



# Long-Term Educational Outcomes of NSF REU Site Participants

2013 and 2014 cohorts

## What is the REU Program?

The NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) supports hands-on research for undergraduate students in a range of scientific fields. REU opportunities typically engage groups of about 10 students in research projects during the summer at various universities, laboratories, museums, and other research institutions in the United States. Students receive stipends and, in many cases, assistance with housing and travel.



**95%**

Earned a bachelor's degree or higher.



**71%**

Enrolled in graduate school.



**Among REU students**  
matching NSC Data\*

**4%**  
did not earn a postsecondary degree.

**1%**  
earned a certificate or associate's degree.

**24%**  
earned a bachelor's degree and did not pursue a graduate degree.

**22%**  
enrolled in graduate school but have not yet earned a graduate degree.

**49%**  
earned a graduate degree (**28%** earned a master's, **17%** earned a doctorate, and **4%** earned a professional degree).

## Institutions



**16%**  
received a bachelor's degree from a minority-serving institution.



**8%**  
received a bachelor's degree from a Hispanic-serving institution.



**6%**  
received a bachelor's degree from a Historically Black College or University.



**Research**  
**50%**  
received a bachelor's degree from an institution with high or very high research activity.

**97%** of bachelor's degree recipients and **93%** of graduate degree recipients obtained degrees in STEM and related fields.



Percentages don't sum up to 100 due to participants getting degrees in more than one STEM field.

\*Data Sources: National Science Foundation (NSF) administrative data (participants) and National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) (enrollment and graduation outcomes), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data and Carnegie Graduate Instructional Program Classifications (institution characteristics), and National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Taxonomy of Disciplines (STEM degrees). Notes: This fact sheet summarizes outcomes of 5,088 REU students who participated in an REU Site in either 2013 or 2014 and were matched to NSC data in December 2021, 7-8 years after program participation. The 5,088 students matched represent 54% of all REU Site participants from the 2013 and 2014 cohorts. White (non-Hispanic/Latino) participants are known to be overrepresented in the matched sample used in this analysis.