

Table 8-15. Humanities research doctorate recipients, statistical profile by sex and major field of doctorate: 2024

(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All humanities fields	English language and literature, letters	Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	History	Philosophy and religious studies	Humanities, other
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	3,305	1,017	539	719	631	399
Sex (%)						
Male	49.5	35.9	43.4	53.7	63.9	61.9
Female	50.5	64.1	56.6	46.3	36.1	38.1
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Citizenship status (%)						
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	74.1	82.3	54.9	81.5	72.4	68.7
Temporary visa holder	20.2	13.1	36.4	15.6	22.3	21.1
Unknown	5.7	4.6	8.7	2.9	5.2	10.3
Marital status (%)						
Never married	29.0	31.2	31.0	31.2	27.3	19.3
Married	41.8	36.7	39.0	45.3	41.0	53.4
Marriage-like relationship	11.1	13.1	10.0	11.8	13.3	2.5
Separated, divorced, widowed	4.5	5.4	3.9	3.9	4.3	4.8
Unknown	13.6	13.7	16.1	7.8	14.1	20.1
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	25.6	22.9	19.1	24.6	25.5	44.8
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	20.0	22.9	17.7	20.6	19.6	14.9
Age at doctorate (median years)	34.6	34.2	34.4	33.8	34.4	39.6
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	71.4	81.7	67.7	73.6	69.1	48.7
Master's earned (%)	91.5	93.1	92.3	91.9	84.5	97.4
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	40.3	31.1	46.7	47.6	43.5	37.6
Time to doctorate (median years)						
Years since earning bachelor's degree	11.3	11.0	11.5	11.0	11.3	15.6
From graduate school start	9.7	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.8	12.8
From doctoral program start ^c	6.8	6.0	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.8
Received tuition remission (%)	89.4	91.5	94.6	91.5	89.7	71.9
Male doctorate recipients (number)	1,635	365	234	386	403	247
Citizenship status (%)						
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	74.1	80.3	54.3	80.3	74.7	72.9
Temporary visa holder	19.4	14.0	36.3	16.3	19.6	16.2
Unknown	6.5	5.8	9.4	3.4	5.7	10.9
Marital status (%)						
Never married	26.1	33.4	D	28.0	24.1	D
Married	45.6	34.8	37.6	49.7	46.2	61.5
Marriage-like relationship	10.3	11.5	10.3	11.9	12.9	2.0
Separated, divorced, widowed	3.1	3.6	D	2.6	3.0	D
Unknown	15.0	16.7	16.7	7.8	13.9	23.9
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	31.7	25.3	23.7	28.0	31.5	58.0

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(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All humanities fields	English language and literature, letters	Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	History	Philosophy and religious studies	Humanities, other
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	16.4	17.2	12.9	18.5	16.7	14.6
Age at doctorate (median years)	35.3	34.9	35.1	34.3	34.9	40.7
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	71.7	82.0	69.5	74.8	70.7	54.5
Master's earned (%)	91.2	93.4	93.5	92.2	83.6	97.5
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	39.9	31.6	51.3	42.6	40.1	36.5
Time to doctorate (median years)						
Years since earning bachelor's degree	11.9	11.3	11.3	11.0	11.8	16.3
From graduate school start	9.8	9.3	9.1	9.3	10.0	12.9
From doctoral program start ^c	6.8	6.0	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.8
Received tuition remission (%)	87.4	92.0	94.0	90.8	90.7	61.3
Female doctorate recipients (number)	1,670	652	305	333	228	152
Citizenship status (%)						
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	74.2	83.4	55.4	82.9	68.4	61.8
Temporary visa holder	20.8	12.6	36.4	14.7	27.2	28.9
Unknown	5.0	4.0	8.2	2.4	4.4	9.2
Marital status (%)						
Never married	31.8	29.9	D	34.8	32.9	D
Married	38.1	37.7	40.0	40.2	32.0	40.1
Marriage-like relationship	11.8	14.0	9.8	11.7	14.0	3.3
Separated, divorced, widowed	6.0	6.4	D	5.4	6.6	D
Unknown	12.3	12.0	15.7	7.8	14.5	13.8
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	19.8	21.6	15.6	20.6	14.9	26.0
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	23.4	25.9	21.3	23.0	24.6	15.3
Age at doctorate (median years)	33.9	33.8	34.0	33.5	33.5	37.8
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	71.1	81.6	66.3	72.2	66.3	40.3
Master's earned (%)	91.8	92.9	91.4	91.5	86.1	97.1
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	40.8	30.8	43.2	53.3	49.4	39.2
Time to doctorate (median years)						
Years since earning bachelor's degree	11.0	10.8	11.6	11.0	10.8	14.0
From graduate school start	9.3	9.0	9.3	9.1	9.3	11.4
From doctoral program start ^c	6.8	6.0	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.7
Received tuition remission (%)	91.3	91.2	95.1	92.3	87.9	86.9

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.