

Table 1-13**Education-related graduate debt of research doctorate recipients, by historical broad field of doctorate: 2011–21**

(Number)

Education-related debt level and field	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Doctorate recipients reporting education-related debt	44,781	46,490	46,449	46,819	48,759	49,778	49,231	50,042	50,731	50,381	47,286
No debt	28,663	29,297	28,883	29,333	30,890	31,987	32,604	33,848	34,713	35,095	33,847
\$10,000 or less	3,697	4,030	3,931	3,842	4,189	4,071	3,801	3,831	3,469	3,399	2,738
\$10,001–\$30,000	4,314	4,565	4,609	4,435	4,464	4,376	3,897	3,720	3,791	3,411	2,942
\$30,001–\$70,000	4,579	4,789	4,782	4,735	4,500	4,528	4,107	3,902	3,675	3,482	3,178
\$70,001 or more	3,528	3,809	4,244	4,474	4,716	4,816	4,822	4,741	5,083	4,994	4,581
Life sciences ^a	10,673	11,115	10,867	10,917	11,306	11,636	11,617	11,788	11,899	11,689	10,861
No debt	7,451	7,658	7,318	7,427	7,812	8,100	8,213	8,401	8,489	8,436	8,117
\$10,000 or less	853	943	904	860	940	914	913	875	836	803	646
\$10,001–\$30,000	909	1,001	1,016	997	943	940	818	815	852	724	586
\$30,001–\$70,000	915	906	945	917	857	904	846	836	791	790	678
\$70,001 or more	545	607	684	716	754	778	827	861	931	936	834
Physical sciences and earth sciences	4,900	5,009	5,005	5,203	5,328	5,748	5,625	5,871	6,123	5,801	5,350
No debt	3,734	3,833	3,831	4,023	4,164	4,530	4,584	4,825	5,023	4,909	4,596
\$10,000 or less	401	426	421	404	460	484	392	446	394	359	278
\$10,001–\$30,000	353	377	380	365	324	335	298	269	317	234	224
\$30,001–\$70,000	281	265	244	268	237	243	217	200	206	171	150
\$70,001 or more	131	108	129	143	143	156	134	131	183	128	102
Mathematics and computer sciences	2,999	3,149	3,273	3,415	3,407	3,589	3,468	3,675	3,889	4,036	3,982
No debt	2,381	2,505	2,633	2,685	2,747	2,885	2,835	3,045	3,250	3,404	3,373
\$10,000 or less	217	202	204	238	222	190	218	215	211	208	202
\$10,001–\$30,000	178	187	182	189	175	217	175	170	169	189	166
\$30,001–\$70,000	138	163	142	177	144	165	115	139	141	112	123
\$70,001 or more	85	92	112	126	119	132	125	106	118	123	118
Psychology and social sciences	7,363	7,598	7,442	7,435	7,853	8,073	7,956	7,920	8,062	7,974	7,658
No debt	3,523	3,560	3,446	3,431	3,635	3,966	4,057	4,168	4,339	4,445	4,354
\$10,000 or less	630	657	615	609	670	687	644	609	550	569	445
\$10,001–\$30,000	882	983	880	860	947	881	840	736	724	699	640
\$30,001–\$70,000	1,096	1,167	1,186	1,138	1,125	1,064	977	918	840	759	745
\$70,001 or more	1,232	1,231	1,315	1,397	1,476	1,475	1,438	1,489	1,609	1,502	1,474
Engineering	7,363	7,747	7,964	8,445	8,827	8,549	8,854	9,288	9,429	9,652	9,396
No debt	5,654	5,907	5,981	6,426	6,787	6,555	7,034	7,488	7,573	7,879	7,736
\$10,000 or less	635	692	706	746	774	759	679	716	639	635	549
\$10,001–\$30,000	504	549	615	617	613	568	520	516	577	494	493
\$30,001–\$70,000	373	401	422	413	420	416	361	341	345	317	339

Table 1-13**Education-related graduate debt of research doctorate recipients, by historical broad field of doctorate: 2011–21**

(Number)

Education-related debt level and field	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
\$70,001 or more	197	198	240	243	233	251	260	227	295	327	279
Education	4,255	4,397	4,300	4,079	4,490	4,621	4,300	4,356	4,204	4,269	3,776
No debt	2,152	2,115	1,898	1,725	1,942	2,038	1,893	1,952	1,979	2,005	1,873
\$10,000 or less	312	373	361	347	396	369	340	339	267	292	227
\$10,001–\$30,000	542	534	574	502	555	557	483	480	422	433	337
\$30,001–\$70,000	732	742	728	732	711	718	673	667	622	601	497
\$70,001 or more	517	633	739	773	886	939	911	918	914	938	842
Humanities and arts	4,808	5,059	4,974	4,771	4,939	4,953	4,735	4,614	4,507	4,369	3,661
No debt	2,459	2,451	2,431	2,325	2,437	2,551	2,544	2,550	2,564	2,511	2,233
\$10,000 or less	477	539	525	450	543	466	444	457	402	355	244
\$10,001–\$30,000	657	671	667	629	633	611	509	483	476	429	285
\$30,001–\$70,000	688	792	727	726	649	657	554	513	466	473	409
\$70,001 or more	527	606	624	641	677	668	684	611	599	601	490
Other ^b	2,420	2,416	2,624	2,554	2,609	2,609	2,676	2,530	2,618	2,591	2,602
No debt	1,309	1,268	1,345	1,291	1,366	1,362	1,444	1,419	1,496	1,506	1,565
\$10,000 or less	172	198	195	188	184	202	171	174	170	178	147
\$10,001–\$30,000	289	263	295	276	274	267	254	251	254	209	211
\$30,001–\$70,000	356	353	388	364	357	361	364	288	264	259	237
\$70,001 or more	294	334	401	435	428	417	443	398	434	439	442

^a Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources, biological and biomedical sciences, and health sciences.

^b Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

Note(s):

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.