

Table 32

## Median years to doctorate, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2020

(Median years and number)

| Time to degree and demographic characteristic              | All fields |        | Life sciences <sup>a</sup> |        | Physical sciences and earth sciences |        | Mathematics and computer sciences |        | Psychology and social sciences |        | Engineering |        | Education |        | Humanities and arts |        | Other <sup>b</sup> |        |  |
|--|------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|--|
|  | Median     | Number | Median                     | Number | Median                               | Number | Median                            | Number | Median                         | Number | Median      | Number | Median    | Number | Median              | Number | Median             | Number |  |
| Years since bachelor's                                     |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| All doctorate recipients <sup>c</sup>                      | 8.7        | 52,403 | 8.3                        | 11,993 | 7.0                                  | 6,002  | 7.9                               | 4,181  | 9.3                            | 8,384  | 7.5         | 10,005 | 15.0      | 4,486  | 11.1                | 4,593  | 11.3               | 2,759  |  |
| Sex  |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| Male   | 8.3        | 28,332 | 8.2                        | 5,283  | 7.0                                  | 3,998  | 7.9                               | 3,138  | 9.4                            | 3,384  | 7.6         | 7,528  | 14.6      | 1,380  | 11.1                | 2,325  | 11.0               | 1,296  |  |
| Female   | 9.2        | 24,071 | 8.3                        | 6,710  | 6.7                                  | 2,004  | 7.8                               | 1,043  | 9.3                            | 5,000  | 7.3         | 2,477  | 15.0      | 3,106  | 11.0                | 2,268  | 11.5               | 1,463  |  |
| Citizenship status   |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| U.S. citizen or permanent resident                         | 9.0        | 33,943 | 8.0                        | 8,563  | 6.6                                  | 3,699  | 7.6                               | 1,721  | 9.3                            | 6,508  | 7.0         | 4,108  | 15.3      | 3,816  | 11.0                | 3,841  | 13.0               | 1,687  |  |
| Temporary visa holder                                      | 8.4        | 17,938 | 8.7                        | 3,312  | 7.4                                  | 2,253  | 8.0                               | 2,409  | 9.5                            | 1,782  | 7.9         | 5,809  | 12.4      | 630    | 11.2                | 705    | 9.5                | 1,038  |  |
| Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents) |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| Hispanic or Latino   | 9.0        | 2,796  | 8.0                        | 695    | 6.4                                  | 242    | 8.2                               | 100    | 9.2                            | 639    | 6.7         | 287    | 14.3      | 368    | 11.3                | 340    | 12.0               | 125    |  |
| Not Hispanic or Latino                                     |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                           | 11.1       | 94     | 10.0                       | 21     | D                                    | D      | D                                 | D      | D                              | D      | 7.1         | 5      | 16.6      | 14     | 11.3                | 16     | 12.6               | 11     |  |
| Asian  | 8.5        | 3,160  | 8.4                        | 937    | 6.8                                  | 309    | 7.5                               | 259    | 9.3                            | 433    | 7.3         | 662    | 14.3      | 196    | 12.9                | 204    | 10.7               | 160    |  |
| Black or African American                                  | 12.1       | 2,404  | 10.3                       | 545    | 7.6                                  | 77     | 8.3                               | 56     | 11.4                           | 525    | 9.1         | 176    | 15.3      | 611    | 12.0                | 173    | 16.2               | 241    |  |
| White  | 8.8        | 23,699 | 8.0                        | 5,925  | 6.6                                  | 2,870  | 7.4                               | 1,189  | 9.3                            | 4,510  | 7.0         | 2,780  | 15.6      | 2,440  | 11.0                | 2,913  | 12.7               | 1,072  |  |
| More than one race   | 8.3        | 1,129  | 7.7                        | 310    | 6.3                                  | 140    | 7.0                               | 77     | 9.2                            | 235    | 6.4         | 126    | 14.5      | 99     | 11.8                | 105    | 11.0               | 37     |  |
| Other race or race not reported                            | 9.7        | 327    | 8.3                        | 68     | D                                    | D      | D                                 | D      | D                              | D      | 7.6         | 41     | 13.1      | 40     | 10.6                | 45     | 15.5               | 16     |  |
| Ethnicity not reported                                     | 10.1       | 334    | 8.3                        | 62     | 6.8                                  | 27     | 9.7                               | 17     | 10.0                           | 79     | 8.6         | 31     | 14.3      | 48     | 11.0                | 45     | 13.6               | 25     |  |
| Years since entering graduate school                       |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| All doctorate recipients <sup>d</sup>                      | 7.5        | 50,873 | 6.9                        | 11,780 | 6.3                                  | 5,844  | 7.0                               | 4,072  | 7.9                            | 8,077  | 6.8         | 9,738  | 12.0      | 4,319  | 9.6                 | 4,417  | 9.3                | 2,626  |  |
| Sex  |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| Male   | 7.3        | 27,546 | 6.9                        | 5,218  | 6.3                                  | 3,896  | 7.0                               | 3,053  | 7.9                            | 3,261  | 6.9         | 7,331  | 12.0      | 1,318  | 9.7                 | 2,238  | 9.0                | 1,231  |  |
| Female   | 7.8        | 23,327 | 7.0                        | 6,562  | 6.0                                  | 1,948  | 6.9                               | 1,019  | 7.9                            | 4,816  | 6.6         | 2,407  | 12.0      | 3,001  | 9.6                 | 2,179  | 9.8                | 1,395  |  |
| Citizenship status   |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| U.S. citizen or permanent resident                         | 7.3        | 32,912 | 6.8                        | 8,412  | 6.0                                  | 3,595  | 6.8                               | 1,679  | 7.8                            | 6,257  | 6.3         | 4,001  | 12.5      | 3,680  | 9.3                 | 3,695  | 10.3               | 1,593  |  |
| Temporary visa holder                                      | 7.7        | 17,497 | 7.8                        | 3,281  | 7.0                                  | 2,211  | 7.0                               | 2,343  | 8.8                            | 1,733  | 7.1         | 5,647  | 9.8       | 598    | 10.3                | 686    | 8.5                | 998    |  |
| Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents) |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| Hispanic or Latino   | 7.6        | 2,721  | 6.8                        | 696    | 5.8                                  | 234    | 7.3                               | 99     | 7.7                            | 611    | 6.2         | 278    | 12.0      | 352    | 9.3                 | 328    | 10.0               | 123    |  |
| Not Hispanic or Latino                                     |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                           | 9.7        | 85     | 7.8                        | 19     | D                                    | D      | D                                 | D      | 9.7                            | 21     | D           | D      | 12.5      | 13     | 10.8                | 14     | 14.8               | 9      |  |
| Asian  | 7.3        | 3,107  | 7.0                        | 935    | 6.0                                  | 305    | 7.0                               | 257    | 7.9                            | 419    | 6.6         | 644    | 11.0      | 196    | 10.3                | 198    | 9.0                | 153    |  |
| Black or African American                                  | 10.2       | 2,317  | 8.6                        | 536    | 6.8                                  | 73     | 7.8                               | 56     | 9.8                            | 509    | 7.8         | 171    | 12.8      | 580    | 9.8                 | 165    | 13.4               | 227    |  |
| White  | 7.3        | 23,138 | 6.5                        | 5,830  | 6.0                                  | 2,802  | 6.8                               | 1,158  | 7.3                            | 4,382  | 6.1         | 2,734  | 12.8      | 2,381  | 9.3                 | 2,831  | 10.0               | 1,020  |  |

**Table 32****Median years to doctorate, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2020**

(Median years and number)

| Time to degree and demographic characteristic              | All fields |        | Life sciences <sup>a</sup> |        | Physical sciences and earth sciences |        | Mathematics and computer sciences |        | Psychology and social sciences |        | Engineering |        | Education |        | Humanities and arts |        | Other <sup>b</sup> |        |
|--|------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
|  | Median     | Number | Median                     | Number | Median                               | Number | Median                            | Number | Median                         | Number | Median      | Number | Median    | Number | Median              | Number | Median             | Number |
| More than one race   | 7.0        | 1,127  | 6.6                        | 309    | 5.8                                  | 139    | 6.8                               | 77     | 7.8                            | 233    | 5.8         | 126    | 11.3      | 99     | 9.7                 | 106    | 9.0                | 38     |
| Other race or race not reported                            | 8.3        | 267    | 6.8                        | 60     | D                                    | D      | D                                 | D      | 10.0                           | 49     | D           | D      | 10.0      | 37     | 9.5                 | 36     | 12.0               | 12     |
| Ethnicity not reported                                     | 9.6        | 150    | 6.8                        | 27     | 7.1                                  | 11     | 9.3                               | 13     | 9.5                            | 33     | 8.0         | 16     | 13.5      | 22     | 10.8                | 17     | 9.3                | 11     |
| Years since entering doctoral program <sup>e</sup>         |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |
| All doctorate recipients <sup>f</sup>                      | 5.8        | 49,422 | 5.5                        | 11,474 | 5.5                                  | 5,683  | 5.6                               | 3,962  | 6.0                            | 7,815  | 5.3         | 9,467  | 5.8       | 4,191  | 6.8                 | 4,298  | 5.3                | 2,532  |
| Sex  |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |
| Male   | 5.7        | 26,718 | 5.5                        | 5,059  | 5.7                                  | 3,781  | 5.7                               | 2,958  | 5.8                            | 3,168  | 5.3         | 7,122  | 5.6       | 1,276  | 6.8                 | 2,179  | 5.0                | 1,175  |
| Female   | 5.8        | 22,704 | 5.4                        | 6,415  | 5.3                                  | 1,902  | 5.3                               | 1,004  | 6.0                            | 4,647  | 5.2         | 2,345  | 5.8       | 2,915  | 6.8                 | 2,119  | 5.3                | 1,357  |
| Citizenship status   |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |
| U.S. citizen or permanent resident                         | 5.8        | 31,894 | 5.7                        | 8,184  | 5.7                                  | 3,488  | 5.8                               | 1,630  | 6.0                            | 6,039  | 5.3         | 3,875  | 5.8       | 3,562  | 6.8                 | 3,591  | 5.7                | 1,525  |
| Temporary visa holder                                      | 5.3        | 17,078 | 5.3                        | 3,204  | 5.3                                  | 2,159  | 5.3                               | 2,283  | 5.8                            | 1,693  | 5.0         | 5,504  | 5.3       | 589    | 6.7                 | 673    | 5.0                | 973    |
| Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents) |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |
| Hispanic or Latino   | 5.8        | 2,621  | 5.8                        | 674    | 5.3                                  | 226    | 6.0                               | 95     | 6.0                            | 577    | 5.3         | 270    | 5.9       | 343    | 6.8                 | 319    | 5.8                | 117    |
| Not Hispanic or Latino                                     |            |        |                            |        |                                      |        |                                   |        |                                |        |             |        |           |        |                     |        |                    |        |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                           | 5.8        | 84     | 5.8                        | 19     | D                                    | D      | D                                 | D      | 7.6                            | 21     | D           | D      | 4.6       | 13     | 7.9                 | 13     | 5.0                | 9      |
| Asian  | 5.8        | 3,007  | 5.8                        | 909    | 5.7                                  | 296    | 5.8                               | 249    | 6.0                            | 408    | 5.6         | 622    | 6.0       | 185    | 7.0                 | 191    | 5.7                | 147    |
| Black or African American                                  | 5.9        | 2,207  | 5.8                        | 516    | 5.8                                  | 70     | 5.9                               | 53     | 6.0                            | 485    | 5.3         | 165    | 6.0       | 550    | 6.3                 | 159    | 5.7                | 209    |
| White  | 5.8        | 22,488 | 5.7                        | 5,682  | 5.7                                  | 2,726  | 5.8                               | 1,127  | 6.0                            | 4,249  | 5.3         | 2,648  | 5.7       | 2,316  | 6.8                 | 2,755  | 5.5                | 985    |
| More than one race   | 5.8        | 1,099  | 5.8                        | 304    | 5.3                                  | 130    | 6.0                               | 77     | 6.0                            | 224    | 5.3         | 124    | 5.3       | 98     | 6.8                 | 105    | 5.3                | 37     |
| Other race or race not reported                            | 6.0        | 251    | 5.6                        | 57     | D                                    | D      | D                                 | D      | 6.3                            | 44     | D           | D      | 5.7       | 35     | 7.3                 | 36     | 6.3                | 10     |
| Ethnicity not reported                                     | 5.8        | 137    | 5.8                        | 23     | 6.7                                  | 10     | 6.2                               | 12     | 6.8                            | 31     | 5.3         | 15     | 5.0       | 22     | 7.3                 | 13     | 5.8                | 11     |

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

<sup>a</sup> Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.<sup>b</sup> Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.<sup>c</sup> Includes only cases with valid year of bachelor's award.<sup>d</sup> Includes only cases with valid year of entry into graduate school.<sup>e</sup> Years since entering doctoral program is based on master's degree program 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>f</sup> Includes only cases with valid year of entry into master's program if master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same fine field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, includes only cases with valid year of doctoral program entry.**Source(s):**

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