

Table 33**Educational attainment of doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2020**

(Number and percent distribution)

Demographic characteristic and field	Total (number)	Parental education attainment (%)						
		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional degree ^b	Research doctoral degree
Life sciences ^e								
Father's education	11,046	100.0	22.8	13.9	27.2	17.0	9.0	10.1
Mother's education	11,141	100.0	25.0	17.9	29.6	18.1	5.2	4.2
Physical sciences and earth sciences								
Father's education	5,488	100.0	22.3	14.6	27.9	18.3	7.4	9.6
Mother's education	5,494	100.0	25.4	16.9	31.5	17.7	4.3	4.1
Mathematics and computer sciences								
Father's education	3,741	100.0	21.9	12.1	29.8	17.7	6.0	12.5
Mother's education	3,748	100.0	29.4	14.6	30.5	16.5	4.0	4.9
Psychology and social sciences								
Father's education	7,453	100.0	22.5	14.5	25.6	17.7	10.0	9.7
Mother's education	7,555	100.0	23.6	18.4	27.6	19.7	5.7	4.9
Engineering								
Father's education	9,050	100.0	21.5	12.1	33.2	18.1	5.2	9.9
Mother's education	9,088	100.0	28.9	15.1	33.4	15.3	3.5	3.8
Education								
Father's education	4,003	100.0	31.9	17.0	24.9	13.4	6.8	6.1
Mother's education	4,059	100.0	33.0	22.0	22.9	16.3	2.6	3.1
Humanities and arts								
Father's education	4,116	100.0	20.4	13.5	25.0	18.6	12.1	10.6
Mother's education	4,182	100.0	21.5	17.5	28.4	22.5	4.9	5.2
Other ^f								
Father's education	2,357	100.0	24.4	14.0	28.6	16.2	7.1	9.7
Mother's education	2,390	100.0	29.5	18.2	27.9	16.7	3.5	4.1

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes those who attended college but did not earn a bachelor's.^b Includes professional doctorate such as MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PsyD, DDiv.^c Total count excludes those who did not report father's education and those who reported "not applicable/unknown."^d Total count excludes those who did not report mother's education and those who reported "not applicable/unknown."^e Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.^f Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.**Note(s):**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.