

Table 56**Statistical profile of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2020**

(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	12,561	1,472	8,418	2,671
Sex (%)				
Male	44.2	50.7	46.2	34.3
Female	55.8	49.3	53.8	65.7
Unknown	*	0.1	0.0	0.0
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	69.3	54.1	71.4	71.2
Temporary visa holder	27.3	43.0	25.8	23.2
Unknown	3.4	2.9	2.8	5.5
Marital status (%)				
Never married	37.8	32.4	42.5	26.1
Married	41.5	48.6	37.7	49.5
Marriage-like relationship	8.2	5.8	9.5	5.7
Separated, divorced, widowed	3.0	2.6	2.3	5.5
Unknown	9.4	10.5	8.0	13.3
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	51.9	43.5	55.4	45.8
Master's earned (%)	52.6	75.8	41.7	74.0
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.1	32.0	30.4	34.1
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.3	8.8	7.9	10.9
From graduate school start	6.9	7.3	6.7	8.8
From doctoral program start ^c	5.5	5.0	5.8	5.0
Male doctorate recipients (number)	5,553	746	3,892	915
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	65.9	49.7	70.0	61.5
Temporary visa holder	30.6	48.1	26.6	33.3
Unknown	3.5	2.1	3.4	5.1
Marital status (%)				
Never married	38.5	29.6	42.3	29.4
Married	42.1	53.8	38.1	49.8
Marriage-like relationship	7.5	4.8	8.5	5.4
Separated, divorced, widowed	2.3	2.5	2.1	2.8
Unknown	9.6	9.2	9.0	12.6
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	50.0	43.7	52.7	43.9
Master's earned (%)	50.0	77.7	40.1	69.8
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.2	32.6	30.7	33.2
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.2	9.0	8.0	9.7
From graduate school start	6.9	7.6	6.8	7.9
From doctoral program start ^c	5.5	5.0	5.8	5.0
Female doctorate recipients (number)	7,007	725	4,526	1,756
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	72.0	58.6	72.5	76.3

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(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
Temporary visa holder	24.7	37.8	25.2	18.0
Unknown	3.3	3.6	2.3	5.7
Marital status (%)				
Never married	37.2	35.3	42.6	24.3
Married	41.0	43.4	37.4	49.4
Marriage-like relationship	8.8	6.8	10.3	5.9
Separated, divorced, widowed	3.6	2.8	2.5	6.8
Unknown	9.3	11.7	7.2	13.6
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	53.5	43.3	57.7	46.8
Master's earned (%)	54.6	73.9	43.2	76.1
Age at doctorate (median years)	30.9	31.3	30.2	35.0
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.3	8.3	7.8	11.6
From graduate school start	7.0	7.3	6.5	9.5
From doctoral program start ^c	5.4	5.0	5.8	5.0

* = value between 0.00% and 0.05%.

^a Includes respondents who did not report sex.^b A bachelor's degree is counted as "in same field as doctorate" if the fields of study of the doctorate recipient's first or most recent bachelor's degree and doctoral degree are both in the same major field category, except for engineering and education fields where broad field categories need to be the same. See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields based on the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' field of study taxonomy.^c 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.**Note(s):**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s):

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