

Table 12**Doctorate recipients, by major field of study: Selected years, 1990–2020**

(Number and percent)

Field of study	1990		1995		2000		2005		2010		2015		2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	36,065	100.0	41,747	100.0	41,369	100.0	43,385	100.0	48,028	100.0	54,886	100.0	55,283	100.0
Life sciences	6,655	18.5	7,998	19.2	8,622	20.8	9,310	21.5	11,319	23.6	12,493	22.8	12,561	22.7
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,371	3.8	1,293	3.1	1,179	2.8	1,160	2.7	1,100	2.3	1,434	2.6	1,472	2.7
Biological and biomedical sciences	4,328	12.0	5,376	12.9	5,853	14.1	6,367	14.7	8,046	16.8	8,783	16.0	8,418	15.2
Health sciences	956	2.7	1,329	3.2	1,590	3.8	1,783	4.1	2,173	4.5	2,276	4.1	2,671	4.8
Physical sciences and earth sciences	4,212	11.7	4,540	10.9	4,071	9.8	4,359	10.0	4,995	10.4	5,916	10.8	6,247	11.3
Chemistry	2,100	5.8	2,162	5.2	1,989	4.8	2,126	4.9	2,304	4.8	2,666	4.9	2,763	5.0
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	719	2.0	726	1.7	693	1.7	714	1.6	862	1.8	1,057	1.9	1,243	2.2
Physics and astronomy	1,393	3.9	1,652	4.0	1,389	3.4	1,519	3.5	1,829	3.8	2,193	4.0	2,241	4.1
Mathematics and computer sciences	1,597	4.4	2,187	5.2	1,910	4.6	2,334	5.4	3,223	6.7	3,818	7.0	4,392	7.9
Computer and information sciences	705	2.0	997	2.4	860	2.1	1,129	2.6	1,633	3.4	2,003	3.6	2,361	4.3
Mathematics and statistics	892	2.5	1,190	2.9	1,050	2.5	1,205	2.8	1,590	3.3	1,815	3.3	2,031	3.7
Psychology and social sciences	6,331	17.6	6,930	16.6	7,452	18.0	7,149	16.5	7,882	16.4	9,073	16.5	8,946	16.2
Psychology	3,281	9.1	3,429	8.2	3,616	8.7	3,322	7.7	3,420	7.1	3,776	6.9	3,879	7.0
Anthropology	324	0.9	375	0.9	446	1.1	456	1.1	507	1.1	492	0.9	448	0.8
Economics	862	2.4	979	2.3	948	2.3	1,061	2.4	1,073	2.2	1,255	2.3	1,216	2.2
Political science and government	462	1.3	599	1.4	669	1.6	618	1.4	728	1.5	859	1.6	637	1.2
Sociology	428	1.2	540	1.3	617	1.5	536	1.2	639	1.3	741	1.4	607	1.1
Other social sciences	974	2.7	1,008	2.4	1,156	2.8	1,156	2.7	1,515	3.2	1,950	3.6	2,159	3.9
Engineering	4,894	13.6	6,008	14.4	5,323	12.9	6,426	14.8	7,578	15.8	9,875	18.0	10,476	18.9
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	192	0.5	252	0.6	214	0.5	219	0.5	252	0.5	361	0.7	399	0.7
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	129	0.4	189	0.5	251	0.6	417	1.0	824	1.7	1,125	2.0	1,083	2.0
Chemical engineering	561	1.6	602	1.4	619	1.5	774	1.8	822	1.7	1,002	1.8	994	1.8
Civil engineering	505	1.4	572	1.4	480	1.2	622	1.4	643	1.3	632	1.2	796	1.4
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	1,110	3.1	1,513	3.6	1,330	3.2	1,547	3.6	1,778	3.7	1,997	3.6	1,973	3.6

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	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	151	0.4	284	0.7	176	0.4	221	0.5	215	0.4	243	0.4	304	0.5
Materials science engineering	307	0.9	476	1.1	404	1.0	493	1.1	670	1.4	871	1.6	880	1.6
Mechanical engineering	773	2.1	917	2.2	807	2.0	892	2.1	983	2.0	1,466	2.7	1,634	3.0
Other engineering	1,166	3.2	1,203	2.9	1,042	2.5	1,241	2.9	1,391	2.9	2,178	4.0	2,413	4.4
Education	6,509	18.0	6,648	15.9	6,442	15.6	6,227	14.4	5,287	11.0	5,098	9.3	4,716	8.5
Education administration	1,664	4.6	1,974	4.7	2,036	4.9	2,167	5.0	1,439	3.0	920	1.7	927	1.7
Education research	2,439	6.8	2,576	6.2	2,667	6.4	2,674	6.2	2,443	5.1	2,772	5.1	2,312	4.2
Teacher education	419	1.2	390	0.9	261	0.6	263	0.6	245	0.5	156	0.3	113	0.2
Teaching fields	922	2.6	924	2.2	824	2.0	663	1.5	799	1.7	953	1.7	940	1.7
Other education	1,065	3.0	784	1.9	654	1.6	460	1.1	361	0.8	297	0.5	424	0.8
Humanities and arts	3,854	10.7	5,040	12.1	5,462	13.2	5,187	12.0	5,015	10.4	5,594	10.2	4,939	8.9
Foreign languages and literature	512	1.4	639	1.5	642	1.6	607	1.4	601	1.3	656	1.2	564	1.0
History	612	1.7	889	2.1	1,061	2.6	924	2.1	1,005	2.1	1,146	2.1	887	1.6
Letters	1,060	2.9	1,548	3.7	1,612	3.9	1,389	3.2	1,516	3.2	1,583	2.9	1,392	2.5
Other humanities and arts	1,670	4.6	1,964	4.7	2,147	5.2	2,267	5.2	1,893	3.9	2,209	4.0	2,096	3.8
Other ^a	2,013	5.6	2,396	5.7	2,087	5.0	2,393	5.5	2,729	5.7	3,019	5.5	3,006	5.4
Business management and administration	1,036	2.9	1,330	3.2	1,065	2.6	1,171	2.7	1,366	2.8	1,582	2.9	1,466	2.7
Communication	323	0.9	381	0.9	389	0.9	488	1.1	638	1.3	667	1.2	593	1.1
Non-S&E fields nec	654	1.8	685	1.6	633	1.5	734	1.7	725	1.5	770	1.4	947	1.7

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

^a 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.