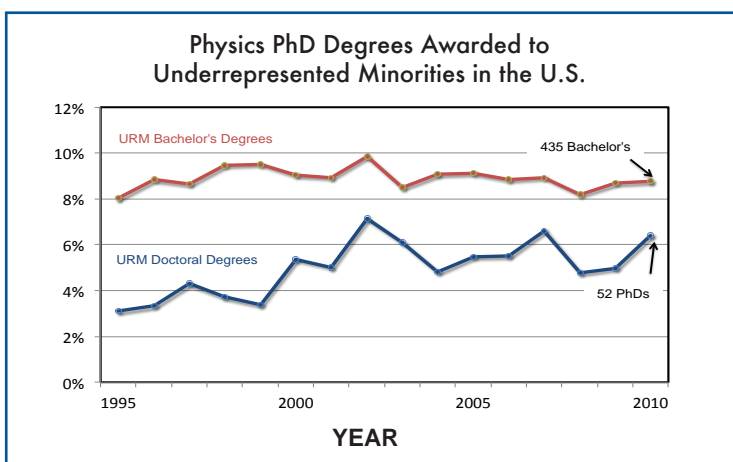


MISSION: To strengthen physics in the United States by increasing the number of underrepresented minority students who receive doctoral degrees in physics.

SUMMARY: The American Physical Society Bridge Program (APS-BP) is an effort to increase the number of physics PhDs awarded to underrepresented minority (URM) students. APS-BP is doing this by creating sustainable transition (bridge) programs and a national network of doctoral granting institutions that provide substantial mentoring for students to successfully complete PhD programs. The project incorporates practices from programs that have strong evidence of success in supporting URM students. APS-BP is also establishing links between minority serving institutions and doctoral granting institutions through research activities, collaboration, and personal contact. Since many of today's doctoral students will become tomorrow's academic, industrial and government leaders, educating more URM PhDs will have a multiplicative effect in educating and inspiring students at all stages in the system and will help address persistent disparities.

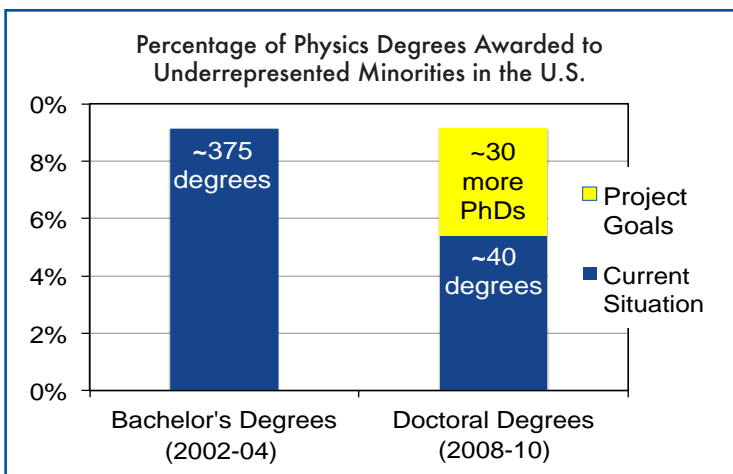
BACKGROUND: In an era of phenomenal discoveries in physics and related fields, our nation is faced with the challenge of producing a generation of diverse scientific leaders that can tackle 21st century challenges. URM students now make up a third of the college-age U.S. citizens, yet they earn less than 10% of U.S. physics Bachelor's degrees and only 5-6% of physics PhDs. Graduation data show that the current paradigm of moving students from undergraduate to graduate education fails to include many. The American Physical Society occupies a unique position in the community to catalyze action and leverage resources to achieve the following goals and to bring about sustainable change in physics graduate education.



Source: NCES

PROJECT GOALS:

- I. Increase, within a decade, the number of physics PhDs awarded to *underrepresented minority* students to match the fraction of physics Bachelor's degrees granted to these groups
- II. Develop, evaluate, and document sustainable model bridging experiences that improve the access to and culture of graduate education for *all* students, with emphasis on those underrepresented in doctoral programs in physics
- III. Promote and disseminate successful program components to the physics community



Source: NCES

BRIDGE EXPERIENCES: To accomplish the goals of the program APS is funding a set of *Bridge Sites*. These bridge sites will host students (*APS Bridge Fellows*), who typically would not gain acceptance into a physics doctoral program, to spend a period of 1-2 years after their undergraduate studies enhancing their academic and research skills.

¹ The project defines underrepresented minorities as African American, Hispanic American and Native American
The APS Bridge Program is supported in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF-1143070) and the American Physical Society.



GETTING INVOLVED IN THE APS BRIDGE PROGRAM



Member Institutions

Open to all colleges, universities, non-profits, and educational organizations

- A coalition of academic institutions committed to increasing educational opportunities for underrepresented minority physics students.
- Membership is free.
- Members receive reduced registration fees to APS-BP workshops and conferences, funding information, and more.
- Visit apsbridgeprogram.org/institutions/member to join.

Bridge Sites

Open to physics master's or doctoral granting institutions

- APS Bridge Sites host students for one to two years after their undergraduate studies to build academic and research skills that will enhance applications to doctoral programs.
- In many cases, students complete their doctoral studies at the bridge institution.
- Application starts in the fall. Visit apsbridgeprogram.org/institutions/bridge/rfp.cfm for more information

Help us recruit APS Bridge Fellows

The ideal candidate for this program will be a current or former undergraduate physics student, who for various reasons does not have the necessary coursework, research experience, or guidance to successfully apply for admission and complete a physics PhD program. Successful applicants must demonstrate the commitment, drive, and potential to complete a rigorous graduate physics program. Underrepresented minority students including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans are strongly encouraged to apply.

Students must have a bachelor's degree in physics or a related discipline, be U.S. citizens/permanent residents, and may not have a graduate degree in physics.

If you know students who would be appropriate candidates for the program, please encourage them to apply or get in touch with the project.

The application is available at apsbridgeprogram.org/link/apply.cfm.
Send questions to bridgeprogram@aps.org.