

TABLE 32

Median years to doctorate, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2017

(Median years and number)

Time to degree and demographic characteristic	All fields		Life sciences ^a		Physical sciences and earth sciences		Mathematics and computer sciences		Psychology and social sciences		Engineering		Education		Humanities and arts		Other ^b	
	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number
Years since bachelor's																		
All doctorate recipients ^c	8.8	51,595	8.3	11,988	6.9	5,821	7.9	3,652	9.3	8,457	7.3	9,333	15.0	4,550	11.0	4,945	11.4	2,849
Sex																		
Male	8.3	27,706	8.0	5,370	7.0	3,896	7.8	2,742	9.3	3,468	7.3	7,059	14.6	1,452	11.0	2,428	11.3	1,291
Female	9.3	23,885	8.4	6,616	6.8	1,924	8.0	910	9.3	4,989	7.0	2,273	15.0	3,098	11.0	2,517	11.6	1,558
Citizenship status																		
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	9.0	34,991	8.1	8,643	6.6	3,672	7.8	1,703	9.3	6,704	7.0	4,228	15.3	3,966	11.0	4,198	12.3	1,877
Temporary visa holder	8.3	15,805	8.4	3,213	7.5	2,088	7.9	1,891	9.5	1,619	7.6	4,923	12.2	519	11.2	659	10.1	893
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																		
Hispanic or Latino	9.1	2,487	8.0	599	7.0	212	8.1	78	9.3	560	7.0	284	14.0	323	11.3	298	13.0	133
Not Hispanic or Latino																		
American Indian or Alaska Native	12.1	103	9.0	24	6.8	6	D	D	12.4	24	7.8	10	16.0	20	D	D	D	D
Asian	8.8	3,397	8.5	980	7.0	349	8.5	266	10.0	514	7.3	712	14.1	222	11.0	176	11.3	178
Black or African American	11.6	2,350	10.0	554	7.3	92	11.5	47	11.3	523	8.2	167	15.0	581	11.3	148	14.4	238
White	8.9	24,586	8.0	5,981	6.5	2,813	7.4	1,168	9.3	4,695	6.6	2,780	15.7	2,629	11.0	3,310	12.1	1,210
More than one race	8.4	1,010	8.0	281	6.8	112	7.1	50	8.8	205	6.5	114	14.3	82	11.0	115	12.0	51
Other race or race not reported	9.9	410	8.7	90	7.3	45	D	D	11.6	61	8.0	53	18.4	37	D	D	D	D
Ethnicity not reported	9.3	648	8.6	134	7.3	43	8.3	59	9.3	122	8.3	108	16.1	72	11.7	70	11.3	40
Years since entering graduate school																		
All doctorate recipients ^d	7.5	48,967	6.8	11,501	6.2	5,585	7.0	3,450	7.8	7,955	6.7	8,835	12.0	4,283	9.3	4,717	9.3	2,641
Sex																		
Male	7.2	26,516	6.8	5,165	6.3	3,764	6.9	2,631	7.8	3,290	6.7	6,764	11.7	1,367	9.4	2,317	9.0	1,218
Female	7.8	22,448	7.0	6,334	6.0	1,820	7.2	819	7.8	4,665	6.3	2,071	12.3	2,916	9.3	2,400	9.5	1,423
Citizenship status																		
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	7.3	33,221	6.7	8,299	5.9	3,514	6.8	1,584	7.7	6,324	6.0	3,964	12.4	3,764	9.3	4,029	9.8	1,743
Temporary visa holder	7.7	15,515	7.7	3,157	6.9	2,059	7.0	1,852	8.6	1,591	6.9	4,825	9.8	497	10.1	664	8.7	870
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																		
Hispanic or Latino	7.7	2,369	6.7	578	6.0	209	7.3	75	7.8	526	6.3	270	11.8	298	9.3	291	10.0	122
Not Hispanic or Latino																		
American Indian or Alaska Native	8.8	96	7.7	24	5.4	6	D	D	8.4	21	6.2	10	13.0	18	D	D	D	D
Asian	7.3	3,140	6.9	919	6.3	310	7.3	240	8.0	466	6.7	655	11.7	211	9.0	173	9.0	166
Black or African American	9.8	2,266	8.1	551	6.5	88	9.7	47	9.6	503	6.9	162	12.7	555	10.1	140	11.7	220
White	7.3	23,929	6.5	5,851	5.8	2,749	6.8	1,140	7.3	4,539	5.9	2,710	12.7	2,548	9.1	3,230	9.7	1,162
More than one race	6.9	1,008	6.7	283	5.8	112	7.1	49	6.9	203	6.0	114	11.8	83	9.0	114	9.0	50
Other race or race not reported	7.9	302	6.6	65	6.3	35	D	D	9.3	47	7.3	31	13.3	31	D	D	D	D

TABLE 32

Median years to doctorate, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2017

(Median years and number)

Time to degree and demographic characteristic	All fields		Life sciences ^a		Physical sciences and earth sciences		Mathematics and computer sciences		Psychology and social sciences		Engineering		Education		Humanities and arts		Other ^b	
	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number
Ethnicity not reported	8.7	111	6.7	28	5.8	5	6.8	8	7.8	19	6.2	12	15.7	20	10.3	13	14.3	6
Years since entering doctoral program ^e																		
All doctorate recipients ^f	5.8	48,707	5.8	11,505	5.7	5,555	5.7	3,450	6.0	7,860	5.3	8,768	6.3	4,230	7.1	4,701	5.8	2,638
Sex																		
Male	5.8	26,305	5.7	5,168	5.7	3,723	5.7	2,614	6.0	3,245	5.3	6,681	6.3	1,352	7.0	2,301	5.4	1,221
Female	5.9	22,397	5.8	6,335	5.6	1,831	5.8	836	6.0	4,614	5.3	2,086	6.5	2,878	7.3	2,400	6.0	1,417
Citizenship status																		
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	5.9	32,702	5.8	8,221	5.7	3,466	5.8	1,562	6.0	6,179	5.3	3,891	6.5	3,677	7.2	3,982	5.9	1,724
Temporary visa holder	5.7	15,517	5.8	3,186	5.7	2,059	5.4	1,850	5.8	1,597	5.3	4,787	6.0	496	6.9	672	5.7	870
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																		
Hispanic or Latino	6.0	2,318	5.8	567	5.8	205	6.0	74	6.3	503	5.6	265	6.3	299	7.0	286	7.3	119
Not Hispanic or Latino																		
American Indian or Alaska Native	6.5	94	5.8	21	5.5	5	D	D	6.8	22	5.9	10	6.9	19	D	D	D	D
Asian	5.8	3,107	5.8	916	5.7	312	5.8	235	6.4	458	5.8	644	5.8	201	7.3	174	5.8	167
Black or African American	6.3	2,188	6.0	537	5.8	86	5.9	44	6.7	482	5.6	158	6.6	528	7.5	138	6.0	215
White	5.9	23,573	5.8	5,803	5.7	2,706	5.8	1,123	6.0	4,447	5.3	2,654	6.6	2,497	7.2	3,194	5.8	1,149
More than one race	5.8	995	5.4	281	5.7	108	5.8	49	6.0	202	5.8	109	6.0	83	7.0	113	5.7	50
Other race or race not reported	6.0	295	5.6	60	5.4	34	D	D	7.0	47	5.3	33	6.8	31	D	D	D	D
Ethnicity not reported	5.9	132	5.7	36	6.0	10	6.1	12	6.1	18	4.9	18	7.3	19	7.9	13	5.8	6

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

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

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

^c Includes only cases with valid year of bachelor's award.

^d Includes only cases with valid year of entry into graduate school.

^e Years since entering doctoral program is based on master's degree program entry if the master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same fine field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, it is based on doctoral program entry.

^f Includes only cases with valid year of entry into master's program if master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same fine field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, includes only cases with valid year of doctoral program entry.

Source(s)

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