

Table 1-3

## Research doctorate recipients, by historical major field of doctorate: Selected years, 1992–2022

(Number and percent)

Field of doctorate	1992		1997		2002		2007		2012		2017		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All fields	38,886	100.0	42,539	100.0	40,031	100.0	48,132	100.0	50,943	100.0	54,552	100.0	57,596	100.0
Life sciences	7,172	18.4	8,421	19.8	8,478	21.2	10,702	22.2	11,964	23.5	12,554	23.0	13,211	22.9
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,261	3.2	1,212	2.8	1,129	2.8	1,321	2.7	1,255	2.5	1,493	2.7	1,434	2.5
Biological and biomedical sciences	4,799	12.3	5,788	13.6	5,695	14.2	7,238	15.0	8,322	16.3	8,566	15.7	9,218	16.0
Health sciences	1,112	2.9	1,421	3.3	1,654	4.1	2,143	4.5	2,387	4.7	2,495	4.6	2,559	4.4
Physical sciences and earth sciences	4,517	11.6	4,550	10.7	3,875	9.7	4,956	10.3	5,419	10.6	6,082	11.1	6,649	11.5
Chemistry	2,213	5.7	2,148	5.0	1,922	4.8	2,318	4.8	2,416	4.7	2,699	4.9	3,060	5.3
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	767	2.0	803	1.9	689	1.7	875	1.8	941	1.8	1,169	2.1	1,181	2.1
Physics and astronomy	1,537	4.0	1,599	3.8	1,264	3.2	1,763	3.7	2,062	4.0	2,214	4.1	2,408	4.2
Mathematics and computer sciences	1,927	5.0	2,032	4.8	1,729	4.3	3,042	6.3	3,496	6.9	3,842	7.0	4,854	8.4
Computer and information sciences	869	2.2	909	2.1	809	2.0	1,654	3.4	1,793	3.5	1,998	3.7	2,606	4.5
Mathematics and statistics	1,058	2.7	1,123	2.6	920	2.3	1,388	2.9	1,703	3.3	1,844	3.4	2,248	3.9
Psychology and social sciences	6,562	16.9	7,369	17.3	6,925	17.3	7,309	15.2	8,498	16.7	9,034	16.6	9,235	16.0
Psychology	3,262	8.4	3,557	8.4	3,207	8.0	3,276	6.8	3,599	7.1	3,925	7.2	3,990	6.9
Anthropology	320	0.8	434	1.0	496	1.2	512	1.1	547	1.1	446	0.8	415	0.7
Economics	910	2.3	1,030	2.4	908	2.3	1,004	2.1	1,243	2.4	1,239	2.3	1,287	2.2
Political science and government	513	1.3	665	1.6	606	1.5	588	1.2	724	1.4	743	1.4	678	1.2
Sociology	495	1.3	577	1.4	547	1.4	576	1.2	633	1.2	683	1.3	611	1.1
Other social sciences	1,062	2.7	1,106	2.6	1,161	2.9	1,353	2.8	1,752	3.4	1,998	3.7	2,254	3.9
Engineering	5,438	14.0	6,114	14.4	5,081	12.7	7,749	16.1	8,469	16.6	9,776	17.9	11,530	20.0
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	234	0.6	273	0.6	209	0.5	267	0.6	307	0.6	379	0.7	374	0.6
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	147	0.4	211	0.5	246	0.6	637	1.3	943	1.9	1,032	1.9	1,228	2.1
Chemical engineering	607	1.6	662	1.6	607	1.5	817	1.7	840	1.6	931	1.7	1,142	2.0
Civil engineering	540	1.4	592	1.4	540	1.3	703	1.5	495	1.0	713	1.3	898	1.6
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	1,278	3.3	1,460	3.4	1,212	3.0	1,967	4.1	1,938	3.8	1,879	3.4	2,193	3.8
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	196	0.5	246	0.6	230	0.6	279	0.6	226	0.4	249	0.5	381	0.7
Materials science engineering	365	0.9	483	1.1	364	0.9	646	1.3	743	1.5	937	1.7	1,136	2.0
Mechanical engineering	855	2.2	929	2.2	771	1.9	1,071	2.2	1,220	2.4	1,398	2.6	1,676	2.9
Other engineering	1,216	3.1	1,258	3.0	902	2.3	1,362	2.8	1,757	3.4	2,258	4.1	2,502	4.3
Education	6,677	17.2	6,577	15.5	6,508	16.3	6,448	13.4	4,802	9.4	4,826	8.8	4,509	7.8
Education administration	1,984	5.1	2,050	4.8	2,351	5.9	2,161	4.5	1,057	2.1	922	1.7	734	1.3
Education research	2,503	6.4	2,695	6.3	2,776	6.9	2,671	5.5	2,516	4.9	2,373	4.3	2,289	4.0
Teacher education	407	1.0	291	0.7	262	0.7	297	0.6	156	0.3	114	0.2	110	0.2
Teaching fields	1,008	2.6	919	2.2	686	1.7	873	1.8	757	1.5	925	1.7	890	1.5
Other education	775	2.0	622	1.5	433	1.1	446	0.9	316	0.6	492	0.9	486	0.8

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(Number and percent)

Field of doctorate	1992		1997		2002		2007		2012		2017		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Humanities and arts	4,387	11.3	5,285	12.4	5,297	13.2	5,085	10.6	5,561	10.9	5,286	9.7	4,464	7.8
Foreign languages and literature	562	1.4	652	1.5	627	1.6	607	1.3	684	1.3	618	1.1	442	0.8
History	724	1.9	965	2.3	1,031	2.6	937	1.9	1,086	2.1	1,058	1.9	750	1.3
Letters	1,278	3.3	1,550	3.6	1,455	3.6	1,340	2.8	1,638	3.2	1,462	2.7	1,292	2.2
Other humanities and arts	1,823	4.7	2,118	5.0	2,184	5.5	2,201	4.6	2,153	4.2	2,148	3.9	1,980	3.4
Other	2,206	5.7	2,191	5.2	2,138	5.3	2,841	5.9	2,734	5.4	3,152	5.8	3,144	5.5
Business management and administration	1,248	3.2	1,245	2.9	1,113	2.8	1,506	3.1	1,404	2.8	1,565	2.9	1,450	2.5
Communication	330	0.8	331	0.8	397	1.0	560	1.2	595	1.2	622	1.1	580	1.0
Non-science and engineering fields nec	628	1.6	615	1.4	628	1.6	775	1.6	735	1.4	965	1.8	1,114	1.9

nec = not elsewhere classified.

**Note(s):**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. Beginning in 2021, a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes was used in the survey data collection; the historical fields were constructed using the SED-CIP code crosswalk in table A-6. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information, see the "Technical Notes" and the SED 2021 Taxonomy Changes Working Paper (available at <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nces23200>).

**Source(s):**

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