

**Table 12****Doctorate recipients, by major field of study: Selected years, 1989–2019**

(Number and percent)

Field of study	1989		1994		1999		2004		2009		2014		2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	34,325	100.0	41,034	100.0	41,100	100.0	42,122	100.0	49,552	100.0	53,986	100.0	55,703	100.0
Life sciences	6,410	18.7	7,800	19.0	8,204	20.0	8,813	20.9	11,403	23.0	12,484	23.1	12,781	22.9
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,320	3.8	1,301	3.2	1,216	3.0	1,155	2.7	1,283	2.6	1,338	2.5	1,491	2.7
Biological and biomedical sciences	4,116	12.0	5,203	12.7	5,581	13.6	5,940	14.1	8,025	16.2	8,868	16.4	8,702	15.6
Health sciences	974	2.8	1,296	3.2	1,407	3.4	1,718	4.1	2,095	4.2	2,278	4.2	2,588	4.6
Physical sciences and earth sciences	3,916	11.4	4,740	11.6	4,285	10.4	4,023	9.6	5,160	10.4	5,910	10.9	6,585	11.8
Chemistry	1,970	5.7	2,257	5.5	2,132	5.2	1,986	4.7	2,391	4.8	2,673	5.0	2,941	5.3
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	672	2.0	791	1.9	723	1.8	686	1.6	877	1.8	1,098	2.0	1,274	2.3
Physics and astronomy	1,274	3.7	1,692	4.1	1,430	3.5	1,351	3.2	1,892	3.8	2,139	4.0	2,370	4.3
Mathematics and computer sciences	1,471	4.3	2,021	4.9	1,939	4.7	2,024	4.8	3,163	6.4	3,862	7.2	4,240	7.6
Computer and information sciences	612	1.8	903	2.2	856	2.1	948	2.3	1,610	3.2	1,988	3.7	2,228	4.0
Mathematics and statistics	859	2.5	1,118	2.7	1,083	2.6	1,076	2.6	1,553	3.1	1,874	3.5	2,012	3.6
Psychology and social sciences	6,225	18.1	6,923	16.9	7,389	18.0	7,158	17.0	7,945	16.0	8,748	16.2	9,071	16.3
Psychology	3,208	9.3	3,379	8.2	3,668	8.9	3,327	7.9	3,472	7.0	3,724	6.9	3,936	7.1
Anthropology	325	0.9	384	0.9	462	1.1	531	1.3	503	1.0	523	1.0	445	0.8
Economics	898	2.6	939	2.3	926	2.3	959	2.3	1,118	2.3	1,196	2.2	1,247	2.2
Political science and government	430	1.3	589	1.4	655	1.6	587	1.4	682	1.4	775	1.4	707	1.3
Sociology	436	1.3	525	1.3	544	1.3	580	1.4	662	1.3	678	1.3	633	1.1
Other social sciences	928	2.7	1,107	2.7	1,134	2.8	1,174	2.8	1,508	3.0	1,852	3.4	2,103	3.8
Engineering	4,543	13.2	5,820	14.2	5,330	13.0	5,776	13.7	7,642	15.4	9,626	17.8	10,303	18.5
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	178	0.5	230	0.6	206	0.5	201	0.5	297	0.6	386	0.7	379	0.7
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	115	0.3	173	0.4	245	0.6	369	0.9	834	1.7	1,046	1.9	1,164	2.1
Chemical engineering	625	1.8	630	1.5	576	1.4	638	1.5	807	1.6	973	1.8	981	1.8
Civil engineering	498	1.5	601	1.5	506	1.2	547	1.3	707	1.4	617	1.1	701	1.3
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	995	2.9	1,438	3.5	1,236	3.0	1,389	3.3	1,693	3.4	1,952	3.6	1,799	3.2
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	162	0.5	228	0.6	211	0.5	217	0.5	251	0.5	298	0.6	234	0.4
Materials science engineering	257	0.7	433	1.1	393	1.0	475	1.1	625	1.3	832	1.5	992	1.8
Mechanical engineering	650	1.9	883	2.2	786	1.9	754	1.8	1,095	2.2	1,331	2.5	1,533	2.8
Other engineering	1,063	3.1	1,204	2.9	1,171	2.8	1,186	2.8	1,333	2.7	2,191	4.1	2,520	4.5
Education	6,280	18.3	6,711	16.4	6,554	15.9	6,635	15.8	6,528	13.2	4,789	8.9	4,635	8.3
Education administration	1,633	4.8	2,000	4.9	2,046	5.0	2,342	5.6	2,146	4.3	893	1.7	839	1.5
Education research	2,410	7.0	2,528	6.2	2,733	6.6	2,805	6.7	2,663	5.4	2,560	4.7	2,303	4.1

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(Number and percent)

Field of study	1989		1994		1999		2004		2009		2014		2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Teacher education	451	1.3	401	1.0	293	0.7	270	0.6	332	0.7	152	0.3	104	0.2
Teaching fields	970	2.8	960	2.3	893	2.2	758	1.8	906	1.8	915	1.7	960	1.7
Other education	816	2.4	822	2.0	589	1.4	460	1.1	481	1.0	269	0.5	429	0.8
Humanities and arts	3,520	10.3	4,695	11.4	5,273	12.8	5,245	12.5	4,904	9.9	5,524	10.2	5,054	9.1
Foreign languages and literature	432	1.3	594	1.4	626	1.5	587	1.4	598	1.2	674	1.2	610	1.1
History	538	1.6	801	2.0	1,010	2.5	976	2.3	1,045	2.1	1,186	2.2	912	1.6
Letters	982	2.9	1,379	3.4	1,516	3.7	1,407	3.3	1,413	2.9	1,551	2.9	1,387	2.5
Other humanities and arts	1,568	4.6	1,921	4.7	2,121	5.2	2,275	5.4	1,848	3.7	2,113	3.9	2,145	3.9
Other <sup>a</sup>	1,960	5.7	2,324	5.7	2,126	5.2	2,448	5.8	2,807	5.7	3,043	5.6	3,034	5.4
Business management and administration	1,066	3.1	1,283	3.1	1,109	2.7	1,256	3.0	1,405	2.8	1,584	2.9	1,536	2.8
Communication	306	0.9	371	0.9	379	0.9	450	1.1	627	1.3	663	1.2	543	1.0
Non-S&E fields nec	588	1.7	670	1.6	637	1.5	742	1.8	775	1.6	796	1.5	955	1.7
Unknown field	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	*	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.