

# NSF CATEGORY CODE

## EXAMPLES OF DISCIPLINES UNDER EACH R&D FIELD

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### A. Computer and Information Sciences

Artificial intelligence  
Computer and information  
technology administration and  
management  
Computer science

Computer software and media  
applications  
Computer systems analysis  
Computer systems networking  
and telecommunications

Data processing  
Information sciences, studies  
Information technology

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### B. Engineering

#### 1. Aerospace, Aeronautical, and Astronautical Engineering

Aerodynamics  
Aerospace engineering  
Space technology

#### 2. Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering

Biological and biosystems  
engineering  
Biomaterials engineering  
Biomedical technology  
Medical engineering

#### 3. Chemical Engineering

Biochemical engineering  
Chemical and biomolecular  
engineering  
Engineering chemistry  
Paper science  
Petroleum refining process  
Polymer, plastics engineering

#### 4. Civil Engineering

Architectural engineering  
Construction engineering  
Engineering management,  
administration  
Environmental, environmental  
health engineering  
Geotechnical and  
geoenvironmental engineering  
Sanitary engineering  
Structural engineering  
Surveying engineering  
Transportation and highway  
engineering  
Water resources engineering

#### 5. Electrical, Electronic, and Communications Engineering

Communications engineering  
Computer engineering  
Computer hardware  
engineering  
Computer software engineering  
Electrical and electronics  
engineering  
Laser and optical engineering  
Power  
Telecommunications  
engineering

#### 6. Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

Industrial engineering  
Manufacturing engineering  
Operations research  
Systems engineering

#### 7. Mechanical Engineering

Electromechanical engineering  
Mechatronics, robotics, and  
automation engineering

#### 8. Metallurgical and Materials Engineering

Ceramic sciences and  
engineering  
Geophysical, geological  
engineering  
Materials engineering  
Metallurgical engineering  
Mining and mineral engineering  
Textile sciences and  
engineering  
Welding

#### 9. Other Engineering

Agricultural engineering  
Engineering design  
Engineering mechanics,  
physics, and science  
Engineering physics  
Engineering science  
Forest engineering  
Nanotechnology  
Naval architecture and marine  
engineering  
Nuclear engineering  
Ocean engineering  
Petroleum engineering

Other engineering fields that  
cannot be classified using the  
fields listed above

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### C. Geosciences, Atmospheric Sciences, and Ocean Sciences

#### 1. Atmospheric Science and Meteorology

Aeronomy  
Atmospheric chemistry and  
climatology  
Atmospheric physics and  
dynamics  
Extraterrestrial atmospheres  
Meteorology  
Solar  
Weather modification

#### 2. Geological and Earth Sciences

Earth and planetary sciences  
Geochemistry  
Geodesy and gravity  
Geology  
Geomagnetism  
Geophysics and seismology  
Hydrology and water resources  
Mineralogy and petrology  
Paleomagnetism  
Paleontology  
Physical geography  
Stratigraphy and sedimentation  
Surveying

#### 3. Ocean Sciences and Marine Sciences

Biological oceanography  
Geological oceanography  
Marine biology  
Marine oceanography  
Marine sciences  
Oceanography, chemical and  
physical

#### 4. Other Geosciences, Atmospheric Sciences, and Ocean Sciences

Other fields that cannot be  
classified using the fields listed  
above

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Examples of disciplines continue on next page.

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## D. Life Sciences

### 1. Agricultural Sciences

Agricultural business and management  
Agricultural chemistry  
Agricultural economics  
Agricultural engineering—report in Engineering  
Agricultural production operations  
Animal sciences  
Applied horticulture and horticultural business services  
Aquaculture  
Fishing and fisheries sciences and management  
Food science and technology  
Forestry  
International agriculture  
Plant sciences  
Soil sciences  
Wood science

### 2. Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Allergies and immunology  
Biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology  
Biogeography  
Biology and biomedical sciences, general

Biomathematics, bioinformatics, and computational biology  
Biotechnology  
Botany and plant biology  
Cell, cellular biology, and anatomical sciences  
Epidemiology, ecology and population biology  
Genetics  
Microbiological sciences and immunology  
Molecular medicine  
Neurobiology and neuroscience  
Pharmacology and toxicology  
Physiology, pathology and related sciences  
Zoology, animal biology

### 3. Health Sciences

Advanced, graduate dentistry and oral sciences  
Allied health and medical assisting services  
Bioethics, medical ethics  
Clinical medicine research  
Clinical/medical laboratory science/research and allied professions

Communication disorders sciences and services  
Dentistry  
Dietetics and clinical nutrition services  
Health and medical administrative services  
Health, medical preparatory programs  
Gerontology, health sciences  
Kinesiology and exercise science  
Medical clinical science, graduate medical studies  
Medical illustration and informatics  
Medicine  
Mental health  
Nursing  
Optometry  
Osteopathic medicine, osteopathy  
Pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, and administration  
Podiatric medicine, podiatry  
Public health  
Radiological science

Registered nursing, nursing administration, nursing research and clinical nursing  
Rehabilitation and therapeutic professions  
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences  
Veterinary medicine  
Zoology

### 4. Natural Resources and Conservation

Natural resources conservation and research  
Natural resources economics  
Natural resources management and policy  
Renewable natural resources  
Wildlife and wildlands science and management

### 5. Other Life Sciences

Other life sciences that cannot be classified using the fields listed above

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## E. Mathematics and Statistics

Applied mathematics

Mathematics

Statistics

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## F. Physical Sciences

### 1. Astronomy and Astrophysics

Astronomy  
Astrophysics  
Planetary astronomy and science

### 2. Chemistry

(except Biochemistry—report in Biological and Biomedical Sciences)  
Analytical chemistry  
Chemical physics  
Environmental chemistry  
Forensic chemistry  
Inorganic chemistry  
Organic chemistry  
Organo-metallic chemistry  
Physical chemistry  
Polymer chemistry  
Theoretical chemistry

### 3. Materials Science

Materials chemistry  
Materials science

### 4. Physics

Acoustics  
Atomic, molecular physics  
Condensed matter and materials physics  
Elementary particle physics  
Mathematical physics  
Nuclear physics  
Optics, optical sciences  
Plasma, high-temperature physics  
Theoretical physics

### 5. Other Physical Sciences

Other physical sciences that cannot be classified using the fields listed above

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## G. Psychology

Clinical psychology

Counseling and applied psychology

Human development

Research and experimental psychology

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Examples of disciplines continue on next page.

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## H. Social Sciences

### 1. Anthropology

Cultural anthropology  
Medical anthropology  
Physical and biological anthropology

### 2. Economics

Applied economics  
Business development  
Development economics and international development  
Econometrics and quantitative economics  
Industrial economics  
International economics  
Labor economics  
Managerial economics  
Public finance and fiscal policy

### 3. Political Science and Government

Comparative government  
Government  
Legal systems  
Political economy  
Political science  
Political theory

### 4. Sociology, Demography, and Population Studies

Comparative and historical sociology  
Complex organizations  
Cultural and social structure  
Demography and population studies  
Group interactions  
Rural sociology  
Social problems and welfare theory  
Sociology

### 5. Other Social Sciences

Archeology  
Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies  
Cartography  
City, urban, community and regional planning  
Criminal science and corrections  
Criminology  
Geography  
Gerontology, social sciences  
International relations and national security studies  
Linguistics  
Public policy analysis  
Regional studies  
Urban studies, affairs

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## I. Other Sciences

Use this category for R&D that involves at least one S&E field (rows A–H) if it is impossible to report multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary R&D expenditures in specific fields.

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## J. Non-S&E Fields

### 1. Business Management and Business Administration

Business administration  
Business management  
Business, managerial economics  
Management information systems and services  
Marketing management and research

### 2. Communication and Communications Technologies

Communication and media studies  
Communications technologies  
Journalism  
Radio, television, and digital communication

### 3. Education

Education administration and supervision  
Education research  
Teacher education, specific levels and methods  
Teaching fields

### 4. Humanities

English language and literature, letters  
Foreign languages and literatures  
History, including history and philosophy of science and technology  
Humanities, general  
Liberal arts and sciences  
Philosophy and religious studies  
Theology and religious vocations

### 5. Law

Law  
Legal studies

### 6. Social Work

(no specific examples)

### 7. Visual and Performing Arts

Drama, theatre arts and stagecraft  
Film, video, and photographic arts  
Fine and studio arts  
Music

### 8. Other Non-S&E Fields

Architecture  
Family, consumer sciences and human sciences  
Foods, nutrition, and wellness studies  
Landscape architecture  
Library science  
Military technology and applied science  
Parks, sports, recreation, leisure and fitness  
Public administration and public affairs  
  
Other non-S&E fields that cannot be classified using the fields listed above

Also, use this category for R&D that involves multiple non-S&E fields if it is impossible to report multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary R&D expenditures in specific fields.