

TABLE 5. Major field of study of doctorate recipients for selected years, 1976–2006

Field of study	1976		1981		1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
All fields	32,946	100.0	31,355	100.0	31,897	100.0	37,530	100.0	42,437	100.0	40,737	100.0	45,596	100.0
Life sciences	5,087	15.4	5,665	18.1	5,767	18.1	6,967	18.6	8,337	19.6	8,370	20.5	9,683	21.2
Agricultural sciences/natural resources	1,011	3.1	1,205	3.8	1,191	3.7	1,277	3.4	1,289	3.0	1,132	2.8	1,146	2.5
Biological/biomedical sciences	3,573	10.8	3,803	12.1	3,807	11.9	4,649	12.4	5,724	13.5	5,697	14.0	6,631	14.5
Health sciences	503	1.5	657	2.1	769	2.4	1,041	2.8	1,324	3.1	1,541	3.8	1,906	4.2
Physical sciences	4,448	13.5	4,116	13.1	4,772	15.0	6,244	16.6	6,592	15.5	5,864	14.4	7,461	16.4
Chemistry	1,624	4.9	1,612	5.1	1,903	6.0	2,194	5.8	2,149	5.1	1,981	4.9	2,363	5.2
Computer & information sciences ^a	na	na	232	0.7	399	1.3	800	2.1	920	2.2	830	2.0	1,452	3.2
Earth, atmospheric, & marine sciences	584	1.8	529	1.7	554	1.7	801	2.1	724	1.7	660	1.6	757	1.7
Mathematics	1,003	3.0	728	2.3	729	2.3	1,038	2.8	1,122	2.6	1,010	2.5	1,327	2.9
Physics & astronomy	1,237	3.8	1,015	3.2	1,187	3.7	1,411	3.8	1,677	4.0	1,383	3.4	1,562	3.4
Social sciences	6,214	18.9	6,141	19.6	5,893	18.5	6,151	16.4	6,822	16.1	6,794	16.7	6,873	15.1
Anthropology	428	1.3	369	1.2	381	1.2	341	0.9	397	0.9	411	1.0	472	1.0
Economics	885	2.7	824	2.6	859	2.7	885	2.4	1,008	2.4	927	2.3	1,029	2.3
Political science/international relations	791	2.4	532	1.7	490	1.5	522	1.4	721	1.7	749	1.8	729	1.6
Psychology	2,883	8.8	3,358	10.7	3,126	9.8	3,250	8.7	3,494	8.2	3,399	8.3	3,263	7.2
Sociology	734	2.2	605	1.9	491	1.5	465	1.2	517	1.2	567	1.4	578	1.3
Other social sciences	493	1.5	453	1.4	546	1.7	688	1.8	685	1.6	741	1.8	802	1.8
Engineering	2,834	8.6	2,528	8.1	3,375	10.6	5,213	13.9	6,309	14.9	5,511	13.5	7,191	15.8
Aerospace/aeronautical engineering	122	0.4	97	0.3	118	0.4	206	0.5	287	0.7	203	0.5	238	0.5
Chemical & related engineering	331	1.0	317	1.0	531	1.7	691	1.8	798	1.9	730	1.8	893	2.0
Civil & related engineering	388	1.2	358	1.1	429	1.3	575	1.5	698	1.6	595	1.5	803	1.8
Electrical & related engineering	711	2.2	549	1.8	805	2.5	1,405	3.7	1,741	4.1	1,579	3.9	2,133	4.7
Industrial engineering	67	0.2	66	0.2	101	0.3	165	0.4	259	0.6	206	0.5	235	0.5
Materials/metallurgical engineering	252	0.8	234	0.7	305	1.0	489	1.3	574	1.4	497	1.2	624	1.4
Mechanical & related engineering	417	1.3	360	1.1	536	1.7	875	2.3	1,052	2.5	953	2.3	1,148	2.5
Other engineering	546	1.7	547	1.7	550	1.7	807	2.2	900	2.1	748	1.8	1,117	2.4
Education	7,725	23.4	7,497	23.9	6,649	20.8	6,454	17.2	6,785	16.0	6,349	15.6	6,123	13.4
Education administration	1,683	5.1	1,659	5.3	1,638	5.1	1,913	5.1	2,165	5.1	2,070	5.1	2,052	4.5
Education research	3,379	10.3	3,168	10.1	2,725	8.5	2,354	6.3	2,699	6.4	2,637	6.5	2,750	6.0
Teacher education	588	1.8	639	2.0	490	1.5	408	1.1	371	0.9	296	0.7	252	0.6
Teaching fields	1,418	4.3	1,437	4.6	1,142	3.6	973	2.6	864	2.0	723	1.8	707	1.6
Other education	657	2.0	594	1.9	654	2.1	806	2.1	686	1.6	623	1.5	362	0.8
Humanities	4,881	14.8	3,751	12.0	3,460	10.8	4,099	10.9	5,114	12.1	5,615	13.8	5,576	12.2
American literature	236	0.7	145	0.5	215	0.7	253	0.7	314	0.7	385	0.9	382	0.8
English language & literature	978	3.0	675	2.2	504	1.6	599	1.6	699	1.6	593	1.5	572	1.3
Foreign language & literature	835	2.5	576	1.8	445	1.4	498	1.3	605	1.4	620	1.5	614	1.3
History	1,095	3.3	692	2.2	563	1.8	663	1.8	857	2.0	1,031	2.5	973	2.1
Other humanities	1,737	5.3	1,663	5.3	1,733	5.4	2,086	5.6	2,639	6.2	2,986	7.3	3,035	6.7

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Field of study	1976		1981		1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Other fields	1,757	5.3	1,657	5.3	1,981	6.2	2,402	6.4	2,478	5.8	2,234	5.5	2,689	5.9
Business & management	739	2.2	624	2.0	902	2.8	1,163	3.1	1,279	3.0	1,064	2.6	1,312	2.9
Communications	295	0.9	240	0.8	258	0.8	332	0.9	389	0.9	390	1.0	507	1.1
Fields not elsewhere classified	723	2.2	793	2.5	821	2.6	907	2.4	810	1.9	780	1.9	870	1.9

na = Not applicable (i.e., the field was not on the questionnaire's Specialties list for that year).

^a Computer & information sciences first appeared on the survey form in 1978.

NOTE: Major field of study definitions are detailed in Appendix E.

SOURCE: NSF/NIH/USED/NEH/USDA/NASA, 2006 Survey of Earned Doctorates.