

Table 5-5

Educational attainment of research doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of doctorate: 2022

(Number and percent distribution)

Demographic characteristic and field	Total (number)	Highest level of parental education (%)						
		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional doctorate ^b	Research doctoral degree
Doctorate recipients reporting parental education (number)	49,774	49,774	7,813	6,545	13,377	11,366	4,370	6,303
Highest level of parental education	49,774	100.0	15.7	13.1	26.9	22.8	8.8	12.7
Sex								
Male	26,431	100.0	16.9	12.2	27.3	22.5	8.4	12.7
Female	23,338	100.0	14.3	14.2	26.4	23.2	9.2	12.6
Citizenship status								
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	32,251	100.0	12.5	14.0	24.3	24.7	10.8	13.7
Temporary visa holder	17,514	100.0	21.7	11.5	31.6	19.4	5.0	10.8
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)								
Hispanic or Latino	3,086	100.0	26.7	17.7	21.5	18.2	7.6	8.3
Not Hispanic or Latino								
American Indian or Alaska Native	80	100.0	D	25.0	20.0	21.3	7.5	D
Asian	3,255	100.0	15.5	9.0	20.9	21.4	8.3	24.9
Black or African American	2,350	100.0	22.9	22.8	20.0	20.1	5.7	8.5
White	21,982	100.0	8.9	13.4	25.9	26.5	12.1	13.1
More than one race	1,163	100.0	10.4	13.2	20.2	27.3	12.1	16.9
Other race or race not reported	245	100.0	D	12.2	26.5	19.2	9.4	D
Ethnicity not reported	90	100.0	23.3	10.0	15.6	21.1	14.4	15.6
Field of doctorate								
Science and engineering	39,968	100.0	15.3	12.4	27.8	22.9	8.8	12.8
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,146	100.0	19.3	14.3	30.7	20.3	6.9	8.5
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,450	100.0	13.6	12.5	26.3	23.6	10.8	13.2
Computer and information sciences	1,875	100.0	16.2	9.8	28.4	23.2	7.6	14.8
Engineering	9,282	100.0	15.7	10.2	31.2	23.0	6.8	13.1
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,046	100.0	13.5	12.1	27.4	24.6	6.8	15.6
Health sciences	2,392	100.0	17.3	16.8	25.9	21.4	9.0	9.5
Mathematics and statistics	1,843	100.0	16.0	11.0	29.2	22.3	7.9	13.6
Multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary sciences	1,509	100.0	14.4	12.7	28.2	22.5	8.4	13.7
Physical sciences	4,774	100.0	16.6	13.0	28.0	22.5	8.4	11.4
Psychology	3,182	100.0	13.4	15.7	24.6	24.2	11.4	10.7
Social sciences	4,469	100.0	15.8	12.1	25.2	22.3	9.6	14.9
Non-science and engineering	9,806	100.0	17.3	16.3	23.0	22.5	8.7	12.3
Business	1,145	100.0	19.2	12.8	25.1	20.4	5.9	16.7
Education	3,259	100.0	21.8	19.9	22.4	21.4	6.1	8.5
Humanities	2,882	100.0	13.0	13.6	22.4	24.7	13.4	12.9
Visual and performing arts	730	100.0	8.1	12.9	24.8	26.2	12.1	16.0
Other non-science and engineering	1,790	100.0	18.4	18.1	23.0	20.7	6.1	13.7

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes those who attended college but did not earn a bachelor's degree.

^b Includes professional doctorates such as MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PsyD, DDiv.

Note(s):

Excludes doctorate recipients who did not report parental education for either parent or reported "not applicable or unknown" for both parents' education. If data were provided for one parent, that response is used; when data were provided for two parents, the higher attainment is used. 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, and new broad, major, and detailed fields are used in tables reporting data from 2021 to the present; see the field list in table A-4. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information, see the "Technical Notes" and the SED 2021 Taxonomy Changes Working Paper (available at <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nces23200>).

Source(s):

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