

TABLE 5-5

Educational attainment of research doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of doctorate: 2023

(Percent)

Demographic characteristic and field	Total (number)	Highest level of parental education (%)						
		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional doctorate ^b	Research doctoral degree
Doctorate recipients reporting parental education (number)	49,708	49,708	8,621	6,553	13,498	11,102	4,298	5,636
Highest level of parental education	49,708	100.0	17.3	13.2	27.2	22.3	8.6	11.3
Sex								
Male	26,048	100.0	18.3	12.3	27.9	21.9	8.3	11.2
Female	23,655	100.0	16.2	14.1	26.3	22.8	9.0	11.5
Citizenship status								
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	32,492	100.0	14.2	14.2	24.4	24.3	10.7	12.1
Temporary visa holder	17,193	100.0	23.3	11.2	32.3	18.6	4.8	9.9
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)								
Hispanic or Latino	3,128	100.0	28.6	16.9	21.7	17.3	7.5	8.0
Not Hispanic or Latino								
American Indian or Alaska Native	91	100.0	23.1	23.1	24.2	23.1	D	D
Asian	3,537	100.0	16.9	10.0	21.5	22.0	8.0	21.6
Black or African American	2,416	100.0	23.6	25.4	18.0	20.8	5.5	6.6
White	21,710	100.0	10.7	13.3	26.0	26.2	12.2	11.6
More than one race	1,243	100.0	11.8	13.1	23.5	23.4	11.7	16.4
Other race or race not reported	272	100.0	13.6	11.0	26.1	25.0	D	D
Ethnicity not reported	95	100.0	14.7	18.9	22.1	24.2	7.4	12.6
Field of doctorate								
Science and engineering	39,753	100.0	16.9	12.5	28.0	22.5	8.7	11.4
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,084	100.0	19.2	14.9	24.9	21.2	8.9	10.8
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,689	100.0	15.2	12.7	27.0	23.4	10.4	11.4
Computer and information sciences	1,905	100.0	18.8	11.5	28.6	21.3	6.9	12.9
Engineering	9,180	100.0	17.1	10.7	30.6	22.9	6.7	12.1
Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences	1,082	100.0	15.8	12.6	28.2	23.2	9.3	10.9
Health sciences	2,294	100.0	20.1	15.9	25.6	22.1	8.0	8.3
Mathematics and statistics	1,766	100.0	17.7	10.4	30.1	22.7	7.5	11.7
Multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary sciences	1,471	100.0	15.6	11.4	28.5	24.0	7.7	12.8
Physical sciences	4,768	100.0	17.8	12.8	29.9	21.7	7.7	10.1
Psychology	3,111	100.0	15.4	15.7	25.2	22.4	12.0	9.3
Social sciences	4,403	100.0	17.1	12.9	25.4	21.3	9.7	13.5
Non-science and engineering	9,955	100.0	19.1	15.8	23.7	21.6	8.6	11.1
Business	1,228	100.0	19.1	13.5	27.0	20.0	6.3	14.1
Education	3,364	100.0	23.4	19.7	20.9	20.7	6.8	8.4
Humanities	2,834	100.0	15.8	12.9	25.1	23.0	11.6	11.5
Visual and performing arts	703	100.0	12.2	11.0	23.0	26.5	12.4	14.9
Other non-science and engineering	1,826	100.0	19.1	16.5	25.0	20.3	7.2	11.9

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Some college includes those who attended college but did not earn a bachelor's degree.

^b Professional doctorate includes professional doctorates such as MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PsyD, DDiv.

Note(s):

Table excludes doctorate recipients who did not report parental education for either parent or reported "not applicable or unknown" for both parents' education. If data were provided for one parent, that response is used; when data were provided for two parents, the higher attainment is used. 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, and new broad, major, and detailed fields are used in tables reporting data from 2021 to the present; see the field list in table A-4. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information about the 2021 taxonomy change, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

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