

Success of Women in Chemical Engineering Graduate Schools

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Determination of the attrition rates for female graduate students in chemical engineering indicates that they are less likely to receive a doctorate than their male colleagues. At the top ten chemical engineering departments, as ranked by the National Research Council, the doctorate attainment rate for women was 84% of that for the men. Considering the departments individually, the female doctoral attainment rate for the schools varied from 33 to 90% with an average value of 63%. At the 11-25 ranked departments the female doctoral attainment rate was 64%, whereas all departments had a rate of 47% was determined. These findings indicate that the support and encouragement that women received is school dependent. The performance of the women at each of the top 25 ranked chemical engineering departments will be discussed and comparisons made with that for the men.