

TABLE 58

Statistical profile of doctorate recipients in physical sciences and earth sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2017
(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All physical sciences and earth sciences fields	Chemistry	Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	Physics and astronomy
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	6,081	2,697	1,165	2,219
Sex (%)				
Male	66.9	61.9	55.4	79.0
Female	33.1	38.0	44.6	21.0
Unknown	*	0.1	0	0
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	61.1	62.7	67.6	55.8
Temporary visa holder	35.5	34.1	28.5	40.7
Unknown	3.4	3.2	3.9	3.5
Marital status (%)				
Never married	41.4	42.2	35.5	43.4
Married	37.2	36.5	40.9	36.2
Marriage-like relationship	10.6	10.4	12.8	9.7
Separated, divorced, widowed	1.5	1.4	2.1	1.4
Unknown	9.3	9.5	8.8	9.4
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	68.8	73.1	47.5	74.9
Master's earned (%)	52.2	34.1	65.3	67.4
Age at doctorate (median years)	29.5	28.8	30.7	29.7
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	6.9	6.3	8.0	7.1
From graduate school start	6.2	5.8	6.8	6.5
From doctoral program start ^c	5.7	5.3	5.7	5.9
Male doctorate recipients (number)	4,068	1,669	645	1,754
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	60.0	62.0	65.4	56.2
Temporary visa holder	37.4	35.4	31.9	41.3
Unknown	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
Marital status (%)				
Never married	40.9	40.8	35.3	42.9
Married	39.1	38.3	45.3	37.6
Marriage-like relationship	9.7	10.0	10.1	9.4
Separated, divorced, widowed	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.4
Unknown	8.9	9.4	8.1	8.8
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	69.1	71.6	47.1	74.9
Master's earned (%)	53.6	33.9	68.1	67.2
Age at doctorate (median years)	29.5	29.0	30.8	29.7
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	7.0	6.3	8.0	7.0
From graduate school start	6.3	5.8	6.9	6.5

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From doctoral program start ^c	5.7	5.3	5.6	5.9
Female doctorate recipients (number)	2,011	1,026	520	465
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	63.4	64.0	70.2	54.4
Temporary visa holder	31.5	32.1	24.2	38.5
Unknown	5.1	3.9	5.6	7.1
Marital status (%)				
Never married	42.4	44.5	35.8	44.9
Married	33.5	33.6	35.4	31.0
Marriage-like relationship	12.3	11.0	16.2	11.0
Separated, divorced, widowed	1.8	1.4	3.1	1.3
Unknown	10.0	9.5	9.6	11.8
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	68.2	75.5	47.9	74.8
Master's earned (%)	49.4	34.5	61.9	68.4
Age at doctorate (median years)	29.3	28.6	30.5	29.8
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	6.8	6.1	8.0	7.3
From graduate school start	6.0	5.7	6.8	6.7
From doctoral program start ^c	5.6	5.3	5.8	6.0

* = value < 0.05%.

^a Includes respondents who did not report sex.

^b 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.

^c Time to doctorate from doctoral program start is based on master's degree entry if the master's degree was at the doctorate 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.