

**Bachelor's Degrees** The table shows the numbers  $B$  (in thousands) of bachelor's degrees earned by women in the United States from 2005 through 2016. The data can be approximated by the linear model

$$B = 26.42t + 690.9, \quad 5 \leq t \leq 16$$

where  $t$  represents the year, with  $t = 5$  corresponding to 2005. (Source: National Center for Education Statistics)

DATA		Year	Bachelor's degrees, $B$ (in thousands)
Spreadsheet at LarsonPreCalculus.com		2005	826
		2006	855
		2007	875
		2008	895
		2009	916
		2010	943
		2011	982
		2012	1026
		2013	1053
		2014	1068
		2015	1082
		2016	1099

- Use a graphing utility to plot the data and graph the model in the same viewing window.
- Use the model to approximate the number of bachelor's degrees earned by women for each year from 2005 through 2016.
- Compare the estimated to the actual data. Is the model a good fit for the data? Explain.
- What are the slope and  $y$ -intercept of the model? Interpret their meaning in the context of the problem.
- Use the model to predict the number of bachelor's degrees earned by women in 2022.