

Table 1-3. Research doctorate recipients, by trend major field of doctorate: Selected years, 1975–2025

(Number and percent)

Field of doctorate	1975		1980		1985		1990		1995		2000		2005		2010		2015		2020		2025	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	32,952	100.0	31,019	100.0	31,295	100.0	36,065	100.0	41,747	100.0	41,369	100.0	43,385	100.0	48,028	100.0	54,886	100.0	55,200	100.0	59,015	100.0
Science and engineering	19,237	58.4	18,190	58.6	19,527	62.4	23,715	65.8	27,704	66.4	27,420	66.3	29,621	68.3	35,043	73.0	41,247	75.2	42,561	77.1	46,876	79.4
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,169	3.5	1,153	3.7	1,351	4.3	1,441	4.0	1,348	3.2	1,229	3.0	1,207	2.8	1,157	2.4	1,490	2.7	1,531	2.8	1,538	2.6
Agricultural sciences	935	2.8	957	3.1	1,125	3.6	1,149	3.2	993	2.4	903	2.2	817	1.9	741	1.5	903	1.6	1,013	1.8	1,027	1.7
Natural resources and conservation	234	0.7	196	0.6	226	0.7	292	0.8	355	0.9	326	0.8	390	0.9	416	0.9	587	1.1	518	0.9	511	0.9
Biological and biomedical sciences	3,497	10.6	3,803	12.3	3,869	12.4	4,430	12.3	5,529	13.2	6,044	14.6	6,638	15.3	8,370	17.4	8,783	16.0	8,403	15.2	9,850	16.7
Biochemistry and biophysics	732	2.2	781	2.5	650	2.1	781	2.2	979	2.3	940	2.3	837	1.9	1,032	2.1	930	1.7	859	1.6	970	1.6
Biology and biomedical sciences, general	185	0.6	209	0.7	190	0.6	333	0.9	441	1.1	354	0.9	438	1.0	471	1.0	674	1.2	1,056	1.9	1,247	2.1
Bioinformatics, biostatistics, and computational biology	37	0.1	42	0.1	40	0.1	47	0.1	67	0.2	92	0.2	129	0.3	319	0.7	452	0.8	600	1.1	838	1.4
Cellular and developmental biology, and anatomy	187	0.6	209	0.7	250	0.8	237	0.7	364	0.9	488	1.2	502	1.2	632	1.3	596	1.1	364	0.7	210	0.4
Ecology, evolutionary biology, and epidemiology	142	0.4	169	0.5	276	0.9	268	0.7	356	0.9	488	1.2	640	1.5	969	2.0	1,041	1.9	952	1.7	1,042	1.8
Genetics and genomics	156	0.5	157	0.5	105	0.3	153	0.4	202	0.5	227	0.5	285	0.7	383	0.8	358	0.7	347	0.6	472	0.8
Microbiology and immunology	452	1.4	512	1.7	451	1.4	516	1.4	643	1.5	655	1.6	808	1.9	1,137	2.4	1,168	2.1	1,001	1.8	1,136	1.9
Molecular biology	156	0.5	183	0.6	277	0.9	413	1.1	617	1.5	706	1.7	724	1.7	697	1.5	632	1.2	575	1.0	931	1.6
Neurobiology and neurosciences	na	na	na	na	156	0.5	192	0.5	308	0.7	495	1.2	690	1.6	954	2.0	1,089	2.0	972	1.8	1,232	2.1
Pharmacology and toxicology	166	0.5	257	0.8	334	1.1	335	0.9	404	1.0	390	0.9	459	1.1	428	0.9	381	0.7	325	0.6	393	0.7
Physiology, pathology, and cancer biology	399	1.2	448	1.4	372	1.2	403	1.1	391	0.9	367	0.9	330	0.8	660	1.4	774	1.4	571	1.0	625	1.1
Biology and biomedical sciences, other	885	2.7	836	2.7	768	2.5	752	2.1	757	1.8	842	2.0	796	1.8	688	1.4	688	1.3	781	1.4	754	1.3
Computer and information sciences	na	na	218	0.7	310	1.0	705	2.0	997	2.4	860	2.1	1,129	2.6	1,633	3.4	2,003	3.6	2,363	4.3	3,438	5.8
Computer science	na	na	218	0.7	249	0.8	612	1.7	913	2.2	723	1.7	952	2.2	1,356	2.8	1,658	3.0	1,953	3.5	2,566	4.3
Computer and information sciences, other	na	na	na	na	61	0.2	93	0.3	84	0.2	137	0.3	177	0.4	277	0.6	345	0.6	410	0.7	872	1.5
Engineering	3,002	9.1	2,479	8.0	3,166	10.1	4,894	13.6	6,008	14.4	5,323	12.9	6,426	14.8	7,578	15.8	9,875	18.0	10,468	19.0	11,536	19.5
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	141	0.4	81	0.3	124	0.4	192	0.5	252	0.6	214	0.5	219	0.5	252	0.5	361	0.7	399	0.7	629	1.1
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	76	0.2	68	0.2	69	0.2	129	0.4	189	0.5	251	0.6	417	1.0	824	1.7	1,125	2.0	1,082	2.0	1,380	2.3
Chemical and petroleum engineering	387	1.2	316	1.0	504	1.6	658	1.8	708	1.7	726	1.8	875	2.0	930	1.9	1,186	2.2	1,191	2.2	1,290	2.2
Civil, environmental, and transportation engineering	361	1.1	306	1.0	391	1.2	553	1.5	656	1.6	556	1.3	758	1.7	821	1.7	1,213	2.2	1,305	2.4	1,360	2.3
Electrical and computer engineering	714	2.2	540	1.7	716	2.3	1,276	3.5	1,731	4.1	1,544	3.7	1,851	4.3	2,167	4.5	2,437	4.4	2,461	4.5	2,654	4.5
Industrial engineering and operations research	260	0.8	201	0.6	203	0.6	248	0.7	379	0.9	261	0.6	366	0.8	368	0.8	436	0.8	567	1.0	618	1.0
Materials and mining engineering	279	0.8	277	0.9	319	1.0	479	1.3	607	1.5	462	1.1	552	1.3	699	1.5	905	1.6	901	1.6	1,066	1.8
Mechanical engineering	325	1.0	293	0.9	424	1.4	773	2.1	917	2.2	807	2.0	892	2.1	1,014	2.1	1,548	2.8	1,777	3.2	1,683	2.9
Engineering, other	459	1.4	397	1.3	416	1.3	586	1.6	569	1.4	502	1.2	496	1.1	503	1.0	664	1.2	785	1.4	856	1.5
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	557	1.7	588	1.9	575	1.8	719	2.0	726	1.7	693	1.7	714	1.6	862	1.8	1,057	1.9	1,241	2.2	1,227	2.1
Geological sciences	408	1.2	361	1.2	368	1.2	464	1.3	430	1.0	344	0.8	379	0.9	463	1.0	554	1.0	673	1.2	591	1.0
Ocean, marine, and atmospheric sciences	149	0.5	227	0.7	207	0.7	255	0.7	296	0.7	349	0.8	335	0.8	399	0.8	503	0.9	568	1.0	636	1.1
Health sciences	437	1.3	545	1.8	602	1.9	784	2.2	1,121	2.7	1,349	3.3	1,465	3.4	1,792	3.7	2,220	4.0	2,606	4.7	2,487	4.2
Nursing science	na	na	77	0.2	183	0.6	261	0.7	354	0.8	415	1.0	421	1.0	482	1.0	536	1.0	590	1.1	562	1.0
Pharmaceutical sciences	69	0.2	70	0.2	106	0.3	116	0.3	144	0.3	164	0.4	168	0.4	274	0.6	270	0.5	382	0.7	339	0.6

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Public health	130	0.4	168	0.5	134	0.4	161	0.4	203	0.5	259	0.6	321	0.7	361	0.8	641	1.2	714	1.3	728	1.2
Health sciences, other	238	0.7	230	0.7	179	0.6	246	0.7	420	1.0	511	1.2	555	1.3	675	1.4	773	1.4	920	1.7	858	1.5
Mathematics and statistics	1,147	3.5	744	2.4	688	2.2	892	2.5	1,190	2.9	1,050	2.5	1,205	2.8	1,590	3.3	1,815	3.3	2,024	3.7	2,175	3.7
Applied mathematics	101	0.3	102	0.3	116	0.4	185	0.5	211	0.5	238	0.6	292	0.7	401	0.8	435	0.8	419	0.8	430	0.7
Mathematics	657	2.0	326	1.1	271	0.9	278	0.8	361	0.9	348	0.8	459	1.1	590	1.2	635	1.2	378	0.7	208	0.4
Statistics	174	0.5	151	0.5	150	0.5	157	0.4	205	0.5	195	0.5	267	0.6	327	0.7	381	0.7	402	0.7	557	0.9
Mathematics and statistics, other	215	0.7	165	0.5	151	0.5	272	0.8	413	1.0	269	0.7	187	0.4	272	0.6	364	0.7	825	1.5	980	1.7
Physical sciences	3,076	9.3	2,521	8.1	2,916	9.3	3,493	9.7	3,814	9.1	3,378	8.2	3,645	8.4	4,133	8.6	4,859	8.9	5,000	9.1	5,362	9.1
Astronomy and astrophysics	131	0.4	121	0.4	100	0.3	128	0.4	173	0.4	185	0.4	186	0.4	266	0.6	269	0.5	305	0.6	600	1.0
Chemistry	1,776	5.4	1,538	5.0	1,836	5.9	2,100	5.8	2,162	5.2	1,989	4.8	2,126	4.9	2,304	4.8	2,666	4.9	2,761	5.0	2,850	4.8
Physics	1,169	3.5	862	2.8	980	3.1	1,265	3.5	1,479	3.5	1,204	2.9	1,333	3.1	1,563	3.3	1,924	3.5	1,934	3.5	1,912	3.2
Psychology	2,751	8.3	3,098	10.0	3,117	10.0	3,281	9.1	3,429	8.2	3,616	8.7	3,322	7.7	3,420	7.1	3,776	6.9	3,865	7.0	4,076	6.9
Clinical psychology	810	2.5	1,106	3.6	1,181	3.8	1,336	3.7	1,290	3.1	1,353	3.3	1,155	2.7	1,151	2.4	1,173	2.1	1,277	2.3	1,193	2.0
Counseling and applied psychology	531	1.6	678	2.2	751	2.4	772	2.1	848	2.0	913	2.2	867	2.0	837	1.7	1,034	1.9	980	1.8	1,030	1.7
Research and experimental psychology	990	3.0	884	2.8	720	2.3	620	1.7	697	1.7	824	2.0	801	1.8	903	1.9	974	1.8	880	1.6	1,036	1.8
Psychology, other	420	1.3	430	1.4	465	1.5	553	1.5	594	1.4	526	1.3	499	1.2	529	1.1	595	1.1	728	1.3	817	1.4
Social sciences	3,601	10.9	3,041	9.8	2,933	9.4	3,076	8.5	3,542	8.5	3,878	9.4	3,870	8.9	4,508	9.4	5,369	9.8	5,060	9.2	5,187	8.8
Anthropology	386	1.2	370	1.2	353	1.1	324	0.9	375	0.9	446	1.1	456	1.1	507	1.1	492	0.9	447	0.8	452	0.8
Economics	895	2.7	767	2.5	811	2.6	862	2.4	979	2.3	948	2.3	1,061	2.4	1,073	2.2	1,255	2.3	1,212	2.2	1,278	2.2
Political science and government	749	2.3	505	1.6	406	1.3	462	1.3	599	1.4	669	1.6	618	1.4	728	1.5	859	1.6	636	1.2	634	1.1
Public policy analysis	na	na	na	na	70	0.2	87	0.2	94	0.2	137	0.3	161	0.4	244	0.5	374	0.7	306	0.6	336	0.6
Sociology, demography, and population studies	680	2.1	600	1.9	486	1.6	448	1.2	555	1.3	637	1.5	556	1.3	652	1.4	762	1.4	630	1.1	588	1.0
Social sciences, other	891	2.7	799	2.6	807	2.6	893	2.5	940	2.3	1,041	2.5	1,018	2.3	1,304	2.7	1,627	3.0	1,829	3.3	1,899	3.2
Non-science and engineering	13,715	41.6	12,829	41.4	11,768	37.6	12,350	34.2	14,043	33.6	13,949	33.7	13,764	31.7	12,985	27.0	13,639	24.8	12,639	22.9	12,139	20.6
Business	787	2.4	640	2.1	789	2.5	1,036	2.9	1,330	3.2	1,065	2.6	1,171	2.7	1,366	2.8	1,582	2.9	1,466	2.7	1,398	2.4
Education	7,360	22.3	7,586	24.5	6,733	21.5	6,509	18.0	6,648	15.9	6,442	15.6	6,227	14.4	5,287	11.0	5,098	9.3	4,712	8.5	4,610	7.8
Education leadership and administration	1,508	4.6	1,536	5.0	1,625	5.2	1,664	4.6	1,974	4.7	2,036	4.9	2,167	5.0	1,439	3.0	920	1.7	929	1.7	816	1.4
Education research	3,375	10.2	3,317	10.7	2,925	9.3	2,439	6.8	2,576	6.2	2,667	6.4	2,674	6.2	2,443	5.1	2,772	5.1	2,308	4.2	2,212	3.7
Teacher education and teaching fields	1,987	6.0	2,110	6.8	1,581	5.1	1,341	3.7	1,314	3.1	1,085	2.6	926	2.1	1,044	2.2	1,109	2.0	1,051	1.9	1,080	1.8
Education, other	490	1.5	623	2.0	602	1.9	1,065	3.0	784	1.9	654	1.6	460	1.1	361	0.8	297	0.5	424	0.8	502	0.9
Humanities and arts	4,938	15.0	3,782	12.2	3,383	10.8	3,828	10.6	4,999	12.0	5,420	13.1	5,144	11.9	4,969	10.3	5,522	10.1	4,924	8.9	4,418	7.5
Letters	1,485	4.5	1,177	3.8	983	3.1	1,060	2.9	1,548	3.7	1,612	3.9	1,389	3.2	1,516	3.2	1,583	2.9	1,389	2.5	1,230	2.1
Foreign languages and literature	826	2.5	535	1.7	435	1.4	512	1.4	639	1.5	642	1.6	607	1.4	601	1.3	656	1.2	564	1.0	429	0.7
History	1,156	3.5	724	2.3	520	1.7	586	1.6	848	2.0	1,019	2.5	881	2.0	959	2.0	1,074	2.0	884	1.6	809	1.4
Philosophy and religious studies	565	1.7	428	1.4	419	1.3	462	1.3	546	1.3	712	1.7	725	1.7	713	1.5	804	1.5	667	1.2	619	1.0
Music and performing arts	381	1.2	495	1.6	539	1.7	678	1.9	793	1.9	828	2.0	995	2.3	520	1.1	529	1.0	559	1.0	473	0.8
Humanities and arts, other	525	1.6	423	1.4	487	1.6	530	1.5	625	1.5	607	1.5	547	1.3	660	1.4	876	1.6	861	1.6	858	1.5

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Other non-science and engineering	630	1.9	821	2.6	863	2.8	977	2.7	1,066	2.6	1,022	2.5	1,222	2.8	1,363	2.8	1,437	2.6	1,537	2.8	1,713	2.9
Communication	264	0.8	270	0.9	266	0.8	323	0.9	381	0.9	389	0.9	488	1.1	638	1.3	667	1.2	591	1.1	591	1.0
Public administration and social services	135	0.4	324	1.0	332	1.1	334	0.9	431	1.0	361	0.9	427	1.0	434	0.9	428	0.8	530	1.0	550	0.9
Non-science and engineering, other	231	0.7	227	0.7	265	0.8	320	0.9	254	0.6	272	0.7	307	0.7	291	0.6	342	0.6	416	0.8	572	1.0

na = not applicable; data were not collected at this level of detail.

Note(s):
Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. The survey data collection for the field of study changed in 2021, which may affect the data comparison across years. This table uses a trend field taxonomy that facilitates trend comparisons with prior years (see table A-5). 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.