

Table 56. Statistical profile of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	12,520	1,439	8,801	2,280
Sex (%)				
Male	44.6	52.0	46.7	31.5
Female	55.4	48.0	53.3	68.5
Unknown	*	0.0	*	0.0
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	67.8	53.8	68.7	73.1
Temporary visa holder	26.1	38.8	25.7	19.4
Unknown	6.2	7.4	5.6	7.5
Marital status (%)				
Never married	31.9	27.0	35.0	22.9
Married	45.3	51.8	42.4	52.4
Marriage-like relationship	9.4	6.8	10.8	5.4
Separated, divorced, widowed	3.1	3.1	2.3	6.1
Unknown	10.4	11.3	9.5	13.2
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	49.4	42.2	52.6	41.4
Master's earned (%)	48.8	74.4	37.9	75.0
Age at doctorate (median years)	30.9	32.2	30.3	35.3
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.2	9.1	7.7	11.7
From graduate school start	6.7	7.3	6.5	9.2
From doctoral program start ^c	5.7	5.2	5.7	5.3
Male doctorate recipients (number)	5,578	748	4,112	718
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	64.6	51.7	67.5	61.6
Temporary visa holder	29.1	41.3	26.7	29.8
Unknown	6.3	7.0	5.8	8.6
Marital status (%)				
Never married	32.1	25.0	34.8	23.7
Married	46.1	56.4	43.2	51.8
Marriage-like relationship	9.1	5.7	10.4	5.7
Separated, divorced, widowed	2.1	2.0	1.9	3.2
Unknown	10.6	10.8	9.7	15.6
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	47.6	46.1	49.8	36.2
Master's earned (%)	47.1	75.7	38.5	66.6
Age at doctorate (median years)	31.0	32.5	30.6	33.2
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.0	9.2	7.9	9.5
From graduate school start	6.7	7.3	6.7	7.7
From doctoral program start ^c	5.6	5.2	5.7	5.2
Female doctorate recipients (number)	6,941	691	4,688	1,562
Citizenship (%)				
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	70.3	56.0	69.7	78.4

Table 56. Statistical profile of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
Temporary visa holder	23.6	36.0	24.8	14.7
Unknown	6.1	8.0	5.5	6.9
Marital status (%)				
Never married	31.8	29.2	35.2	22.5
Married	44.6	46.9	41.6	52.6
Marriage-like relationship	9.5	8.0	11.2	5.2
Separated, divorced, widowed	3.8	4.2	2.6	7.4
Unknown	10.2	11.7	9.3	12.2
Bachelor's in same field as doctorate (%) ^b	50.8	37.9	55.1	43.8
Master's earned (%)	50.3	73.1	37.3	78.9
Age at doctorate (median years)	30.8	31.7	30.1	36.8
Time to doctorate (median years)				
From bachelor's	8.3	9.0	7.6	13.0
From graduate school start	6.9	7.3	6.3	10.0
From doctoral program start ^c	5.7	5.2	5.7	5.6

* = 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 for the doctorate recipient's bachelor's degree and doctorate degree are both in the same major field category of the National Science Foundation's field of study taxonomy, except for engineering and education fields where broad field categories need be the same. See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields.

^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: Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2015.