

Table 5-6. Research doctorate recipients reporting one or more functional limitations, by broad field of doctorate, sex, and citizenship status: 2025

(Number and percent)

Field and demographic characteristic	Total	One or more limitations of any type		Visual limitations		Hearing limitations		Walking limitations		Lifting limitations		Cognitive limitations	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Doctorate recipients reporting functional limitation status	50,928	7,650	15.0	2,327	4.6	1,108	2.2	390	0.8	553	1.1	5,071	10.0
Field of doctorate													
Science and engineering	41,083	5,886	14.3	1,737	4.2	829	2.0	266	0.6	389	0.9	3,980	9.7
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,164	174	14.9	58	5.0	30	2.6	D	D	7	0.6	114	9.8
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,985	1,448	16.1	318	3.5	199	2.2	45	0.5	57	0.6	1,103	12.3
Computer and information sciences	2,422	280	11.6	125	5.2	38	1.6	15	0.6	26	1.1	143	5.9
Engineering	9,373	958	10.2	417	4.4	156	1.7	53	0.6	80	0.9	524	5.6
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,064	169	15.9	40	3.8	27	2.5	D	D	8	0.8	124	11.7
Health sciences	2,472	338	13.7	117	4.7	44	1.8	20	0.8	28	1.1	210	8.5
Mathematics and statistics	1,797	231	12.9	61	3.4	44	2.4	13	0.7	18	1.0	149	8.3
Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary sciences	1,533	187	12.2	74	4.8	30	2.0	17	1.1	24	1.6	109	7.1
Physical sciences	4,718	705	14.9	184	3.9	94	2.0	18	0.4	34	0.7	507	10.7
Psychology	3,225	644	20.0	125	3.9	70	2.2	28	0.9	46	1.4	495	15.3
Social sciences	4,330	752	17.4	218	5.0	97	2.2	47	1.1	61	1.4	502	11.6
Non-science and engineering	9,845	1,764	17.9	590	6.0	279	2.8	124	1.3	164	1.7	1,091	11.1
Business	1,068	144	13.5	59	5.5	29	2.7	9	0.8	9	0.8	72	6.7
Education	3,413	579	17.0	234	6.9	101	3.0	46	1.3	65	1.9	329	9.6
Humanities	2,841	557	19.6	148	5.2	71	2.5	37	1.3	45	1.6	378	13.3
Visual and performing arts	677	126	18.6	35	5.2	24	3.5	7	1.0	9	1.3	83	12.3
Other non-science and engineering	1,846	358	19.4	114	6.2	54	2.9	25	1.4	36	2.0	229	12.4
Sex ^a													
Male	26,111	3,446	13.2	1,158	4.4	599	2.3	155	0.6	173	0.7	2,139	8.2
Female	24,817	4,204	16.9	1,169	4.7	509	2.1	235	0.9	380	1.5	2,932	11.8
Citizenship status ^b													
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	33,389	5,809	17.4	1,315	3.9	868	2.6	308	0.9	383	1.1	4,228	12.7
Temporary visa holder	17,500	1,835	10.5	1,010	5.8	238	1.4	81	0.5	168	1.0	841	4.8

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Sex excludes doctorate recipients who did not report sex.

^b Citizenship status excludes doctorate recipients who did not report citizenship status.

Note(s):
Doctorate recipients could report more than one functional limitation; thus, counts and percentages for the specific limitations will not sum to the "One or more limitations" columns. Survey asks degree of difficulty—none, slight, moderate, severe, or unable to do—that an individual has in seeing (with glasses), hearing (with hearing aid), walking without assistance, lifting 10 pounds, or concentrating, remembering, or making decisions. Those respondents who answered "moderate," "severe," or "unable to do" for any activity were classified as having a functional limitation. 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.