

Defining Field of Degree

The fields of degree included in each *Directorate Profile* are those related to the work of the respective NSF directorates. Because of overlapping interests in degree fields among some NSF directorates, several degree-code values were assigned to more than one field and included in more than one profile ([table 1](#)).

Table 1. Doctorate fields included in each profile, by NSF directorate

(Fields)

Directorate	Field of degree
Biological Sciences (BIO)	Agricultural sciences and natural resources
	Biochemistry
	Bioinformatics, biostatistics, and computational biology
	Cell molecular biology
	Microbiology
	Neurosciences and neurobiology
	Other biological sciences
Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)	Computer and information sciences
	Computer engineering
	Computer science
	Information science and systems
STEM Education (EDU)	Education administration
	Education research
	Science and math education
	Non-science and math education
	Teacher education
	Other education
Engineering (ENG)	Bioengineering and biomedical engineering
	Chemical engineering
	Civil engineering
	Electrical engineering
	Materials science engineering
	Mechanical engineering
	Other engineering
Geosciences (GEO)	Atmospheric sciences
	Earth sciences
	Environmental science
	Ocean sciences
Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)	Chemistry
	Materials sciences
	Mathematics and statistics
	Physics and astronomy
Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)	Economics
	Political science
	Psychology
	Sociology
	Other social sciences

NSF = National Science Foundation.

Note(s):

Because of overlapping interests in degree fields among some NSF directorates, several degree-code values were assigned to more than one field group and included in more than one profile.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

Degree fields in visualizations based on SED data use the SED trend fields that facilitate data comparability over time amid survey field taxonomy changes. See the [SED Technical Notes, "Data Comparability."](#) The SDR degree field data were based on the SDR field of study codes.

Efforts were made to harmonize the degree fields between the two data sources. However, each survey has differences in the eligible degree fields (all fields in the SED versus only science, engineering, or health fields in the SDR) due to the respective surveys' differing target populations. The differences are most notable in the education degree data found in the profile for EDU. For that directorate, SDR data include only a single education field (educational psychology). However, SED data are available across six degree categories: (1) education administration, (2) education research (which includes the detailed field of educational psychology), (3) non-science and math education, (4) science and math education, (5) teacher education, and (6) other education.