

Table 32. Median years to doctorate, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2015

Time to degree and demographic characteristic	All fields		Life sciences ^a		Physical sciences and earth sciences		Mathematics and computer sciences		Psychology and social sciences		Engineering		Education		Humanities and arts		Other ^b	
	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number
Years since bachelor's																		
All doctorate recipients ^c	8.7	49,922	8.2	11,442	7.0	5,434	7.8	3,456	9.3	8,125	7.3	9,037	14.8	4,675	11.0	5,069	11.2	2,684
Sex																		
Male	8.3	26,864	8.0	5,079	7.0	3,597	7.8	2,612	9.4	3,404	7.5	6,949	14.6	1,458	11.0	2,493	11.3	1,272
Female	9.3	23,058	8.3	6,363	6.8	1,837	7.7	844	9.3	4,721	7.0	2,088	14.9	3,217	11.0	2,576	11.1	1,412
Citizenship status																		
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	9.0	34,315	8.0	8,295	6.6	3,429	7.7	1,607	9.3	6,506	6.9	4,126	15.0	4,123	11.0	4,398	12.0	1,831
Temporary visa holder	8.3	15,299	8.4	3,085	7.7	1,982	7.8	1,831	9.4	1,545	7.7	4,873	12.1	519	11.2	645	9.9	819
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																		
Hispanic or Latino	9.2	2,398	8.1	618	7.1	178	7.8	75	9.4	477	6.8	292	14.0	310	11.6	358	12.7	90
Not Hispanic or Latino																		
American Indian or Alaska Native	12.5	126	7.9	22	8.0	9	0.0	0	13.0	29	7.6	7	17.3	28	13.0	24	17.9	7
Asian	8.9	2,991	8.0	896	6.6	264	9.2	191	9.4	434	7.4	633	13.9	189	12.3	192	11.5	192
Black or African American	12.0	2,218	10.0	440	7.6	99	9.3	53	11.0	523	8.7	161	16.0	618	12.1	138	15.5	186
White	9.0	25,013	8.0	5,944	6.6	2,726	7.3	1,196	9.3	4,722	6.6	2,825	15.3	2,814	10.8	3,494	11.5	1,292
More than one race	8.6	895	7.9	239	6.6	85	7.3	35	9.0	193	6.6	106	14.4	88	10.6	110	11.7	39

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	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number
Other race or race not reported	9.4	232	8.0	51	6.2	16	9.0	18	11.3	52	7.0	29	15.2	22	11.1	34	10.5	10
Ethnicity not reported	8.8	442	8.3	85	6.0	52	7.8	39	10.3	76	6.6	73	15.5	54	11.1	48	15.3	15
Years since entering graduate school																		
All doctorate recipients ^d	7.3	49,402	6.7	11,462	6.2	5,388	6.7	3,442	7.7	7,938	6.7	8,974	11.7	4,557	9.2	4,995	8.9	2,646
Sex																		
Male	7.2	26,690	6.7	5,089	6.2	3,585	6.8	2,612	7.7	3,351	6.7	6,903	11.7	1,429	9.3	2,454	8.9	1,267
Female	7.7	22,712	6.9	6,373	6.0	1,803	6.7	830	7.7	4,587	6.3	2,071	11.7	3,128	9.2	2,541	9.0	1,379
Citizenship status																		
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	7.4	33,737	6.7	8,253	6.0	3,369	6.7	1,589	7.7	6,349	6.2	4,048	12.3	4,016	9.1	4,310	9.4	1,803
Temporary visa holder	7.3	15,394	7.2	3,159	6.8	1,992	6.9	1,829	8.2	1,540	6.9	4,878	9.1	519	9.9	659	8.2	818
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																		
Hispanic or Latino	7.7	2,329	6.8	607	6.1	173	7.4	72	7.9	463	6.2	282	11.3	300	9.8	346	9.8	86
Not Hispanic or Latino																		
American Indian or Alaska Native	9.7	120	6.8	20	7.9	9	0.0	0	10.7	29	7.3	7	14.7	27	9.7	22	13.7	6
Asian	7.3	3,014	6.7	908	6.0	268	8.0	198	7.9	423	6.7	645	10.9	192	10.7	189	9.7	191

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	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number
Black or African American	9.7	2,182	8.3	440	6.3	98	8.3	52	9.3	518	7.0	159	12.9	597	9.9	136	11.9	182
White	7.3	24,768	6.7	5,940	5.9	2,698	6.5	1,190	7.3	4,644	6.0	2,797	12.3	2,771	9.0	3,450	9.0	1,278
More than one race	7.2	900	6.6	240	6.0	88	6.4	35	7.7	192	6.0	108	11.3	87	8.7	110	9.7	40
Other race or race not reported	7.8	220	6.7	52	5.0	15	7.7	17	9.5	46	5.6	30	13.3	20	9.2	30	9.0	10
Ethnicity not reported	7.0	204	6.3	46	5.1	20	6.3	25	9.1	34	5.3	20	12.2	22	8.3	27	10.3	10
Years since entering doctoral program ^e																		
All doctorate recipients ^f	5.7	48,627	5.7	11,328	5.7	5,302	5.7	3,363	6.0	7,801	5.2	8,836	6.0	4,464	6.9	4,933	5.3	2,600
Sex																		
Male	5.7	26,248	5.6	5,027	5.7	3,524	5.7	2,557	5.9	3,285	5.2	6,794	6.2	1,394	6.7	2,420	5.0	1,247
Female	5.7	22,379	5.7	6,301	5.5	1,778	5.7	806	6.0	4,516	5.2	2,042	6.0	3,070	7.0	2,513	5.3	1,353
Citizenship status																		
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	5.8	33,193	5.7	8,151	5.7	3,325	5.7	1,553	6.0	6,237	5.3	3,983	6.2	3,929	7.0	4,255	5.3	1,760
Temporary visa holder	5.3	15,169	5.3	3,125	5.5	1,950	5.3	1,787	5.7	1,518	5.0	4,808	5.3	514	6.7	652	5.0	815
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)																		
Hispanic or Latino	6.1	2,304	5.7	603	5.7	171	6.2	71	6.7	457	5.7	279	6.7	297	7.3	343	5.4	83

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	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number	Median	Number
Not Hispanic or Latino																		
American Indian or Alaska Native	6.7	120	5.7	20	5.1	9	0.0	0	7.3	29	6.0	7	9.0	27	7.7	22	5.5	6
Asian	5.8	2,970	5.7	900	5.7	266	6.0	192	6.2	419	5.7	633	6.0	189	7.3	187	5.7	184
Black or African American	6.1	2,124	5.7	433	5.7	96	6.7	49	6.3	507	5.7	153	6.7	576	6.7	136	6.3	174
White	5.7	24,379	5.7	5,858	5.7	2,665	5.7	1,167	6.0	4,559	5.3	2,754	6.0	2,716	6.9	3,404	5.3	1,256
More than one race	5.7	884	5.7	239	5.3	87	5.7	34	6.0	186	5.5	108	5.7	85	7.0	108	6.0	37
Other race or race not reported	6.0	214	5.7	51	5.0	13	6.6	16	6.7	45	5.3	29	7.7	20	7.0	30	5.3	10
Ethnicity not reported	5.7	198	5.3	47	4.9	18	5.9	24	6.2	35	4.8	20	6.9	19	6.7	25	5.7	10

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

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

^c Includes only cases with valid year of bachelor's award.

^d Includes only cases with valid year of entry into graduate school.

^e Years since entering doctoral program is based on master's degree program 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.

^f Includes only cases with valid year of entry into master's program if master's degree was at the doctoral institution in the same fine field of study or was a prerequisite to the doctorate; otherwise, includes only cases with valid year of entry into graduate school.

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