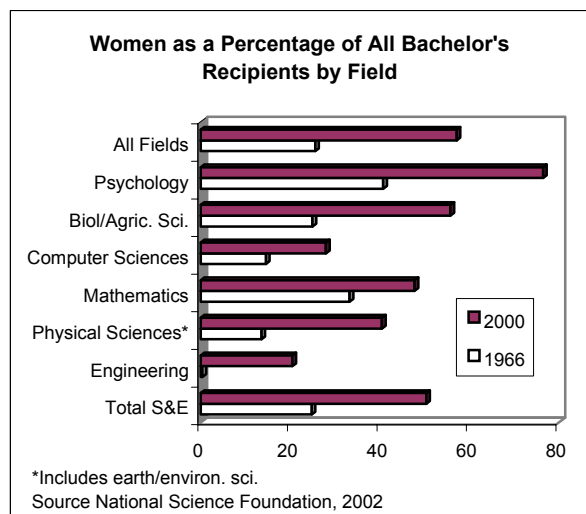


## CHAPTER 2 – GENERAL DEGREES

This section deals with degree production at all levels, primarily in science and engineering fields, with particular emphasis on the trends in degree awards to women and minorities.

- Historically, about one third of all bachelor's degrees are awarded in science and engineering fields. In 2000, of the total 1,253,121 baccalaureates awarded, 398,622 (31.8%) were in science and engineering.
- The number of bachelor's degrees in science and engineering earned by women has increased each year since 1966 (with the exception of 1988) reaching 200,953 (50.4% of the total). This is the first time that women have earned a majority of bachelor's degrees in science and engineering. Women have accounted for an increasing percentage of bachelor's degree recipients in all major science and engineering fields.



- Bachelor's degrees awarded to Asians, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans in both science and engineering (S&E) and non-S&E fields have increased each year from 1989 to 2000. In contrast, the number of S&E bachelor's degrees earned by whites increased in the early 1990s, but started declining in 1995, reaching 387,544 in 2000. A different story in the number of non-S&E bachelor's degrees earned by whites emerged in the 1990s. Non-S&E baccalaureates earned by whites dropped from 1994 through 1997, but started upward in 1998, reaching 607,585 in 2000.

- About one-third of all bachelor's degrees earned by racial/ethnic groups, except Asians, are in science and engineering. Almost half of all bachelor's degrees earned by Asians are in science and engineering. In 2000, among U.S. citizens and permanent residents, African Americans earned 8.3% of all S&E bachelor's degrees, Hispanics earned 7.2%, and Native Americans earned 0.7%.

- Trends in attainment of master's and doctoral degrees follow the same pattern as shown with bachelor's degrees. Both the numbers and percentages of women and minorities earning master's degrees and doctorates in science and engineering have increased. The number of master's degrees in science and engineering has more than doubled from 41,049 in 1966 to 95,683 in 2000. Women have increased their proportion of these degrees from 13% in 1966 to 43% in 2000. In contrast, the number of master's degrees earned by men in S&E has remained relatively stable from the early 1970s through the early 1990s, increasing somewhat in the 1990s to reach 54,213 in 2000. In 2000, among U.S. citizens and permanent residents, about a third (30.9%) of all master's degrees to Asians were in science and engineering. In contrast, 12.4% of all master's degrees to African Americans and about 16% of all master's degrees to whites, Hispanics and Native Americans were in science and engineering.

- The number of doctorates in science and engineering more than doubled from 11,570 in 1966 to 25,979 in 2000, accounting for nearly 63% of all doctorates that year. Women have made significant progress in doctorate degree attainment in science and engineering. In 1966, they earned 924 or 8% of S&E PhDs. By 2000, they earned 9,396 or 36.2%.

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents earned 17,064 doctorates in 2000. Of that number 4.3% were earned by African Americans, up from 1.5% in 1989; 4.1% by Hispanics, up from 2.6% in 1989; 0.5% by Native Americans up slightly from 0.4% in 1989, 78.6% by whites, down significantly from 86.7% in 1989, and 10.2% by Asians, up from 6.8% in 1989.