

Table 3-5. Median years to science and engineering research doctorate, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and median years)

Time to degree and demographic characteristic	All fields		Science and engineering, total		Agricultural sciences and natural resources		Biological and biomedical sciences		Computer and information sciences		Engineering		Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences		Health sciences		Mathematics and statistics		Multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary sciences		Physical sciences		Psychology		Social sciences	
	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median
Years since bachelor's degree																										
Doctorate recipients reporting year of bachelor's degree	54,980	8.6	44,207	8.0	1,216	8.6	9,473	8.0	2,730	8.1	10,130	7.4	1,139	7.8	2,637	11.3	1,944	7.0	1,665	8.4	5,052	6.8	3,581	8.8	4,640	10.3
Sex																										
Male	28,168	8.3	23,903	8.0	549	9.0	4,102	8.0	2,039	8.0	7,227	7.6	592	8.0	766	10.0	1,351	7.0	994	8.2	3,288	6.9	836	9.1	2,159	10.0
Female	26,812	9.0	20,304	8.2	667	8.4	5,371	7.7	691	8.6	2,903	7.0	547	7.6	1,871	12.0	593	7.2	671	9.0	1,764	6.5	2,745	8.7	2,481	10.5
Citizenship status																										
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	35,333	8.7	27,270	8.0	725	8.6	7,128	7.7	1,041	8.3	4,702	6.8	825	7.5	2,021	12.0	922	6.7	822	8.8	3,071	6.3	3,088	8.7	2,925	10.6
Temporary visa holder	18,544	8.5	16,084	8.2	471	8.9	2,198	8.3	1,598	8.0	5,242	7.9	299	8.5	536	9.9	987	7.3	808	8.3	1,916	7.3	382	9.0	1,647	10.0
Ethnicity or race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																										
Hispanic or Latino	3,690	8.3	2,837	7.6	76	8.5	765	7.3	54	8.0	392	6.3	90	7.3	208	11.0	92	6.8	65	7.8	321	6.3	449	8.6	325	10.3
Not Hispanic or Latino																										
American Indian or Alaska Native	103	10.6	68	9.2	D	D	11	6.3	0	-	11	9.0	5	15.6	7	10.3	D	D	D	D	5	11.3	9	10.0	15	9.3
Asian	4,103	8.4	3,557	8.0	D	D	952	8.1	244	8.0	851	7.2	60	7.3	242	10.4	D	D	D	D	327	7.0	231	8.5	299	10.6
Black or African American	2,904	11.9	1,764	9.6	27	12.0	326	8.0	67	11.3	225	7.8	25	7.0	285	13.8	32	8.3	50	10.5	121	7.3	282	10.1	324	12.9
White	22,086	8.5	17,108	7.8	527	8.3	4,574	7.6	592	8.3	2,899	6.6	588	7.6	1,157	12.3	580	6.6	502	9.0	2,081	6.3	1,899	8.4	1,709	10.3
More than one race	1,390	8.3	1,136	7.7	22	10.1	314	7.8	32	7.8	175	6.3	43	7.3	66	12.0	45	6.4	26	7.3	143	6.3	125	9.1	145	10.0
Other race or race not reported	551	10.0	421	9.0	3	10.0	92	8.2	29	8.2	69	7.0	7	8.3	34	12.8	19	8.4	19	11.9	35	7.0	55	10.0	59	12.0
Ethnicity not reported	506	9.1	379	8.3	8	9.8	94	8.3	23	7.6	80	7.8	7	6.6	22	14.2	9	6.3	11	5.7	38	7.3	38	9.3	49	12.0
Years since entering graduate school																										
Doctorate recipients reporting year of graduate school entry	53,305	7.0	42,946	6.8	1,204	7.2	9,279	6.3	2,597	7.0	9,829	6.4	1,108	6.4	2,590	8.8	1,904	6.1	1,629	7.0	4,896	6.0	3,388	7.0	4,522	8.8
Sex																										
Male	27,359	7.0	23,257	6.8	556	7.4	4,018	6.6	1,939	6.9	7,015	6.7	573	6.7	766	7.8	1,324	6.1	975	6.9	3,198	6.0	792	7.0	2,101	8.4
Female	25,946	7.3	19,689	6.8	648	6.9	5,261	6.3	658	7.3	2,814	6.3	535	6.3	1,824	9.0	580	6.3	654	7.3	1,698	5.8	2,596	6.9	2,421	8.9
Citizenship status																										
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	34,328	7.0	26,505	6.5	702	6.9	6,965	6.3	993	7.0	4,533	6.0	803	6.3	1,991	9.0	906	6.0	803	7.0	2,967	5.8	2,960	6.9	2,882	8.7

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(Number and median years)

Time to degree and demographic characteristic	All fields		Science and engineering, total		Agricultural sciences and natural resources		Biological and biomedical sciences		Computer and information sciences		Engineering		Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences		Health sciences		Mathematics and statistics		Multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary sciences		Physical sciences		Psychology		Social sciences	
	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median
Temporary visa holder	18,252	7.3	15,864	7.0	486	7.6	2,222	7.0	1,541	7.0	5,159	6.9	295	7.3	558	7.8	969	6.5	797	7.1	1,876	6.3	372	7.7	1,589	8.8
Ethnicity or race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																										
Hispanic or Latino	3,594	7.0	2,763	6.3	77	6.8	757	6.3	52	7.3	382	5.8	88	6.3	201	8.6	91	6.0	63	6.3	314	5.8	419	6.9	319	8.4
Not Hispanic or Latino																										
American Indian or Alaska Native	93	8.3	61	7.8	D	D	9	5.7	0	-	11	7.2	5	15.3	7	9.0	0	-	D	D	D	D	7	7.7	14	7.3
Asian	4,059	6.9	3,523	6.8	D	D	960	6.5	238	6.8	823	6.3	59	6.1	248	8.1	143	6.1	D	D	D	D	224	7.0	299	9.0
Black or African American	2,852	9.3	1,750	7.8	27	7.3	320	6.8	64	10.1	219	6.8	24	6.2	291	9.8	33	6.8	48	8.7	119	6.3	278	8.0	327	9.9
White	21,535	6.9	16,678	6.3	505	6.8	4,463	6.2	570	6.9	2,827	5.9	575	6.3	1,131	9.3	567	6.0	492	7.3	2,021	5.8	1,836	6.8	1,691	8.3
More than one race	1,385	6.8	1,133	6.3	22	7.4	313	6.3	32	7.1	172	5.8	43	6.1	66	8.2	45	6.0	26	5.9	143	5.8	125	6.9	146	8.0
Other race or race not reported	510	7.8	388	6.9	2	7.4	89	6.3	26	7.9	56	6.0	7	7.8	33	10.7	18	6.0	19	10.0	31	6.8	47	7.0	60	9.8
Ethnicity not reported	300	7.4	209	6.8	4	6.7	54	6.4	11	8.0	43	5.8	2	5.7	14	10.4	9	5.9	8	5.4	14	6.8	24	6.5	26	11.8
Years since entering doctoral program ^a																										
Doctorate recipients reporting year of doctoral program entry ^b	52,770	5.8	42,518	5.7	1,197	4.9	9,209	5.8	2,565	5.7	9,703	5.3	1,094	5.7	2,563	5.0	1,878	5.7	1,614	5.5	4,856	5.8	3,353	5.9	4,486	6.0
Sex																										
Male	27,052	5.7	22,988	5.7	550	4.9	3,987	5.8	1,914	5.7	6,922	5.3	563	5.7	753	5.0	1,303	5.7	964	5.5	3,167	5.8	780	5.9	2,085	5.9
Female	25,718	5.8	19,530	5.7	647	4.9	5,222	5.7	651	5.8	2,781	5.3	531	5.7	1,810	5.0	575	5.4	650	5.3	1,689	5.4	2,573	5.8	2,401	6.0
Citizenship status																										
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	33,968	5.8	26,231	5.8	698	5.0	6,914	5.8	981	5.8	4,462	5.3	793	5.7	1,969	5.0	891	5.8	796	5.7	2,945	5.7	2,927	5.9	2,855	6.3
Temporary visa holder	18,086	5.6	15,719	5.5	484	4.7	2,204	5.8	1,524	5.6	5,104	5.3	291	5.5	551	4.9	960	5.3	789	5.3	1,860	5.8	370	5.7	1,582	5.8
Ethnicity or race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																										
Hispanic or Latino	3,542	5.8	2,723	5.8	76	5.8	751	5.8	51	6.0	371	5.3	88	5.8	198	5.3	90	5.5	61	5.8	309	5.6	411	6.0	317	6.8
Not Hispanic or Latino																										
American Indian or Alaska Native	91	5.8	60	5.8	D	D	9	5.7	0	-	11	7.0	5	6.9	7	6.8	0	-	D	D	D	D	7	5.6	14	5.9
Asian	4,025	5.8	3,493	5.7	D	D	955	5.8	236	5.7	811	5.3	57	5.3	246	5.0	139	5.8	D	D	D	D	223	5.9	297	6.3

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	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median
Black or African American	2,799	5.8	1,720	5.8	27	5.3	315	5.7	62	5.3	214	5.3	24	5.8	288	5.3	32	5.8	48	5.1	118	5.8	271	6.0	321	6.0
White	21,346	5.8	16,529	5.7	501	5.0	4,436	5.7	566	5.8	2,787	5.3	567	5.5	1,119	5.0	559	5.8	487	5.8	2,009	5.5	1,821	5.9	1,677	6.3
More than one race	1,378	5.8	1,126	5.8	22	5.3	311	5.8	32	5.9	172	5.3	43	5.8	65	5.3	44	5.8	26	5.5	141	5.8	124	5.8	146	6.3
Other race or race not reported	496	5.8	377	5.8	2	6.4	86	5.8	24	5.9	54	5.4	7	5.7	33	5.8	18	5.8	19	6.1	31	5.8	45	5.9	58	6.5
Ethnicity not reported	291	5.3	203	5.3	4	5.0	51	5.3	10	5.4	42	5.3	2	5.7	13	4.7	9	5.3	8	5.4	14	6.0	25	5.8	25	5.3

- = not calculable; D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Years since entering doctoral program is based on master's degree program 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.

^b Doctorate recipients reporting year of doctoral program entry includes only cases with valid year of entry into master's program if master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, includes only cases with valid year of doctoral program entry.

Note(s):
Hispanic or Latino may be of any race; race categories exclude Hispanic origin. The survey data collection for the field of study changed in 2021, which may affect the data comparisons across years. This table uses the new field taxonomy based on a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes and does not match data that uses the trend field taxonomy. 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.