

Table 1-2. Research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate and 2021 Carnegie Classification of doctorate institution: 2015–25

(Number)

Field and 2021 Carnegie Classification	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All doctorate recipients	54,886	54,809	54,550	55,077	55,597	55,200	52,158	57,435	57,801	58,013	59,015
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	45,006	44,840	44,678	45,038	45,359	44,977	42,382	47,061	47,429	47,152	48,088
R2: doctoral universities - high research	6,012	6,063	6,131	6,073	6,179	6,186	5,768	6,058	6,190	6,354	6,261
Doctoral/ professional universities	1,747	1,870	1,756	1,908	1,821	1,967	1,997	1,930	1,800	2,019	2,039
Other universities	2,121	2,036	1,985	2,058	2,238	2,070	2,011	2,386	2,382	2,488	2,627
Science and engineering	41,247	41,306	41,364	42,144	42,896	42,561	40,818	45,390	45,489	45,833	46,876
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	34,307	34,343	34,530	35,017	35,545	35,280	33,844	37,839	37,962	37,982	38,877
R2: doctoral universities - high research	4,194	4,175	4,210	4,330	4,440	4,478	4,190	4,431	4,566	4,649	4,629
Doctoral/ professional universities	1,060	1,141	1,058	1,162	1,107	1,171	1,164	1,178	1,072	1,248	1,316
Other universities	1,686	1,647	1,566	1,635	1,804	1,632	1,620	1,942	1,889	1,954	2,054
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,490	1,428	1,543	1,499	1,538	1,531	1,412	1,509	1,477	1,472	1,538
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	1,328	1,258	1,375	1,349	1,392	1,353	1,259	1,340	1,332	1,301	1,381
R2: doctoral universities - high research	148	151	145	137	130	153	135	143	130	147	127
Doctoral/ professional universities	3	1	5	1	5	7	4	7	4	3	6
Other universities	11	18	18	12	11	18	14	19	11	21	24
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,783	8,863	8,567	8,782	8,678	8,403	8,131	9,205	9,565	9,672	9,850
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	6,905	7,048	6,889	6,958	6,855	6,743	6,460	7,325	7,645	7,757	7,853
R2: doctoral universities - high research	700	666	675	706	697	681	645	705	751	693	784
Doctoral/ professional universities	93	157	78	97	45	60	72	56	58	52	51
Other universities	1,085	992	925	1,021	1,081	919	954	1,119	1,111	1,170	1,162
Computer and information sciences	2,003	2,082	1,998	2,000	2,220	2,363	2,360	2,607	2,686	2,979	3,438
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	1,752	1,798	1,719	1,752	1,902	2,036	2,046	2,276	2,331	2,562	2,978
R2: doctoral universities - high research	207	242	230	197	274	277	271	276	281	328	330
Doctoral/ professional universities	18	14	15	25	10	6	6	10	35	27	59
Other universities	26	28	34	26	34	44	37	45	39	62	71
Engineering	9,875	9,459	9,774	10,164	10,298	10,468	10,230	11,516	11,398	11,154	11,536
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	8,850	8,478	8,760	8,971	9,126	9,279	9,048	10,205	10,100	9,912	10,305
R2: doctoral universities - high research	930	891	894	1,071	1,047	1,072	1,049	1,140	1,121	1,095	1,035
Doctoral/ professional universities	27	28	38	33	30	25	30	27	37	39	39
Other universities	68	62	82	89	95	92	103	144	140	108	157
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,057	1,227	1,169	1,185	1,272	1,241	1,064	1,181	1,231	1,229	1,227
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	958	1,084	1,027	1,070	1,126	1,096	933	1,046	1,086	1,108	1,085
R2: doctoral universities - high research	92	127	132	103	137	136	119	126	129	110	131
Doctoral/ professional universities	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	0
Other universities	6	14	9	10	7	6	10	7	13	9	11
Health sciences	2,220	2,248	2,443	2,473	2,532	2,606	2,249	2,471	2,433	2,504	2,487
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	1,537	1,557	1,705	1,750	1,749	1,828	1,538	1,686	1,657	1,687	1,675
R2: doctoral universities - high research	300	285	288	325	368	333	345	338	369	370	387

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Doctoral/ professional universities	208	213	258	231	232	271	208	238	204	230	187
Other universities	175	193	192	167	183	174	158	209	203	217	238
Mathematics and statistics	1,815	1,872	1,844	2,022	2,010	2,024	2,010	2,247	2,165	2,092	2,175
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	1,679	1,707	1,675	1,835	1,846	1,802	1,839	2,082	1,972	1,890	1,974
R2: doctoral universities - high research	121	157	160	175	154	212	156	140	176	187	183
Doctoral/ professional universities	2	2	1	5	2	5	9	9	10	11	9
Other universities	13	6	8	7	8	5	6	16	7	4	9
Physical sciences	4,859	5,024	4,913	5,144	5,306	5,000	4,710	5,466	5,456	5,388	5,362
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	4,376	4,539	4,461	4,634	4,805	4,487	4,285	4,969	4,961	4,848	4,854
R2: doctoral universities - high research	423	419	397	438	430	441	357	421	429	458	417
Doctoral/ professional universities	13	8	7	7	5	9	12	7	1	4	3
Other universities	47	58	48	65	66	63	56	69	65	78	88
Psychology	3,776	3,910	3,925	3,821	3,909	3,865	3,777	3,952	3,883	4,066	4,076
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	2,246	2,342	2,465	2,295	2,314	2,280	2,237	2,362	2,365	2,373	2,367
R2: doctoral universities - high research	737	767	731	719	716	697	656	696	685	756	728
Doctoral/ professional universities	597	589	531	611	608	630	648	636	592	722	771
Other universities	196	212	198	196	271	258	236	258	241	215	210
Social sciences	5,369	5,193	5,188	5,054	5,133	5,060	4,875	5,236	5,195	5,277	5,187
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	4,676	4,532	4,454	4,403	4,430	4,376	4,199	4,548	4,513	4,544	4,405
R2: doctoral universities - high research	536	470	558	459	487	476	457	446	495	505	507
Doctoral/ professional universities	98	127	124	150	168	155	173	186	128	158	191
Other universities	59	64	52	42	48	53	46	56	59	70	84
Non-science and engineering	13,639	13,503	13,186	12,933	12,701	12,639	11,340	12,045	12,312	12,180	12,139
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	10,699	10,497	10,148	10,021	9,814	9,697	8,538	9,222	9,467	9,170	9,211
R2: doctoral universities - high research	1,818	1,888	1,921	1,743	1,739	1,708	1,578	1,627	1,624	1,705	1,632
Doctoral/ professional universities	687	729	698	746	714	796	833	752	728	771	723
Other universities	435	389	419	423	434	438	391	444	493	534	573
Business	1,582	1,509	1,566	1,473	1,528	1,466	1,389	1,447	1,557	1,399	1,398
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	1,239	1,184	1,145	1,096	1,146	1,118	1,018	1,135	1,265	1,069	1,065
R2: doctoral universities - high research	147	163	194	165	164	172	171	160	160	159	170
Doctoral/ professional universities	169	129	193	181	173	145	173	134	105	127	114
Other universities	27	33	34	31	45	31	27	18	27	44	49
Education	5,098	5,146	4,825	4,817	4,628	4,712	4,239	4,470	4,553	4,521	4,610
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	3,569	3,573	3,378	3,372	3,229	3,284	2,892	3,142	3,160	3,032	3,144
R2: doctoral universities - high research	1,087	1,074	1,066	989	994	953	887	879	894	972	908
Doctoral/ professional universities	372	421	317	375	328	400	396	371	388	361	398
Other universities	70	78	64	81	77	75	64	78	111	156	160
Humanities and arts	5,522	5,416	5,209	5,139	5,051	4,924	4,132	4,456	4,452	4,490	4,418

Table 1-2. Research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate and 2021 Carnegie Classification of doctorate institution: 2015–25

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Field and 2021 Carnegie Classification	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	4,684	4,562	4,362	4,342	4,273	4,108	3,436	3,703	3,712	3,788	3,669
R2: doctoral universities - high research	450	513	487	437	406	430	342	368	368	356	376
Doctoral/ professional universities	80	103	71	81	80	86	85	86	65	76	66
Other universities	308	238	289	279	292	300	269	299	307	270	307
Other non-science and engineering	1,437	1,432	1,586	1,504	1,494	1,537	1,580	1,672	1,750	1,770	1,713
R1: doctoral universities - very high research	1,207	1,178	1,263	1,211	1,166	1,187	1,192	1,242	1,330	1,281	1,333
R2: doctoral universities - high research	134	138	174	152	175	153	178	220	202	218	178
Doctoral/ professional universities	66	76	117	109	133	165	179	161	170	207	145
Other universities	30	40	32	32	20	32	31	49	48	64	57

Note(s):
Carnegie classification is based on the 2021 Carnegie Classifications: doctoral universities - very high research (R1), doctoral universities - high research (R2), doctoral/professional universities, and other universities, which includes all other Carnegie classifications (e.g., special focus institutions) and institutions without Carnegie classifications. 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.