

TABLE 39

Graduate education-related debt of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study: 2008–17

(Number)

Debt level and broad field of study	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
All doctorate recipients	44,074	45,137	43,898	44,782	46,490	46,450	46,820	48,766	49,800	49,308
No debt	28,227	28,442	28,105	28,663	29,297	28,884	29,333	30,895	31,997	32,647
\$10,000 or less	3,929	3,915	3,510	3,697	4,030	3,931	3,842	4,190	4,077	3,804
\$10,001–\$30,000	4,461	4,582	4,238	4,314	4,565	4,609	4,435	4,464	4,378	3,907
\$30,001 or more	7,457	8,198	8,045	8,108	8,598	9,026	9,210	9,217	9,348	8,950
Life sciences ^a	10,163	10,507	10,466	10,673	11,115	10,868	10,917	11,310	11,646	11,629
No debt	7,016	7,158	7,268	7,451	7,658	7,319	7,427	7,814	8,105	8,205
\$10,000 or less	891	930	849	853	943	904	860	941	918	914
\$10,001–\$30,000	962	1,019	944	909	1,001	1,016	997	943	941	822
\$30,001 or more	1,294	1,400	1,405	1,460	1,513	1,629	1,633	1,612	1,682	1,688
Physical sciences and earth sciences	4,476	4,749	4,629	4,900	5,009	5,005	5,203	5,329	5,748	5,630
No debt	3,372	3,591	3,575	3,734	3,833	3,831	4,023	4,165	4,530	4,586
\$10,000 or less	415	434	384	401	426	421	404	460	484	396
\$10,001–\$30,000	352	348	333	353	377	380	365	324	335	298
\$30,001 or more	337	376	337	412	373	373	411	380	399	350
Mathematics and computer sciences	2,909	2,911	2,956	2,999	3,149	3,273	3,415	3,407	3,590	3,468
No debt	2,335	2,335	2,358	2,381	2,505	2,633	2,685	2,747	2,886	2,839
\$10,000 or less	209	193	174	217	202	204	238	222	191	216
\$10,001–\$30,000	155	164	171	178	187	182	189	175	217	176
\$30,001 or more	210	219	253	223	255	254	303	263	296	237
Psychology and social sciences	6,798	7,105	7,095	7,363	7,598	7,442	7,436	7,854	8,084	7,991
No debt	3,352	3,444	3,415	3,523	3,560	3,446	3,431	3,636	3,971	4,079
\$10,000 or less	586	603	556	630	657	615	609	670	688	645
\$10,001–\$30,000	886	865	866	882	983	880	860	947	882	845
\$30,001 or more	1,974	2,193	2,258	2,328	2,398	2,501	2,536	2,601	2,543	2,422
Engineering	7,130	7,034	6,989	7,363	7,747	7,964	8,445	8,828	8,548	8,913
No debt	5,416	5,340	5,347	5,654	5,907	5,981	6,426	6,788	6,554	7,075
\$10,000 or less	643	609	581	635	692	706	746	774	760	682
\$10,001–\$30,000	526	550	528	504	549	615	617	613	568	525
\$30,001 or more	545	535	533	570	599	662	656	653	666	631
Education	5,868	5,898	4,766	4,255	4,397	4,300	4,079	4,490	4,617	4,296
No debt	3,163	2,967	2,445	2,152	2,115	1,898	1,725	1,942	2,038	1,891
\$10,000 or less	520	488	365	312	373	361	347	396	368	341
\$10,001–\$30,000	711	727	556	542	534	574	502	555	556	480
\$30,001 or more	1,474	1,716	1,400	1,249	1,375	1,467	1,505	1,597	1,655	1,584
Humanities and arts	4,270	4,449	4,577	4,809	5,059	4,974	4,771	4,939	4,950	4,729
No debt	2,218	2,264	2,383	2,459	2,451	2,431	2,325	2,437	2,548	2,538
\$10,000 or less	483	472	434	477	539	525	450	543	466	443
\$10,001–\$30,000	577	612	569	657	671	667	629	633	611	508
\$30,001 or more	992	1,101	1,191	1,216	1,398	1,351	1,367	1,326	1,325	1,240
Other ^b	2,460	2,484	2,420	2,420	2,416	2,624	2,554	2,609	2,617	2,652
No debt	1,355	1,343	1,314	1,309	1,268	1,345	1,291	1,366	1,365	1,434
\$10,000 or less	182	186	167	172	198	195	188	184	202	167
\$10,001–\$30,000	292	297	271	289	263	295	276	274	268	253
\$30,001 or more	631	658	668	650	687	789	799	785	782	798

^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.

Source(s)

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