

TABLE 54

Statistical profile of doctorate recipients, by sex and broad field of study: 2017

(Number, percent, and median years)

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
All doctorate recipients (number) ^c	54,664	12,592	6,081	3,843	9,079	9,843	4,823	5,290	3,113
Sex (%)									
Male	53.3	44.7	66.9	74.6	40.7	75.1	31.5	48.8	44.9
Female	46.6	55.3	33.1	25.4	59.3	24.9	68.4	51.2	55.0
Unknown	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.1	*	*	*
Citizenship (%)									
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	65.5	70.3	61.1	45.4	75.7	44.1	83.9	81.1	61.7
Temporary visa holder	29.9	26.4	35.5	50.2	18.5	51.5	11.1	13.1	29.8
Unknown	4.7	3.2	3.4	4.3	5.8	4.4	5.0	5.8	8.5
Marital status (%)									
Never married	32.1	33.3	41.4	39.3	28.3	39.3	17.6	25.7	21.7
Married	44.5	44.4	37.2	41.1	43.3	41.3	57.2	47.8	51.3
Marriage-like relationship	8.4	9.9	10.6	6.2	10.0	6.2	5.0	10.1	5.5
Separated, divorced, widowed	3.3	3.1	1.5	1.9	4.0	1.5	7.0	4.5	4.8
Unknown	11.7	9.3	9.3	11.5	14.4	11.7	13.2	11.9	16.6
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^d	54.7	48.5	68.8	61.5	51.9	76.9	23.7	51.5	34.9
Master's earned (%)	70.2	51.8	52.2	72.7	82.4	72.2	88.2	85.1	81.8
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.6	31.0	29.5	30.4	32.3	29.9	38.3	34.1	34.8
Time to doctorate (median years)									
From bachelor's	8.8	8.3	6.9	7.9	9.3	7.3	15.0	11.0	11.4
From graduate school start	7.5	6.8	6.2	7.0	7.8	6.7	12.0	9.3	9.3
From doctoral program start ^e	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.3	6.3	7.1	5.8
Male doctorate recipients (number)	29,146	5,629	4,068	2,866	3,693	7,389	1,521	2,581	1,399
Citizenship (%)									
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	60.3	67.9	60.0	45.1	71.4	43.9	81.6	81.3	58.0
Temporary visa holder	36.4	29.6	37.4	52.1	24.4	53.6	14.3	14.0	35.7
Unknown	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.8	4.2	2.5	4.1	4.7	6.2
Marital status (%)									
Never married	34.2	34.3	40.9	40.9	29.7	40.3	15.5	23.6	21.0
Married	45.6	45.5	39.1	41.7	45.7	42.4	64.4	52.1	56.9
Marriage-like relationship	7.8	9.3	9.7	6.2	9.4	5.9	4.6	9.7	5.1

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Separated, divorced, widowed	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.6	2.4	1.4	3.9	3.6	3.0
Unknown	10.3	8.8	8.9	9.5	12.8	9.9	11.5	11.1	14.0
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^d	58.9	47.5	69.1	62.5	49.9	78.6	22.9	54.0	35.0
Master's earned (%)	69.2	49.3	53.6	72.1	81.7	73.8	87.8	85.1	81.4
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.3	31.0	29.5	30.4	32.7	30.1	38.3	34.5	35.0
Time to doctorate (median years)									
From bachelor's	8.3	8.0	7.0	7.8	9.3	7.3	14.6	11.0	11.3
From graduate school start	7.2	6.8	6.3	6.9	7.8	6.7	11.7	9.4	9.0
From doctoral program start ^e	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.4
Female doctorate recipients (number)	25,495	6,958	2,011	976	5,381	2,448	3,300	2,708	1,713
Citizenship (%)									
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	71.4	72.4	63.4	46.4	78.8	44.6	85.0	80.9	64.7
Temporary visa holder	22.4	23.9	31.5	44.8	14.5	45.3	9.7	12.2	25.0
Unknown	6.2	3.7	5.1	8.8	6.8	10.0	5.3	6.8	10.3
Marital status (%)									
Never married	29.6	32.5	42.4	34.5	27.3	36.3	18.6	27.7	22.3
Married	43.2	43.6	33.5	39.3	41.7	37.8	53.9	43.7	46.8
Marriage-like relationship	9.1	10.4	12.3	6.4	10.4	7.1	5.2	10.6	5.9
Separated, divorced, widowed	4.7	3.9	1.8	2.7	5.1	1.9	8.4	5.4	6.3
Unknown	13.3	9.6	10.0	17.1	15.4	16.9	13.9	12.7	18.7
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^d	49.9	49.4	68.2	58.9	53.3	71.7	24.0	49.1	34.9
Master's earned (%)	71.4	53.8	49.4	74.5	82.9	67.6	88.4	85.1	82.2
Age at doctorate (median years)	32.0	31.0	29.3	30.6	32.2	29.5	38.3	33.6	34.4
Time to doctorate (median years)									
From bachelor's	9.3	8.4	6.8	8.0	9.3	7.0	15.0	11.0	11.6
From graduate school start	7.8	7.0	6.0	7.2	7.8	6.3	12.3	9.3	9.5

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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
From doctoral program start ^e	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.3	6.5	7.3	6.0

* = value < 0.05%.

^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 respondents who did not report sex.

^d A bachelor's degree is counted as "in same field as doctorate" if the fields of study of the doctorate recipient's first or most recent bachelor's degree and doctoral degree are both in the same major field category, except for engineering and education fields where broad field categories need to be the same. See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields based on the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' field of study taxonomy.

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

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.