

Table 38. Education-related debt of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study: 2016

Debt level	Total		Life sciences ^a		Physical sciences and earth sciences		Mathematics and computer sciences		Psychology and social sciences		Engineering		Education		Humanities and arts		Other ^b	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Cumulative debt																		
Mean	\$23,838		\$20,562		\$14,156		\$11,564		\$36,347		\$12,228		\$40,827		\$31,213		\$31,874	
No debt	26,969	53.7	6,452	55.0	3,568	61.6	2,592	71.6	3,360	41.2	5,733	66.4	1,869	40.0	2,135	42.9	1,260	48.0
\$10,000 or less	4,409	8.8	1,026	8.7	577	10.0	273	7.5	698	8.6	854	9.9	360	7.7	417	8.4	204	7.8
\$10,001–\$20,000	3,367	6.7	897	7.6	444	7.7	171	4.7	561	6.9	514	6.0	245	5.2	396	8.0	139	5.3
\$20,001–\$30,000	2,831	5.6	757	6.5	328	5.7	139	3.8	462	5.7	404	4.7	263	5.6	349	7.0	129	4.9
\$30,001–\$40,000	1,848	3.7	471	4.0	183	3.2	86	2.4	348	4.3	224	2.6	196	4.2	251	5.0	89	3.4
\$40,001–\$50,000	1,570	3.1	380	3.2	140	2.4	54	1.5	325	4.0	192	2.2	168	3.6	207	4.2	104	4.0
\$50,001–\$60,000	1,161	2.3	268	2.3	95	1.6	48	1.3	221	2.7	122	1.4	157	3.4	167	3.4	83	3.2
\$60,001–\$70,000	1,089	2.2	243	2.1	71	1.2	45	1.2	248	3.0	106	1.2	156	3.3	139	2.8	81	3.1
\$70,001–\$80,000	929	1.9	179	1.5	82	1.4	42	1.2	208	2.6	77	0.9	155	3.3	122	2.4	64	2.4
\$80,001–\$90,000	1,200	2.4	246	2.1	85	1.5	48	1.3	275	3.4	122	1.4	182	3.9	149	3.0	93	3.5
\$90,001 or more	4,830	9.6	814	6.9	218	3.8	122	3.4	1,443	17.7	283	3.3	922	19.7	649	13.0	379	14.4
Total	50,203	100.0	11,733	100.0	5,791	100.0	3,620	100.0	8,149	100.0	8,631	100.0	4,673	100.0	4,981	100.0	2,625	100.0
Graduate debt																		
Mean	\$15,125		\$11,513		\$5,877		\$6,731		\$25,485		\$6,554		\$28,591		\$21,345		\$23,453	
No debt	31,988	64.3	8,108	69.6	4,527	78.9	2,883	80.4	3,975	49.1	6,551	76.7	2,035	44.1	2,548	51.5	1,361	52.2
\$10,000 or less	4,075	8.2	916	7.9	483	8.4	190	5.3	689	8.5	758	8.9	369	8.0	467	9.4	203	7.8
\$10,001–\$20,000	2,431	4.9	544	4.7	210	3.7	128	3.6	449	5.5	338	4.0	301	6.5	323	6.5	138	5.3
\$20,001–\$30,000	1,949	3.9	399	3.4	124	2.2	89	2.5	434	5.4	232	2.7	255	5.5	288	5.8	128	4.9
\$30,001–\$40,000	1,396	2.8	298	2.6	76	1.3	70	2.0	327	4.0	141	1.7	178	3.9	207	4.2	99	3.8
\$40,001–\$50,000	1,193	2.4	242	2.1	61	1.1	28	0.8	284	3.5	114	1.3	193	4.2	172	3.5	99	3.8
\$50,001–\$60,000	1,061	2.1	216	1.9	55	1.0	36	1.0	240	3.0	101	1.2	194	4.2	137	2.8	82	3.1
\$60,001–\$70,000	877	1.8	147	1.3	49	0.9	31	0.9	215	2.7	59	0.7	155	3.4	140	2.8	81	3.1
\$70,001–\$80,000	774	1.6	149	1.3	45	0.8	32	0.9	186	2.3	48	0.6	148	3.2	102	2.1	64	2.5
\$80,001–\$90,000	1,219	2.4	230	2.0	46	0.8	38	1.1	292	3.6	91	1.1	238	5.2	169	3.4	115	4.4
\$90,001 or more	2,819	5.7	399	3.4	65	1.1	60	1.7	1,000	12.4	111	1.3	550	11.9	396	8.0	238	9.1
Total	49,782	100.0	11,648	100.0	5,741	100.0	3,585	100.0	8,091	100.0	8,544	100.0	4,616	100.0	4,949	100.0	2,608	100.0
Undergraduate debt																		
Mean	\$8,853		\$9,145		\$8,339		\$4,906		\$11,072		\$5,749		\$12,599		\$10,011		\$8,586	

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	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No debt	34,997	69.8	7,966	68.0	4,033	69.7	2,924	80.9	5,228	64.3	6,749	78.3	2,962	63.5	3,219	64.7	1,916	73.1
\$10,000 or less	3,529	7.0	823	7.0	417	7.2	208	5.8	668	8.2	511	5.9	355	7.6	379	7.6	168	6.4
\$10,001–\$20,000	3,452	6.9	896	7.6	435	7.5	156	4.3	627	7.7	423	4.9	324	6.9	442	8.9	149	5.7
\$20,001–\$30,000	2,768	5.5	750	6.4	340	5.9	117	3.2	490	6.0	347	4.0	276	5.9	331	6.6	117	4.5
\$30,001–\$40,000	1,620	3.2	426	3.6	170	2.9	70	1.9	301	3.7	189	2.2	200	4.3	205	4.1	59	2.3
\$40,001–\$50,000	1,073	2.1	263	2.2	114	2.0	37	1.0	217	2.7	126	1.5	133	2.8	125	2.5	58	2.2
\$50,001–\$60,000	727	1.5	157	1.3	79	1.4	34	0.9	168	2.1	84	1.0	98	2.1	77	1.5	30	1.1
\$60,001–\$70,000	503	1.0	116	1.0	55	1.0	20	0.6	109	1.3	50	0.6	61	1.3	64	1.3	28	1.1
\$70,001–\$80,000	339	0.7	67	0.6	50	0.9	11	0.3	64	0.8	40	0.5	47	1.0	35	0.7	25	1.0
\$80,001–\$90,000	440	0.9	113	1.0	36	0.6	20	0.6	75	0.9	59	0.7	73	1.6	38	0.8	26	1.0
\$90,001 or more	681	1.4	140	1.2	56	1.0	17	0.5	181	2.2	40	0.5	139	3.0	63	1.3	45	1.7
Total	50,129	100.0	11,717	100.0	5,785	100.0	3,614	100.0	8,128	100.0	8,618	100.0	4,668	100.0	4,978	100.0	2,621	100.0

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

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

NOTES: Mean calculations are based on all valid responses to debt item. See technical notes for details on calculations of means.

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