Health Physics Enrollments and Degrees Survey, 2006 Data

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SURVEY UNIVERSE

The survey includes degrees granted between September 1, 2005 and August 31, 2006. Enrollment information refers to the fall term 2006. Thirty academic programs were included in the survey universe and all 30 responded. Two programs were discontinued and deleted from the survey after 2005, and one new program was added in the 2006 survey. The report includes data by degree level for post-graduation plans and enrollment information on undergraduate students and graduate students.

DEGREE DATA

Bachelor's Degrees. The number of B.S. degrees granted in 2006 by health physics, medical health physics, and other health physics option programs decreased by 9% from 2005, but was still well above the number of B.S. degrees reported between 1996 and 2004. (See Table 1.) Health physics programs accounted for 90% of all B.S. degrees. (See Table 2.)

Graduate Degrees. In 2006 compared to 2005, the number of master's degrees granted increased by 17%, and the number of doctorate degrees granted decreased slightly. (See Table 1.) The number of master's degrees granted was the largest since 1999. The number of doctorate degrees remained at the lowest level reported since the survey began in the mid 1970s. Health physics programs accounted for 83% of the master's degrees and 75% of the doctorate degrees. (See Table 2.)

Table 1. Health Physics Degrees, 1998-2006

Year	Degrees		
	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
2006	71	90	12
2005	78	77	14
2004	54	64	14
2003	56	73	25
2002	41	76	20
2001	37	71	23
2000	33	79	24
1999	55	115	22
1998	51	118	26

The data reflect the 2002 update of the survey universe of health physics programs.

Table 2. Health Physics Degrees by Curriculum, 2006

Curriculum	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
Health Physics Program	64	75	9
Medical Health Physics	0	15	3
Other Health Physics Option	7	0	0

ENROLLMENTS AND SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR DEGREE TRENDS

Undergraduate Students. In 2006, the reported enrollment of undergraduate students increased for the fourth consecutive year, but was less than 5% higher than enrollment reported in 2005. The 2005 and 2006 undergraduate enrollment levels are approximately triple the enrollment level in 2000. The continuing increases in undergraduate enrollments have generated increases in the number of B.S. degrees in the last two years, and indicate that the number of B.S. degrees is likely to continue to increase at least for the next couple of years.

Graduate Students. In 2006, the reported enrollment of graduate students also increased for the fourth consecutive year, but was less than 2% higher than reported graduate enrollments in 2005. The continuing increases in graduate enrollment have resulted in the increase in M.S. degrees granted in the last two years, and indicate that the number of M.S. degrees should continue to increase for the next few years. It is also likely that the number of Ph.D. degrees will begin to increase in the next year or two.

EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Data on post-graduation status was not collected in 2005. Comparing the 2006 to the 2004 post-graduation data indicates, in general, a fairly similar distribution in post-graduation plans for each of the degree levels. (See Table 3.) The exception is a higher percentage of the M.S. degree recipients going on to continued study (29% of those with known plans in 2006 versus 20% in 2004). Continued study is still the largest post-degree activity for the B.S. graduates and medical facility employment continues to be a large employment source for M.S. graduates. As in earlier years, the number of graduates hired by nuclear utilities was still quite small.

In 2006, the employment type "Other Nuclear-Related Employment" was added. Graduates receiving employment in this category in earlier surveys would have most likely been reported in the "Other Business Employment" category. In 2006, it appears that the number of M.S. graduates accepting employment in the "Other Nuclear-Related Employment" category increased somewhat.

Table 3. Employment or Other Post-Graduation Plans, 2006

	B.S. degree	M.S. degree	Ph.D. degree
Continued Study	24	22	2
Academic Employment	2	4	2
Federal Government Employment	2	8	0
DOE Contractor Employment	0	5	0
State and Local Government Employment	2	1	0
Medical Facility Employment	4	17	3
Nuclear Utility Employment	1	3	0
Other Nuclear-Related Employment	2	6	2
Other Business Employment	2	2	0
Foreign (non-U.S.) Employment	0	1	1
U.S. Military, active duty	4	4	1
Other Employment	0	0	0
Still Seeking Employment	1	3	1
Not reported	27	14	0
Totals	71	90	12

Table 4. Health Physics Degrees, 2006, by Academic Institution
(alphabetical by state and then university)

State	Name of Institution	Degrees, Sept. 1, 2005 – Aug. 31, 2006		
		B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
CA	San Diego State University	0	6	0
CO	Colorado State University	0	2	1
DC	Georgetown University	0	5	0
FL	University of Florida	0	3	0
GA	Georgia Institute of Technology	0	6	0
ID	Idaho State University	1	7	0
IL	Illinois Institute of Technology	0	8	0
IL	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	4	1	0
IN	Purdue University	26	3	0
LA	Louisiana State University	0	1	0
MA	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	2	9	3
MD	Uniformed Services University <i>(new program)</i>	0	0	0
ME	University of Maine	0	0	0
MI	University of Michigan	8	9	3
MO	University of Missouri - Columbia	0	4	1
NJ	Thomas Edison State College	7	0	0
NM	University of New Mexico	0	1	0
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	2	3	0
NY	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	2	0	0
OH	Ohio State University	0	1	1
OH	University of Cincinnati	0	5	1
OR	Oregon State University	4	7	0
PA	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	1	0	0
SC	Clemson University	0	3	2
SC	Francis Marion University	2	0	0
TN	University of Tennessee	4	0	0
TN	Vanderbilt University	0	1	0
TX	Texas A&M University	8	5	0
TX	University of Texas	0	0	0
WA	Washington State University, Tri-Cities	0	0	0
TOTALS:		71	90	12

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