

Table 4-6

U.S. citizen and permanent resident research doctorate recipients with graduate education-related debt, by ethnicity, race, and broad field of doctorate: 2021

(Number and percent)

Ethnicity, race, and debt level	All fields	Science and engineering											Non-science and engineering						
		Total	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Computer and information sciences	Engineering	Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	Health sciences	Mathematics and statistics	Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary sciences	Physical sciences	Psychology	Social sciences	Total	Business	Education	Humanities	Visual and performing arts	Other ^a
U.S. citizens and permanent residents reporting graduate debt																			
Total (number) ^b	30,269	22,969	657	5,696	678	3,659	651	1,803	819	647	2,628	2,832	2,899	7,300	545	2,793	2,201	544	1,217
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	22.6	18.5	15.1	11.4	10.8	7.7	9.2	39.3	9.5	19.5	5.4	41.0	29.8	35.4	33.8	39.4	28.0	34.9	40.5
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	13.8	11.3	7.8	6.0	5.5	3.7	4.5	24.9	4.9	12.7	2.1	29.4	18.5	21.8	24.2	25.2	15.6	18.4	25.3
Hispanic or Latino																			
Total (number) ^b	2,723	2,067	41	551	31	299	47	136	62	66	209	318	307	656	28	272	211	43	102
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	29.6	25.6	19.5	14.3	22.6	12.7	17.0	46.3	14.5	34.8	10.0	56.0	30.9	42.4	42.9	45.2	32.7	51.2	51.0
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	18.6	16.3	D	6.7	D	7.0	D	24.3	D	21.2	4.8	43.4	22.5	25.9	D	27.2	19.0	D	34.3
Not Hispanic or Latino																			
American Indian or Alaska Native																			
Total (number) ^b	89	61	D	12	0	D	D	9	0	D	D	8	15	28	D	16	D	D	6
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	39.3	32.8	0.0	D	-	D	D	D	-	0.0	D	D	33.3	53.6	0.0	D	D	D	D
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	27.0	D	0.0	0.0	-	D	0.0	D	-	0.0	D	62.5	33.3	D	0.0	D	D	D	D
Asian																			
Total (number) ^b	2,929	2,476	39	681	134	566	30	177	91	68	261	178	251	453	74	153	111	31	84
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	10.2	8.8	D	6.0	D	3.7	D	D	D	D	3.8	D	11.2	17.9	14.9	17.0	18.9	16.1	21.4
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	5.4	4.4	0.0	2.9	D	1.2	0.0	D	D	D	D	19.7	4.0	10.4	D	11.1	14.4	D	9.5
Black or African American																			
Total (number) ^b	2,298	1,398	29	260	36	D	13	252	28	47	D	227	281	900	104	472	97	17	210
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	54.8	49.1	34.5	31.5	44.4	D	D	67.5	46.4	46.8	D	66.1	62.6	63.8	64.4	65.7	50.5	64.7	65.2
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	40.5	36.2	D	18.5	27.8	13.6	D	52.0	D	D	D	55.5	44.1	47.1	53.8	49.4	27.8	D	D
White																			
Total (number) ^b	20,679	15,793	519	3,912	434	2,462	519	1,150	586	426	1,950	1,931	1,904	4,886	311	1,745	1,660	421	749
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	19.6	16.4	14.3	10.8	9.4	7.2	8.3	34.3	7.3	16.2	4.5	36.8	27.7	30.2	27.0	32.7	25.7	33.5	33.6
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	11.3	9.5	6.9	5.7	4.6	D	D	20.3	3.9	10.6	1.6	25.2	16.1	17.1	18.3	19.0	13.9	18.1	18.4
More than one race																			
Total (number) ^b	1,070	821	11	212	26	112	33	54	32	27	96	122	96	249	19	93	77	22	38
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	24.1	17.7	D	10.8	D	5.4	D	35.2	D	25.9	8.3	36.9	26.0	45.4	42.1	D	45.5	D	50.0
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	14.8	10.4	D	6.1	D	D	D	D	D	D	0.0	23.8	17.7	29.3	D	D	27.3	D	36.8
Other race or race not reported																			
Total (number) ^b	298	220	D	43	11	34	D	12	11	D	22	32	32	78	D	25	D	D	16
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	20.8	15.5	0.0	D	9.1	5.9	16.7	25.0	27.3	D	4.5	40.6	15.6	35.9	25.0	48.0	D	0.0	D
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	12.4	D	0.0	0.0	9.1	2.9	16.7	8.3	D	11.1	0.0	25.0	12.5	D	0.0	36.0	D	0.0	31.3

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Ethnicity not reported																			
Total (number) ^b	183	133	6	25	6	28	1	13	9	2	14	16	13	50	4	17	13	4	12
Debt > \$30,000 (%)	23.5	17.3	33.3	8.0	0.0	21.4	0.0	23.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	15.4	40.0	25.0	52.9	30.8	25.0	41.7
Debt > \$70,000 (%)	15.8	12.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	10.7	0.0	23.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.8	7.7	26.0	25.0	41.2	23.1	0.0	16.7

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information; - = not calculable.

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

^b Includes all persons who responded to the graduate-school debt question, even if they reported they had no debt.

Note(s):

Percentages were calculated based on the number of cases in each category. Beginning in 2021, a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes was used in the survey data collection, and the new broad, major, and detailed fields were used in tables reporting only the most recent data year. 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, table A-5 for a full list of SED-CIP codes in the new field taxonomy, and table A-6 for the SED-CIP code crosswalk to the historical field taxonomy.

Source(s):

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