

TABLE 12. Doctorate recipients, by major field of study: Selected years, 1984–2014

Field of study	1984		1989		1994		1999		2004		2009		2014	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	31,334	100.0	34,325	100.0	41,034	100.0	41,100	100.0	42,123	100.0	49,553	100.0	54,070	100.0
Life sciences	5,803	18.5	6,410	18.7	7,800	19.0	8,204	20.0	8,813	20.9	11,403	23.0	12,504	23.1
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,201	3.8	1,320	3.8	1,301	3.2	1,216	3.0	1,155	2.7	1,283	2.6	1,303	2.4
Biological, biomedical sciences	3,880	12.4	4,116	12.0	5,203	12.7	5,581	13.6	5,940	14.1	8,025	16.2	8,991	16.6
Health sciences	722	2.3	974	2.8	1,296	3.2	1,407	3.4	1,718	4.1	2,095	4.2	2,210	4.1
Physical sciences	4,407	14.1	5,387	15.7	6,761	16.5	6,224	15.1	6,047	14.4	8,324	16.8	9,859	18.2
Chemistry	1,765	5.6	1,970	5.7	2,257	5.5	2,132	5.2	1,986	4.7	2,392	4.8	2,673	4.9
Computer and information sciences	295	0.9	612	1.8	903	2.2	856	2.1	948	2.3	1,610	3.2	2,072	3.8
Geosciences	569	1.8	672	2.0	791	1.9	723	1.8	686	1.6	877	1.8	989	1.8
Mathematics	698	2.2	859	2.5	1,118	2.7	1,083	2.6	1,076	2.6	1,553	3.1	1,879	3.5
Physics and astronomy	1,080	3.4	1,274	3.7	1,692	4.1	1,430	3.5	1,351	3.2	1,892	3.8	2,246	4.2
Social sciences	6,087	19.4	6,149	17.9	6,835	16.7	7,291	17.7	7,043	16.7	7,829	15.8	8,657	16.0
Anthropology	335	1.1	325	0.9	384	0.9	462	1.1	531	1.3	503	1.0	527	1.0
Economics	793	2.5	898	2.6	939	2.3	926	2.3	959	2.3	1,118	2.3	1,194	2.2
Political science	419	1.3	430	1.3	589	1.4	655	1.6	587	1.4	682	1.4	776	1.4
Psychology	3,255	10.4	3,208	9.3	3,379	8.2	3,668	8.9	3,327	7.9	3,472	7.0	3,765	7.0
Sociology	515	1.6	436	1.3	525	1.3	544	1.3	580	1.4	662	1.3	678	1.3
Other social sciences	770	2.5	852	2.5	1,019	2.5	1,036	2.5	1,059	2.5	1,392	2.8	1,717	3.2
Engineering	2,912	9.3	4,543	13.2	5,820	14.2	5,330	13.0	5,777	13.7	7,642	15.4	9,568	17.7
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	119	0.4	178	0.5	230	0.6	206	0.5	201	0.5	297	0.6	387	0.7
Chemical engineering	361	1.2	625	1.8	630	1.5	576	1.4	638	1.5	807	1.6	975	1.8
Civil engineering	351	1.1	498	1.5	601	1.5	506	1.2	547	1.3	707	1.4	622	1.2
Electrical, electronics, and communication engineering	587	1.9	995	2.9	1,438	3.5	1,236	3.0	1,389	3.3	1,693	3.4	1,957	3.6
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	84	0.3	162	0.5	228	0.6	211	0.5	217	0.5	251	0.5	298	0.6
Materials science engineering	168	0.5	257	0.7	433	1.1	393	1.0	475	1.1	625	1.3	836	1.5
Mechanical engineering	336	1.1	650	1.9	883	2.2	786	1.9	754	1.8	1,095	2.2	1,332	2.5
Other engineering	906	2.9	1,178	3.4	1,377	3.4	1,416	3.4	1,556	3.7	2,167	4.4	3,161	5.8
Education	6,808	21.7	6,280	18.3	6,711	16.4	6,554	15.9	6,635	15.8	6,528	13.2	4,793	8.9
Education administration	1,569	5.0	1,633	4.8	2,000	4.9	2,046	5.0	2,342	5.6	2,146	4.3	895	1.7
Education research	2,967	9.5	2,410	7.0	2,528	6.2	2,733	6.6	2,805	6.7	2,663	5.4	2,558	4.7
Teacher education	431	1.4	451	1.3	401	1.0	293	0.7	270	0.6	332	0.7	153	0.3
Teaching fields	1,170	3.7	970	2.8	960	2.3	893	2.2	758	1.8	906	1.8	919	1.7
Other education	671	2.1	816	2.4	822	2.0	589	1.4	460	1.1	481	1.0	268	0.5
Humanities	3,376	10.8	3,364	9.8	4,521	11.0	5,210	12.7	5,210	12.4	4,891	9.9	5,486	10.1
Foreign languages and literature	492	1.6	432	1.3	594	1.4	626	1.5	587	1.4	598	1.2	676	1.3
History	617	2.0	538	1.6	801	2.0	1,010	2.5	976	2.3	1,045	2.1	1,182	2.2
Letters	1,009	3.2	982	2.9	1,379	3.4	1,516	3.7	1,407	3.3	1,413	2.9	1,553	2.9
Other humanities	1,258	4.0	1,412	4.1	1,747	4.3	2,058	5.0	2,240	5.3	1,835	3.7	2,075	3.8

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Field of study	1984		1989		1994		1999		2004		2009		2014	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Other <sup>a</sup>	1,941	6.2	2,192	6.4	2,586	6.3	2,287	5.6	2,598	6.2	2,936	5.9	3,203	5.9
Business management and administration	869	2.8	1,066	3.1	1,283	3.1	1,109	2.7	1,256	3.0	1,405	2.8	1,583	2.9
Communication	255	0.8	306	0.9	371	0.9	379	0.9	450	1.1	627	1.3	664	1.2
Non-S&E fields not elsewhere classified	817	2.6	820	2.4	932	2.3	798	1.9	892	2.1	904	1.8	956	1.8
Unknown field	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	*	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

\* = value < 0.05%.

S&E = science and engineering.

<sup>a</sup> Non-science and engineering fields.

NOTES: See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

SOURCE: NSF, NIH, USED, USDA, NEH, NASA, Survey of Earned Doctorates.