

Table 3-1. Research doctorate recipients, by detailed field of doctorate: 2021–25

(Number)

Field of doctorate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All fields	52,158	57,435	57,801	58,013	59,015
Science and engineering	41,187	45,835	45,930	46,300	47,272
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,222	1,304	1,278	1,304	1,325
Agricultural, animal, plant, and veterinary sciences	806	857	856	863	875
Agronomy and crop science	69	68	76	71	62
Animal sciences	159	174	173	195	189
Food science and technology	175	156	178	158	141
Plant sciences	152	162	149	152	176
Soil sciences	79	100	86	84	108
Veterinary biomedical and clinical sciences	78	77	93	74	94
Agricultural, animal, plant, and veterinary sciences nec	94	120	101	129	105
Natural resources and conservation	416	447	422	441	450
Environmental science	117	145	132	148	137
Environmental/ natural resources management and policy	78	72	63	73	58
Forestry	74	69	69	67	86
Natural resources conservation and research	74	72	81	71	95
Natural resources and conservation nec	73	89	77	82	74
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,243	9,372	9,714	9,768	9,950
Biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology	1,346	1,554	1,508	1,508	1,521
Biochemistry	416	465	440	453	425
Biochemistry and biophysics	na	na	na	na	65
Biochemistry and molecular biology	263	325	311	339	307
Biophysics	234	251	254	227	233
Molecular biology	260	274	267	243	300
Biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology nec	173	239	236	246	191
Bioinformatics, biostatistics, and computational biology	562	688	734	733	742
Bioinformatics	136	169	181	184	203
Biostatistics	223	260	283	274	278
Computational biology	106	154	150	157	166
Bioinformatics, biostatistics, and computational biology nec	97	105	120	118	95
Biological and biomedical sciences, general	660	844	904	902	968
Biology/ biological sciences, general	330	470	520	530	533
Biomedical sciences, general	330	374	384	372	435
Cell/ cellular biology and anatomy	655	684	760	791	784
Cell/ cellular and molecular biology	480	522	582	626	631
Developmental biology and embryology	103	114	96	99	93
Cell/ cellular biology and anatomy nec	72	48	82	66	60
Ecology, evolutionary biology, and epidemiology	981	1,121	1,143	1,152	1,078
Ecology	227	238	246	244	265
Ecology and evolutionary biology	243	270	277	302	242
Epidemiology	296	386	381	375	346
Epidemiology and biostatistics	54	45	39	46	39
Evolutionary biology	68	83	84	82	101
Ecology, evolutionary biology, and epidemiology nec	93	99	116	103	85
Genetics and genomics	397	436	476	470	488
Genetics, general	121	122	128	133	127
Genome sciences and genomics	72	97	115	106	110
Human/ medical genetics	62	81	71	66	86
Molecular genetics	71	66	77	92	69
Genetics and genomics nec	71	70	85	73	96
Microbiology and immunology	972	1,088	1,092	1,091	1,136
Immunology	303	343	342	357	398
Microbiology and immunology	215	265	271	281	276

Table 3-1. Research doctorate recipients, by detailed field of doctorate: 2021–25

(Number)

Field of doctorate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Microbiology, general	257	270	275	257	267
Virology	107	123	111	92	95
Microbiology and immunology nec	90	87	93	104	100
Neurobiology and neurosciences	1,013	1,176	1,201	1,234	1,343
Cognitive neuroscience	102	131	114	113	111
Computational neuroscience	na	60	61	64	76
Neurobiology	138	79	68	53	110
Neuroscience	685	823	877	901	994
Neurobiology and neurosciences nec	88	83	81	103	52
Pharmacology and toxicology	311	386	408	376	393
Pharmacology	131	164	185	183	193
Toxicology	106	125	95	90	115
Pharmacology and toxicology nec	74	97	128	103	85
Physiology, oncology, and cancer biology	711	764	819	846	845
Biomechanics	77	69	85	94	71
Exercise physiology and kinesiology	76	95	103	99	119
Oncology and cancer biology	314	318	336	332	362
Physiology, general	75	99	78	84	80
Physiology, oncology, and cancer biology nec	169	183	217	237	213
Biological and biomedical sciences, other	635	631	669	665	652
Botany and plant biology	62	45	58	70	91
Entomology	114	134	124	129	118
Plant pathology and phytopathology	119	98	105	82	100
Plant physiology and biology nec	60	70	68	71	71
Zoology and animal biology	96	84	88	105	103
Biological and biomedical sciences nec	184	200	226	208	169
Computer and information sciences	2,194	2,188	2,296	2,590	3,002
Computer science	1,545	1,485	1,605	1,768	2,027
Computer science	1,545	1,485	1,605	1,768	2,027
Computer and information sciences, other	649	703	691	822	975
Artificial intelligence	167	205	211	295	368
Computer and information sciences, general	109	129	108	132	156
Computer systems networking and telecommunications	113	116	91	93	79
Cybersecurity	na	na	na	na	66
Informatics and information technology	88	94	105	133	115
Information sciences/ studies	103	92	120	106	131
Computer and information sciences nec	69	67	56	63	60
Engineering	9,634	10,803	10,753	10,529	10,876
Aerospace, aeronautical, astronautical, and space engineering	372	586	584	596	628
Aerospace, aeronautical, astronautical, and space engineering, general	257	220	235	217	230
Mechanical and aerospace engineering	na	213	207	218	224
Aerospace, aeronautical, astronautical, and space engineering nec	115	153	142	161	174
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	1,070	1,235	1,312	1,294	1,390
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	977	1,134	1,221	1,202	1,301
Biological/ biosystems engineering and biomedical technology	93	101	91	92	89
Chemical and petroleum engineering	1,202	1,253	1,245	1,243	1,285
Chemical and biomolecular engineering	189	205	211	216	247
Chemical engineering	801	883	862	847	870
Petroleum engineering	132	102	103	98	108
Chemical and petroleum engineering nec	80	63	69	82	60
Civil, environmental, and transportation engineering	1,011	1,314	1,277	1,246	1,276
Civil engineering	571	330	342	341	323
Civil and environmental engineering	na	501	505	474	514

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(Number)

Field of doctorate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Environmental/ environmental health engineering	93	65	58	60	87
Geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering	76	87	81	69	67
Structural engineering	127	131	132	115	103
Transportation and highway engineering	76	112	81	94	81
Civil, environmental, and transportation engineering nec	68	88	78	93	101
Electrical and computer engineering	2,047	2,129	2,119	2,021	2,111
Computer engineering	264	263	256	252	294
Electrical and computer engineering	1,205	1,358	1,360	1,310	1,384
Electrical and electronics engineering	512	433	435	400	373
Electrical and computer engineering nec	66	75	68	59	60
Engineering technologies	452	360	403	416	374
Electrical and electronic engineering technologies	80	55	72	98	63
Electromechanical technologies	59	90	90	89	106
Environmental control technologies	148	58	70	57	65
Engineering technologies nec	165	157	171	172	140
Industrial engineering and operations research	604	655	626	609	666
Industrial engineering	325	210	174	160	190
Industrial and systems engineering	na	128	134	168	147
Operations research	160	183	186	164	182
Systems and manufacturing engineering	119	134	132	117	147
Materials and mining engineering	670	925	912	850	867
Materials engineering	193	85	102	99	73
Materials science and engineering	429	783	762	707	743
Materials and mining engineering nec	48	57	48	44	51
Mechanical engineering	1,501	1,541	1,552	1,519	1,564
Mechanical engineering, general	1,413	1,436	1,472	1,387	1,431
Mechanical engineering nec	88	105	80	132	133
Engineering, other	705	805	723	735	715
Agricultural and natural resources engineering	77	70	80	79	85
Engineering mechanics, physics, and science	111	166	106	135	129
Nanotechnology, nanoscience, and nanoengineering	117	143	131	122	117
Nuclear engineering	155	163	162	157	137
Engineering nec	245	263	244	242	247
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,044	1,165	1,216	1,204	1,192
Geological and earth sciences	613	658	682	685	641
Geochemistry	60	42	47	53	55
Geology	109	79	91	86	80
Geology/ earth science, general	103	121	142	111	135
Geophysics and seismology	102	118	105	105	85
Hydrology and water resources science	81	89	96	88	69
Geological and earth sciences nec	158	209	201	242	217
Ocean, marine, and atmospheric sciences	431	507	534	519	551
Atmospheric sciences and meteorology, general	94	120	111	109	110
Atmospheric sciences and meteorology nec	47	95	123	107	87
Climatology, atmospheric chemistry/ physics	60	67	67	57	72
Marine biology and biological oceanography	89	97	92	103	108
Marine sciences	57	63	66	72	81
Oceanography, chemical/ physical	84	65	75	71	93
Health sciences	2,576	2,797	2,742	2,868	2,911
Nursing and nursing science	601	617	638	581	659
Nursing education	88	81	84	85	97
Nursing science	358	381	396	344	396
Nursing specialties and practice	155	155	158	152	166

Table 3-1. Research doctorate recipients, by detailed field of doctorate: 2021–25

(Number)

Field of doctorate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences	408	458	442	471	418
Medicinal and pharmaceutical chemistry	64	75	74	88	69
Pharmaceutical sciences	243	280	262	261	258
Pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, and administration nec	101	103	106	122	91
Public health	696	792	767	806	796
Environmental health	66	68	70	78	77
Health services research	86	118	105	107	95
Health/ medical physics	71	68	72	70	64
Public health education and promotion	94	111	112	96	105
Public health, general	179	211	204	215	220
Public health nec	200	216	204	240	235
Health sciences, other	871	930	895	1,010	1,038
Communication disorders sciences	127	134	109	126	112
Exercise science and kinesiology	92	102	90	134	105
Health sciences, general	64	61	61	71	76
Marriage and family therapy/ counseling	58	68	53	65	83
Medical clinical sciences	60	75	67	90	70
Medical, biomedical, and health informatics	60	75	59	69	96
Mental health, counseling, and therapy services and sciences	91	93	99	87	104
Rehabilitation and therapeutic sciences	120	149	156	157	172
Health sciences nec	199	173	201	211	220
Mathematics and statistics	1,906	2,143	2,054	2,003	2,069
Applied mathematics	475	478	488	442	444
Applied mathematics, general	265	275	265	235	251
Computational and applied mathematics	141	140	165	151	141
Applied mathematics nec	69	63	58	56	52
Mathematics	814	978	890	920	967
Algebra and number theory	69	75	71	78	70
Mathematics, general	639	763	687	727	771
Mathematics nec	106	140	132	115	126
Statistics	617	687	676	641	658
Applied statistics, general	55	70	58	45	51
Mathematics and statistics	128	101	70	95	91
Statistics	401	469	484	449	471
Statistics nec	33	47	64	52	45
Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary sciences	1,214	1,733	1,671	1,625	1,781
Interdisciplinary computer sciences	447	626	582	549	673
Computer science and engineering	118	230	187	218	253
Electrical engineering and computer science	224	276	250	213	203
Human-computer interaction	69	84	84	73	105
Interdisciplinary computer sciences nec	36	36	61	45	112
Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary sciences, other	767	1,107	1,089	1,076	1,108
Behavioral and cognitive sciences	79	89	117	118	79
Computational science and engineering	104	111	132	105	94
Data mining and machine learning	na	259	234	221	231
Data science and data analytics	106	94	86	113	116
History/ philosophy of science, technology, and society	67	67	68	58	72
Nutrition sciences	137	129	128	125	159
Polymer science and engineering	na	62	63	68	49
Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary sciences nec	274	296	261	268	308
Physical sciences	4,807	5,426	5,439	5,355	5,332
Astronomy and astrophysics	263	289	323	340	337
Astronomy	71	109	107	117	87

Table 3-1. Research doctorate recipients, by detailed field of doctorate: 2021–25

(Number)

Field of doctorate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Astrophysics	113	115	133	127	145
Astronomy and astrophysics nec	79	65	83	96	105
Chemistry	2,366	2,782	2,728	2,730	2,627
Analytical chemistry	320	366	344	364	322
Chemical biology	151	163	191	197	197
Chemistry, general	494	582	610	642	615
Inorganic chemistry	282	324	266	297	258
Organic chemistry	454	612	565	517	536
Physical chemistry	293	315	294	266	262
Polymer chemistry	121	98	81	85	86
Theoretical and computational chemistry	108	159	202	205	194
Chemistry nec	143	163	175	157	157
Materials sciences	429	385	388	357	326
Materials science	276	176	188	167	156
Materials chemistry and materials sciences nec	153	209	200	190	170
Physics	1,749	1,970	2,000	1,928	2,042
Applied physics	132	161	124	165	160
Atomic/ molecular physics	89	87	103	83	94
Condensed matter and materials physics	359	433	365	316	388
Elementary particle physics	166	151	164	164	143
Nuclear physics	79	104	91	84	107
Optics/ optical sciences	120	138	135	128	132
Physics and astronomy	193	232	280	236	263
Physics, general	337	399	430	418	464
Plasma and high-temperature physics	57	51	67	73	60
Theoretical and mathematical physics	99	101	117	119	132
Physics and physical sciences nec	118	113	124	142	99
Psychology	3,696	3,861	3,779	3,932	3,941
Clinical psychology	1,243	1,130	1,195	1,155	1,179
Clinical child psychology	52	55	51	60	61
Clinical psychology	1,191	1,075	1,144	1,095	1,118
Counseling and applied psychology	1,337	1,416	1,291	1,454	1,315
Applied behavior analysis	59	44	49	58	56
Counseling psychology	366	388	365	407	340
Educational psychology	229	245	247	238	194
Industrial and organizational psychology	181	197	169	200	173
School psychology	260	241	224	255	246
Counseling and applied psychology nec	242	301	237	296	306
Research and experimental psychology	651	852	802	815	874
Behavioral neuroscience	87	105	82	107	111
Cognitive psychology and psycholinguistics	106	100	111	99	104
Developmental and child psychology	78	114	103	108	110
Experimental psychology	98	130	111	107	128
Social psychology	143	221	189	185	226
Research and experimental psychology nec	139	182	206	209	195
Psychology, other	465	463	491	508	573
Human development	141	145	155	154	157
Psychology, general	256	265	279	292	347
Psychology nec	68	53	57	62	69
Social sciences	4,651	5,043	4,988	5,122	4,893
Anthropology	387	409	379	395	433
Anthropology, general	78	102	99	113	131
Cultural anthropology	187	198	161	177	176

Table 3-1. Research doctorate recipients, by detailed field of doctorate: 2021–25

(Number)

Field of doctorate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Physical and biological anthropology	72	75	69	69	74
Anthropology nec	50	34	50	36	52
Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies	383	442	452	457	419
American studies	49	68	52	60	55
Area studies	175	176	214	214	192
Ethnic studies	81	102	103	95	73
Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies nec	78	96	83	88	99
Economics	1,315	1,391	1,392	1,386	1,390
Agricultural economics	76	97	90	97	61
Applied economics	134	131	130	142	130
Econometrics and quantitative economics	146	179	202	227	216
Economics, general	801	826	814	768	764
Environmental/ natural resource economics	55	50	62	58	72
International and development economics	80	77	64	56	61
Economics nec	23	31	30	38	86
Political science and government	581	676	662	673	634
Political science and government, general	488	551	553	561	530
Political science and government nec	93	125	109	112	104
Public policy analysis	400	433	407	434	383
Education policy analysis	132	130	111	126	89
Public policy analysis, general	158	120	113	112	102
Public policy nec	110	183	183	196	192
Sociology, demography, and population studies	578	624	627	637	588
Sociology, general	501	553	556	554	512
Sociology, demography, and population studies nec	77	71	71	83	76
Social sciences, other	1,007	1,068	1,069	1,140	1,046
Applied linguistics	74	70	70	76	75
Archeology	83	105	91	91	79
Criminology	97	118	135	111	120
Geography and cartography	223	220	213	203	189
International relations and national security studies	104	129	115	131	119
Linguistics	203	192	194	219	189
Social sciences nec	223	234	251	309	275
Non-science and engineering	10,971	11,600	11,871	11,713	11,743
Business	1,344	1,398	1,507	1,355	1,350
Business administration and management	459	444	492	440	461
Business management and administration	235	297	312	226	263
Organizational leadership	117	54	67	92	89
Business administration and management nec	107	93	113	122	109
Business, other	885	954	1,015	915	889
Accounting and accounting-related	135	159	163	150	148
Finance and financial management	194	208	219	185	174
Management information systems	88	92	82	93	83
Management sciences	72	77	88	91	78
Marketing	119	146	145	136	126
Organizational behavior studies	103	94	99	81	76
Business nec	174	178	219	179	204
Education	3,698	3,881	3,979	3,929	4,048
Education leadership and administration	1,073	1,150	1,177	1,156	1,245
Educational leadership and administration, general	491	478	501	463	380
Educational leadership and policy	na	na	na	na	236
Higher education and community college administration	391	436	451	467	449
Education leadership and administration nec	191	236	225	226	180

Table 3-1. Research doctorate recipients, by detailed field of doctorate: 2021–25

(Number)

Field of doctorate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Education research	1,203	1,178	1,251	1,218	1,194
Curriculum and instruction	425	407	412	403	396
Educational assessment, evaluation, and research methods	222	218	203	212	213
Educational/ instructional technology and media design	155	170	199	205	191
Higher education evaluation and research	61	60	62	52	52
Student counseling and personnel services	266	245	283	275	270
Education research nec	74	78	92	71	72
Teacher education and teaching fields	1,007	1,093	1,096	1,108	1,124
Adult, continuing, and workforce education and development	66	64	61	59	56
Bilingual, multilingual, and multicultural education	76	62	72	66	62
Early childhood education and teaching	43	47	43	38	64
Language and literacy education	na	103	102	98	95
Mathematics teacher education	75	49	73	53	62
Music teacher education	73	73	77	65	67
Special education and teaching	234	257	246	259	259
STEM educational methods	70	83	75	85	97
Teacher education, science and engineering	63	74	55	72	72
Teacher education, specific levels and methods	109	140	158	177	154
Teacher education, specific subject areas	198	141	134	136	136
Education, other	415	460	455	447	485
Education, general	267	323	322	319	342
Education nec	148	137	133	128	143
Humanities	3,108	3,367	3,357	3,304	3,355
English language and literature, letters	949	1,062	1,037	1,016	984
American literature (United States)	129	138	113	108	114
Creative writing	68	75	103	89	89
English language and literature, general	361	396	397	402	417
English literature (British and Commonwealth)	131	161	141	119	100
Rhetoric, composition, and writing studies	191	217	198	205	179
English language and literature nec	69	75	85	93	85
Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	505	538	572	539	542
Comparative literature	118	91	130	108	109
Hispanic/ Latin American languages, literatures, and linguistics	70	92	97	84	94
Romance languages, literatures, and linguistics	72	104	97	99	97
Spanish language and literature	79	92	97	77	81
Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics nec	166	159	151	171	161
History	684	731	733	719	779
American history (United States)	222	245	240	229	244
European history	88	120	109	112	101
History, general	168	144	175	179	239
History, regional focus	133	145	139	126	130
History nec	73	77	70	73	65
Philosophy and religious studies	598	643	619	631	628
Philosophy	387	406	394	417	413
Religion/ religious studies	125	140	143	135	128
Philosophy and religious studies nec	86	97	82	79	87
Humanities, other	372	393	396	399	422
Bible/ biblical studies	71	90	99	84	85
Humanities and humanistic studies	62	79	99	124	113
Theological and ministerial studies	239	224	198	191	224
Visual and performing arts	770	835	824	874	793
Performing arts	490	489	487	518	494
Dance, drama, theatre arts, and stagecraft	82	85	83	92	73

Table 3-1. Research doctorate recipients, by detailed field of doctorate: 2021–25

(Number)

Field of doctorate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Music performance	127	117	122	133	135
Music theory and composition	86	92	94	89	75
Musicology and ethnomusicology	116	112	109	106	126
Music nec	79	83	79	98	85
Visual arts, media studies, and design	280	346	337	356	299
Art history, criticism, and conservation	167	208	185	210	187
Film, cinema, and media studies	62	74	84	88	55
Visual arts, media studies, and design nec	51	64	68	58	57
Other non-science and engineering	2,051	2,119	2,204	2,251	2,197
Communication and journalism	521	586	635	645	584
Applied communication, advertising, and public relations	94	103	87	105	82
Communication and media studies	161	145	167	141	135
Communication, general	85	166	194	190	187
Mass communication/ media studies	95	94	94	106	81
Communication and journalism nec	86	78	93	103	99
Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary studies	303	372	376	385	349
Classical and ancient studies	91	100	126	108	111
Interdisciplinary leadership/ leadership studies	na	108	106	149	113
Multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary studies nec	212	164	144	128	125
Public administration and social services	489	467	505	533	532
Public administration	175	92	70	91	102
Public administration and policy	na	86	99	108	96
Social work and human services	314	289	336	334	334
Non-science and engineering, other	738	694	688	688	732
Architecture and architectural studies	132	99	118	137	127
City/ urban, community, and regional planning	102	103	103	90	101
Family, consumer, and human sciences	139	128	132	123	138
Homeland security and protective services	169	154	137	139	139
Law/ legal studies and research	79	71	73	96	73
Parks, recreation, leisure, fitness, and sport studies and management	87	113	93	73	112
Other non-science and engineering nec	30	26	32	30	42

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

nec = not elsewhere classified; STEM = science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Note(s):

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.