

Table 303.—Statistical profile of persons receiving doctor's degrees in the life sciences: 1979–80 to 1996–97

Item	1979–80	1980–81	1984–85	1985–86	1986–87	1987–88	1988–89	1989–90	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Number of doctorates	5,325	5,461	5,748	5,734	5,754	6,164	6,342	6,605	6,933	7,115	7,395	7,739	7,918	8,255	8,213
Sex (percent)															
Men	74.8	73.6	67.7	66.0	64.8	63.2	61.8	62.6	61.4	60.7	58.3	58.4	57.9	56.5	55.0
Women	25.2	26.4	32.3	34.0	35.2	36.8	38.2	37.4	38.6	39.3	41.7	41.6	42.1	43.5	45.0
Racial/ethnic group (percent)															
American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3
Asian	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.9	5.7	5.0	5.3	5.6	6.6	7.1	8.7	15.7	18.5	17.9	15.3
Black	1.6	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.9	3.4
Hispanic	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.1	2.7	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.5
White	91.8	91.7	90.8	90.5	89.4	90.0	90.1	89.6	88.0	87.3	85.1	78.2	74.9	75.5	77.5
Citizenship (percent)															
United States	80.4	80.3	77.1	75.9	73.5	71.3	71.1	68.0	66.8	65.7	65.3	64.0	63.1	60.7	62.0
Foreign	17.6	17.1	19.3	18.8	20.5	22.2	22.1	26.3	29.1	31.8	32.6	34.9	35.2	37.0	31.7
Unknown	2.0	2.6	3.6	5.3	6.1	6.4	6.9	5.6	4.0	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.7	2.2	6.3
Median age at doctorate (years)	30.0	30.1	31.3	31.6	31.7	31.9	32.2	32.3	32.4	32.7	32.5	32.7	32.4	32.5	32.3
Percent with bachelor's degree in same field as doctorate	40.9	40.7	58.3	57.1	55.6	55.4	53.4	53.8	54.1	53.5	51.9	51.0	50.8	49.2	46.9
Median time lapse from bachelor's to doctorate (years)															
Total time	7.3	7.3	8.4	8.7	8.7	8.9	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.2
Registered time	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0

NOTE: Longitudinal comparisons by race/ethnicity should be done with extreme care, due to periodic changes in the survey. Distribution by race/ethnicity based on U.S. citizens and those with permanent visas only. The National Research Council's classification of degrees by field differs somewhat from that in most publications of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Includes agricultural, biological, and health

sciences. The number of degrees also differs slightly from that reported in the NCES "Completions" survey. Because of rounding, percents may not add to 100.0.

SOURCE: National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Office of Scientific and Engineering Personnel, *Doctorate Records File*. (This table was prepared September 1999.)