

An estimated 675,000 African university STEM graduates enter the job market each year

As of 2014, there were about 20 million 24 year-old (average graduation age with a first degree) Africans; at a tertiary Gross Enrolment Ratio of 12.5%, this yields an estimated annual university graduation rate of 2.5 million Africans. With this, Africa produces slightly more than 2,000 university graduates per million people, which is low compared to China, Germany and USA. The need to increase university enrolment in parallel with improving graduate employability is a major challenge in Africa today.

A study done on 8 African flagship universities (Botswana, Cape Town, Dar es Salaam, Eduardo Mondlane, Ghana, Makerere, Mauritius and Nairobi) reveals that in 2011, 27% of these universities' graduates studied Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Using this percentage as an estimate, Africa produces an estimated 675,000 STEM graduates each year. Increasing economic growth in Africa is likely to continue to demand increased specialised skills, especially STEM skills.

