

TABLE 31. Median years to doctorate, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1988–2013

Field of study and time to degree	1988	1993	1998	2003	2008	2013
All fields						
Since bachelor's	10.6	10.7	10.5	10.2	9.4	9.0
Since starting graduate school	8.7	8.7	8.3	8.5	7.7	7.5
Life sciences ^a						
Since bachelor's	9.0	9.5	9.2	8.9	8.6	8.4
Since starting graduate school	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.9
Physical sciences ^b						
Since bachelor's	7.5	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.3
Since starting graduate school	6.7	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.5
Social sciences ^c						
Since bachelor's	10.6	10.6	10.0	10.0	9.6	9.4
Since starting graduate school	8.8	8.7	7.9	8.2	7.7	7.7
Engineering						
Since bachelor's	8.2	9.0	8.8	8.6	7.9	7.3
Since starting graduate school	6.7	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.7	6.6
Education						
Since bachelor's	17.0	19.3	20.0	18.1	17.0	15.0
Since starting graduate school	13.9	15.7	15.2	13.2	12.7	11.7
Humanities						
Since bachelor's	12.3	12.0	11.6	11.3	11.3	11.0
Since starting graduate school	10.7	10.2	9.7	9.7	9.3	9.2
Other ^d						
Since bachelor's	13.1	13.3	13.7	13.8	12.1	11.6
Since starting graduate school	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	9.3	9.3

^a Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological, biomedical sciences; and health sciences.

^b Includes mathematics and computer and information sciences.

^c Includes psychology.

^d Non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

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