

Table 8-7. Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences research doctorate recipients, statistical profile by sex and major field of doctorate: 2024

(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences fields	Geological and earth sciences	Ocean, marine, and atmospheric sciences
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	1,204	685	519
Sex (%)			
Male	50.2	51.7	48.4
Female	49.8	48.3	51.6
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
Citizenship status (%)			
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	67.6	65.0	71.1
Temporary visa holder	29.0	30.8	26.6
Unknown	3.4	4.2	2.3
Marital status (%)			
Never married	43.3	43.5	43.0
Married	30.1	31.4	28.3
Marriage-like relationship	15.5	14.9	16.4
Separated, divorced, widowed	2.7	2.0	3.5
Unknown	8.5	8.2	8.9
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	12.2	12.7	11.6
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	15.7	15.9	15.3
Age at doctorate (median years)	30.7	31.0	30.5
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	53.8	63.7	40.6
Master's earned (%)	65.9	66.5	65.2
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	45.3	42.4	49.2
Time to doctorate (median years)			
Years since earning bachelor's degree	8.0	8.2	7.9
From graduate school start	6.8	7.0	6.4
From doctoral program start ^c	5.6	5.5	5.7
Received tuition remission (%)	89.2	87.8	91.0
Male doctorate recipients (number)	605	354	251
Citizenship status (%)			
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	60.2	56.2	65.7
Temporary visa holder	36.5	39.5	32.3
Unknown	3.3	4.2	2.0
Marital status (%)			
Never married	40.5	38.7	43.0
Married	33.4	37.6	27.5
Marriage-like relationship	14.5	D	D
Separated, divorced, widowed	2.5	D	D
Unknown	9.1	8.8	9.6
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	15.5	16.7	13.7
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	14.6	14.2	15.1
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.3	31.5	30.8
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	54.7	61.8	44.7
Master's earned (%)	70.4	70.6	70.2
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	41.3	36.9	47.6
Time to doctorate (median years)			

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(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences fields	Geological and earth sciences	Ocean, marine, and atmospheric sciences
Years since earning bachelor's degree	8.3	8.6	8.0
From graduate school start	7.1	7.5	6.8
From doctoral program start ^c	5.5	5.4	5.7
Received tuition remission (%)	88.2	86.2	90.9
Female doctorate recipients (number)	599	331	268
Citizenship status (%)			
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	75.1	74.3	76.1
Temporary visa holder	21.4	21.5	21.3
Unknown	3.5	4.2	2.6
Marital status (%)			
Never married	46.1	48.6	42.9
Married	26.7	24.8	29.1
Marriage-like relationship	16.5	D	D
Separated, divorced, widowed	2.8	D	D
Unknown	7.8	7.6	8.2
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	9.0	8.5	9.7
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	16.7	17.6	15.5
Age at doctorate (median years)	30.1	30.2	29.9
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	52.8	65.7	36.8
Master's earned (%)	61.4	62.2	60.4
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	49.9	49.0	51.0
Time to doctorate (median years)			
Years since earning bachelor's degree	7.8	7.9	7.8
From graduate school start	6.3	6.8	6.3
From doctoral program start ^c	5.7	5.7	5.6
Received tuition remission (%)	90.3	89.5	91.1

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a All doctorate recipients includes doctorate recipients who did not report sex.^b A bachelor's and doctoral degree are considered to be in the same field if doctorate recipient's first or most recent bachelor's degree is in the same broad field as their doctoral degree.^c Time to doctorate from doctoral program start is based on master's degree entry if the master's degree was at the same doctoral institution in the same field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, it is based on doctoral program entry.**Note(s):**

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.