

Table 1-4. Research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate and sex: Selected years, 1975–2025

(Number and percent)

Field and sex	1975		1980		1985		1990		1995		2000		2005		2010		2015		2020		2025	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields ^a	32,952	100.0	31,019	100.0	31,295	100.0	36,065	100.0	41,747	100.0	41,369	100.0	43,385	100.0	48,028	100.0	54,886	100.0	55,200	100.0	59,015	100.0
Male	25,751	78.1	21,612	69.7	20,552	65.7	22,960	63.7	25,160	60.3	23,165	56.0	23,737	54.7	25,524	53.1	29,532	53.8	29,844	54.1	30,214	51.2
Female	7,201	21.9	9,407	30.3	10,743	34.3	13,104	36.3	16,416	39.3	18,131	43.8	19,582	45.1	22,488	46.8	25,347	46.2	25,350	45.9	28,801	48.8
Science and engineering	19,237	100.0	18,190	100.0	19,527	100.0	23,715	100.0	27,704	100.0	27,420	100.0	29,621	100.0	35,043	100.0	41,247	100.0	42,561	100.0	46,876	100.0
Male	16,174	84.1	14,022	77.1	14,233	72.9	16,787	70.8	18,498	66.8	16,970	61.9	17,896	60.4	20,102	57.4	23,741	57.6	24,467	57.5	25,494	54.4
Female	3,063	15.9	4,168	22.9	5,294	27.1	6,928	29.2	9,068	32.7	10,393	37.9	11,681	39.4	14,931	42.6	17,501	42.4	18,089	42.5	21,382	45.6
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,169	100.0	1,153	100.0	1,351	100.0	1,441	100.0	1,348	100.0	1,229	100.0	1,207	100.0	1,157	100.0	1,490	100.0	1,531	100.0	1,538	100.0
Male	1,113	95.2	1,031	89.4	1,136	84.1	1,132	78.6	1,026	76.1	851	69.2	768	63.6	633	54.7	766	51.4	768	50.2	710	46.2
Female	56	4.8	122	10.6	215	15.9	309	21.4	316	23.4	376	30.6	436	36.1	523	45.2	724	48.6	762	49.8	828	53.8
Biological and biomedical sciences	3,497	100.0	3,803	100.0	3,869	100.0	4,430	100.0	5,529	100.0	6,044	100.0	6,638	100.0	8,370	100.0	8,783	100.0	8,403	100.0	9,850	100.0
Male	2,691	77.0	2,750	72.3	2,583	66.8	2,755	62.2	3,197	57.8	3,284	54.3	3,351	50.5	3,916	46.8	4,100	46.7	3,883	46.2	4,213	42.8
Female	806	23.0	1,053	27.7	1,286	33.2	1,675	37.8	2,305	41.7	2,754	45.6	3,279	49.4	4,450	53.2	4,682	53.3	4,520	53.8	5,637	57.2
Computer and information sciences	na	na	218	100.0	310	100.0	705	100.0	997	100.0	860	100.0	1,129	100.0	1,633	100.0	2,003	100.0	2,363	100.0	3,438	100.0
Male	na	na	197	90.4	277	89.4	595	84.4	808	81.0	717	83.4	905	80.2	1,286	78.8	1,581	78.9	1,861	78.8	2,528	73.5
Female	na	na	21	9.6	33	10.6	110	15.6	186	18.7	141	16.4	221	19.6	347	21.2	422	21.1	502	21.2	910	26.5
Engineering	3,002	100.0	2,479	100.0	3,166	100.0	4,894	100.0	6,008	100.0	5,323	100.0	6,426	100.0	7,578	100.0	9,875	100.0	10,468	100.0	11,536	100.0
Male	2,950	98.3	2,389	96.4	2,968	93.7	4,479	91.5	5,270	87.7	4,459	83.8	5,226	81.3	5,829	76.9	7,578	76.7	7,875	75.2	8,244	71.5
Female	52	1.7	90	3.6	198	6.3	415	8.5	696	11.6	838	15.7	1,182	18.4	1,746	23.0	2,297	23.3	2,591	24.8	3,292	28.5
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	557	100.0	588	100.0	575	100.0	719	100.0	726	100.0	693	100.0	714	100.0	862	100.0	1,057	100.0	1,241	100.0	1,227	100.0
Male	535	96.1	530	90.1	470	81.7	581	80.8	577	79.5	495	71.4	470	65.8	496	57.5	600	56.8	736	59.3	637	51.9
Female	22	3.9	58	9.9	105	18.3	138	19.2	147	20.2	195	28.1	244	34.2	366	42.5	457	43.2	505	40.7	590	48.1
Health sciences	437	100.0	545	100.0	602	100.0	784	100.0	1,121	100.0	1,349	100.0	1,465	100.0	1,792	100.0	2,220	100.0	2,606	100.0	2,487	100.0
Male	296	67.7	300	55.0	227	37.7	276	35.2	375	33.5	433	32.1	442	30.2	552	30.8	697	31.4	891	34.2	766	30.8
Female	141	32.3	245	45.0	375	62.3	508	64.8	737	65.7	913	67.7	1,020	69.6	1,240	69.2	1,523	68.6	1,715	65.8	1,721	69.2
Mathematics and statistics	1,147	100.0	744	100.0	688	100.0	892	100.0	1,190	100.0	1,050	100.0	1,205	100.0	1,590	100.0	1,815	100.0	2,024	100.0	2,175	100.0
Male	1,038	90.5	649	87.2	582	84.6	734	82.3	919	77.2	790	75.2	877	72.8	1,123	70.6	1,296	71.4	1,434	70.8	1,500	69.0
Female	109	9.5	95	12.8	106	15.4	158	17.7	265	22.3	259	24.7	326	27.1	467	29.4	517	28.5	590	29.2	675	31.0
Physical sciences	3,076	100.0	2,521	100.0	2,916	100.0	3,493	100.0	3,814	100.0	3,378	100.0	3,645	100.0	4,133	100.0	4,859	100.0	5,000	100.0	5,362	100.0
Male	2,812	91.4	2,199	87.2	2,452	84.1	2,840	81.3	2,922	76.6	2,546	75.4	2,671	73.3	2,883	69.8	3,328	68.5	3,437	68.7	3,484	65.0
Female	264	8.6	322	12.8	464	15.9	653	18.7	873	22.9	827	24.5	972	26.7	1,249	30.2	1,530	31.5	1,561	31.2	1,878	35.0
Psychology	2,751	100.0	3,098	100.0	3,117	100.0	3,281	100.0	3,429	100.0	3,616	100.0	3,322	100.0	3,420	100.0	3,776	100.0	3,865	100.0	4,076	100.0
Male	1,878	68.3	1,787	57.7	1,576	50.6	1,368	41.7	1,245	36.3	1,203	33.3	1,058	31.8	1,031	30.1	1,057	28.0	1,079	27.9	982	24.1
Female	873	31.7	1,311	42.3	1,541	49.4	1,913	58.3	2,181	63.6	2,410	66.6	2,263	68.1	2,389	69.9	2,719	72.0	2,786	72.1	3,094	75.9
Social sciences	3,601	100.0	3,041	100.0	2,933	100.0	3,076	100.0	3,542	100.0	3,878	100.0	3,870	100.0	4,508	100.0	5,369	100.0	5,060	100.0	5,187	100.0
Male	2,861	79.5	2,190	72.0	1,962	66.9	2,027	65.9	2,159	61.0	2,192	56.5	2,128	55.0	2,353	52.2	2,738	51.0	2,503	49.5	2,430	46.8
Female	740	20.5	851	28.0	971	33.1	1,049	34.1	1,362	38.5	1,680	43.3	1,738	44.9	2,154	47.8	2,630	49.0	2,557	50.5	2,757	53.2
Non-science and engineering	13,715	100.0	12,829	100.0	11,768	100.0	12,350	100.0	14,043	100.0	13,949	100.0	13,764	100.0	12,985	100.0	13,639	100.0	12,639	100.0	12,139	100.0

Table 1-4. Research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate and sex: Selected years, 1975–2025

(Number and percent)

Field and sex	1975		1980		1985		1990		1995		2000		2005		2010		2015		2020		2025	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	9,577	69.8	7,590	59.2	6,319	53.7	6,173	50.0	6,662	47.4	6,195	44.4	5,841	42.4	5,422	41.8	5,791	42.5	5,377	42.5	4,720	38.9
Female	4,138	30.2	5,239	40.8	5,449	46.3	6,176	50.0	7,348	52.3	7,738	55.5	7,901	57.4	7,557	58.2	7,846	57.5	7,261	57.4	7,419	61.1
Business	787	100.0	640	100.0	789	100.0	1,036	100.0	1,330	100.0	1,065	100.0	1,171	100.0	1,366	100.0	1,582	100.0	1,466	100.0	1,398	100.0
Male	759	96.4	548	85.6	646	81.9	771	74.4	945	71.1	721	67.7	696	59.4	814	59.6	934	59.0	850	58.0	789	56.4
Female	28	3.6	92	14.4	143	18.1	265	25.6	378	28.4	337	31.6	471	40.2	550	40.3	648	41.0	616	42.0	609	43.6
Education	7,360	100.0	7,586	100.0	6,733	100.0	6,509	100.0	6,648	100.0	6,442	100.0	6,227	100.0	5,287	100.0	5,098	100.0	4,712	100.0	4,610	100.0
Male	5,065	68.8	4,203	55.4	3,242	48.2	2,758	42.4	2,546	38.3	2,260	35.1	2,065	33.2	1,661	31.4	1,605	31.5	1,457	30.9	1,183	25.7
Female	2,295	31.2	3,383	44.6	3,491	51.8	3,751	57.6	4,092	61.6	4,179	64.9	4,152	66.7	3,624	68.5	3,492	68.5	3,254	69.1	3,427	74.3
Humanities and arts	4,938	100.0	3,782	100.0	3,383	100.0	3,828	100.0	4,999	100.0	5,420	100.0	5,144	100.0	4,969	100.0	5,522	100.0	4,924	100.0	4,418	100.0
Male	3,329	67.4	2,354	62.2	1,993	58.9	2,171	56.7	2,671	53.4	2,761	50.9	2,573	50.0	2,435	49.0	2,725	49.3	2,506	50.9	2,116	47.9
Female	1,609	32.6	1,428	37.8	1,390	41.1	1,657	43.3	2,322	46.4	2,655	49.0	2,565	49.9	2,533	51.0	2,796	50.6	2,418	49.1	2,302	52.1
Other non-science and engineering	630	100.0	821	100.0	863	100.0	977	100.0	1,066	100.0	1,022	100.0	1,222	100.0	1,363	100.0	1,437	100.0	1,537	100.0	1,713	100.0
Male	424	67.3	485	59.1	438	50.8	473	48.4	500	46.9	453	44.3	507	41.5	512	37.6	527	36.7	564	36.7	632	36.9
Female	206	32.7	336	40.9	425	49.2	503	51.5	556	52.2	567	55.5	713	58.3	850	62.4	910	63.3	973	63.3	1,081	63.1

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

^a Field counts include doctorate recipients who did not report sex.

Note(s):
Due to rounding or doctorate recipients who did not report sex, percentages may not sum to 100. 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.