

Table 12. Doctorate recipients, by major field of study: Selected years, 1985–2015

Field of study	1985		1990		1995		2000		2005		2010		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	31,295	100.0	36,065	100.0	41,747	100.0	41,369	100.0	43,385	100.0	48,031	100.0	55,006	100.0
Life sciences	5,822	18.6	6,655	18.5	7,998	19.2	8,622	20.8	9,310	21.5	11,319	23.6	12,520	22.8
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,300	4.2	1,371	3.8	1,293	3.1	1,179	2.8	1,160	2.7	1,100	2.3	1,439	2.6
Biological and biomedical sciences	3,793	12.1	4,328	12.0	5,376	12.9	5,853	14.1	6,367	14.7	8,046	16.8	8,801	16.0
Health sciences	729	2.3	956	2.7	1,329	3.2	1,590	3.8	1,783	4.1	2,173	4.5	2,280	4.1
Physical sciences and earth sciences	3,491	11.2	4,212	11.7	4,540	10.9	4,071	9.8	4,359	10.0	4,995	10.4	5,924	10.8
Chemistry	1,836	5.9	2,100	5.8	2,162	5.2	1,989	4.8	2,126	4.9	2,304	4.8	2,675	4.9
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	575	1.8	719	2.0	726	1.7	693	1.7	714	1.6	862	1.8	1,057	1.9
Physics and astronomy	1,080	3.5	1,393	3.9	1,652	4.0	1,389	3.4	1,519	3.5	1,829	3.8	2,192	4.0
Mathematics and computer sciences	998	3.2	1,597	4.4	2,187	5.2	1,910	4.6	2,334	5.4	3,223	6.7	3,825	7.0
Computer and information sciences	310	1.0	705	2.0	997	2.4	860	2.1	1,129	2.6	1,633	3.4	2,005	3.6
Mathematics and statistics	688	2.2	892	2.5	1,190	2.9	1,050	2.5	1,205	2.8	1,590	3.3	1,820	3.3
Psychology and social sciences	6,027	19.3	6,331	17.6	6,930	16.6	7,452	18.0	7,149	16.5	7,883	16.4	9,095	16.5
Psychology	3,117	10.0	3,281	9.1	3,429	8.2	3,616	8.7	3,322	7.7	3,421	7.1	3,782	6.9
Anthropology	353	1.1	324	0.9	375	0.9	446	1.1	456	1.1	507	1.1	493	0.9
Economics	811	2.6	862	2.4	979	2.3	948	2.3	1,061	2.4	1,073	2.2	1,256	2.3
Political science and government	406	1.3	462	1.3	599	1.4	669	1.6	618	1.4	728	1.5	859	1.6
Sociology	461	1.5	428	1.2	540	1.3	617	1.5	536	1.2	639	1.3	745	1.4
Other social sciences	879	2.8	974	2.7	1,008	2.4	1,156	2.8	1,156	2.7	1,515	3.2	1,960	3.6
Engineering	3,166	10.1	4,894	13.6	6,008	14.4	5,323	12.9	6,426	14.8	7,578	15.8	9,897	18.0
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	124	0.4	192	0.5	252	0.6	214	0.5	219	0.5	252	0.5	361	0.7
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	69	0.2	129	0.4	189	0.5	251	0.6	417	1.0	824	1.7	1,129	2.1
Chemical engineering	440	1.4	561	1.6	602	1.4	619	1.5	774	1.8	822	1.7	1,002	1.8
Civil engineering	358	1.1	505	1.4	572	1.4	480	1.2	622	1.4	643	1.3	633	1.2

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Field of study	1985		1990		1995		2000		2005		2010		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	629	2.0	1,110	3.1	1,513	3.6	1,330	3.2	1,547	3.6	1,778	3.7	2,004	3.6
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	92	0.3	151	0.4	284	0.7	176	0.4	221	0.5	215	0.4	244	0.4
Materials science engineering	188	0.6	307	0.9	476	1.1	404	1.0	493	1.1	670	1.4	874	1.6
Mechanical engineering	424	1.4	773	2.1	917	2.2	807	2.0	892	2.1	983	2.0	1,467	2.7
Other engineering	842	2.7	1,166	3.2	1,203	2.9	1,042	2.5	1,241	2.9	1,391	2.9	2,183	4.0
Education	6,733	21.5	6,509	18.0	6,648	15.9	6,442	15.6	6,227	14.4	5,288	11.0	5,117	9.3
Education administration	1,625	5.2	1,664	4.6	1,974	4.7	2,036	4.9	2,167	5.0	1,439	3.0	922	1.7
Education research	2,925	9.3	2,439	6.8	2,576	6.2	2,667	6.4	2,674	6.2	2,443	5.1	2,783	5.1
Teacher education	463	1.5	419	1.2	390	0.9	261	0.6	263	0.6	245	0.5	155	0.3
Teaching fields	1,118	3.6	922	2.6	924	2.2	824	2.0	663	1.5	800	1.7	957	1.7
Other education	602	1.9	1,065	3.0	784	1.9	654	1.6	460	1.1	361	0.8	300	0.5
Humanities and arts	3,406	10.9	3,854	10.7	5,040	12.1	5,462	13.2	5,187	12.0	5,016	10.4	5,600	10.2
Foreign languages and literature	435	1.4	512	1.4	639	1.5	642	1.6	607	1.4	601	1.3	656	1.2
History	543	1.7	612	1.7	889	2.1	1,061	2.6	924	2.1	1,005	2.1	1,145	2.1
Letters	983	3.1	1,060	2.9	1,548	3.7	1,612	3.9	1,389	3.2	1,516	3.2	1,590	2.9
Other humanities and arts	1,445	4.6	1,670	4.6	1,964	4.7	2,147	5.2	2,267	5.2	1,894	3.9	2,209	4.0
Other ^a	1,652	5.3	2,013	5.6	2,396	5.7	2,087	5.0	2,393	5.5	2,729	5.7	3,028	5.5
Business management and administration	789	2.5	1,036	2.9	1,330	3.2	1,065	2.6	1,171	2.7	1,366	2.8	1,588	2.9
Communication	266	0.8	323	0.9	381	0.9	389	0.9	488	1.1	638	1.3	668	1.2
Non-S&E fields not elsewhere classified	597	1.9	654	1.8	685	1.6	629	1.5	733	1.7	725	1.5	772	1.4
Unknown field	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	*	1	*	0	0.0	0	0.0

* = value < 0.05%.

S&E = science and engineering.

^a 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: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.