

Table 1-14. Highest educational attainment of either parent of research doctorate recipients: 1970–2025

(Percent)

Year	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional doctorate ^b	Research doctorate
1970	47.9	16.7	19.3	11.7	na	4.4
1971	46.9	16.6	19.3	12.6	na	4.7
1972	46.2	16.4	19.7	12.8	na	4.9
1973	45.7	16.8	19.5	13.2	na	4.8
1974	45.3	16.8	19.7	13.3	na	4.8
1975	44.2	16.1	20.7	13.7	na	5.2
1976	43.8	16.3	20.1	14.3	na	5.4
1977	43.1	16.5	20.5	14.3	na	5.7
1978	41.6	16.4	20.9	15.2	na	5.9
1979	41.1	16.6	21.0	15.3	na	6.0
1980	40.8	16.0	21.7	15.4	na	6.1
1981	39.9	15.8	21.8	16.0	na	6.4
1982	39.4	15.8	21.6	16.3	na	7.0
1983	38.1	15.7	22.2	16.9	na	7.1
1984	38.3	15.0	22.5	16.9	na	7.3
1985	37.9	14.7	22.6	17.5	na	7.3
1986	37.1	14.6	22.6	17.8	na	7.9
1987	36.4	14.5	22.6	18.0	na	8.6
1988	35.2	14.7	22.8	18.6	na	8.7
1989	34.5	13.9	23.4	19.0	na	9.1
1990	32.9	15.2	20.9	13.8	7.0	10.3
1991	32.5	15.3	20.3	12.5	8.7	10.8
1992	31.4	15.4	20.9	12.4	8.8	11.1
1993	31.2	15.1	20.8	12.8	8.6	11.4
1994	30.0	15.2	21.1	12.9	8.9	11.9
1995	28.7	15.1	21.6	14.0	8.8	11.8
1996	28.2	14.3	21.9	14.4	8.6	12.5
1997	26.5	13.9	22.6	15.1	8.6	13.4
1998	25.8	13.7	22.4	15.5	8.9	13.7
1999	25.1	13.6	21.9	16.1	9.1	14.2
2000	25.2	13.3	22.4	16.2	9.0	14.0
2001	23.9	13.6	22.3	17.0	8.9	14.2
2002	23.6	13.5	22.9	17.0	8.9	14.2
2003	23.2	13.3	23.2	17.2	9.0	14.0
2004	22.8	13.4	23.9	18.8	8.9	12.1
2005	22.3	13.5	24.8	19.0	8.8	11.6
2006	21.8	13.4	25.6	19.4	8.6	11.3
2007	21.3	13.5	26.0	19.7	9.3	10.3
2008	20.9	13.4	25.5	20.5	9.3	10.4
2009	20.2	13.0	25.4	21.3	10.0	10.2
2010	19.2	13.1	25.5	21.3	10.4	10.5
2011	19.2	13.0	25.6	21.7	9.9	10.6
2012	19.0	12.5	25.7	21.8	10.3	10.7
2013	18.6	12.7	25.5	22.5	10.0	10.6
2014	18.2	12.3	26.2	22.3	10.3	10.6
2015	18.1	12.3	26.7	22.2	10.0	10.7
2016	17.7	12.8	26.1	22.7	10.0	10.7
2017	17.4	13.4	26.2	22.1	9.4	11.4
2018	16.3	12.9	26.5	22.2	9.6	12.4
2019	16.6	13.1	26.6	22.3	9.4	12.1
2020	16.1	13.2	27.1	22.5	9.2	11.9
2021	14.9	13.1	26.1	22.0	8.7	15.2
2022	15.7	13.1	26.9	22.9	8.8	12.7

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(Percent)

Year	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional doctorate ^b	Research doctorate
2023	17.3	13.2	27.2	22.3	8.6	11.3
2024	15.8	13.2	27.2	23.7	8.3	11.9
2025	15.5	13.1	27.0	24.2	8.5	11.8

na = not applicable; added to survey in 1990.

^a Some college includes those who attended college but did not earn a bachelor's degree.

^b Professional doctorate includes professional doctorates such as MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PsyD, DDiv.

Note(s):

Excludes doctorate recipients who did not report parental education for either parent or reported "not applicable or unknown" for both parents' education. If data were provided for one parent, that response is used; when data were provided for two parents, the higher attainment is used. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.