

Table 5-5. Educational attainment of research doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of doctorate: 2025

(Percent)

Demographic characteristic and field	Total (number)	Highest level of parental education (%)						Research doctorate
		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional doctorate ^b	
Doctorate recipients reporting parental education (number)	50,311	50,311	7,787	6,569	13,575	12,163	4,260	5,957
Highest level of parental education	50,311	100.0	15.5	13.1	27.0	24.2	8.5	11.8
Sex								
Male	25,767	100.0	16.8	12.2	27.6	23.3	8.1	12.1
Female	24,544	100.0	14.1	14.0	26.4	25.1	8.9	11.6
Citizenship status								
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	33,141	100.0	12.8	13.7	24.5	25.7	10.8	12.5
Temporary visa holder	17,148	100.0	20.7	11.8	31.9	21.2	4.0	10.6
Ethnicity or race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)								
Hispanic or Latino	3,458	100.0	27.6	19.3	20.8	17.8	7.1	7.4
Not Hispanic or Latino								
American Indian or Alaska Native	89	100.0	29.2	21.3	20.2	20.2	D	D
Asian	3,921	100.0	15.5	9.5	22.5	23.9	7.3	21.4
Black or African American	2,691	100.0	22.2	23.1	19.6	21.9	6.5	6.8
White	21,078	100.0	8.8	12.4	26.3	27.9	12.4	12.1
More than one race	1,365	100.0	9.7	13.1	21.9	25.6	12.8	16.8
Other race or race not reported	402	100.0	12.4	13.2	20.1	21.6	D	D
Ethnicity not reported	137	100.0	11.7	17.5	19.0	26.3	13.1	12.4
Field of doctorate								
Science and engineering	40,545	100.0	14.8	12.4	27.7	24.5	8.5	12.1
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,143	100.0	19.1	14.0	26.4	22.0	7.0	11.5
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,891	100.0	13.3	11.9	27.6	25.5	9.8	11.8
Computer and information sciences	2,376	100.0	15.7	11.0	28.8	23.4	6.4	14.8
Engineering	9,249	100.0	15.0	10.7	30.4	25.0	6.4	12.5
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,059	100.0	13.5	11.2	27.5	24.5	10.1	13.2
Health sciences	2,433	100.0	18.1	16.1	24.1	22.4	9.5	9.7
Mathematics and statistics	1,756	100.0	14.3	11.8	29.5	22.8	8.4	13.2
Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary sciences	1,502	100.0	14.7	10.7	27.6	24.9	8.4	13.7
Physical sciences	4,663	100.0	14.4	12.2	28.7	25.2	8.0	11.5
Psychology	3,192	100.0	14.3	16.3	24.4	24.3	11.4	9.3
Social sciences	4,281	100.0	15.1	14.0	24.7	23.8	9.5	12.8
Non-science and engineering	9,766	100.0	18.4	15.6	23.9	22.8	8.3	10.9
Business	1,050	100.0	19.2	13.9	26.7	21.1	5.8	13.2
Education	3,388	100.0	22.8	18.7	22.7	20.6	7.0	8.2
Humanities	2,824	100.0	15.0	12.9	24.2	24.4	11.0	12.5
Visual and performing arts	678	100.0	7.8	13.0	24.2	29.8	10.0	15.2
Other non-science and engineering	1,826	100.0	19.1	16.1	24.2	22.7	7.3	10.6

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. Hispanic or Latino may be of any race; race categories exclude Hispanic origin. The survey data collection for the field of study changed in 2021, which may affect the data comparisons across years. This table uses the new field taxonomy based on a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes and does not match data that uses the trend field taxonomy. 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.