

TABLE 12. Doctorate recipients, by major field of study: Selected years, 1983–2013

Field of study	1983		1988		1993		1998		2003		2008		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	31,280	100.0	33,497	100.0	39,800	100.0	42,638	100.0	40,766	100.0	48,778	100.0	52,760	100.0
Life sciences	5,603	17.9	6,222	18.6	7,463	18.8	8,612	20.2	8,508	20.9	11,086	22.7	12,305	23.3
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,223	3.9	1,229	3.7	1,174	2.9	1,267	3.0	1,179	2.9	1,198	2.5	1,329	2.5
Biological, biomedical sciences	3,741	12.0	4,111	12.3	5,092	12.8	5,846	13.7	5,696	14.0	7,797	16.0	8,471	16.1
Health sciences	639	2.0	882	2.6	1,197	3.0	1,499	3.5	1,633	4.0	2,091	4.3	2,505	4.7
Physical sciences	4,375	14.0	5,250	15.7	6,428	16.2	6,670	15.6	5,831	14.3	8,133	16.7	9,290	17.6
Chemistry	1,758	5.6	2,014	6.0	2,137	5.4	2,216	5.2	2,041	5.0	2,246	4.6	2,491	4.7
Computer and information sciences	286	0.9	515	1.5	880	2.2	927	2.2	866	2.1	1,787	3.7	1,897	3.6
Geosciences	587	1.9	670	2.0	721	1.8	766	1.8	683	1.7	865	1.8	880	1.7
Mathematics	701	2.2	749	2.2	1,146	2.9	1,177	2.8	993	2.4	1,400	2.9	1,817	3.4
Physics and astronomy	1,043	3.3	1,302	3.9	1,544	3.9	1,584	3.7	1,248	3.1	1,835	3.8	2,205	4.2
Social sciences	6,259	20.0	5,947	17.8	6,759	17.0	7,289	17.1	7,004	17.2	7,515	15.4	8,401	15.9
Anthropology	373	1.2	325	1.0	342	0.9	425	1.0	472	1.2	483	1.0	552	1.0
Economics	813	2.6	852	2.5	930	2.3	1,001	2.3	932	2.3	1,091	2.2	1,185	2.2
Political science	397	1.3	392	1.2	507	1.3	662	1.6	661	1.6	628	1.3	803	1.5
Psychology	3,346	10.7	3,074	9.2	3,420	8.6	3,673	8.6	3,277	8.0	3,358	6.9	3,600	6.8
Sociology	525	1.7	449	1.3	513	1.3	549	1.3	597	1.5	601	1.2	636	1.2
Other social sciences	805	2.6	855	2.6	1,047	2.6	979	2.3	1,065	2.6	1,354	2.8	1,625	3.1
Engineering	2,781	8.9	4,186	12.5	5,698	14.3	5,922	13.9	5,280	13.0	7,864	16.1	8,963	17.0
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	106	0.3	150	0.4	228	0.6	241	0.6	200	0.5	266	0.5	349	0.7
Chemical engineering	349	1.1	623	1.9	624	1.6	670	1.6	568	1.4	873	1.8	829	1.6
Civil engineering	354	1.1	488	1.5	563	1.4	587	1.4	551	1.4	713	1.5	543	1.0
Electrical, electronics, and communication engineering	436	1.4	886	2.6	1,354	3.4	1,345	3.2	1,237	3.0	1,888	3.9	1,900	3.6
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	86	0.3	127	0.4	236	0.6	229	0.5	214	0.5	280	0.6	240	0.5
Materials science engineering	157	0.5	252	0.8	416	1.0	482	1.1	437	1.1	636	1.3	815	1.5
Mechanical engineering	311	1.0	610	1.8	902	2.3	936	2.2	752	1.8	1,082	2.2	1,282	2.4
Other engineering	982	3.1	1,050	3.1	1,375	3.5	1,432	3.4	1,321	3.2	2,126	4.4	3,005	5.7
Education	7,174	22.9	6,361	19.0	6,689	16.8	6,569	15.4	6,651	16.3	6,561	13.5	4,944	9.4
Education administration	1,632	5.2	1,749	5.2	2,123	5.3	2,066	4.8	2,362	5.8	2,238	4.6	967	1.8
Education research	3,080	9.8	2,512	7.5	2,446	6.1	2,584	6.1	2,720	6.7	2,640	5.4	2,704	5.1
Teacher education	483	1.5	473	1.4	428	1.1	342	0.8	242	0.6	274	0.6	111	0.2
Teaching fields	1,327	4.2	988	2.9	943	2.4	954	2.2	714	1.8	912	1.9	895	1.7
Other education	652	2.1	639	1.9	749	1.9	623	1.5	613	1.5	497	1.0	267	0.5
Humanities	3,336	10.7	3,389	10.1	4,267	10.7	5,295	12.4	5,192	12.7	4,719	9.7	5,662	10.7
Foreign languages and literature	504	1.6	430	1.3	575	1.4	643	1.5	623	1.5	627	1.3	701	1.3
History	616	2.0	603	1.8	726	1.8	990	2.3	941	2.3	971	2.0	1,149	2.2
Letters	953	3.0	1,008	3.0	1,328	3.3	1,600	3.8	1,416	3.5	1,420	2.9	1,604	3.0
Other humanities	1,263	4.0	1,348	4.0	1,638	4.1	2,062	4.8	2,212	5.4	1,701	3.5	2,208	4.2
Other <sup>a</sup>	1,752	5.6	2,142	6.4	2,496	6.3	2,281	5.3	2,300	5.6	2,900	5.9	3,195	6.1
Business management and administration	750	2.4	1,033	3.1	1,281	3.2	1,175	2.8	1,036	2.5	1,421	2.9	1,545	2.9

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Field of study	1983		1988		1993		1998		2003		2008		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Communication	250	0.8	247	0.7	321	0.8	373	0.9	415	1.0	557	1.1	649	1.2
Non-S&E fields not elsewhere classified	752	2.4	862	2.6	894	2.2	729	1.7	849	2.1	922	1.9	1,001	1.9
Unknown field	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	*	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 not shown separately.

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.