STEM degrees awarded at UC

Degree recipients from the University of California’s (UC) science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs go on to conduct valuable scientific research and drive the state’s and the nation’s technology and innovation sectors. In 2019-20 UC awarded over 38,000 STEM undergraduate and graduate degrees, which accounted for 36 percent of STEM degrees awarded in California and about 4 percent of STEM degrees awarded in the nation.

UC STEM degrees awarded compared to other institutions

California 4-year colleges and universities awarded over 106,000 STEM degrees in 2019-20. UC’s 38,000 STEM degrees outpaced all other universities in the state. In 2019-2020, UC awarded a similar amount of undergraduate STEM degrees as California State University (CSU) and more undergraduate STEM degrees than California private 4-year institutions. In addition, UC is outpaced by California private 4-year institutions, including the University of Southern California, Stanford, and Cal Tech, in producing graduate STEM degrees.

UC’s share of STEM degrees awarded in the state and the nation

Since 2000 UC awarded about 3.5 percent of the United States’ undergraduate and graduate degrees in STEM fields. In California UC has awarded about 36 percent of the state’s STEM undergraduate and graduate degrees.
California awards the highest number of STEM degrees in the nation at 106,600 in 2019. This far outpaced New York (77,100) and Texas (72,600). However, this has not been sufficient to keep pace with the population as California ranked only 36th in STEM degrees produced per 1,000 residents. California produced only 2.7 STEM degrees per 1,000 residents compared to the national average of 3.3.

**UC STEM degrees by discipline**

UC’s undergraduate and graduate STEM programs reflect the leading industries in California’s economy. In addition to leading all California institutions in the number of engineering and computer science degrees awarded, UC far outpaces them in the number of degrees awarded in the life sciences.
UC undergraduate STEM degree recipients and post-graduation workforce industries

UC’s undergraduate STEM undergraduate degree recipients go on to work California’s key STEM industries that fuel the state’s economic growth. Large percentages of UC’s undergraduate STEM degree recipients bring their skills to California’s healthcare, manufacturing, engineering and internet/computer systems sectors.

Industry of UC Undergraduate STEM degree recipients who work in California by year after graduation and discipline

UC STEM degree recipients and racial/ethnic demographics

Since 2000 UC has outpaced AAU peer institutions in the racial/ethnic diversity of its STEM degree recipients, and the gap between them has only grown. Seventeen percent of UC’s STEM degree recipients (both undergraduate and graduate degrees) are from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups (URG) in 2019 [1.7 percent African American, 0.1 percent American Indian, and 15.5 percent Hispanic/Latino(a)], up from 9 percent in 2000. This percentage has remained lower at AAU public and private institutions.
When examining by degree level, about 20 percent of UC’s STEM undergraduate degree recipients are from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, which is up from 9 percent in 2000. Among UC’s STEM graduate degree recipients, 10 percent are from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups in 2019, which is up from 7 percent in 2000. When compared to AAU public and private institutions, UC has a higher percentage of UC STEM undergraduate and graduate degree recipients from URG backgrounds.

**Percent of STEM degree recipients from URG backgrounds by institution type and degree level, 2000-01 to 2019-20**

Bachelor’s degree

Graduate degree
Closer examination of the racial/ethnic demographics from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups reveals that the percent of American Indian and African American UC STEM undergraduate degree recipients has remained steady since 2000 (0.6 percent in 2000 vs. 0.1 percent in 2019 and 1.9 percent in 2000 vs. 1.6 percent in 2019, respectively). The percent of Hispanic/Latino(a) UC STEM undergraduate degree recipients has more than doubled since 2000 (7.6 percent in 2000 vs. 18.3 percent in 2019). A similar trend occurs among UC graduate degree recipients.