

Table 3-5. Median years to science and engineering research doctorate, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of doctorate: 2024

(Number and median years)

Time to degree and demographic characteristic	All fields		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		
	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	
Years since bachelor's degree																											
Doctorate recipients reporting year of bachelor's degree	54,639	8.6	43,737	8.0	1,216	8.6	9,378	7.8	2,394	8.3	9,875	7.4	1,152	8.0	2,608	11.1	1,907	7.0	1,548	8.4	5,136	6.7	3,638	8.7	4,885	10.3	
Sex																											
Male	28,102	8.3	23,785	8.0	560	8.9	4,117	8.0	1,773	8.2	7,117	7.6	580	8.3	770	10.0	1,313	7.0	955	8.3	3,394	6.8	887	9.0	2,319	10.2	
Female	26,536	9.0	19,951	8.2	656	8.5	5,260	7.6	621	8.6	2,758	7.1	572	7.8	1,838	11.9	594	7.0	593	8.8	1,742	6.5	2,751	8.6	2,566	10.3	
Citizenship status																											
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	35,221	8.8	27,016	8.0	714	8.6	6,982	7.6	938	8.6	4,549	6.9	799	8.0	1,990	12.0	909	6.5	806	8.7	3,044	6.3	3,232	8.7	3,053	10.6	
Temporary visa holder	18,574	8.4	16,087	8.2	495	8.7	2,286	8.3	1,412	8.2	5,187	7.9	337	8.4	560	9.8	965	7.2	709	8.3	2,043	7.2	328	8.9	1,765	10.0	
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																											
Hispanic or Latino	3,593	8.4	2,797	7.8	56	9.5	852	7.3	63	8.3	382	6.6	74	8.0	165	11.4	63	6.3	81	8.5	318	6.5	408	9.0	335	10.0	
Not Hispanic or Latino																											
American Indian or Alaska Native	124	11.5	80	9.8	D	D	13	8.0	D	D	8	8.2	D	D	11	10.0	D	D	D	D	D	D	13	11.3	18	14.0	
Asian	3,910	8.5	3,386	8.0	D	D	967	8.0	210	8.1	766	7.5	D	D	193	11.2	D	D	D	D	372	7.0	241	9.0	286	11.0	
Black or African American	2,866	12.0	1,791	9.8	37	10.0	326	8.0	D	D	219	7.8	23	9.0	292	13.4	32	8.0	53	12.0	D	D	348	10.3	307	12.6	
White	22,466	8.6	17,201	7.8	539	8.6	4,372	7.6	525	8.7	2,866	6.6	600	7.9	1,208	12.0	616	6.3	501	8.6	2,073	6.3	2,003	8.3	1,898	10.3	
More than one race	1,369	8.3	1,081	7.5	12	8.2	298	7.4	43	8.0	185	6.3	37	7.8	59	10.6	33	7.0	31	8.1	115	6.3	144	9.1	124	10.0	
Other race or race not reported	489	9.3	374	8.3	9	9.3	90	8.2	28	9.0	70	7.3	2	7.7	38	11.8	15	7.0	12	6.4	32	7.1	35	9.3	43	10.6	
Ethnicity not reported	404	9.5	306	8.6	11	9.0	64	8.5	11	19.0	53	7.3	6	10.3	24	12.5	12	6.6	11	12.0	32	7.2	40	8.3	42	11.3	
Years since entering graduate school																											
Doctorate recipients reporting year of graduate school entry	53,020	7.3	42,558	6.8	1,215	7.3	9,179	6.3	2,294	7.0	9,579	6.6	1,126	6.8	2,571	8.8	1,857	6.0	1,531	7.1	4,997	6.0	3,450	6.9	4,759	8.8	
Sex																											
Male	27,262	7.0	23,153	6.8	559	7.3	4,035	6.7	1,699	7.0	6,904	6.7	564	7.1	769	8.0	1,285	6.0	943	7.0	3,300	6.0	840	7.0	2,255	8.7	
Female	25,758	7.3	19,405	6.8	656	7.1	5,144	6.3	595	7.0	2,675	6.3	562	6.3	1,802	9.3	572	6.0	588	7.3	1,697	5.8	2,610	6.8	2,504	8.8	
Citizenship status																											
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	34,204	7.1	26,286	6.7	702	7.0	6,820	6.3	903	7.2	4,406	6.0	785	6.7	1,952	9.3	887	5.9	790	7.3	2,965	5.8	3,091	6.9	2,985	8.7	

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Time to degree and demographic characteristic	All fields		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	
	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median
Temporary visa holder	18,253	7.3	15,840	7.0	504	7.3	2,298	7.0	1,357	7.0	5,077	6.9	331	7.5	584	7.8	943	6.8	715	7.0	1,996	6.1	308	7.4	1,727	8.8
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																										
Hispanic or Latino	3,477	7.0	2,717	6.8	55	7.7	823	6.3	60	7.3	370	6.0	73	6.9	163	9.2	61	5.9	79	7.1	313	6.0	390	7.0	330	8.8
Not Hispanic or Latino																										
American Indian or Alaska Native	104	9.3	66	8.8	D	D	12	6.6	D	D	D	D	D	D	8	9.6	D	D	D	D	D	D	8	10.6	16	9.6
Asian	3,847	7.0	3,339	6.8	D	D	966	6.6	204	7.0	D	D	D	D	188	8.9	D	D	D	D	364	6.0	236	6.8	283	8.8
Black or African American	2,776	9.8	1,750	8.0	38	8.2	318	6.8	D	D	213	6.8	22	8.3	292	10.8	31	6.8	52	11.9	D	D	332	8.4	305	10.0
White	21,979	7.0	16,825	6.3	531	7.0	4,286	6.3	512	7.0	2,784	5.9	590	6.4	1,195	9.1	606	5.8	492	6.9	2,029	5.8	1,929	6.7	1,871	8.3
More than one race	1,355	6.8	1,071	6.3	12	6.7	293	6.2	41	7.0	184	5.8	37	6.8	58	9.0	33	6.3	31	6.8	115	5.8	143	6.3	124	8.6
Other race or race not reported	443	7.3	342	6.9	10	10.0	85	6.9	24	6.9	61	6.7	2	7.7	35	9.1	15	5.8	11	5.8	30	6.2	31	7.0	38	8.7
Ethnicity not reported	223	6.9	176	6.7	4	9.1	37	6.8	6	15.5	40	6.7	4	5.0	13	5.3	7	6.3	6	10.3	19	6.0	22	6.0	18	10.3
Years since entering doctoral program ^a																										
Doctorate recipients reporting year of doctoral program entry ^b	52,375	5.7	42,038	5.6	1,202	4.9	9,096	5.8	2,255	5.7	9,437	5.3	1,119	5.6	2,531	5.0	1,840	5.3	1,521	5.6	4,940	5.7	3,381	5.8	4,716	6.0
Sex																										
Male	26,893	5.7	22,848	5.6	553	4.8	3,991	5.8	1,667	5.6	6,805	5.3	560	5.5	758	5.0	1,271	5.5	934	5.6	3,260	5.8	820	5.9	2,229	5.9
Female	25,482	5.7	19,190	5.6	649	4.9	5,105	5.7	588	5.8	2,632	5.3	559	5.7	1,773	5.0	569	5.3	587	5.5	1,680	5.3	2,561	5.8	2,487	6.0
Citizenship status																										
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	33,746	5.8	25,931	5.8	692	5.0	6,751	5.8	887	5.8	4,334	5.3	778	5.7	1,920	5.0	876	5.7	786	5.8	2,924	5.7	3,027	5.8	2,956	6.0
Temporary visa holder	18,080	5.3	15,688	5.3	501	4.7	2,285	5.7	1,335	5.5	5,011	5.3	331	5.3	576	4.8	937	5.3	710	5.3	1,981	5.7	306	5.5	1,715	5.8
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																										
Hispanic or Latino	3,429	5.8	2,673	5.8	54	5.3	813	5.8	59	5.8	365	5.4	73	5.7	161	5.4	60	5.8	79	6.0	303	5.7	379	6.0	327	6.5
Not Hispanic or Latino																										
American Indian or Alaska Native	103	5.9	65	5.9	D	D	12	5.9	D	D	D	D	D	D	8	3.9	D	D	D	D	D	D	8	5.3	16	6.7
Asian	3,806	5.8	3,306	5.7	D	D	961	5.7	201	5.8	D	D	D	D	185	5.3	D	D	D	D	362	5.8	235	5.9	282	6.1

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	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median
Black or African American	2,713	5.8	1,714	5.8	37	4.8	311	5.8	D	D	212	5.6	22	5.8	286	5.4	29	5.7	51	6.0	D	D	318	5.8	302	6.0
White	21,699	5.8	16,604	5.7	525	5.0	4,241	5.7	503	5.8	2,734	5.3	585	5.7	1,176	5.0	600	5.7	491	5.7	2,003	5.6	1,895	5.8	1,851	6.0
More than one race	1,345	5.8	1,063	5.8	12	4.5	293	5.7	41	5.3	183	5.3	36	5.8	56	5.0	33	5.3	31	5.8	113	5.8	143	6.0	122	6.2
Other race or race not reported	434	5.8	334	5.8	9	6.0	85	5.7	24	5.7	59	5.3	2	6.4	35	5.8	15	5.3	10	4.8	29	5.8	28	5.5	38	6.5
Ethnicity not reported	217	5.8	172	5.6	4	4.7	35	5.6	5	5.3	40	5.8	4	5.0	13	5.1	7	5.9	6	5.8	19	5.8	21	5.7	18	5.8

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Years since entering doctoral program is based on master's degree program entry if the master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, it is based on doctoral program entry.

^b Doctorate recipients reporting year of doctoral program entry includes only cases with valid year of entry into master's program if master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, includes only cases with valid year of doctoral program entry.

Note(s):

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 about the 2021 taxonomy change, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

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