

Table 302. Statistical profile of persons receiving doctor's degrees in the life sciences: Selected years, 1979–80 to 2000–01

Item	1979–80	1980–81	1985–86	1989–90	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Number of doctorates	5,325	5,461	5,734	6,605	6,933	7,115	7,395	7,739	7,918	8,255	8,213	8,540	8,126	8,529	8,296
Sex (percent)															
Men	74.8	73.6	66.0	62.6	61.4	60.7	58.3	58.4	57.9	56.5	55.0	54.5	55.3	53.1	52.8
Women	25.2	26.4	34.0	37.4	38.6	39.3	41.7	41.6	42.1	43.5	45.0	45.5	44.7	46.9	47.2
Racial/ethnic group (percent)															
White, non-Hispanic	91.8	91.7	90.5	89.6	88.0	87.3	85.1	78.2	74.9	75.5	77.5	78.5	78.5	80.1	80.4
Black, non-Hispanic	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.8	3.8
Hispanic	1.1	1.4	2.1	2.7	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.5	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.7
Asian ¹	5.3	4.8	4.9	5.6	6.6	7.1	8.7	15.7	18.5	17.9	15.3	13.6	13.4	11.7	11.7
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
Citizenship (percent)															
United States	80.4	80.3	75.9	68.0	66.8	65.7	65.3	64.0	63.1	60.7	62.0	61.9	63.0	64.6	65.0
Foreign	17.6	17.1	18.8	26.3	29.1	31.8	32.6	34.9	35.2	37.0	31.7	31.4	33.4	31.6	29.6
Unknown	2.0	2.6	5.3	5.6	4.0	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.7	2.2	6.3	6.7	3.6	3.9	5.4
Median age at doctorate (years)	30.0	30.1	31.6	32.3	32.4	32.7	32.5	32.7	32.4	32.5	32.3	32.3	32.1	32.1	31.8
Percent with bachelor's degree in same field as doctorate	40.9	40.7	57.1	53.8	54.1	53.5	51.9	51.0	50.8	49.2	46.9	48.9	47.0	49.3	47.3
Median time lapse from bachelor's to doctorate (years)															
Total time	7.3	7.3	8.7	9.1	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.2	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0
Registered time	5.8	5.9	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0

¹ Does not include Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

NOTE: Longitudinal comparisons by race/ethnicity should be done with extreme care, due to periodic changes in the survey. In particular, large numbers of Asians converted from temporary visas to permanent visas in the mid 1990s. Distribution by race/ethnicity based on U.S. citizens and those with permanent visas only. The classification of degrees by field used in this survey 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. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: *Survey of Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities*, various years, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Education, National Endowment for the Humanities, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. (This table was prepared June 2003.)