

Table 5-5. Educational attainment of research doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of doctorate: 2024

(Percent)

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 doctorate
Doctorate recipients reporting parental education (number)	49,983	49,983	7,911	6,585	13,575	11,819	4,146	5,947
Highest level of parental education	49,983	100.0	15.8	13.2	27.2	23.6	8.3	11.9
Sex								
Male	25,690	100.0	17.0	12.2	27.9	23.2	7.8	11.9
Female	24,293	100.0	14.6	14.2	26.4	24.1	8.8	11.9
Citizenship status								
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	32,883	100.0	12.6	13.9	24.8	25.7	10.4	12.6
Temporary visa holder	17,093	100.0	22.1	11.8	31.7	19.6	4.3	10.5
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)								
Hispanic or Latino	3,355	100.0	25.0	17.1	23.5	17.8	8.3	8.3
Not Hispanic or Latino								
American Indian or Alaska Native	95	100.0	16.8	30.5	26.3	17.9	D	5.3
Asian	3,706	100.0	15.4	9.6	22.4	23.1	D	21.7
Black or African American	2,591	100.0	22.8	24.0	18.3	22.7	5.9	6.3
White	21,386	100.0	9.0	12.9	26.3	28.0	11.6	12.2
More than one race	1,331	100.0	9.8	13.7	23.6	25.4	10.7	16.7
Other race or race not reported	335	100.0	14.9	10.7	23.3	19.4	16.1	15.5
Ethnicity not reported	84	100.0	9.5	17.9	25.0	20.2	9.5	17.9
Field of doctorate								
Science and engineering	40,137	100.0	15.4	12.7	28.0	23.7	8.3	12.0
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,151	100.0	21.2	12.7	29.2	20.2	6.8	10.0
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,801	100.0	13.8	13.0	26.9	23.4	9.9	12.9
Computer and information sciences	2,099	100.0	17.4	10.3	28.9	21.9	6.7	14.8
Engineering	8,967	100.0	14.8	10.9	31.1	24.1	6.7	12.3
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,085	100.0	14.0	12.1	26.3	25.3	10.8	11.5
Health sciences	2,392	100.0	17.8	16.7	25.3	23.1	8.9	8.2
Mathematics and statistics	1,730	100.0	15.4	11.6	28.5	24.9	7.6	12.1
Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary sciences	1,433	100.0	14.9	11.4	30.3	23.1	7.4	12.9
Physical sciences	4,750	100.0	16.6	12.3	28.3	24.6	6.8	11.3
Psychology	3,214	100.0	14.5	16.5	25.6	23.6	10.8	9.0
Social sciences	4,515	100.0	15.5	13.0	25.1	24.0	8.8	13.5
Non-science and engineering	9,846	100.0	17.7	15.3	23.9	23.4	8.3	11.4
Business	1,091	100.0	19.7	11.4	27.4	20.7	4.8	16.0
Education	3,358	100.0	21.5	18.7	22.6	22.5	6.2	8.6
Humanities	2,804	100.0	14.1	13.1	24.9	24.6	11.2	12.1
Visual and performing arts	747	100.0	9.4	13.3	24.8	26.1	14.2	12.3
Other non-science and engineering	1,846	100.0	18.4	15.4	22.2	23.9	7.5	12.6

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

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

^b Professional doctorate includes professional doctorates such as MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PsyD, DDiv.

Note(s):

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

Source(s):

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