

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics | NSF 19-301

TABLE 33

Educational attainment of doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2017

(Percent distribution)

Demographic characteristic and broad field of study	Total (number)	Parental education attainment (%)				
		All	High school or less	Some college <sup>a</sup>	Bachelor's degree	Advanced degree
All doctorate recipients						
Father's education <sup>b</sup>	47,400	100.0	24.0	13.9	27.0	35.1
Mother's education <sup>c</sup>	47,622	100.0	28.4	17.3	28.6	25.6
Sex						
Male						
Father's education	25,663	100.0	24.1	13.4	27.5	35.0
Mother's education	25,718	100.0	30.1	16.3	29.2	24.4
Female						
Father's education	21,736	100.0	23.8	14.6	26.4	35.2
Mother's education	21,903	100.0	26.5	18.5	28.0	27.1
Citizenship status						
U.S. citizen or permanent resident						
Father's education	32,131	100.0	21.5	14.6	24.6	39.3
Mother's education	32,398	100.0	22.5	19.0	28.2	30.4
Temporary visa holder						
Father's education	15,201	100.0	29.2	12.5	32.1	26.3
Mother's education	15,154	100.0	41.0	13.9	29.6	15.5
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)						
Hispanic or Latino						
Father's education	2,246	100.0	35.8	16.7	21.1	26.5
Mother's education	2,290	100.0	38.1	19.6	21.6	20.7
Not Hispanic or Latino						
American Indian or Alaska Native						
Father's education	92	100.0	34.8	22.8	25.0	17.4
Mother's education	93	100.0	26.9	26.9	24.7	21.5
Asian						
Father's education	3,048	100.0	21.8	9.2	23.0	46.1
Mother's education	3,057	100.0	29.1	13.0	31.3	26.6
Black or African American						
Father's education	2,053	100.0	40.1	20.1	16.5	23.3
Mother's education	2,134	100.0	34.0	24.6	19.4	22.1
White						
Father's education	23,368	100.0	18.7	14.6	26.0	40.8
Mother's education	23,489	100.0	19.2	19.2	29.3	32.4
More than one race						
Father's education	986	100.0	18.0	14.9	20.6	46.6
Mother's education	994	100.0	20.8	19.3	25.7	34.2
Other race or race not reported						
Father's education	252	100.0	15.9	11.9	27.8	44.4
Mother's education	254	100.0	17.3	14.2	32.7	35.8
Ethnicity not reported						
Father's education	86	100.0	17.4	12.8	31.4	38.4
Mother's education	87	100.0	24.1	16.1	27.6	32.2
Field of study						
Life sciences <sup>d</sup>						
Father's education	11,226	100.0	23.8	13.6	26.8	35.8
Mother's education	11,289	100.0	27.4	17.0	29.4	26.2
Physical sciences and earth sciences						

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Father's education	5,433	100.0	23.2	15.1	28.3	33.3
Mother's education	5,452	100.0	28.2	17.5	30.2	24.1
Mathematics and computer sciences						
Father's education	3,322	100.0	23.0	13.8	28.3	34.9
Mother's education	3,326	100.0	30.5	15.2	30.1	24.2
Psychology and social sciences						
Father's education	7,640	100.0	23.0	14.1	24.5	38.4
Mother's education	7,703	100.0	25.1	18.1	26.9	29.9
Engineering						
Father's education	8,557	100.0	22.7	12.3	32.3	32.8
Mother's education	8,558	100.0	30.6	15.6	31.9	21.9
Education						
Father's education	4,102	100.0	33.7	17.3	21.4	27.5
Mother's education	4,126	100.0	35.8	22.1	21.2	20.9
Humanities and arts						
Father's education	4,584	100.0	20.5	12.9	24.5	42.0
Mother's education	4,617	100.0	22.6	17.3	28.5	31.6
Other <sup>e</sup>						
Father's education	2,536	100.0	25.8	13.9	26.2	34.1
Mother's education	2,551	100.0	31.7	17.2	26.0	25.1

<sup>a</sup> Includes those who attended college but did not earn a bachelor's.<sup>b</sup> Total count excludes 6,679 who did not report father's education and 585 (1.22%) who reported "not applicable/unknown."<sup>c</sup> Total count excludes 6632 who did not report mother's education and 410 (0.85%) who reported "not applicable/unknown."<sup>d</sup> Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.<sup>e</sup> 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.