Science and engineering credentials

Community colleges play a key role in educating students who obtain science and engineering baccalaureates.

![Graph showing the percentage of recent science and engineering graduates who attended a community college by field.](chart.png)

* Includes all degree levels, baccalaureate and above.


Nearly half (49 percent) of U.S. graduates earning baccalaureates in science and engineering (S&E) in 2008 or 2009 reported attending a community college at some point in their education. The rate was 46 percent for all S&E graduates (baccalaureate, master’s and doctorate). As noted in the chart above, students in the biological and social sciences fields were most likely to have attended a two-year college, according to data from the National Survey of Recent College Graduates. There was also variation by gender (females were more likely to attend a community college), race/ethnicity (Hispanics, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and students of more than one race were more likely to attend a community college) and level of parental education (attending community college was higher among parents with lower educational levels).

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