

2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
9.9	9.3	8.7	8.7	8.6
8.2	7.7	7.3	7.5	7.0
na	na	5.7	5.8	5.8
8.6	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.0
7.3	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.8
na	na	5.7	5.6	5.7
10.0	9.8	9.1	8.8	8.6
7.9	7.9	7.3	7.3	7.0
na	na	5.2	5.0	5.0
8.0	8.0	7.7	7.9	8.0
6.7	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.3
na	na	5.7	5.8	5.7
9.0	9.0	8.6	8.6	8.1
7.7	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.0
na	na	5.9	5.8	5.6
8.3	7.8	7.3	7.5	7.4
7.3	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.4
na	na	5.2	5.3	5.3
9.0	8.7	8.0	7.7	7.8
7.8	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.4
na	na	5.6	5.3	5.7
13.0	11.5	11.7	10.9	11.0
9.9	9.3	9.3	8.8	8.7
na	na	5.3	5.0	5.0
7.9	7.2	6.9	7.0	7.0
6.8	6.3	6.0	6.3	6.1
na	na	5.3	5.3	5.6

Table 1-12. Median years to research doctorate, by trend broad field of doctorate: Selected years, 1975–2025

(Median years)

Field and time to degree	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Since earning bachelor's	6.6	6.6	7.0	7.1	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.8
Since starting graduate school	5.9	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.7	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.0
Since starting doctoral program ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.7	5.8
Psychology											
Since earning bachelor's	6.9	8.0	9.5	10.2	9.8	9.0	9.0	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.9
Since starting graduate school	5.9	6.7	7.9	8.5	7.9	7.2	7.3	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0
Since starting doctoral program ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	6.0	5.9	5.8
Social sciences											
Since earning bachelor's	8.6	9.6	10.7	11.3	11.0	10.6	10.8	10.6	10.2	10.3	10.3
Since starting graduate school	7.7	8.2	9.0	9.3	9.2	8.7	9.0	8.7	8.3	8.8	8.8
Since starting doctoral program ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	6.0	6.0	6.0
Non-science and engineering											
Since earning bachelor's	11.0	12.1	14.0	15.5	15.7	14.5	14.0	13.1	12.2	12.3	12.7
Since starting graduate school	9.2	10.2	11.7	12.7	12.2	11.2	11.1	10.3	9.9	10.2	10.0
Since starting doctoral program ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	6.3	6.0	5.9
Business											
Since earning bachelor's	9.5	10.4	11.9	12.0	12.2	13.0	12.4	11.5	10.7	10.6	10.8
Since starting graduate school	7.9	8.7	9.6	9.0	9.7	9.9	9.8	8.9	8.7	8.9	8.8
Since starting doctoral program ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	5.0	5.0	5.3
Education											
Since earning bachelor's	12.6	13.2	15.2	18.0	19.9	19.4	17.4	16.2	14.8	15.0	15.5
Since starting graduate school	9.9	10.7	12.7	14.7	15.7	14.2	13.0	12.5	11.7	12.0	12.0
Since starting doctoral program ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	6.0	5.8	5.4
Humanities and arts											
Since earning bachelor's	9.9	10.9	11.9	12.3	12.1	11.6	12.0	11.6	11.0	11.0	11.3
Since starting graduate school	8.7	9.7	10.2	10.7	10.2	9.7	9.9	9.5	9.2	9.6	9.5
Since starting doctoral program ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	7.0	6.8	6.8
Other non-science and engineering											
Since earning bachelor's	11.2	11.7	14.0	14.8	15.0	14.4	13.6	12.8	11.7	11.9	12.0
Since starting graduate school	9.6	9.7	11.7	11.9	11.9	10.9	11.0	9.8	9.3	9.8	9.8
Since starting doctoral program ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	5.7	5.8	5.3

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

^a Time to doctorate from doctoral program start is based on master's degree entry if the master's degree was at the 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):
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.