

**Table 31****Median years to doctorate, by major field of study: Selected years, 1994–2019**

(Median years)

Field and time to degree	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019
All fields						
Since bachelor's	10.8	10.5	10.0	9.3	8.8	8.7
Since starting graduate school	8.7	8.2	8.0	7.7	7.3	7.5
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.8
Life sciences <sup>b</sup>						
Since bachelor's	9.6	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.2	8.3
Since starting graduate school	7.7	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.9
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.5
Agricultural sciences and natural resources						
Since bachelor's	11.0	11.3	10.2	9.8	9.2	8.8
Since starting graduate school	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.0	7.6	7.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.2	4.9
Biological and biomedical sciences						
Since bachelor's	8.7	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.7	7.9
Since starting graduate school	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.8
Health sciences						
Since bachelor's	14.0	14.0	12.8	12.2	12.0	11.0
Since starting graduate school	11.7	10.7	9.5	9.7	9.3	8.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.3	5.1
Physical sciences and earth sciences						
Since bachelor's	8.1	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.0	6.9
Since starting graduate school	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.6
Chemistry						
Since bachelor's	7.3	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.4	6.3
Since starting graduate school	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.3	5.3
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences						
Since bachelor's	10.6	10.3	9.0	8.7	8.5	8.0
Since starting graduate school	8.9	8.2	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.0
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.3
Physics and astronomy						
Since bachelor's	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.2	7.3	7.0
Since starting graduate school	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.4
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.0	5.9
Mathematics and computer sciences						
Since bachelor's	9.1	8.6	8.5	8.0	7.8	7.8
Since starting graduate school	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.7
Computer and information sciences						
Since bachelor's	9.7	10.0	9.3	8.8	8.5	8.6
Since starting graduate school	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.7
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.8
Mathematics and statistics						
Since bachelor's	8.9	8.0	7.9	7.3	7.0	7.0
Since starting graduate school	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.3	5.3
Psychology and social sciences						

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Since bachelor's	10.5	10.0	10.0	9.4	9.5	9.4
Since starting graduate school	8.7	7.9	8.0	7.7	7.9	8.0
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.0	6.0
Psychology						
Since bachelor's	9.6	9.0	9.0	8.4	8.3	8.5
Since starting graduate school	7.9	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.0	5.9
Anthropology						
Since bachelor's	13.9	12.3	12.0	11.4	11.8	11.3
Since starting graduate school	10.9	10.2	9.7	9.4	9.9	9.4
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	7.7	7.1
Economics						
Since bachelor's	9.7	8.9	9.0	8.4	8.3	8.5
Since starting graduate school	7.9	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.8
Political science and government						
Since bachelor's	10.7	10.5	11.0	10.3	10.1	9.8
Since starting graduate school	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.4	8.2	8.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.7	6.2
Sociology						
Since bachelor's	11.5	10.6	11.2	10.6	11.0	10.4
Since starting graduate school	9.5	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.3	8.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	7.0	6.8
Other social sciences						
Since bachelor's	12.2	12.2	12.0	11.7	11.6	11.6
Since starting graduate school	9.9	9.7	9.3	9.2	9.4	9.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.2	6.0
Engineering						
Since bachelor's	9.0	8.7	8.4	7.9	7.3	7.4
Since starting graduate school	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.2	5.3
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering						
Since bachelor's	8.5	8.5	8.3	7.3	6.8	7.3
Since starting graduate school	6.9	7.2	7.2	6.7	6.3	6.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.3	5.3
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering						
Since bachelor's	8.0	7.9	7.3	7.3	6.7	7.0
Since starting graduate school	7.1	6.8	6.2	6.3	6.0	6.1
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.3	5.3
Chemical engineering						
Since bachelor's	7.3	6.2	7.0	6.5	6.1	6.2
Since starting graduate school	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.0	5.0
Civil engineering						
Since bachelor's	10.1	10.3	9.5	9.0	8.4	8.5
Since starting graduate school	8.2	8.2	7.7	7.8	7.3	7.5
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.0	4.8
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering						
Since bachelor's	8.8	8.5	8.4	8.0	7.6	8.0

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Since starting graduate school	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	6.8	7.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.3	5.4
Industrial and manufacturing engineering						
Since bachelor's	10.1	10.4	9.7	9.3	8.3	8.6
Since starting graduate school	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.0	7.7
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.0	5.0
Materials science engineering						
Since bachelor's	8.7	7.9	7.7	7.5	6.7	6.6
Since starting graduate school	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.0	6.0
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.0	5.0
Mechanical engineering						
Since bachelor's	9.1	8.8	8.4	7.8	7.3	7.3
Since starting graduate school	7.4	7.5	7.3	6.9	6.5	6.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.2	5.3
Other engineering						
Since bachelor's	10.0	9.8	9.3	8.5	8.0	8.0
Since starting graduate school	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.3	7.0	7.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.2	5.0
Education						
Since bachelor's	19.7	19.8	17.7	16.3	14.8	14.8
Since starting graduate school	15.9	14.7	12.7	12.4	11.7	11.9
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.9	5.7
Education administration						
Since bachelor's	21.9	23.8	21.0	18.9	18.0	18.3
Since starting graduate school	18.7	18.7	14.8	14.6	14.3	15.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.2	5.7
Education research						
Since bachelor's	18.6	17.5	16.0	14.8	13.7	13.8
Since starting graduate school	14.7	13.0	11.7	11.3	10.9	11.0
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.9	5.8
Teacher education						
Since bachelor's	21.0	19.6	20.1	18.0	17.0	17.6
Since starting graduate school	17.2	15.7	13.7	13.7	11.7	13.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.8	5.6
Teaching fields						
Since bachelor's	16.7	16.5	15.3	15.0	14.6	14.3
Since starting graduate school	12.9	12.2	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.0	5.3
Other education						
Since bachelor's	19.2	19.3	17.4	15.4	14.3	14.6
Since starting graduate school	15.3	14.3	12.1	11.3	11.7	11.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.8
Humanities and arts						
Since bachelor's	12.2	11.9	11.8	11.4	11.0	11.0
Since starting graduate school	10.2	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.3	9.5
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	7.0	6.8
Foreign languages and literature						
Since bachelor's	11.4	11.5	11.0	10.6	10.3	11.1
Since starting graduate school	9.2	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.7	9.3

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Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	7.0	6.8
History						
Since bachelor's	11.6	11.3	11.6	11.3	10.8	11.0
Since starting graduate school	9.7	9.5	9.7	9.7	9.0	9.2
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	7.0	6.9
Letters						
Since bachelor's	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0	10.6	10.6
Since starting graduate school	9.7	9.2	9.3	9.0	8.9	8.9
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.7	6.4
Other humanities and arts						
Since bachelor's	13.1	12.8	12.0	12.3	11.9	11.6
Since starting graduate school	11.6	10.7	9.7	10.2	10.0	9.8
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	7.2	6.8
Other <sup>c</sup>						
Since bachelor's	13.2	13.6	12.8	12.3	11.3	11.4
Since starting graduate school	10.7	10.2	9.8	9.6	9.0	9.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.3	5.1
Business management and administration						
Since bachelor's	12.2	12.9	12.1	11.9	10.9	11.0
Since starting graduate school	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.1	8.7	8.9
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.0	5.0
Communication						
Since bachelor's	12.3	12.0	11.9	11.5	10.5	10.3
Since starting graduate school	9.7	8.9	9.0	8.7	8.4	8.3
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	5.3	5.0
Non-S&E fields nec						
Since bachelor's	17.5	16.9	15.0	14.0	13.3	13.4
Since starting graduate school	13.9	13.7	11.0	11.2	10.8	11.1
Since starting doctoral program <sup>a</sup>	na	na	na	na	6.0	5.8

na = not applicable; not available prior to 2014.

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

<sup>a</sup> Time to doctorate from doctoral program start is based on master's degree entry if the master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same fine field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, it is based on doctoral program entry.<sup>b</sup> Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.<sup>c</sup> Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.**Source(s):**

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