Girls and boys do not significantly differ in their abilities in mathematics and science, but do differ in their interest, confidence, and sense of belonging in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Overwhelming Majority of young women earn credits in Advanced Science and Mathematics Courses but participate less in advanced physics and computer science courses.

Higher Education

The rates of science and engineering course-taking for women shift at the undergraduate level and gender disparities begin to emerge.

Women earn 58% of bachelor's degrees in all fields and 50% of bachelor's degrees in S&E.

Women earn a majority of bachelor's degrees in psychology, biological sciences, and social sciences, but they earn only 24% in engineering, 21% in computer science, and 24% in physics.

Women STEM professionals are concentrated in different fields that men, with relatively high shares of women in social sciences (65%), life sciences (48%), and relatively low shares of women in computer and mathematical sciences (26%) and engineering (16%).

Latina, Black, and Indigenous women continue to be underrepresented in STEM, but are gradually increasing their share of STEM degrees.

Latina, Black, and Indigenous women make up 17% of the total U.S. population and earn 14% of bachelor's degrees in STEM fields.

STEM Workforce

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

Women constitute 48% of the total workforce and 34% of the STEM workforce.

Women STEM professionals are concentrated in different fields that men, with relatively high shares of women in social sciences and life sciences, and relatively low shares of women in computer and mathematical sciences and engineering.
References


