

Table 1-3

Research doctorate recipients, by historical major field of doctorate: Selected years, 1991–2021

(Number and percent)

Field of doctorate	1991		1996		2001		2006		2011		2016		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	37,530	100.0	42,437	100.0	40,744	100.0	45,620	100.0	48,909	100.0	54,809	100.0	52,250	100.0
Life sciences	6,967	18.6	8,337	19.6	8,369	20.5	9,703	21.3	11,535	23.6	12,539	22.9	11,814	22.6
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,277	3.4	1,289	3.0	1,132	2.8	1,146	2.5	1,206	2.5	1,379	2.5	1,334	2.6
Biological and biomedical sciences	4,649	12.4	5,724	13.5	5,697	14.0	6,652	14.6	8,152	16.7	8,863	16.2	8,149	15.6
Health sciences	1,041	2.8	1,324	3.1	1,540	3.8	1,905	4.2	2,177	4.5	2,297	4.2	2,331	4.5
Physical sciences and earth sciences	4,406	11.7	4,550	10.7	4,024	9.9	4,686	10.3	5,271	10.8	6,251	11.4	5,757	11.0
Chemistry	2,194	5.8	2,149	5.1	1,981	4.9	2,364	5.2	2,432	5.0	2,703	4.9	2,555	4.9
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	801	2.1	724	1.7	660	1.6	757	1.7	852	1.7	1,227	2.2	1,064	2.0
Physics and astronomy	1,411	3.8	1,677	4.0	1,383	3.4	1,565	3.4	1,987	4.1	2,321	4.2	2,138	4.1
Mathematics and computer sciences	1,838	4.9	2,042	4.8	1,840	4.5	2,778	6.1	3,273	6.7	3,954	7.2	4,373	8.4
Computer and information sciences	800	2.1	920	2.2	830	2.0	1,453	3.2	1,667	3.4	2,082	3.8	2,361	4.5
Mathematics and statistics	1,038	2.8	1,122	2.6	1,010	2.5	1,325	2.9	1,606	3.3	1,872	3.4	2,012	3.9
Psychology and social sciences	6,470	17.2	7,167	16.9	7,151	17.6	7,231	15.9	8,220	16.8	9,037	16.5	8,675	16.6
Psychology	3,250	8.7	3,494	8.2	3,400	8.3	3,260	7.1	3,576	7.3	3,910	7.1	3,797	7.3
Anthropology	341	0.9	397	0.9	411	1.0	472	1.0	553	1.1	460	0.8	400	0.8
Economics	885	2.4	1,008	2.4	927	2.3	1,029	2.3	1,121	2.3	1,236	2.3	1,230	2.4
Political science and government	434	1.2	622	1.5	658	1.6	616	1.4	685	1.4	745	1.4	581	1.1
Sociology	465	1.2	517	1.2	566	1.4	579	1.3	656	1.3	613	1.1	560	1.1
Other social sciences	1,095	2.9	1,129	2.7	1,189	2.9	1,275	2.8	1,629	3.3	2,073	3.8	2,107	4.0
Engineering	5,213	13.9	6,309	14.9	5,512	13.5	7,186	15.8	8,032	16.4	9,459	17.3	10,240	19.6
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	206	0.5	287	0.7	203	0.5	238	0.5	262	0.5	370	0.7	373	0.7
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	149	0.4	220	0.5	233	0.6	525	1.2	898	1.8	1,089	2.0	1,064	2.0
Chemical engineering	621	1.7	681	1.6	636	1.6	799	1.8	823	1.7	921	1.7	1,024	2.0
Civil engineering	509	1.4	600	1.4	501	1.2	655	1.4	634	1.3	564	1.0	621	1.2
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	1,206	3.2	1,501	3.5	1,346	3.3	1,786	3.9	1,886	3.9	1,823	3.3	2,081	4.0
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	165	0.4	259	0.6	206	0.5	234	0.5	258	0.5	256	0.5	361	0.7
Materials science engineering	361	1.0	472	1.1	448	1.1	583	1.3	662	1.4	984	1.8	936	1.8
Mechanical engineering	762	2.0	947	2.2	878	2.2	1,045	2.3	1,084	2.2	1,297	2.4	1,444	2.8
Other engineering	1,234	3.3	1,342	3.2	1,061	2.6	1,321	2.9	1,525	3.1	2,155	3.9	2,336	4.5
Education	6,454	17.2	6,785	16.0	6,356	15.6	6,122	13.4	4,670	9.5	5,146	9.4	4,252	8.1
Education administration	1,913	5.1	2,165	5.1	2,077	5.1	2,051	4.5	924	1.9	824	1.5	710	1.4
Education research	2,354	6.3	2,699	6.4	2,637	6.5	2,751	6.0	2,378	4.9	2,328	4.2	2,167	4.1
Teacher education	408	1.1	371	0.9	296	0.7	250	0.5	204	0.4	180	0.3	111	0.2
Teaching fields	973	2.6	864	2.0	723	1.8	707	1.5	805	1.6	1,166	2.1	797	1.5

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(Number and percent)

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	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Other education	806	2.1	686	1.6	623	1.5	363	0.8	359	0.7	648	1.2	467	0.9
Humanities and arts	4,053	10.8	4,982	11.7	5,430	13.3	5,332	11.7	5,225	10.7	5,482	10.0	4,137	7.9
Foreign languages and literature	498	1.3	605	1.4	620	1.5	614	1.3	644	1.3	599	1.1	377	0.7
History	663	1.8	857	2.0	1,031	2.5	973	2.1	1,065	2.2	1,148	2.1	725	1.4
Letters	1,204	3.2	1,493	3.5	1,493	3.7	1,457	3.2	1,513	3.1	1,531	2.8	1,192	2.3
Other humanities and arts	1,688	4.5	2,027	4.8	2,286	5.6	2,288	5.0	2,003	4.1	2,204	4.0	1,843	3.5
Other	2,129	5.7	2,265	5.3	2,062	5.1	2,582	5.7	2,683	5.5	2,941	5.4	3,002	5.7
Business management and administration	1,163	3.1	1,279	3.0	1,064	2.6	1,311	2.9	1,327	2.7	1,509	2.8	1,392	2.7
Communication	332	0.9	389	0.9	390	1.0	510	1.1	650	1.3	672	1.2	507	1.0
Non-science and engineering fields nec	634	1.7	597	1.4	608	1.5	761	1.7	706	1.4	760	1.4	1,103	2.1

nec = not elsewhere classified.

Note(s):

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. Beginning in 2021, a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes was used in the survey data collection; the historical fields were constructed using the SED-CIP code crosswalk in table A-6. Therefore, the field of doctorate data in 2021 may not be comparable to prior years; see the "Technical Notes" for more information, table A-4 for a summary of SED-CIP codes in the new SED field taxonomy, and table A-5 for a full list of SED-CIP codes in the new field taxonomy.

Source(s):

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