

Table 8-13. Social sciences research doctorate recipients, statistical profile by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number, percent, and median years)

| Characteristic                                         | All social sciences fields | Anthropology | Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies | Economics | Political science and government | Public policy analysis | Sociology, demography, and population studies | Social sciences, other |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| All doctorate recipients (number) <sup>a</sup>         | 4,893                      | 433          | 419                                               | 1,390     | 634                              | 383                    | 588                                           | 1,046                  |
| Sex (%)                                                |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| Male                                                   | 46.7                       | 31.4         | 35.8                                              | 63.2      | 56.5                             | 37.6                   | 34.4                                          | 40.0                   |
| Female                                                 | 53.3                       | 68.6         | 64.2                                              | 36.8      | 43.5                             | 62.4                   | 65.6                                          | 60.0                   |
| Unknown                                                | 0.0                        | 0.0          | 0.0                                               | 0.0       | 0.0                              | 0.0                    | 0.0                                           | 0.0                    |
| Citizenship status (%)                                 |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| U.S. citizen or permanent resident                     | 60.9                       | 72.1         | 69.7                                              | 36.3      | 63.7                             | 79.6                   | 77.4                                          | 67.6                   |
| Temporary visa holder                                  | 34.5                       | 21.2         | 26.0                                              | 58.8      | 31.5                             | 16.4                   | 18.4                                          | 28.5                   |
| Unknown                                                | 4.6                        | 6.7          | 4.3                                               | 5.0       | 4.7                              | 3.9                    | 4.3                                           | 3.9                    |
| Marital status (%)                                     |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| Never married                                          | 33.8                       | 29.6         | 36.0                                              | 39.3      | 32.8                             | 26.1                   | 28.7                                          | 33.7                   |
| Married                                                | 40.2                       | 37.9         | 32.9                                              | 36.9      | 41.6                             | 49.9                   | 43.0                                          | 42.5                   |
| Marriage-like relationship                             | 11.1                       | 14.5         | 11.9                                              | 9.2       | 11.5                             | 7.6                    | 15.5                                          | 10.4                   |
| Separated, divorced, widowed                           | 4.5                        | 5.3          | 8.4                                               | 1.7       | 3.9                              | 8.4                    | 4.4                                           | 5.4                    |
| Unknown                                                | 10.3                       | 12.7         | 10.7                                              | 12.9      | 10.1                             | 8.1                    | 8.3                                           | 7.8                    |
| Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)                    | 22.0                       | 18.8         | 18.5                                              | 17.0      | 20.9                             | 30.7                   | 27.1                                          | 25.3                   |
| Has one or more functional limitations (%)             | 17.4                       | 21.1         | 24.7                                              | 11.9      | 15.4                             | 16.4                   | 20.1                                          | 19.9                   |
| Age at doctorate (median years)                        | 33.3                       | 34.3         | 34.5                                              | 31.8      | 33.1                             | 37.5                   | 33.9                                          | 34.1                   |
| Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) <sup>b</sup> | 54.7                       | 60.2         | 30.8                                              | 66.2      | 69.4                             | 36.4                   | 61.9                                          | 41.6                   |
| Master's earned (%)                                    | 87.9                       | 87.7         | 91.9                                              | 80.7      | 84.5                             | 92.5                   | 94.4                                          | 92.1                   |
| Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)      | 44.5                       | 55.2         | 41.6                                              | 39.3      | 51.9                             | 37.6                   | 56.6                                          | 39.3                   |
| Time to doctorate (median years)                       |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| Years since earning bachelor's degree                  | 10.3                       | 11.1         | 11.0                                              | 9.0       | 10.0                             | 14.0                   | 10.9                                          | 10.6                   |
| From graduate school start                             | 8.8                        | 9.3          | 9.3                                               | 7.8       | 8.4                              | 11.4                   | 9.0                                           | 9.0                    |
| From doctoral program start <sup>c</sup>               | 6.0                        | 7.2          | 6.8                                               | 5.8       | 6.2                              | 5.8                    | 6.9                                           | 5.9                    |
| Received tuition remission (%)                         | 88.5                       | 91.2         | 88.1                                              | 93.9      | 91.7                             | 69.1                   | 93.3                                          | 83.4                   |
| Male doctorate recipients (number)                     | 2,287                      | 136          | 150                                               | 879       | 358                              | 144                    | 202                                           | 418                    |
| Citizenship status (%)                                 |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| U.S. citizen or permanent resident                     | 55.2                       | 64.0         | 60.0                                              | 37.3      | 63.4                             | 75.7                   | 75.2                                          | 64.6                   |
| Temporary visa holder                                  | 39.9                       | 26.5         | 34.7                                              | 58.2      | 30.7                             | 21.5                   | 20.3                                          | 31.3                   |
| Unknown                                                | 4.9                        | 9.6          | 5.3                                               | 4.4       | 5.9                              | 2.8                    | 4.5                                           | 4.1                    |
| Marital status (%)                                     |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| Never married                                          | 35.3                       | 33.8         | 42.7                                              | 39.4      | 32.7                             | 27.8                   | 25.7                                          | 34.0                   |
| Married                                                | 40.6                       | 32.4         | 34.0                                              | 37.0      | 43.3                             | 52.1                   | 42.6                                          | 45.9                   |
| Marriage-like relationship                             | 10.4                       | 12.5         | 10.7                                              | 10.0      | 10.9                             | 5.6                    | 17.8                                          | 8.1                    |
| Separated, divorced, widowed                           | 2.9                        | 5.9          | 4.7                                               | 1.0       | 2.0                              | 6.9                    | 4.0                                           | 4.3                    |

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(Number, percent, and median years)

| Characteristic                                         | All social sciences fields | Anthropology | Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies | Economics | Political science and government | Public policy analysis | Sociology, demography, and population studies | Social sciences, other |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Unknown                                                | 10.8                       | 15.4         | 8.0                                               | 12.6      | 11.2                             | 7.6                    | 9.9                                           | 7.7                    |
| Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)                    | 23.4                       | 21.4         | 15.9                                              | 18.8      | 22.3                             | 31.1                   | 31.9                                          | 30.0                   |
| Has one or more functional limitations (%)             | 14.6                       | 17.7         | 19.9                                              | 11.2      | 14.6                             | 16.9                   | 12.0                                          | 19.2                   |
| Age at doctorate (median years)                        | 33.3                       | 35.4         | 34.6                                              | 32.1      | 33.0                             | 37.7                   | 34.7                                          | 34.9                   |
| Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) <sup>b</sup> | 57.9                       | 55.5         | 33.8                                              | 65.9      | 68.9                             | 41.9                   | 63.1                                          | 44.9                   |
| Master's earned (%)                                    | 86.6                       | 86.6         | 93.5                                              | 80.7      | 84.4                             | 91.2                   | 93.6                                          | 92.9                   |
| Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)      | 42.8                       | 51.5         | 36.9                                              | 39.9      | 50.6                             | 37.1                   | 60.0                                          | 35.3                   |
| Time to doctorate (median years)                       |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| Years since earning bachelor's degree                  | 10.0                       | 11.9         | 11.1                                              | 9.0       | 10.0                             | 13.5                   | 11.0                                          | 11.0                   |
| From graduate school start                             | 8.4                        | 9.7          | 9.7                                               | 7.7       | 8.0                              | 10.5                   | 9.0                                           | 9.1                    |
| From doctoral program start <sup>c</sup>               | 5.9                        | 7.3          | 6.5                                               | 5.8       | 6.1                              | 5.7                    | 7.0                                           | 5.9                    |
| Received tuition remission (%)                         | 88.9                       | 91.6         | 87.1                                              | 94.1      | 92.9                             | 67.9                   | 93.5                                          | 80.2                   |
| Female doctorate recipients (number)                   | 2,606                      | 297          | 269                                               | 511       | 276                              | 239                    | 386                                           | 628                    |
| Citizenship status (%)                                 |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| U.S. citizen or permanent resident                     | 65.8                       | 75.8         | 75.1                                              | 34.4      | 64.1                             | 82.0                   | 78.5                                          | 69.6                   |
| Temporary visa holder                                  | 29.7                       | 18.9         | 21.2                                              | 59.7      | 32.6                             | 13.4                   | 17.4                                          | 26.6                   |
| Unknown                                                | 4.5                        | 5.4          | 3.7                                               | 5.9       | 3.3                              | 4.6                    | 4.1                                           | 3.8                    |
| Marital status (%)                                     |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| Never married                                          | 32.5                       | 27.6         | 32.3                                              | 39.1      | 33.0                             | 25.1                   | 30.3                                          | 33.6                   |
| Married                                                | 39.9                       | 40.4         | 32.3                                              | 36.8      | 39.5                             | 48.5                   | 43.3                                          | 40.3                   |
| Marriage-like relationship                             | 11.7                       | 15.5         | 12.6                                              | 7.8       | 12.3                             | 8.8                    | 14.2                                          | 11.9                   |
| Separated, divorced, widowed                           | 5.9                        | 5.1          | 10.4                                              | 2.9       | 6.5                              | 9.2                    | 4.7                                           | 6.2                    |
| Unknown                                                | 9.9                        | 11.4         | 12.3                                              | 13.3      | 8.7                              | 8.4                    | 7.5                                           | 8.0                    |
| Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)                    | 20.8                       | 17.6         | 20.0                                              | 14.0      | 19.1                             | 30.5                   | 24.7                                          | 22.2                   |
| Has one or more functional limitations (%)             | 19.7                       | 22.6         | 27.6                                              | 13.1      | 16.5                             | 16.1                   | 24.3                                          | 20.4                   |
| Age at doctorate (median years)                        | 33.3                       | 33.8         | 34.4                                              | 31.6      | 33.2                             | 37.3                   | 33.4                                          | 33.4                   |
| Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) <sup>b</sup> | 52.0                       | 62.2         | 29.1                                              | 66.6      | 70.0                             | 33.0                   | 61.3                                          | 39.4                   |
| Master's earned (%)                                    | 89.0                       | 88.1         | 91.0                                              | 80.7      | 84.5                             | 93.4                   | 94.8                                          | 91.6                   |
| Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)      | 46.0                       | 56.7         | 44.3                                              | 38.1      | 53.5                             | 37.9                   | 54.8                                          | 42.0                   |
| Time to doctorate (median years)                       |                            |              |                                                   |           |                                  |                        |                                               |                        |
| Years since earning bachelor's degree                  | 10.5                       | 10.8         | 11.0                                              | 9.1       | 10.4                             | 14.0                   | 10.6                                          | 10.3                   |
| From graduate school start                             | 8.9                        | 9.3          | 9.3                                               | 7.8       | 8.8                              | 11.8                   | 8.9                                           | 9.0                    |
| From doctoral program start <sup>c</sup>               | 6.0                        | 7.2          | 6.8                                               | 5.8       | 6.3                              | 5.8                    | 6.8                                           | 5.9                    |
| Received tuition remission (%)                         | 88.2                       | 91.0         | 88.8                                              | 93.4      | 90.2                             | 69.8                   | 93.2                                          | 85.6                   |

<sup>a</sup> All doctorate recipients includes doctorate recipients who did not report sex.  
<sup>b</sup> 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.  
<sup>c</sup> 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. 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.