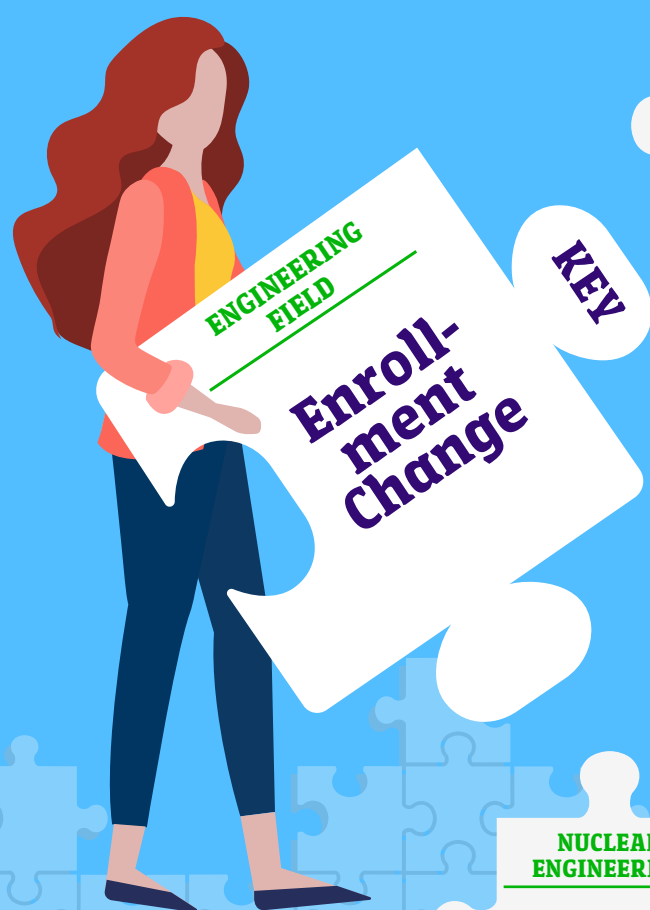


MISSING PIECES

IN MASTER'S PROGRAMS

In fall 2020, master's degree enrollments fell significantly. Overall, 14,005 fewer students registered than in fall 2019, a 17 percent drop. Two factors combined in a multiplier effect to drive down enrollment. First, uncertainty caused by COVID-19 suppressed enrollment the first fall of the pandemic at every degree level in nearly every engineering field. Second, international students, who represent more than half of graduate engineering enrollment, may have decided to pursue other options when administration guidance created uncertainty about visa status for students learning remotely.

Enrollment numbers could be starting to climb again, according to preliminary data from ASEE's 2021 Profiles of Engineering & Engineering Technology. Reporting institutions have indicated a 10–15 percent increase for master's programs, indicating that they may have begun to recover from the 2020 decline.



ARCHITECTURAL
ENGINEERING

+24

MINING
ENGINEERING

+22

AEROSPACE
ENGINEERING

+8

NUCLEAR
ENGINEERING

+2

ENGINEERING
SCIENCE & PHYSICS

-4

ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING

-26

CIVIL/
ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING

-58

PETROLEUM
ENGINEERING

-75

BIOLOGICAL &
AGRICULTURAL
ENGINEERING

-122

ENGINEERING
(GENERAL)

-138

METALLURGICAL/
MATERIALS
ENGINEERING

-230

ENGINEERING
MANAGEMENT

-213

CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING

-340

COMPUTER
ENGINEERING

-889

CIVIL
ENGINEERING

-989

ELECTRICAL/
COMPUTER
ENGINEERING

-994

MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING

-1,206

INDUSTRIAL
ENGINEERING

-1,784

ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERING

-2,492

COMPUTER SCIENCE
(ENGINEERING)

-4,356