other	11,000	3,000	*	2,000	7,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	*	1,000	1,000
Health	136,000	13,000	33,000	28,000	67,000	48,000	18,000	17,000	10,000	6,000	7,000

\* = value < 500. D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

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

NOTES: Numbers are rounded to nearest 1,000. Detail does 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.