

Table 33. Educational attainment of doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2016
(Percent distribution)

Demographic characteristic and broad field of study	Total (number)	Parental education attainment (%)				
		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Advanced degree
All doctorate recipients						
Father's education ^b	47,477	100.0	24.1	13.6	27.0	35.3
Mother's education ^c	47,684	100.0	29.3	16.7	28.3	25.7
Sex						
Male						
Father's education	25,658	100.0	24.6	12.7	27.7	35.0
Mother's education	25,704	100.0	31.2	15.6	28.6	24.5
Female						
Father's education	21,818	100.0	23.5	14.6	26.3	35.6
Mother's education	21,979	100.0	27.0	17.9	27.9	27.2
Citizenship status						
U.S. citizen or permanent resident						
Father's education	32,656	100.0	21.3	14.8	24.6	39.3
Mother's education	32,899	100.0	23.3	18.7	27.9	30.1
Temporary visa holder						
Father's education	14,801	100.0	30.1	10.9	32.5	26.5
Mother's education	14,765	100.0	42.7	12.1	29.2	16.0
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)						
Hispanic or Latino						
Father's education	2,286	100.0	35.3	17.8	20.1	26.9
Mother's education	2,330	100.0	36.7	20.3	22.0	20.9
Not Hispanic or Latino						
American Indian or Alaska Native						
Father's education	110	100.0	41.8	20.0	19.1	19.1
Mother's education	113	100.0	32.7	20.4	21.2	25.7
Asian						
Father's education	2,857	100.0	20.5	10.2	24.9	44.5
Mother's education	2,867	100.0	29.9	12.9	30.4	26.9
Black or African American						
Father's education	2,003	100.0	41.6	21.4	14.6	22.3
Mother's education	2,070	100.0	35.0	23.9	16.7	24.5
White						
Father's education	24,138	100.0	18.4	14.4	25.9	41.2
Mother's education	24,244	100.0	20.2	18.8	29.3	31.8
More than one race						
Father's education	967	100.0	19.6	15.4	23.0	42.0
Mother's education	975	100.0	22.2	19.9	26.7	31.3
Other race or race not reported						
Father's education	183	100.0	19.7	13.7	23.5	43.2
Mother's education	187	100.0	24.1	18.2	24.6	33.2
Ethnicity not reported						
Father's education	112	100.0	21.4	11.6	26.8	40.2
Mother's education	113	100.0	28.3	17.7	28.3	25.7
Field of study						

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		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Advanced degree
Life sciences ^d						
Father's education	11,185	100.0	23.1	13.7	27.1	36.1
Mother's education	11,240	100.0	27.5	17.3	29.0	26.2
Physical sciences and earth sciences						
Father's education	5,518	100.0	23.9	14.0	28.9	33.3
Mother's education	5,535	100.0	29.8	16.4	28.8	25.0
Mathematics and computer sciences						
Father's education	3,420	100.0	24.1	12.0	29.5	34.4
Mother's education	3,425	100.0	31.4	14.3	29.4	24.9
Psychology and social sciences						
Father's education	7,658	100.0	23.2	14.5	24.3	37.9
Mother's education	7,722	100.0	25.9	17.7	26.6	29.8
Engineering						
Father's education	8,129	100.0	22.7	11.5	32.2	33.7
Mother's education	8,124	100.0	32.2	14.2	31.5	22.1
Education						
Father's education	4,376	100.0	34.0	17.3	21.1	27.5
Mother's education	4,406	100.0	36.9	20.3	21.9	20.9
Humanities and arts						
Father's education	4,747	100.0	20.7	12.3	24.3	42.8
Mother's education	4,777	100.0	23.8	15.8	28.3	32.0
Other ^e						
Father's education	2,444	100.0	25.0	14.1	26.6	34.3
Mother's education	2,455	100.0	31.0	17.6	28.8	22.5

^a Includes those who attended college but did not earn a bachelor's.

^b Total count excludes 6,834 who did not report father's education and 593 (1.1%) who reported "not applicable/unknown."

^c Total count excludes 6,809 who did not report mother's education and 411 (0.7%) who reported "not applicable/unknown."

^d Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.

^e Non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2016.