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Women science profs are rare species

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White men still dominate university professorships at the nation's top **science** and engineering schools, even where many of the doctoral students are **women** and minorities, according to the results of a survey released last week.

Women hold between 3 percent and 15 percent of full professorships in **science** and engineering at the schools surveyed, according to the report written by Donna J. Nelson, a University of Oklahoma chemistry professor.

As a result, **women** can earn their degrees without having a woman professor or even having access to a female faculty member, according to the survey.

"**Women** are less likely to go into and remain in **science** and engineering when they lack mentors and role models," the survey said. "When female professors are not hired, treated fairly and retained, female students perceive that they will be treated similarly."

In some instances, the percentage of female students far outweighs the proportion of professors of the same gender, the survey showed. For example, 48.2 percent of students earning bachelor's degrees in math were female, but only 8.3 percent of math professors were **women**.

Black, Hispanic and American Indian **women** have even fewer professorships than their white counterparts, according to the survey. For instance, it found no black, Hispanic or Indian **women** who were full professors at any of the top 50 computer **science** departments.

The report, which Nelson co-wrote with Diana C. Rogers of the University of Oklahoma, urged male and female professors to encourage **women** to enter science and engineering.

The study examined the top 50 departments in many **science** and engineering fields, as ranked by the National **Science** Foundation, from 2000 to 2002.

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