

The State of Girls and Women in STEM

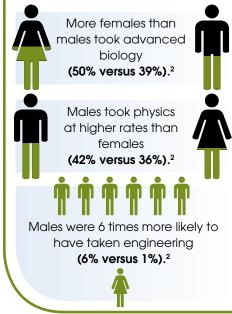
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K-12 Education

Girls and boys do not significantly differ in their abilities in mathematics and science, but do differ in their interest and confidence in STEM subjects. Male students are over three times more likely to be interested in STEM majors and careers, compared to female students.¹

In 2009, girls and boys earned credits in advanced **mathematics and science**

at similar rates. However, gender differences in advanced coursetaking varied by subject:



¹ STEMconnector & My College Options. (2013). Where are the STEM Students? What are their Career Interests? Where are the STEM Jobs?

² National Science Board. (2012). Science and Engineering Indicators 2012. Arlington VA: National Science Foundation (NSB 12-01).

Higher Education

The rates of science and engineering (S&E) **coursetaking for women shift at the undergraduate level** and gender disparities begin to emerge.



Within S&E, men and women tend to study different fields.

Men earn a majority of bachelor's degrees awarded in: 1 engineering sciences physics

Women earn a majority of bachelor's degrees in psychology, biological sciences, and social sciences.¹

82% 18%

81% 19%

82% 18%

Underrepresented minority women make up 16% of the population, but only earn:

- 3% of bachelor's degrees in engineering
- 5% of bachelor's degrees in computer sciences
- 6% of bachelor's degrees in physical sciences²

¹ National Science Board. (2012). *Science and Engineering Indicators* 2012. Arlington VA: National Science Foundation (NSB 12-01).

² National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. (2013). Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering: 2013. Special Report NSF 13-304. Arlington, VA.

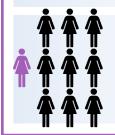
STEM Workforce

Women remain underrepresented in the science and engineering workforce, with the **greatest disparities occurring in engineering, computer sciences, and physical sciences.**



Women constitute 47% of the overall workforce and 27% of the S&E workforce.¹

Female scientists and engineers are concentrated 53% in different occupations than men, with relatively high shares of women in the social sciences (53%) 26% and biological and medical and biological sciences (51%) and relatively low 3% shares in computer and mathematical sciences (26%), and engineering (13%).1



Minority women comprise fewer than 1 in 10 employed scientists and engineers.²

¹ National Science Board. (2012). *Science and Engineering Indicators* 2012. Arlington VA: National Science Foundation (NSB 12-01).

² National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. (2013). Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering: 2013. Special Report NSF 13-304. Arlington, VA.

