

Table 1-13. Graduate debt of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: 2015–25

(Number)

Graduate debt level and field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Doctorate recipients reporting education-related debt level	48,759	49,778	49,229	50,040	50,724	50,364	47,249	51,982	51,944	52,048	52,420
No graduate debt	30,890	31,987	32,602	33,846	34,710	35,079	33,823	38,210	38,107	38,231	39,151
\$10,000 or less	4,189	4,071	3,802	3,831	3,469	3,399	2,739	2,858	3,126	3,046	3,067
\$10,001–\$30,000	4,464	4,376	3,897	3,720	3,790	3,411	2,941	3,231	3,224	3,216	2,995
\$30,001–\$70,000	4,500	4,528	4,108	3,902	3,673	3,481	3,174	3,212	3,181	3,263	3,123
\$70,001 or more	4,716	4,816	4,820	4,741	5,082	4,994	4,572	4,471	4,306	4,292	4,084
Science and engineering	36,787	37,658	37,578	38,541	39,401	39,139	37,243	41,353	41,169	41,391	41,922
No graduate debt	25,188	26,072	26,758	27,926	28,674	29,060	28,173	32,069	31,731	31,919	32,753
\$10,000 or less	3,072	3,039	2,852	2,861	2,630	2,574	2,124	2,178	2,449	2,381	2,393
\$10,001–\$30,000	3,006	2,953	2,657	2,506	2,639	2,340	2,107	2,264	2,312	2,318	2,201
\$30,001–\$70,000	2,792	2,797	2,522	2,434	2,323	2,149	2,037	2,100	2,071	2,142	2,050
\$70,001 or more	2,729	2,797	2,789	2,814	3,135	3,016	2,802	2,742	2,606	2,631	2,525
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,336	1,312	1,392	1,362	1,416	1,400	1,276	1,367	1,305	1,342	1,386
No graduate debt	889	874	968	953	985	989	938	1,022	969	995	1,074
\$10,000 or less	138	130	132	127	119	129	108	115	108	115	100
\$10,001–\$30,000	131	122	111	104	124	98	95	89	87	83	81
\$30,001–\$70,000	117	105	102	96	94	74	62	58	82	66	63
\$70,001 or more	61	81	79	82	94	110	73	83	59	83	68
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,003	8,268	8,012	8,196	8,218	7,940	7,566	8,607	8,844	8,936	9,059
No graduate debt	5,981	6,216	6,149	6,287	6,338	6,212	6,083	6,988	7,072	7,183	7,356
\$10,000 or less	637	618	605	605	566	531	405	428	495	486	483
\$10,001–\$30,000	582	596	489	497	501	394	344	414	476	476	449
\$30,001–\$70,000	441	481	408	411	424	427	361	396	394	407	396
\$70,001 or more	362	357	361	396	389	376	373	381	407	384	375
Computer and information sciences	1,774	1,892	1,803	1,802	2,043	2,161	2,127	2,363	2,391	2,611	2,926
No graduate debt	1,408	1,499	1,464	1,485	1,704	1,802	1,801	2,035	2,024	2,219	2,496
\$10,000 or less	119	106	111	110	112	110	110	107	122	106	141
\$10,001–\$30,000	89	113	94	80	86	115	87	94	94	114	125
\$30,001–\$70,000	81	90	59	61	74	57	66	69	76	82	88
\$70,001 or more	77	84	75	66	67	77	63	58	75	90	76
Engineering	8,827	8,549	8,852	9,288	9,429	9,649	9,391	10,419	10,289	10,009	10,281
No graduate debt	6,787	6,555	7,032	7,488	7,573	7,876	7,732	8,681	8,562	8,344	8,598
\$10,000 or less	774	759	679	716	639	635	549	566	609	603	626
\$10,001–\$30,000	613	568	520	516	577	494	492	519	529	486	488
\$30,001–\$70,000	420	416	362	341	345	317	339	373	356	364	345
\$70,001 or more	233	251	259	227	295	327	279	280	233	212	224
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	969	1,163	1,085	1,117	1,199	1,157	1,001	1,094	1,132	1,135	1,131
No graduate debt	714	877	835	858	926	912	796	937	928	935	928

Table 1-13. Graduate debt of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: 2015–25

(Number)

Graduate debt level and field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
\$10,000 or less	91	100	88	96	83	102	72	56	64	73	78
\$10,001–\$30,000	67	84	65	82	73	66	55	40	59	55	54
\$30,001–\$70,000	61	55	59	45	58	39	43	36	42	36	43
\$70,001 or more	36	47	38	36	59	38	35	25	39	36	28
Health sciences	1,967	2,056	2,213	2,230	2,265	2,342	2,005	2,197	2,145	2,210	2,167
No graduate debt	942	1,010	1,096	1,161	1,166	1,228	1,085	1,277	1,174	1,256	1,208
\$10,000 or less	165	166	176	143	151	143	133	114	134	119	136
\$10,001–\$30,000	230	222	218	214	227	232	147	179	171	212	176
\$30,001–\$70,000	299	318	336	329	273	289	253	255	280	257	262
\$70,001 or more	331	340	387	383	448	450	387	372	386	366	385
Mathematics and statistics	1,633	1,697	1,665	1,873	1,846	1,875	1,857	2,035	1,980	1,901	1,953
No graduate debt	1,339	1,386	1,371	1,560	1,546	1,602	1,574	1,761	1,751	1,640	1,710
\$10,000 or less	103	84	107	105	99	98	93	74	92	82	94
\$10,001–\$30,000	86	104	81	90	83	74	79	81	65	68	72
\$30,001–\$70,000	63	75	56	78	67	55	56	56	42	59	48
\$70,001 or more	42	48	50	40	51	46	55	63	30	52	29
Physical sciences	4,359	4,585	4,540	4,753	4,924	4,644	4,366	5,048	4,999	4,963	4,879
No graduate debt	3,450	3,653	3,749	3,966	4,097	3,997	3,810	4,366	4,281	4,250	4,243
\$10,000 or less	369	384	304	350	311	257	209	261	285	275	263
\$10,001–\$30,000	257	251	233	187	244	168	169	188	210	225	173
\$30,001–\$70,000	176	188	158	155	148	132	110	128	127	132	110
\$70,001 or more	107	109	96	95	124	90	68	105	96	81	90
Psychology	3,091	3,345	3,356	3,288	3,359	3,288	3,190	3,401	3,322	3,462	3,443
No graduate debt	1,161	1,384	1,426	1,487	1,568	1,518	1,519	1,771	1,723	1,769	1,877
\$10,000 or less	228	243	242	205	202	218	166	170	186	195	189
\$10,001–\$30,000	357	370	370	303	270	297	278	285	275	278	276
\$30,001–\$70,000	523	489	458	416	386	361	356	369	345	391	366
\$70,001 or more	822	859	860	877	933	894	871	806	793	829	735
Social sciences	4,828	4,791	4,660	4,632	4,702	4,683	4,464	4,822	4,762	4,822	4,697
No graduate debt	2,517	2,618	2,668	2,681	2,771	2,924	2,835	3,231	3,247	3,328	3,263
\$10,000 or less	448	449	408	404	348	351	279	287	354	327	283
\$10,001–\$30,000	594	523	476	433	454	402	361	375	346	321	307
\$30,001–\$70,000	611	580	524	502	454	398	391	360	327	348	329
\$70,001 or more	658	621	584	612	675	608	598	569	488	498	515
Non-science and engineering	11,972	12,120	11,651	11,499	11,323	11,225	10,006	10,629	10,775	10,657	10,498
No graduate debt	5,702	5,915	5,844	5,920	6,036	6,019	5,650	6,141	6,376	6,312	6,398
\$10,000 or less	1,117	1,032	950	970	839	825	615	680	677	665	674
\$10,001–\$30,000	1,458	1,423	1,240	1,214	1,151	1,071	834	967	912	898	794

Table 1-13. Graduate debt of research doctorate recipients, by trend broad field of doctorate: 2015–25

(Number)

Graduate debt level and field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
\$30,001–\$70,000	1,708	1,731	1,586	1,468	1,350	1,332	1,137	1,112	1,110	1,121	1,073
\$70,001 or more	1,987	2,019	2,031	1,927	1,947	1,978	1,770	1,729	1,700	1,661	1,559
Business	1,372	1,329	1,344	1,274	1,350	1,254	1,210	1,275	1,348	1,206	1,162
No graduate debt	816	821	841	822	882	861	852	916	1,021	857	881
\$10,000 or less	79	86	66	72	77	65	47	74	60	57	59
\$10,001–\$30,000	127	111	112	117	102	76	86	89	91	78	43
\$30,001–\$70,000	150	139	136	103	114	95	71	65	57	85	66
\$70,001 or more	200	172	189	160	175	157	154	131	119	129	113
Education	4,490	4,621	4,299	4,355	4,199	4,266	3,769	3,918	4,019	4,012	4,017
No graduate debt	1,942	2,038	1,892	1,951	1,976	2,003	1,868	1,917	2,005	2,085	2,087
\$10,000 or less	396	369	340	339	267	292	227	240	262	257	250
\$10,001–\$30,000	555	557	483	480	421	433	337	382	381	384	351
\$30,001–\$70,000	711	718	673	667	621	600	494	528	535	504	548
\$70,001 or more	886	939	911	918	914	938	843	851	836	782	781
Humanities and arts	4,873	4,890	4,676	4,614	4,507	4,369	3,659	3,976	3,917	3,945	3,871
No graduate debt	2,394	2,515	2,507	2,550	2,564	2,511	2,231	2,492	2,529	2,554	2,594
\$10,000 or less	537	461	439	457	402	355	244	269	258	255	266
\$10,001–\$30,000	629	599	503	483	476	429	286	371	317	315	288
\$30,001–\$70,000	640	652	549	513	466	473	409	362	342	366	314
\$70,001 or more	673	663	678	611	599	601	489	482	471	455	409
Other non-science and engineering	1,237	1,280	1,332	1,256	1,267	1,336	1,368	1,460	1,491	1,494	1,448
No graduate debt	550	541	604	597	614	644	699	816	821	816	836
\$10,000 or less	105	116	105	102	93	113	97	97	97	96	99
\$10,001–\$30,000	147	156	142	134	152	133	125	125	123	121	112
\$30,001–\$70,000	207	222	228	185	149	164	163	157	176	166	145
\$70,001 or more	228	245	253	238	259	282	284	265	274	295	256

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.