

ATE PROGRAM

Advanced Technological Education



The US National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program focuses on the education of highly-qualified science and engineering technicians for the advanced technology fields that drive our nation's economy. It promotes the improvement of STEM education for science and engineering technicians at the undergraduate and secondary school levels, and in the workforce.

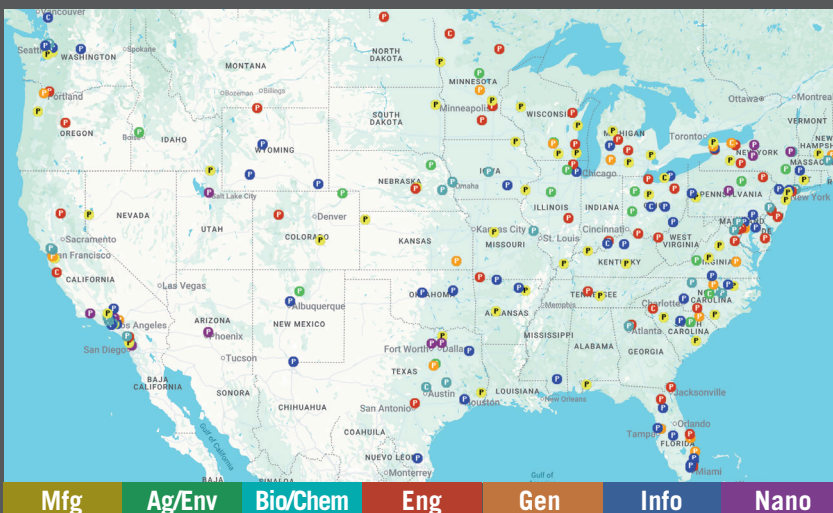
Because two-year public community and technical colleges provide most of the technician education in the US, two-year college educators have leadership roles in ATE initiatives. It is expected that projects will be faculty-driven and that courses and programs will be credit-bearing, although materials developed may also be used to educate incumbent technicians.

The partnerships that ATE grantees build with industry, business, government agencies, and between secondary schools, two-year, and four-year institutions are integral to the program's outcomes.

From 1993
to 2025 NSF has
invested **\$1.6 billion**
in the ATE program,
funding
1,856 projects and
66 centers.

To learn more
about the ATE program
and read the
ATE solicitation,
please visit

<https://nsf.gov/ate>



ATE covers a wide range of fields, from agriculture to advanced manufacturing to cybersecurity and beyond. During its 33-year history there have been ATE projects in every state of the US. The map at left showcases projects and centers funded under ATE in 2026.

For an interactive version of this map, please visit <https://atecentral.net/map>



ATE supports the education of the skilled technical workforce – those individuals who use significant STEM knowledge and skills in their jobs, but whose jobs do not require a baccalaureate degree.

ATE projects focus on a wide array of state- and region-wide initiatives to test and develop innovative approaches to particular technician education challenges.

ATE projects that focus on *Program Development and Improvement, Curriculum and Educational Materials Development, Professional Development for Educators, Leadership Capacity Building for Faculty, Teacher Preparation, Business and Entrepreneurial Skills Development for Students, or Applied Research on Technician Education* may receive funding up to **\$1,000,000** for up to **three years**.

Small Scale Projects, addressing any of the preceding topics but more modest in scale, may receive up to **\$475,000** for up to **three years**.

Consortia for Innovations in Technician Education may receive up to **\$3,000,000** for **three to four years** to strengthen partnerships between two-year institutions that either serve a specific industry, or where the convergence of technologies is changing the skills and competencies needed by the skilled technical workforce.

ATE centers that lead nationwide initiatives to improve technician education in a particular field or technology may receive up to **\$7,500,000** for **five years**, with the potential for one renewal. The specific areas of technology for funding for new ATE centers changes by year, and can be found in the ATE solicitation.

To learn more about the ATE program and read the ATE solicitation, please visit NSF's Advanced Technological Education program pages at <https://nsf.gov/ate>

The ATE grant proposal **submission deadline** is the **first Thursday in October** each year, and specific dates and more detail can be found on NSF's ATE program pages.

To learn more about the grantee community and to explore materials developed by ATE projects and centers, please visit <https://atecentral.net>



The *ATE Impacts 2026-2027* book offers a more in-depth overview of the innovative work done by the ATE community. Electronic (PDF) and flipbook versions are available at <https://ateimpacts.net/book>

Free print copies of *ATE Impacts 2026-2027* can be requested at <https://ateimpacts.net/bookrequest>

For more information about ATE student successes, program improvements, and other outcomes please read the ATE Impacts blog at <https://ateimpacts.net>

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In 2024, ATE grantees:

Educated
35,710 students

Engaged in
8,010 collaborations

Developed
5,460 educational materials

Offered
660 professional development opportunities

Source: ATE Annual Survey 2025
<https://atesurvey.evalu-ate.org>

