

Table A-3. Survey item response rates: 2019–25

(Percent)

Survey item	Item description	Item source	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
PHDFY	Fiscal (academic) year of doctorate	A1 or Institution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
PHDCY	Calendar year of doctorate	A1 or Institution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
PHDINST	Doctoral institution (IPEDS code)	Institution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Educational background									
Bachelor's degrees									
BADEGRN	Number of bachelor's degrees received	A8	96.7	96.1	96.3	95.9	95.3	96.0	95.0
BASAME	Baccalaureate field same as doctorate	BAFIELDDCIP, PHDFIELDDCIP	na	na	91.2	91.0	90.3	90.2	89.2
BAFIELD	First baccalaureate field – SED historical FOS code	BAFIELDDCIP	91.4	91.5	na	na	na	na	na
BAFIELDDCIP	First baccalaureate field – SED-CIP code	A17 or Institution	na	na	91.2	91.0	90.3	90.2	89.2
BA2FIELD	Most recent baccalaureate degree field – SED historical FOS code	BA2FIELDDCIP	84.8	84.4	na	na	na	na	na
BA2FIELDDCIP	Most recent baccalaureate field – SED-CIP code	A17	na	na	87.6	88.6	87.5	88.5	86.8
BAINST	First baccalaureate institution (IPEDS code)	A16	96.0	95.2	94.8	94.9	94.6	95.3	94.3
BAPLCD	First baccalaureate institution location	A16, BAINST	96.0	95.2	94.8	94.9	94.6	95.3	94.3
BAHBCU	First baccalaureate institution HBCU indicator	A16, BAINST	96.0	95.2	94.8	94.9	94.6	95.3	94.3
BAPUBPRV	First baccalaureate institution public/ private indicator	A16, BAINST	96.0	95.2	94.8	94.9	94.6	95.3	94.3
High school and community college									
JRCOLL	Community college attendance indicator	A10	91.9	92.0	91.0	91.0	90.4	90.3	89.3
HSPLCD	Place of high school	C9	88.6	94.9	93.9	94.0	93.6	93.5	92.8
Master's and professional degrees									
MADEGRN	Number of master's degrees received	A8	91.8	91.8	91.6	91.5	90.9	91.4	90.0
MASAME	Master's degree field same as doctorate	MAFIELDDCIP, PHDFIELDDCIP	na	na	91.1	91.0	90.3	90.8	89.5
MAFIELD	Most recent master's degree field – SED historical FOS code	MAFIELDDCIP	91.1	91.2	na	na	na	na	na
MAFIELDDCIP	Most recent master's degree field – SED-CIP code	A22	na	na	91.0	91.0	90.3	90.8	89.5
PROFEARN	Earned or earning a professional doctoral degree	A8, A9	89.4	89.2	88.8	89.6	89.4	89.1	88.8
Educational debt									
GDEBTLVL	Graduate debt level	A40	91.2	91.2	90.6	90.5	89.9	89.7	88.8
UDEBTLVL	Undergraduate debt level	A40	91.3	91.3	90.6	90.5	89.9	89.7	88.8
Postgraduation plans									
PDOCPLAN	Postgraduation plans	B2, B3, B10	91.3	91.3	90.7	90.6	90.0	89.9	89.0
PDOCSTAT	Postgraduation status	B2	91.5	91.4	90.9	90.8	90.1	90.0	89.1
PDPLCD	Postgraduation location	B1, B5, B12	93.2	92.8	92.5	92.0	91.7	92.1	91.6
PDUSFOR	Postgraduation location: U.S. or foreign	B1, B5, B12	93.2	92.8	92.5	92.0	91.7	92.1	91.6
PDREGION	Postgraduation U.S. region	B1, B5, B12	90.1	90.2	89.8	89.7	89.2	89.2	88.0
PDSAMEST	Postgraduation location in the same state as doctoral institution	B1, PHDINST	90.1	90.2	89.8	89.7	89.2	89.2	88.0
PDEMPLOY	Postgraduation employer type	B4, B11	90.3	90.2	89.9	89.6	89.0	88.9	88.1
PDEMPSECTOR	Postgraduation employment sector	PDEMPLOY	90.3	90.2	89.9	89.6	89.0	88.9	88.1
PDFACULTY	Employment in faculty position	B12, B13	87.2	87.0	85.4	84.9	84.6	83.9	83.3
PDSTDSUP	Postdoctoral study support	B7	88.6	88.4	87.9	89.0	88.4	88.4	87.6

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(Percent)

Survey item	Item description	Item source	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
PDWKPRIM	Edited primary work activity	B6, B14	87.6	87.2	87.0	87.7	87.4	87.6	87.1
PDWKSEC	Edited secondary work activity	B6, B14	86.6	86.5	86.5	87.2	80.0	86.5	85.7
SALARYV	Expected basic annual salary	B8, B15	85.2	85.5	84.3	84.5	83.9	83.7	82.5
Sources of financial support									
SRCEA	Source of financial support: Fellowship, scholarship	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEB	Source of financial support: Dissertation/ research grant	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEC	Source of financial support: Teaching assistantship	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCED	Source of financial support: Research assistantship	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEE	Source of financial support: Other assistantship	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEF	Source of financial support: Traineeship	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEG	Source of financial support: Internship, clinical residency	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEH	Source of financial support: Loans (from any source)	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEI	Source of financial support: Personal savings	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEJ	Source of financial support: Personal earnings during graduate school	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEK	Source of financial support: Spouse's, partner's, or family's earnings or savings	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEL	Source of financial support: Employer reimbursement/ assistance	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEM	Source of financial support: Foreign (non-U.S.) support	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEN	Source of financial support: Other source of support	A38	89.1	88.9	88.5	89.2	88.7	88.9	88.3
SRCEPRIM	Primary source of financial support	A39	88.6	88.5	88.2	88.9	88.4	88.5	88.0
SRCESEC	Secondary source of financial support	A39	84.0	84.0	86.6	87.2	86.8	86.7	86.2
TUITREMS	Tuition remission - full or partial	A7	89.5	89.4	89.3	90.0	89.7	89.9	89.2
Time to degree									
BAYEAR	First baccalaureate year	A8	95.9	95.4	95.9	95.6	95.0	95.4	94.4
GEMONTH	Month of graduate program entry	A11	92.0	92.0	91.8	91.9	91.4	91.3	90.3
GEYEAR	Year of graduate program entry	A11	92.1	92.1	91.9	92.0	91.4	91.3	90.3
MAEYEAR	Entered most recent master's degree year	A8	89.0	88.8	88.7	89.6	89.2	89.9	88.8
TTDBAPHD	Total elapsed time from baccalaureate to doctorate	PHDMONTH, PHDCY, BAMONTH, BAYEAR	95.9	95.4	95.9	95.6	95.0	95.4	94.4
TTDDOC	Total elapsed time in doctorate	PHDMONTH, PHDCY, PHDEMONTH, PHDEYEAR	89.6	89.5	89.5	90.3	90.0	90.2	89.4
TTDGEPHD	Total elapsed time from graduate school entry to doctorate	PHDMONTH, PHDCY, GEMONTH, GEYEAR	92.1	92.1	91.9	91.9	91.4	91.3	90.3

na = not applicable; data either were not collected or derived in that year.

CIP = Classification of Instructional Program; FOS = field of study; HBCU = historically Black college and university; IPEDS = Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System; SED = Survey of Earned Doctorates.

Note(s):
Survey items listed above are those utilized in the data tables. Survey item response rate is the percentage of cases providing data on an item divided by the universe of doctorate recipients eligible to answer that item, consistent with American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) response rate calculation 3. For most data items, all doctorate recipient respondents are in the universe of eligible respondents. Institution-provided data may be used for some items when respondents do not provide the data; thus response rates for those items are higher than the survey response rate. The item source refers to the question numbers in the survey questionnaire for the most recent survey year in this table: <https://nces.nsf.gov/surveys/earned-doctorates/2024#questionnaires>.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.