

Roster of Astronomy Departments with Enrollment and Degree Data, 2020

Results from the 2020 Survey of Enrollments and Degrees

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The number of astronomy bachelor's degrees awarded at US institutions continues to rise sharply. There were 824 astronomy bachelor's degrees conferred in the class of 2020, achieving another all-time high. The astronomy bachelors class of 2020 represents a 23% increase over the previous year (see figure on page 6).

There were 155 astronomy PhDs conferred in the class of 2020, virtually unchanged from the previous year (see figure on page 7). The astronomy PhDs reported in this roster do not include PhDs in astrophysics that were awarded at physics departments that do not offer an explicit astronomy degree. Those degrees are included in the data reported in the Roster of Physics Departments.

Total Astronomy Degrees Academic Year 2019-2020	
Bachelors	824
Exiting Masters	25
PhDs	155

Total Astronomy Enrollments Fall 2020	
Juniors	1,033
Seniors	1,361
1st Year Grad	264
Total Grad	1,379

Number of Departments by Highest Degree Offered Academic Year 2019-2020	
Bachelors	43
Masters	4
PhD	45
Total Departments	92

This roster contains detailed data from the annual Survey of Enrollments and Degrees. The survey was conducted in the fall of 2020 and covers all degree-granting astronomy departments in the United States.

Of the 92 departments, 40 were stand-alone astronomy departments and the remaining 52 are combined physics and astronomy departments. All but 5 of the 92 degree-granting astronomy departments contributed to the data supplied in this year's roster (95%). The totals above and the graphics on pages 6 and 7 include data from responding departments as well as estimated data for the non-responding departments.

Trend in astronomy enrollments and degrees, academic years 2009 to 2021.							
Academic Year	Number of astronomy degrees			Undergraduate astronomy major enrollments		Graduate astronomy student enrollments	
	Bachelors	Exiting		Juniors	Seniors	1 st -year	Total
		Masters	PhDs				
2009-10	382	23	156	382	605	193	1,083
2010-11	408	47	160	450	637	202	1,156
2011-12	385	35	152	487	666	224	1,122
2012-13	386	35	155	484	694	233	1,134
2013-14	428	28	147	530	711	183	1,118
2014-15	459	22	130	561	780	187	1,108
2015-16	469	22	170	604	782	198	1,137
2016-17	535	37	186	721	944	250	1,154
2017-18	596	18	173	741	1,016	230	1,164
2018-19	666	28	159	850	1,052	241	1,179
2019-20	824	25	155	996	1,200	243	1,277
2020-21				1,033	1,361	264	1,379

Notations used in this roster:

<i>m</i>	Masters is the department's highest astronomy degree (N=4).
<i>p</i>	PhD is the department's highest astronomy degree (N=45).
<i>s</i>	The astronomy department is administered <u>separately</u> from the physics department (N=40).
<i>c</i>	This is a <u>combined</u> department, offering degrees in both astronomy and physics (N=52). Data concerning the physics portion of their program can be found in the "Roster of Physics Departments, 2020".
GRADUATE ONLY	Department has no undergraduate program in astronomy (N=11).
FIRST YEAR	This column includes graduate students who were new to the department in the fall of 2020 as well as students who entered the department in the previous winter, spring and summer.
EXITING MASTERS	This column reflects the number of students who left the department with a master's degree.
FIRST TERM INTRODUCTORY COURSE ENROLLMENTS	The introductory course enrollment totals listed for each department represent the number of students who took their first term of introductory level astronomy. Departments were instructed not to include enrollments for courses that were a continuation of a sequence.
—	Data for this field were not provided.

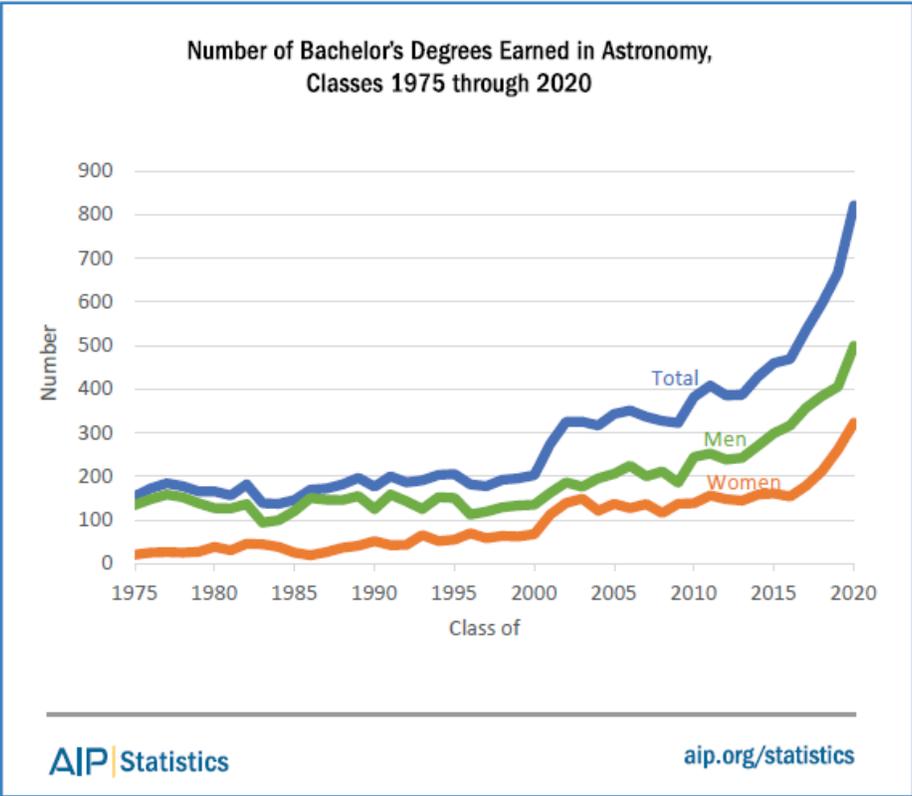
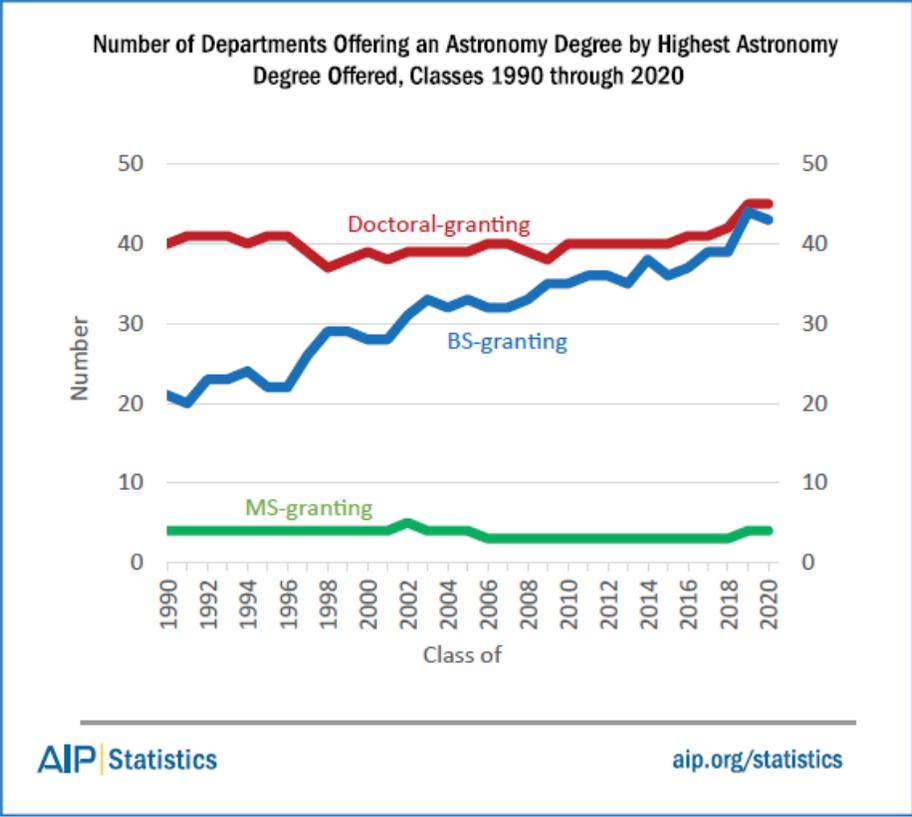
INSTITUTION	DEPT TYPE	2019-20 FIRST-TERM ASTRO COURSE ENROLLMENTS	FALL 2020 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS		FALL 2020 GRADUATE STUDENTS			2019-20 ASTRONOMY DEGREES		
			JR	SR	TOTAL	FOREIGN	FIRST YEAR	BACHELORS	EXITING MASTERS	PHDS
ARIZONA										
<i>p</i> Arizona State U (Astrophys)	s	2816	57	79	41	8	10	16	1	5
<i>p</i> Arizona-U of	s	897	59	56	49	14	11	27	0	10
<i>p</i> Arizona-U of (Planetary Sci)	s	GRADUATE ONLY			39	10	6		0	5
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U	c	34	9	1				2		
<i>p</i> Northern Arizona U	s	DATA NOT PROVIDED								
CALIFORNIA										
<i>p</i> CA Inst of Tech	s	0	3	3	31	—	9	6	0	5
<i>p</i> CA-U of, Berkeley	s	2102	36	57	36	5	8	51	0	2
<i>p</i> CA-U of, Los Angeles	c	1318	39	55	35	3	6	27	0	2
<i>p</i> CA-U of, Santa Cruz	s	—	GRADUATE ONLY		53	17	4		0	5
<i>m</i> San Diego State U	s	771	11	17	15	0	2	3	3	
Southern CA-U of (USC)	c	808	5	1				1		
COLORADO										
<i>p</i> CO-U of, Boulder	s	1967	70	136	66	12	12	52	1	7
CONNECTICUT										
<i>m</i> Wesleyan U	s	229	4	7	5	0	3	4	2	
<i>p</i> Yale U	s	146	8	3	27	11	9	10	0	5
DELAWARE										
Delaware-U of	c	—	6	1				5		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA										
George Washington U	c	457	2	3				4		
FLORIDA										
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U	c	144	37	22				11		
<i>p</i> Florida Inst of Tech	c	87	23	50	23	6	2	13	0	1
<i>p</i> Florida-U of	s	1184	15	36	30	11	8	21	0	4
GEORGIA										
Agnes Scott Coll	c	54	5	7				2		
<i>p</i> Georgia State U	c	984	GRADUATE ONLY		31	6	5		0	7
Valdosta State U	c	162	10	5				2		
HAWAII										
Hawaii-U of, Hilo	c	162	10	4				4		
<i>p</i> Hawaii-U of, at Manoa	s	492	12	11	40	6	12	8	0	6
ILLINOIS										
<i>p</i> Chicago-U of	s	205	25	22	35	12	4	6	0	2
<i>p</i> Illinois-U of, Urbana/Champaign	s	2160	21	37	31	10	5	49	0	4
INDIANA										
Ball State U	c	499	3	4				0		
<i>p</i> Indiana U-Bloomington	s	2193	12	8	23	2	3	8	0	2
Valparaiso U	c	131	2	6				0		

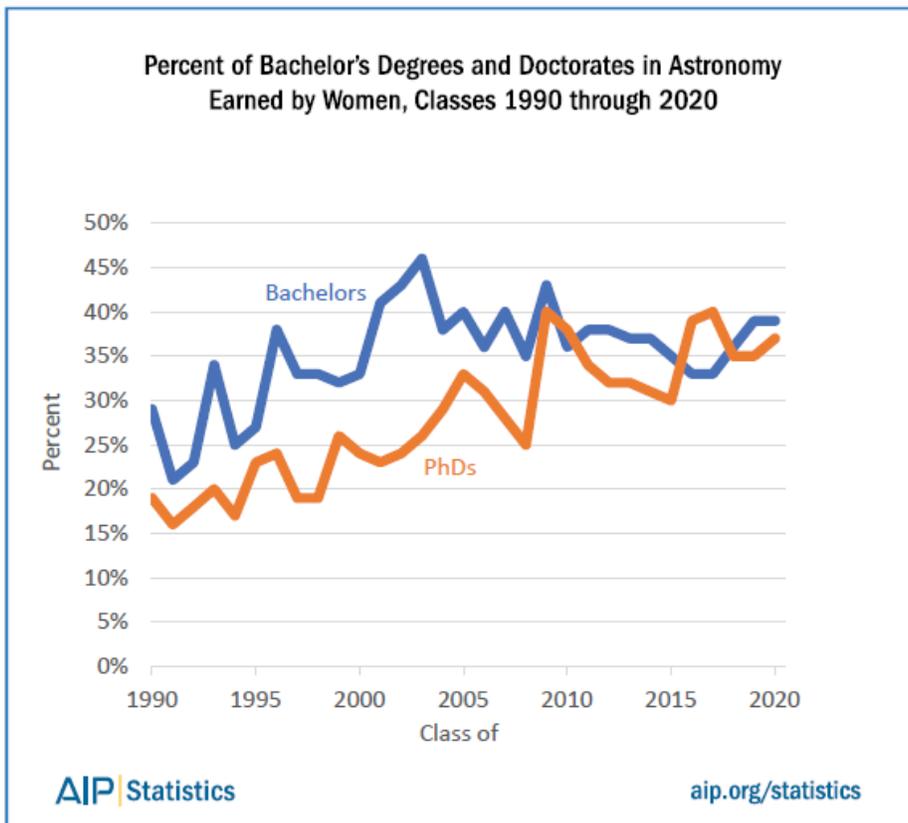
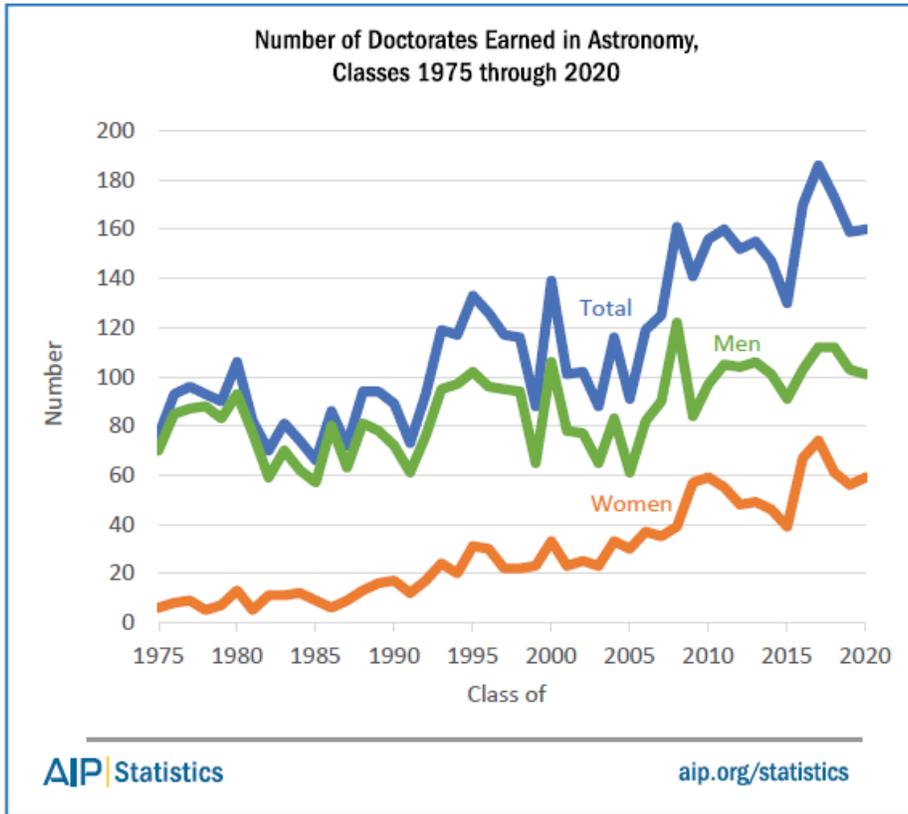
INSTITUTION	DEPT TYPE	2019-20 FIRST-TERM INTRODUCTORY ASTRO COURSE ENROLLMENTS	FALL 2020 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS		FALL 2020 GRADUATE STUDENTS			2019-20 ASTRONOMY DEGREES		
			JR	SR	TOTAL	FOREIGN	FIRST YEAR	BACHELORS	EXITING MASTERS	PHDS
IOWA										
Drake U	c	469	2	1				1		
<i>p</i> Iowa State U	c	139	GRADUATE ONLY		8	3	0		0	1
<i>m</i> Iowa-U of	c	581	2	8	1	0	0	6	2	
KANSAS										
Benedictine Coll	c	104	3	0				0		
Kansas-U of	c	245	7	14				0		
MARYLAND										
<i>p</i> Johns Hopkins U	c	29	GRADUATE ONLY		36	11	10		0	6
<i>p</i> MD-U of, College Park	s	830	15	19	45	10	9	26	0	1
MASSACHUSETTS										
<i>p</i> Boston U	s	875	7	15	29	—	4	11	—	5
<i>p</i> Harvard U	s	40	16	16	55	20	7	4	0	6
<i>p</i> MA-U of, Amherst	s	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—
Mount Holyoke Coll	s	188	9	4				2		
Smith Coll	s	124	5	4				7		
Stonehill Coll	c		DATA NOT PROVIDED							
Tufts U	c	215	7	5				1		
Wellesley Coll	s	94	9	6				3		
Williams Coll	s	66	6	6				6		
MICHIGAN										
<i>p</i> Michigan State U	c	691	22	36	19	1	3	14	0	2
<i>p</i> Michigan-U of, Ann Arbor	s	3136	22	25	30	7	4	20	0	5
Wayne State U	c	612	3	1				1		
MINNESOTA										
<i>p</i> Minnesota-U of, Twin Cities	s	1082	7	34	17	3	5	14	3	2
NEVADA										
<i>p</i> Nevada-U of, Las Vegas	c	—	GRADUATE ONLY		11	—	2		0	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE										
Dartmouth Coll	c	313	2	1				1		
NEW JERSEY										
<i>p</i> Princeton U	s	241	9	9	29	11	5	11	0	4
<i>p</i> Princeton U-Forrestal Campus	s	13	GRADUATE ONLY		49	14	8		0	4
NEW MEXICO										
<i>p</i> New Mexico State U	s	523	GRADUATE ONLY		30	2	5		0	2
New Mexico-U of	c	761	13	20				5		
NEW YORK										
Barnard Coll	c	90	3	1				1		
Colgate U	c	138	16	6				6		
<i>p</i> Columbia U	s	625	17	11	31	10	9	13	0	5
<i>p</i> Cornell U	s	478	4	5	25	10	5	8	0	7
<i>m</i> Rensselaer Polytech Inst	c		0	0	2	0	2	0	1	
<i>p</i> Rochester Inst of Tech	c		GRADUATE ONLY		40	7	10		2	3

INSTITUTION	DEPT TYPE	2019-20 FIRST-TERM ASTRO COURSE ENROLLMENTS	FALL 2020 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS		FALL 2020 GRADUATE STUDENTS			2019-20 ASTRONOMY DEGREES		
			JR	SR	TOTAL	FOREIGN	FIRST YEAR	BACHELORS	EXITING MASTERS	PHDS
NEW YORK CONTINUED										
Rochester-U of	c		DATA NOT PROVIDED							
SUNY Coll at New Paltz	c	160	6	7				5		
SUNY-Stony Brook U	c	404	19	35				15		
Union Coll	c		DATA NOT PROVIDED							
Vassar Coll	c	200	3	7				3		
OHIO										
<i>p</i> Case Western Reserve U	s	157	4	3	3	0	0	3	0	1
<i>p</i> Ohio State U	s	1805	38	35	32	6	8	29	0	2
Ohio U	c	352	0	3				0		
Ohio Wesleyan U	c	130	5	1				0		
Toledo-U of	c	—	2	2				1		
Youngstown State U	c	477	6	5				3		
OKLAHOMA										
Oklahoma-U of	c		DATA NOT PROVIDED							
PENNSYLVANIA										
Franklin & Marshall Coll (Astrophys)	c	68	2	6				2		
Haverford Coll	c	—	—	—				4		
Lycoming Coll	c	90	3	2				1		
<i>p</i> Pennsylvania State U	s	10794	23	44	49	12	4	35	1	5
<i>p</i> Pittsburgh-U of	c	1015	11	9	*	*	*	9	0	0
Swarthmore Coll	c	110	11	6				5		
Villanova U	s	495	8	12				2		
SOUTH CAROLINA										
Charleston-Coll of	c	546	11	13				11		
TENNESSEE										
<i>p</i> Vanderbilt U (Astrophys)	c	330	17	17	24	2	5	0	0	1
TEXAS										
<i>p</i> Rice U	c	197	1	3	5	0	**	3	0	0
<i>p</i> Texas A&M-College Station	c	1222	GRADUATE ONLY		19	6	3		1	1
<i>p</i> Texas Christian U	c	666	GRADUATE ONLY		7	2	2		0	2
<i>p</i> Texas-U of, at Austin	s	1876	23	44	34	7	5	31	1	1
VIRGINIA										
George Mason U	c	1356	3	6				4		
<i>p</i> Virginia-U of	s	1537	13	19	35	9	12	17	2	4
WASHINGTON										
<i>p</i> Washington-U of	s	2446	35	62	29	2	2	38	0	5
Whitman Coll	s	105	10	11				5		
WISCONSIN										
<i>p</i> Wisconsin-U of, Madison	s	1136	10	40	25	4	5	50	0	3
WYOMING										
Wyoming-U of	c	130	8	26				11		

* U of Pittsburgh - Astronomy graduate enrollment data are incorporated into their physics graduate enrollments listed in the physics roster.

** Rice University's first-year astronomy students are included in the physics roster.





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