

TABLE 56

Statistical profile of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2017

(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	12,592	1,606	8,477	2,509
Sex (%)				
Male	44.7	50.4	47.4	32.1
Female	55.3	49.5	52.6	67.8
Unknown	*	0.1	*	*
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	70.3	56.2	71.7	74.7
Temporary visa holder	26.4	39.0	25.5	21.5
Unknown	3.2	4.8	2.7	3.9
Marital status (%)				
Never married	33.3	29.7	36.7	24.0
Married	44.4	45.3	42.0	52.0
Marriage-like relationship	9.9	8.3	11.2	6.5
Separated, divorced, widowed	3.1	2.5	2.4	6.0
Unknown	9.3	14.1	7.7	11.6
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	48.5	39.0	52.8	40.3
Master's earned (%)	51.8	70.9	41.0	75.8
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.0	31.7	30.3	34.3
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.3	8.7	7.8	11.0
From graduate school start	6.8	7.4	6.5	8.8
From doctoral program start ^c	5.8	5.4	5.8	5.8
Male doctorate recipients (number)	5,629	809	4,014	806
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	67.9	53.6	71.1	66.0
Temporary visa holder	29.6	43.4	26.5	31.1
Unknown	2.6	3.0	2.4	2.9
Marital status (%)				
Never married	34.3	28.9	37.0	26.2
Married	45.5	50.1	43.2	52.2
Marriage-like relationship	9.3	7.4	10.2	6.5
Separated, divorced, widowed	2.1	1.7	2.0	3.0
Unknown	8.8	11.9	7.6	12.2
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	47.5	43.0	50.9	35.4
Master's earned (%)	49.3	72.9	39.9	72.6
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.0	31.9	30.6	32.7
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.0	8.6	7.8	9.3
From graduate school start	6.8	7.3	6.5	7.8
From doctoral program start ^c	5.7	5.5	5.8	5.3
Female doctorate recipients (number)	6,958	795	4,461	1,702
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	72.4	58.7	72.4	78.8

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(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
Temporary visa holder	23.9	34.7	24.7	16.9
Unknown	3.7	6.5	3.0	4.3
Marital status (%)				
Never married	32.5	30.6	36.4	23.0
Married	43.6	40.6	40.9	51.9
Marriage-like relationship	10.4	9.3	12.1	6.5
Separated, divorced, widowed	3.9	3.3	2.7	7.4
Unknown	9.6	16.2	7.8	11.2
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	49.4	35.1	54.5	42.6
Master's earned (%)	53.8	68.8	42.1	77.3
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.0	31.5	30.2	35.3
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.4	8.7	7.8	12.0
From graduate school start	7.0	7.5	6.5	9.3
From doctoral program start ^c	5.8	5.3	5.8	5.8

* = value < 0.05%.

^a Includes respondents who did not report sex.^b A bachelor's degree is counted as "in same field as doctorate" if the fields of study of the doctorate recipient's first or most recent bachelor's degree and doctoral degree are both in the same major field category, except for engineering and education fields where broad field categories need to be the same. See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields based on the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' field of study taxonomy.^c Time to doctorate from doctoral program start is based on master's degree entry if the master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same fine field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, it is based on doctoral program entry.**Note(s)**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2017.