

Table 8-11. Physical sciences research doctorate recipients, statistical profile by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All physical sciences fields	Astronomy and astrophysics	Chemistry	Materials sciences	Physics
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	5,332	337	2,627	326	2,042
Sex (%)					
Male	65.2	64.1	55.9	61.7	78.0
Female	34.8	35.9	44.1	38.3	22.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Citizenship status (%)					
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	58.3	67.1	62.0	50.6	53.4
Temporary visa holder	37.2	31.2	33.3	47.2	41.7
Unknown	4.5	1.8	4.7	2.1	4.9
Marital status (%)					
Never married	50.2	56.4	49.2	48.2	50.9
Married	26.2	23.1	26.4	30.7	25.7
Marriage-like relationship	11.4	15.4	11.8	11.0	10.3
Separated, divorced, widowed	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.5	1.5
Unknown	10.5	3.6	11.0	7.7	11.6
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	8.9	6.5	9.0	11.2	8.8
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	14.9	19.2	14.6	18.2	14.0
Age at doctorate (median years)	29.2	29.1	28.8	29.4	29.7
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	77.9	88.8	75.4	56.3	82.7
Master's earned (%)	49.6	70.0	37.5	54.0	60.7
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	56.5	72.2	44.8	46.1	64.1
Time to doctorate (median years)					
Years since earning bachelor's degree	6.8	6.7	6.3	6.8	7.2
From graduate school start	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.8	6.5
From doctoral program start ^c	5.8	5.9	5.3	5.3	6.0
Received tuition remission (%)	91.7	91.4	92.4	87.3	91.6
Male doctorate recipients (number)	3,477	216	1,468	201	1,592
Citizenship status (%)					
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	56.6	64.4	59.5	48.8	53.8
Temporary visa holder	38.9	33.8	35.8	49.3	41.2
Unknown	4.5	1.9	4.7	2.0	5.0
Marital status (%)					
Never married	51.4	56.0	49.8	51.7	52.2
Married	26.3	D	27.2	D	25.3
Marriage-like relationship	10.8	14.4	11.0	10.4	10.1
Separated, divorced, widowed	1.3	D	1.5	D	1.0
Unknown	10.3	3.7	10.6	6.5	11.4
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	9.5	7.7	10.4	9.0	9.0
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	14.2	16.8	13.9	17.3	13.6
Age at doctorate (median years)	29.3	29.3	29.0	29.7	29.7
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	78.2	89.6	75.3	53.4	82.6
Master's earned (%)	50.3	68.9	37.9	57.6	58.1
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	56.3	69.0	41.7	49.1	63.8
Time to doctorate (median years)					
Years since earning bachelor's degree	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.9	7.2
From graduate school start	6.0	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.5
From doctoral program start ^c	5.8	5.9	5.3	5.3	6.0
Received tuition remission (%)	91.1	91.8	91.5	85.2	91.5
Female doctorate recipients (number)	1,855	121	1,159	125	450
Citizenship status (%)					

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(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All physical sciences fields	Astronomy and astrophysics	Chemistry	Materials sciences	Physics
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	61.5	71.9	65.1	53.6	51.8
Temporary visa holder	34.1	26.4	30.2	44.0	43.3
Unknown	4.4	1.7	4.7	2.4	4.9
Marital status (%)					
Never married	48.0	57.0	48.4	42.4	46.2
Married	26.0	D	25.5	D	27.1
Marriage-like relationship	12.7	17.4	12.9	12.0	11.1
Separated, divorced, widowed	2.3	D	1.7	D	3.3
Unknown	11.0	3.3	11.5	9.6	12.2
Has dependent age 18 or younger (%)	7.8	4.3	7.2	14.7	8.3
Has one or more functional limitations (%)	16.4	23.5	15.6	19.8	15.5
Age at doctorate (median years)	28.8	28.7	28.7	29.3	29.6
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	77.2	87.4	75.5	61.0	83.1
Master's earned (%)	48.1	72.0	36.9	48.3	69.9
Master's earned at same doctorate institution (%)	57.0	77.6	49.0	40.4	65.0
Time to doctorate (median years)					
Years since earning bachelor's degree	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	7.1
From graduate school start	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.5	6.5
From doctoral program start ^c	5.4	5.8	5.3	5.1	6.0
Received tuition remission (%)	92.8	90.7	93.6	90.7	91.9

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a All doctorate recipients includes doctorate recipients who did not report sex.^b A bachelor's and doctoral degree are considered to be in the same field if doctorate recipient's first or most recent bachelor's degree is in the same broad field as their doctoral degree.^c Time to doctorate from doctoral program start is based on master's degree entry if the master's degree was at the same 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):**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. 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.