

TABLE 26. Primary or secondary reason for attending community college given by recent graduates with master'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	133,000	16,000	17,000	25,000	63,000	33,000	17,000	14,000	9,000	17,000	13,000
Science	58,000	7,000	6,000	12,000	25,000	15,000	8,000	6,000	4,000	10,000	5,000
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	9,000	1,000	*	2,000	4,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	*	2,000	*
Agricultural/food sciences	1,000	D	D	D	*	D	D	D	D	D	D
Biological sciences	7,000	1,000	D	2,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	*	2,000	*
Environmental life sciences	1,000	D	D	D	1,000	D	D	D	D	*	D
Computer and information sciences	12,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	5,000	2,000	3,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	1,000
Mathematics and statistics	3,000	1,000	*	*	1,000	1,000	*	*	*	1,000	*
Physical and related sciences	3,000	*	D	1,000	1,000	1,000	*	*	D	*	*
Chemistry, except biochemistry	1,000	D	D	*	*	*	*	D	D	*	D
Earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences ^a	1,000	D	D	1,000	1,000	*	*	*	D	*	D
Physics/astronomy	*	D	D	D	*	D	D	D	D	D	D
Psychology	20,000	2,000	3,000	4,000	10,000	7,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,000
Social and related sciences	12,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	4,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
Economics	1,000	*	D	*	*	*	D	*	D	*	D
Political and related sciences	4,000	*	*	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	*	D	1,000	*
Sociology/anthropology	2,000	*	*	1,000	1,000	*	*	*	*	1,000	*
Other social sciences	4,000	*	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	*	1,000	*
Engineering	15,000	3,000	1,000	2,000	7,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	1,000
Chemical	*	*	D	*	*	*	*	*	D	*	*
Civil/architectural	2,000	*	*	*	1,000	1,000	*	*	*	*	*
Electrical/computer	5,000	S	*	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	*	*	1,000	*
Industrial	1,000	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mechanical	2,000	*	D	*	1,000	*	*	*	D	1,000	D
Other	5,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	*	*	1,000	*
Health	60,000	7,000	10,000	11,000	31,000	15,000	6,000	7,000	4,000	4,000	8,000

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

^a 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.