

TABLE 12

## Doctorate recipients, by major field of study: Selected years, 1988–2018

(Number and percent)

Field of study	1988		1993		1998		2003		2008		2013		2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	33,497	100.0	39,800	100.0	42,636	100.0	40,762	100.0	48,776	100.0	52,703	100.0	55,195	100.0
Life sciences	6,222	18.6	7,463	18.8	8,611	20.2	8,506	20.9	11,086	22.7	12,207	23.2	12,780	23.2
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,229	3.7	1,174	2.9	1,266	3.0	1,178	2.9	1,198	2.5	1,324	2.5	1,445	2.6
Biological and biomedical sciences	4,111	12.3	5,092	12.8	5,846	13.7	5,696	14.0	7,797	16.0	8,354	15.9	8,801	15.9
Health sciences	882	2.6	1,197	3.0	1,499	3.5	1,632	4.0	2,091	4.3	2,529	4.8	2,534	4.6
Physical sciences and earth sciences	3,986	11.9	4,402	11.1	4,566	10.7	3,971	9.7	4,946	10.1	5,584	10.6	6,335	11.5
Chemistry	2,014	6.0	2,137	5.4	2,216	5.2	2,041	5.0	2,246	4.6	2,484	4.7	2,810	5.1
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	670	2.0	721	1.8	766	1.8	682	1.7	865	1.8	989	1.9	1,185	2.1
Physics and astronomy	1,302	3.9	1,544	3.9	1,584	3.7	1,248	3.1	1,835	3.8	2,111	4.0	2,340	4.2
Mathematics and computer sciences	1,264	3.8	2,026	5.1	2,104	4.9	1,859	4.6	3,187	6.5	3,660	6.9	4,030	7.3
Computer and information sciences	515	1.5	880	2.2	927	2.2	866	2.1	1,787	3.7	1,843	3.5	2,004	3.6
Mathematics and statistics	749	2.2	1,146	2.9	1,177	2.8	993	2.4	1,400	2.9	1,817	3.4	2,026	3.7
Psychology and social sciences	6,017	18.0	6,860	17.2	7,389	17.3	7,098	17.4	7,635	15.7	8,580	16.3	8,899	16.1
Psychology	3,074	9.2	3,420	8.6	3,673	8.6	3,277	8.0	3,357	6.9	3,592	6.8	3,837	7.0
Anthropology	325	1.0	342	0.9	425	1.0	472	1.2	483	1.0	550	1.0	424	0.8
Economics	852	2.5	930	2.3	1,001	2.3	932	2.3	1,091	2.2	1,183	2.2	1,247	2.3
Political science and government	392	1.2	507	1.3	662	1.6	661	1.6	628	1.3	803	1.5	734	1.3
Sociology	449	1.3	513	1.3	549	1.3	597	1.5	601	1.2	636	1.2	669	1.2
Other social sciences	925	2.8	1,148	2.9	1,079	2.5	1,159	2.8	1,475	3.0	1,816	3.4	1,988	3.6
Engineering	4,186	12.5	5,698	14.3	5,922	13.9	5,279	13.0	7,863	16.1	9,000	17.1	10,183	18.4
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	150	0.4	228	0.6	241	0.6	200	0.5	266	0.5	348	0.7	383	0.7
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	114	0.3	171	0.4	208	0.5	281	0.7	762	1.6	1,039	2.0	1,134	2.1
Chemical engineering	623	1.9	624	1.6	670	1.6	568	1.4	873	1.8	824	1.6	981	1.8
Civil engineering	488	1.5	563	1.4	587	1.4	551	1.4	713	1.5	542	1.0	677	1.2
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	886	2.6	1,354	3.4	1,345	3.2	1,237	3.0	1,888	3.9	1,897	3.6	1,951	3.5
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	127	0.4	236	0.6	229	0.5	214	0.5	279	0.6	241	0.5	272	0.5
Materials science engineering	252	0.8	416	1.0	482	1.1	437	1.1	636	1.3	815	1.5	995	1.8
Mechanical engineering	610	1.8	902	2.3	936	2.2	752	1.8	1,082	2.2	1,277	2.4	1,504	2.7
Other engineering	936	2.8	1,204	3.0	1,224	2.9	1,039	2.5	1,364	2.8	2,017	3.8	2,286	4.1
Education	6,361	19.0	6,689	16.8	6,569	15.4	6,651	16.3	6,561	13.5	4,934	9.4	4,834	8.8
Education administration	1,749	5.2	2,123	5.3	2,066	4.8	2,362	5.8	2,238	4.6	965	1.8	898	1.6
Education research	2,512	7.5	2,446	6.1	2,584	6.1	2,720	6.7	2,640	5.4	2,703	5.1	2,507	4.5

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(Number and percent)

Field of study	1988		1993		1998		2003		2008		2013		2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Teacher education	473	1.4	428	1.1	342	0.8	242	0.6	274	0.6	109	0.2	97	0.2
Teaching fields	988	2.9	943	2.4	954	2.2	714	1.8	912	1.9	892	1.7	963	1.7
Other education	639	1.9	749	1.9	623	1.5	613	1.5	497	1.0	265	0.5	369	0.7
Humanities and arts	3,570	10.7	4,409	11.1	5,352	12.6	5,272	12.9	4,736	9.7	5,715	10.8	5,145	9.3
Foreign languages and literature	430	1.3	575	1.4	643	1.5	623	1.5	627	1.3	701	1.3	617	1.1
History	603	1.8	726	1.8	990	2.3	941	2.3	971	2.0	1,148	2.2	948	1.7
Letters	1,008	3.0	1,328	3.3	1,599	3.8	1,416	3.5	1,420	2.9	1,606	3.0	1,442	2.6
Other humanities and arts	1,529	4.6	1,780	4.5	2,120	5.0	2,292	5.6	1,718	3.5	2,260	4.3	2,138	3.9
Other <sup>a</sup>	1,891	5.6	2,253	5.7	2,123	5.0	2,126	5.2	2,762	5.7	3,023	5.7	2,989	5.4
Business management and administration	1,033	3.1	1,281	3.2	1,175	2.8	1,036	2.5	1,421	2.9	1,551	2.9	1,481	2.7
Communication	247	0.7	321	0.8	373	0.9	415	1.0	557	1.1	645	1.2	631	1.1
Non-S&E fields nec	611	1.8	651	1.6	571	1.3	675	1.7	784	1.6	827	1.6	877	1.6
Unknown field	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	*	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

\* = value between 0.00% and 0.05%.

nec = not elsewhere classified; S&amp;E = science and engineering.

<sup>a</sup> Includes other non-S&E fields not shown separately.**Note(s)**

See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

**Source(s)**

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