

Table 303.—Statistical profile of persons receiving doctor’s degrees, by field of study: 1996–97

Item	All fields	Field of study								
		Education	Engineering	Humanities	Life sciences	Physical sciences ¹		Business and management	Social sciences and psychology	Other professional fields
						Total	Mathematics			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Doctor’s degrees conferred (number)	42,705	6,497	6,052	5,387	8,213	6,574	1,112	1,221	6,917	1,081
Sex (percent)										
Men	58.5	36.4	87.0	51.5	54.6	77.4	76.0	68.9	46.9	52.8
Women	40.6	62.8	12.3	47.7	44.7	21.9	23.4	30.3	52.2	46.4
Racial/ethnic group (percent) ²										
American Indian	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.5
Asian	10.6	3.2	22.3	4.8	15.3	16.8	16.7	10.5	6.2	5.8
Black	5.0	10.2	3.1	3.5	3.4	1.7	1.2	6.3	5.5	7.4
Hispanic	3.9	4.6	2.8	4.8	3.5	2.7	2.7	2.1	4.8	3.3
White	80.0	81.1	71.5	86.4	77.5	78.4	79.3	80.5	82.9	83.0
Citizenship (percent)										
United States	64.8	82.6	44.3	76.5	62.0	54.1	46.2	63.5	72.5	72.4
Non-U.S., permanent visa	6.8	2.6	9.8	6.0	9.1	9.4	9.0	6.9	4.8	4.3
Non-U.S., temporary visa	19.8	5.6	39.7	10.1	22.6	29.8	37.6	21.9	13.0	16.3
Unknown	8.5	9.3	6.2	7.4	6.3	6.6	7.2	7.8	9.7	7.0
Median age at doctorate (years)	33.6	44.0	31.3	35.2	32.3	30.8	31.3	35.7	33.4	38.9
Percent with bachelor’s degree in same field as doctorate	50.8	34.1	75.9	46.1	46.9	61.5	64.8	31.7	55.2	29.5
Median time lapse from bachelor’s to doctorate (years)										
Total time	10.5	20.0	8.7	11.7	9.2	8.0	8.6	12.4	10.0	15.1
Registered time	7.3	8.4	6.5	8.6	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.6	7.5	8.4
Postdoctoral plans (percent)										
Postdoctoral study plans	22.9	3.8	19.5	5.8	51.6	38.9	26.0	2.6	17.0	4.1
Fellowship	12.3	1.7	6.1	3.7	31.4	17.3	12.2	0.9	11.7	1.6
Research associateship	9.1	1.4	12.3	1.1	16.6	20.3	11.4	1.2	3.8	1.5
Traineeship	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.8	1.5	0.3	1.0	0.3
Other	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.6	2.4	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.7
Postdoctoral employment	63.6	81.6	70.8	81.0	38.1	50.8	62.3	85.3	68.4	84.9
Educational institution ³	32.4	62.2	11.3	59.7	15.6	15.1	31.9	63.8	32.9	53.4
Industry, business	16.7	5.3	47.5	6.0	9.2	26.1	19.9	13.4	12.5	8.4
Government	4.3	3.7	6.4	1.4	4.1	3.5	2.3	2.1	6.7	6.2
Nonprofit organization	3.1	3.4	1.3	3.6	2.1	1.0	1.1	1.7	6.8	10.5
Other and unknown	7.0	7.0	4.4	10.2	7.2	5.1	7.1	4.2	9.6	6.4
Postdoctoral plans unknown	13.5	14.6	9.6	13.2	10.3	10.3	11.7	12.1	14.6	11.0
Definite postdoctoral study	16.5	2.2	12.2	3.4	39.0	29.2	18.0	1.6	11.9	2.2
Seeking postdoctoral study	6.4	1.5	7.3	2.4	12.6	9.8	8.0	1.0	5.1	1.9
Definite employment	41.6	59.2	46.6	45.2	24.7	33.4	39.7	64.5	43.5	58.8
Seeking employment	21.9	22.4	24.2	35.8	13.4	17.4	22.6	20.7	25.0	26.1
Primary postdoctoral activity (percent) ⁴										
Research and development	30.5	5.5	69.3	7.2	36.1	56.8	36.7	25.9	26.8	12.6
Teaching	37.0	40.9	11.3	74.3	28.4	23.3	42.5	55.1	33.6	52.0
Administration	11.9	38.4	2.1	5.0	5.1	2.3	0.7	6.0	5.7	12.3
Professional services	13.2	10.8	10.9	6.2	14.5	9.1	10.9	7.4	26.9	18.1
Other	3.3	1.8	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.0	2.0	2.7	3.7	2.4
Activity unknown	4.0	2.3	2.3	3.6	11.9	4.3	7.0	3.0	3.2	2.5
Region of employment after doctorate (percent) ⁴										
New England	6.5	4.5	7.0	7.8	5.3	8.6	9.7	4.3	7.7	4.1
Middle Atlantic	13.8	12.9	12.6	15.3	11.4	16.1	18.8	13.5	15.0	13.7
East North Central	13.4	14.7	11.9	14.8	12.4	11.5	13.6	15.1	13.5	15.1
West North Central	6.8	9.9	3.7	7.8	7.6	5.1	6.8	5.2	6.2	7.5
South Atlantic	15.5	18.5	12.0	14.7	15.9	13.8	16.3	15.8	16.6	15.9
East South Central	4.6	7.0	2.8	4.1	4.6	3.6	3.6	6.5	3.5	5.7
West South Central	8.3	9.3	8.6	8.1	7.6	7.2	4.3	10.9	6.7	11.3
Mountain	5.5	6.7	5.1	5.5	5.4	5.4	4.5	4.3	5.1	4.6
Pacific and insular	13.9	10.6	21.7	12.0	12.7	18.4	10.2	10.5	12.2	7.7
U.S., region unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Foreign	10.2	4.7	12.9	8.9	14.7	8.9	10.2	12.7	12.5	13.7
Region unknown	1.3	1.2	1.6	0.9	2.3	1.5	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.8

¹Includes mathematics, computer science, physics and astronomy, chemistry, and earth, atmospheric, and marine sciences.

²Distribution by race/ethnicity based on U.S. citizens and those with permanent visas only.

³Includes 2-year, 4-year, and foreign colleges and universities, medical schools, and elementary/secondary schools.

⁴Includes only recipients with definite employment plans.

NOTE.—The above classification of degrees by field differs somewhat from that in most publications of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The major differences are that history is included under humanities rather than social sciences and

that psychology is included under social sciences. Includes Ph.D., Ed.D., and comparable degrees at the doctoral level. Excludes first-professional degrees, such as M.D., D.D.S., and D.V.M. The number of degrees also differs slightly from that reported in the NCES “Completions” survey. The above tabulation excludes some non-research doctorate degrees such as doctor’s degrees in theology. Total includes a small number of graduates not reported by field of study. Because of rounding, percents may not add to 100.0.

SOURCE: National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Office of Scientific and Engineering Personnel, *Summary Report 1997: Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities*. (This table was prepared September 1999.)