

TABLE 27

Median age and age distribution of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study, sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, and race: 2017

(Percent distribution)

Broad field of study and demographic characteristic	Median age at doctorate (years) ^a	All ages	25 and under	26–30	31–35	36–40	41–45	Over 45
All fields	31.6	100.0	0.8	43.8	31.4	11.6	5.1	7.2
Life sciences ^b	31.0	100.0	0.6	49.1	31.4	9.7	3.8	5.3
Physical sciences and earth sciences	29.5	100.0	1.0	67.3	23.6	5.0	1.7	1.4
Mathematics and computer sciences	30.4	100.0	1.7	53.6	29.6	8.5	2.8	3.8
Psychology and social sciences	32.3	100.0	0.5	36.2	36.8	13.5	5.4	7.7
Engineering	29.9	100.0	1.5	59.4	28.1	6.5	2.0	2.6
Education	38.3	100.0	0.4	11.3	26.4	22.7	14.2	25.0
Humanities and arts	34.1	100.0	0.1	21.6	41.8	19.2	8.1	9.2
Other ^c	34.8	100.0	1.0	21.7	34.7	18.4	9.3	14.8
Sex								
Male	31.3	100.0	0.8	46.5	31.6	11.2	4.4	5.4
Female	32.0	100.0	0.8	40.6	31.2	12.2	5.8	9.4
Citizenship status								
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	31.9	100.0	0.7	42.0	29.2	12.3	6.0	9.7
Temporary visa holder	31.1	100.0	0.9	48.0	36.4	10.2	2.8	1.7
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)								
Hispanic or Latino	32.4	100.0	0.3	38.8	30.4	14.6	7.6	8.4
Not Hispanic or Latino								
American Indian or Alaska Native	37.9	100.0	D	22.6	17.0	18.9	16.0	D
Asian	31.3	100.0	0.6	47.0	31.1	10.7	5.2	5.4
Black or African American	35.4	100.0	0.6	25.2	26.4	15.2	12.2	20.4
White	31.7	100.0	0.7	43.4	29.0	11.9	5.4	9.6
More than one race	31.3	100.0	0.9	46.1	28.7	12.3	4.3	7.7
Other race or race not reported	32.2	100.0	D	37.1	33.0	15.3	5.3	D
Ethnicity not reported	32.3	100.0	1.0	37.1	34.4	14.5	6.2	6.8

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes only doctorate recipients with valid year of birth.

^b Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.

^c Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

Note(s)

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2017.