

Table 1-13. Education-related debt of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: 2014–24

(Number)

Education-related debt level and field	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Doctorate recipients reporting education-related debt	46,819	48,759	49,778	49,229	50,040	50,725	50,364	47,250	51,983	51,947	52,114
No debt	29,333	30,890	31,987	32,602	33,846	34,710	35,079	33,824	38,211	38,108	38,275
\$10,000 or less	3,842	4,189	4,071	3,802	3,831	3,469	3,399	2,739	2,858	3,126	3,052
\$10,001–\$30,000	4,435	4,464	4,376	3,897	3,720	3,790	3,411	2,941	3,231	3,224	3,219
\$30,001–\$70,000	4,735	4,500	4,528	4,108	3,902	3,673	3,481	3,174	3,212	3,181	3,268
\$70,001 or more	4,474	4,716	4,816	4,820	4,741	5,083	4,994	4,572	4,471	4,308	4,300
Science and engineering	35,488	36,787	37,658	37,578	38,541	39,402	39,139	37,243	41,353	41,172	41,446
No debt	24,040	25,188	26,072	26,758	27,926	28,674	29,060	28,173	32,069	31,732	31,953
\$10,000 or less	2,860	3,072	3,039	2,852	2,861	2,630	2,574	2,124	2,178	2,449	2,386
\$10,001–\$30,000	3,036	3,006	2,953	2,657	2,506	2,639	2,340	2,107	2,264	2,312	2,321
\$30,001–\$70,000	2,916	2,792	2,797	2,522	2,434	2,323	2,149	2,037	2,100	2,071	2,146
\$70,001 or more	2,636	2,729	2,797	2,789	2,814	3,136	3,016	2,802	2,742	2,608	2,640
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,234	1,336	1,312	1,392	1,362	1,416	1,400	1,276	1,367	1,305	1,346
No debt	781	889	874	968	953	985	989	938	1,022	969	998
\$10,000 or less	128	138	130	132	127	119	129	108	115	108	115
\$10,001–\$30,000	137	131	122	111	104	124	98	95	89	87	83
\$30,001–\$70,000	107	117	105	102	96	94	74	62	58	82	66
\$70,001 or more	81	61	81	79	82	94	110	73	83	59	84
Biological and biomedical sciences	7,764	8,003	8,268	8,012	8,196	8,218	7,940	7,566	8,607	8,844	8,955
No debt	5,695	5,981	6,216	6,149	6,287	6,338	6,212	6,083	6,988	7,072	7,195
\$10,000 or less	607	637	618	605	605	566	531	405	428	495	489
\$10,001–\$30,000	611	582	596	489	497	501	394	344	414	476	478
\$30,001–\$70,000	507	441	481	408	411	424	427	361	396	394	408
\$70,001 or more	344	362	357	361	396	389	376	373	381	407	385
Computer and information sciences	1,767	1,774	1,892	1,803	1,802	2,043	2,161	2,127	2,363	2,391	2,610
No debt	1,373	1,408	1,499	1,464	1,485	1,704	1,802	1,801	2,035	2,024	2,217
\$10,000 or less	122	119	106	111	110	112	110	110	107	122	106
\$10,001–\$30,000	101	89	113	94	80	86	115	87	94	94	114
\$30,001–\$70,000	98	81	90	59	61	74	57	66	69	76	82
\$70,001 or more	73	77	84	75	66	67	77	63	58	75	91
Engineering	8,445	8,827	8,549	8,852	9,288	9,429	9,649	9,391	10,419	10,289	10,017
No debt	6,426	6,787	6,555	7,032	7,488	7,573	7,876	7,732	8,681	8,562	8,352
\$10,000 or less	746	774	759	679	716	639	635	549	566	609	603
\$10,001–\$30,000	617	613	568	520	516	577	494	492	519	529	485
\$30,001–\$70,000	413	420	416	362	341	345	317	339	373	356	364
\$70,001 or more	243	233	251	259	227	295	327	279	280	233	213
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	997	969	1,163	1,085	1,117	1,199	1,157	1,001	1,094	1,132	1,135
No debt	715	714	877	835	858	926	912	796	937	928	935

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(Number)

Education-related debt level and field	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$10,000 or less	89	91	100	88	96	83	102	72	56	64	73
\$10,001–\$30,000	84	67	84	65	82	73	66	55	40	59	55
\$30,001–\$70,000	68	61	55	59	45	58	39	43	36	42	36
\$70,001 or more	41	36	47	38	36	59	38	35	25	39	36
Health sciences	1,919	1,967	2,056	2,213	2,230	2,265	2,342	2,005	2,197	2,147	2,212
No debt	951	942	1,010	1,096	1,161	1,166	1,228	1,085	1,277	1,174	1,255
\$10,000 or less	125	165	166	176	143	151	143	133	114	134	119
\$10,001–\$30,000	249	230	222	218	214	227	232	147	179	171	213
\$30,001–\$70,000	303	299	318	336	329	273	289	253	255	280	258
\$70,001 or more	291	331	340	387	383	448	450	387	372	388	367
Mathematics and statistics	1,648	1,633	1,697	1,665	1,873	1,846	1,875	1,857	2,035	1,980	1,901
No debt	1,312	1,339	1,386	1,371	1,560	1,546	1,602	1,574	1,761	1,751	1,640
\$10,000 or less	116	103	84	107	105	99	98	93	74	92	82
\$10,001–\$30,000	88	86	104	81	90	83	74	79	81	65	68
\$30,001–\$70,000	79	63	75	56	78	67	55	56	56	42	59
\$70,001 or more	53	42	48	50	40	51	46	55	63	30	52
Physical sciences	4,206	4,359	4,585	4,540	4,753	4,924	4,644	4,366	5,048	4,999	4,971
No debt	3,308	3,450	3,653	3,749	3,966	4,097	3,997	3,810	4,366	4,281	4,257
\$10,000 or less	315	369	384	304	350	311	257	209	261	285	275
\$10,001–\$30,000	281	257	251	233	187	244	168	169	188	210	225
\$30,001–\$70,000	200	176	188	158	155	148	132	110	128	127	132
\$70,001 or more	102	107	109	96	95	124	90	68	105	96	82
Psychology	3,040	3,091	3,345	3,356	3,288	3,359	3,288	3,190	3,401	3,322	3,472
No debt	1,112	1,161	1,384	1,426	1,487	1,568	1,518	1,519	1,771	1,723	1,773
\$10,000 or less	207	228	243	242	205	202	218	166	170	186	196
\$10,001–\$30,000	340	357	370	370	303	270	297	278	285	275	279
\$30,001–\$70,000	568	523	489	458	416	386	361	356	369	345	393
\$70,001 or more	813	822	859	860	877	933	894	871	806	793	831
Social sciences	4,468	4,828	4,791	4,660	4,632	4,703	4,683	4,464	4,822	4,763	4,827
No debt	2,367	2,517	2,618	2,668	2,681	2,771	2,924	2,835	3,231	3,248	3,331
\$10,000 or less	405	448	449	408	404	348	351	279	287	354	328
\$10,001–\$30,000	528	594	523	476	433	454	402	361	375	346	321
\$30,001–\$70,000	573	611	580	524	502	454	398	391	360	327	348
\$70,001 or more	595	658	621	584	612	676	608	598	569	488	499
Non-science and engineering	11,331	11,972	12,120	11,651	11,499	11,323	11,225	10,007	10,630	10,775	10,668
No debt	5,293	5,702	5,915	5,844	5,920	6,036	6,019	5,651	6,142	6,376	6,322
\$10,000 or less	982	1,117	1,032	950	970	839	825	615	680	677	666
\$10,001–\$30,000	1,399	1,458	1,423	1,240	1,214	1,151	1,071	834	967	912	898

Table 1-13. Education-related debt of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: 2014–24

(Number)

Education-related debt level and field	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$30,001–\$70,000	1,819	1,708	1,731	1,586	1,468	1,350	1,332	1,137	1,112	1,110	1,122
\$70,001 or more	1,838	1,987	2,019	2,031	1,927	1,947	1,978	1,770	1,729	1,700	1,660
Business	1,349	1,372	1,329	1,344	1,274	1,350	1,254	1,210	1,275	1,348	1,207
No debt	756	816	821	841	822	882	861	852	916	1,021	858
\$10,000 or less	106	79	86	66	72	77	65	47	74	60	57
\$10,001–\$30,000	118	127	111	112	117	102	76	86	89	91	78
\$30,001–\$70,000	143	150	139	136	103	114	95	71	65	57	85
\$70,001 or more	226	200	172	189	160	175	157	154	131	119	129
Education	4,079	4,490	4,621	4,299	4,355	4,199	4,266	3,769	3,919	4,019	4,018
No debt	1,725	1,942	2,038	1,892	1,951	1,976	2,003	1,868	1,918	2,005	2,091
\$10,000 or less	347	396	369	340	339	267	292	227	240	262	257
\$10,001–\$30,000	502	555	557	483	480	421	433	337	382	381	384
\$30,001–\$70,000	732	711	718	673	667	621	600	494	528	535	505
\$70,001 or more	773	886	939	911	918	914	938	843	851	836	781
Humanities and arts	4,698	4,873	4,890	4,676	4,614	4,507	4,369	3,659	3,976	3,917	3,946
No debt	2,277	2,394	2,515	2,507	2,550	2,564	2,511	2,231	2,492	2,529	2,556
\$10,000 or less	447	537	461	439	457	402	355	244	269	258	255
\$10,001–\$30,000	621	629	599	503	483	476	429	286	371	317	314
\$30,001–\$70,000	723	640	652	549	513	466	473	409	362	342	366
\$70,001 or more	630	673	663	678	611	599	601	489	482	471	455
Other non-science and engineering	1,205	1,237	1,280	1,332	1,256	1,267	1,336	1,369	1,460	1,491	1,497
No debt	535	550	541	604	597	614	644	700	816	821	817
\$10,000 or less	82	105	116	105	102	93	113	97	97	97	97
\$10,001–\$30,000	158	147	156	142	134	152	133	125	125	123	122
\$30,001–\$70,000	221	207	222	228	185	149	164	163	157	176	166
\$70,001 or more	209	228	245	253	238	259	282	284	265	274	295

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 trend fields were constructed using the SED-CIP code crosswalk in table A-6. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information about the field taxonomy changes, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

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