

Table 2-5 • Women's share of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in selected fields, academic years 1980/81 and 2000/01 (in percentages)

Although women were over-represented among the recipients of bachelor's and master's degrees overall, that was not the case in every field. In engineering, for example, women accounted for only about one in five of the bachelor's and master's degrees awarded in 2000/01 (18.2 percent and 21.4 percent respectively). By contrast, women heavily predominated among the recipients of academic degrees in education, English, health professions, and psychology.

Field	Women as a percentage of degree recipients ¹					
	Bachelor's degrees		Master's degrees		Doctoral degrees	
	1980/81	2000/01	1980/81	2000/01	1980/81	2000/01
Biological/life sciences	44.1	59.5	38.9	57.6	28.3	44.1
Business	36.9	49.6	25.1	40.7	15.1	33.6
Computer and information sciences	32.5	27.7	23.0	33.9	9.9	17.7
Education	75.0	76.7	71.5	76.6	47.2	64.9
Engineering and related fields	10.3	18.2	8.2	21.4	4.1	16.5
English language and literature/letters	65.3	68.4	64.7	67.9	52.5	60.3
Health professions	83.5	83.8	73.9	77.4	43.6	60.9
Mathematics	42.1	47.7	31.5	41.8	15.4	28.8
Physical sciences	24.6	41.2	20.5	36.5	12.0	26.8
Psychology	65.1	77.5	60.2	76.2	44.0	68.3
Social sciences and history	44.2	51.8	37.6	50.6	27.2	41.4
Visual and performing arts	63.4	59.2	53.0	58.0	39.4	51.3
All fields	49.8	57.3	50.5	58.5	31.2	44.9

¹The numbers from which these percentages were calculated include nonresident aliens. In most cases, excluding nonresident aliens from the calculations would slightly increase women's share of degrees.

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics 2002*, Tables 264, 267, 270, 278, 280, 282, 283, 284, 286, 289, 290, 291,

Table prepared by the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI), 2005.