

# Nuclear Engineering Enrollments and Degrees Brief

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**NUCLEAR ENGINEERING undergraduate degrees continued to decline, undergraduate (junior and senior) enrollments increased, graduate degrees increased, master's enrollments increased, and doctorate enrollments decreased slightly.**

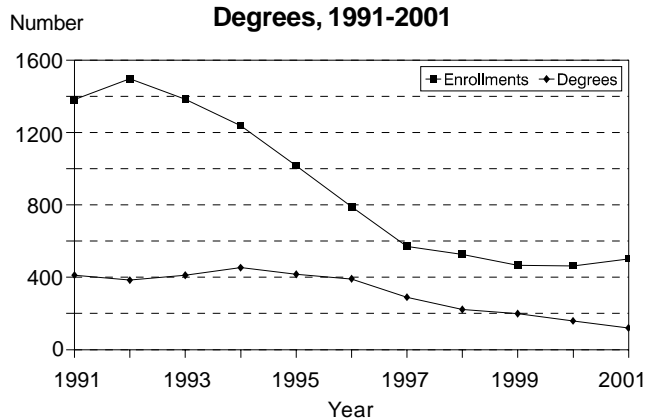
## SURVEY UNIVERSE

The survey of "Nuclear Engineering Enrollments and Degrees, 2001" was sent to 37 institutions offering a major in nuclear engineering or an option program in another discipline or department (such as electrical or mechanical engineering) equivalent to a major that qualifies the graduates to perform as nuclear engineers.

## UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENTS AND DEGREES

Nuclear engineering undergraduate enrollments of juniors and seniors increased by 8 percent from 2000 to 502 students. (Figure 1.) Among the 28 undergraduate programs, 19 reported increased enrollments, 2 reported no change in enrollments, and 7 reported decreased enrollments.

**Figure 1. Nuclear Engineering Undergraduate (Juniors and Seniors) Enrollments and Degrees, 1991-2001**



Undergraduate = Junior and Senior Level.

Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

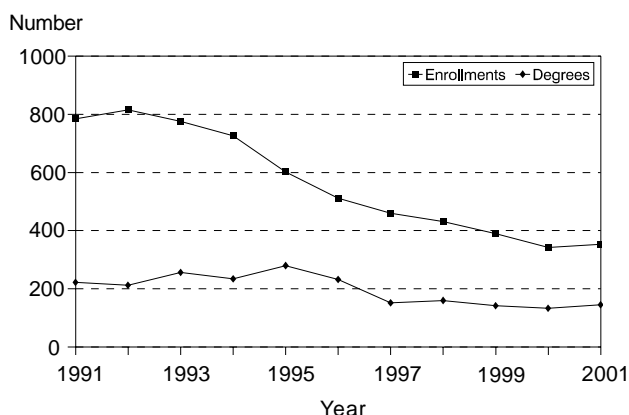
Undergraduate degrees decreased by 25 percent in 2001, or by 39 students. This decline in undergraduate degrees reflects the decrease in undergraduate enrollments in past years.

## MASTER'S ENROLLMENTS AND DEGREES

Master's enrollments increased by 3 percent to 353 students. This is the first increase in 9 years. (Figure 2.)

Nuclear engineering master's degrees increased by 9 percent, from 133 to 145 in 2001.

**Figure 2. Nuclear Engineering Master's Enrollments and Degrees, 1991-2001**



Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

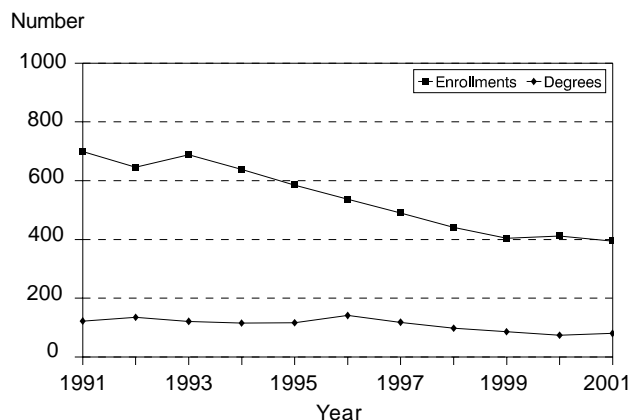
## DOCTORAL ENROLLMENTS AND DEGREES

Doctoral enrollments decreased slightly in 2001 from 412 to 394, or by 4 percent. (Figure 3.)

Doctoral degrees increased from 2000 by 8 percent, or from 74 to 80 students.

## GRADUATE ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Among the 31 graduate programs (master's and/or Ph.D.), 13 reported increased enrollments, 3 reported no change in enrollments, and 15 reported decreased enrollments in comparison to the previous year.

**Figure 3. Nuclear Engineering Doctoral Enrollments and Degrees, 1991-2001**

Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

**EMPLOYMENT OR POSTGRADUATION PLANS**

Reported postgraduation plans: (Table 1.)

*Undergraduates*

- 28 percent of the bachelor's (33 students) elected to continue study for a higher degree
- 13 percent (16 students) went in the U.S. military
- 12 percent (14 students) went to work in nuclear utilities

*Master's*

- 41 percent (59 students) were continuing study
- 18 percent (26 students) reported employment with U.S. other industrial employment
- 9 percent (13 students) went in the U.S. military service

*Ph.D.*

- 29 percent (23 students) reported U.S. other industrial employment
- 20 percent (16 students) were employed in U.S. academic employment
- 13 percent of new doctorates (10 students) were working with DOE contractors

**Table 1. Employment or Postgraduation Plans of Nuclear Engineering Graduates by Degree Level, 2001**  
(Percent Distribution)

Employment or Postgraduation Plans	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
<i>Number of degrees</i>	120	145	80
Continued study	28%	41%	10%
U.S. academic employ.	1	1	20
Federal gov. employ.	5	3	5
DOE contractors (M&Os)	4	5	13
State and local gov. employ.	0	0	0
U.S. nuclear utility employ.	12	8	1
U.S. other industrial employ.	6	18	29
Employ. with foreign employ.	0	4	6
U.S. military service	13	9	4
Other	1	3	1
Seeking employment	2	0	0
Unknown	29	8	11

NOTE: Percentages are rounded to nearest whole number.  
Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.**FOREIGN NATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

Degrees awarded to foreign nationals: (Table 2.)

- Foreign national bachelor's decreased from 4 to 2 students in 2001
- Master's increased from 43 students to 44
- Foreign national doctorates increased from 29 to 33 students in 2001

**Table 2. Percentage of Nuclear Engineering Degrees Awarded to Foreign Nationals, 1996-2001**

Year	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
1996	3%	25%	46%
1997	2	26	36
1998	2	21	39
1999	2	27	38
2000	3	32	39
2001	2	30	41

Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

**Table 3. Nuclear Engineering Enrollments and Degrees, by State and Institution, 2001**

State	Institution	Enrollments			Degrees		
		Undergraduate*	Master's	Doctoral	B.S.	M.S.	Ph.D.
<b>ARIZONA</b>	University of Arizona	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	University of California, Berkeley	22	34	10	7	7	4
<b>FLORIDA</b>	University of Florida, Gainesville	18	17	0	8	1	2
<b>GEORGIA</b>	Georgia Institute of Technology	15	3	13	3	4	4
<b>IDAHO</b>	Idaho State University	2	6	2	-	6	1
	University of Idaho	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	University of Illinois, Urbana	22	7	34	5	12	3
<b>INDIANA</b>	Purdue University	28	12	25	7	9	4
	University of Notre Dame	5	-	-	6	-	-
<b>KANSAS</b>	Kansas State University	8	6	2	4	2	-
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	Louisiana State University	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>MAINE</b>	University of Maine	5	-	-	1	-	-
<b>MARYLAND</b>	University of Maryland	6	6	19	2	1	1
	University of Maryland, Univ. College	16	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	16	64	42	2	16	19
	University of Massachusetts Lowell	6	8	2	-	1	-
	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	4	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	22	11	54	8	17	4
<b>MISSOURI</b>	University of Missouri, Columbia	-	7	10	-	2	1
	University of Missouri, Rolla	26	4	4	7	5	-
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	University of New Mexico	13	16	16	-	5	4
<b>NEW YORK</b>	Columbia University	-	-	3	-	-	-
	Cornell University	-	1	4	-	1	-
	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	28	4	16	21	2	2
	U.S. Military Academy	20	-	-	6	-	-
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>	North Carolina State University	30	10	19	-	4	1
<b>OHIO</b>	Air Force Institute of Technology	-	19	6	-	6	-
	The Ohio State University	-	18	5	-	8	1
	University of Cincinnati <sup>1</sup>	-	10	8	-	5	1
<b>OREGON</b>	Oregon State University	25	9	5	11	7	2
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	Pennsylvania State University	52	12	27	8	8	4
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	Tennessee Technological University	1	-	-	1	-	-
	University of Tennessee, Knoxville	22	25	7	-	3	4
<b>TEXAS</b>	Texas A&M University	51	22	12	9	2	4
	University of Texas, Austin	11	8	11	-	5	3
<b>UTAH</b>	University of Utah	6	3	7	1	2	7
<b>WISCONSIN</b>	University of Wisconsin, Madison	22	9	28	3	4	4
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>502</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>80</b>

\*Junior and Senior students only.

Source: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

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