

TABLE 6. Number of doctorate recipients and percent female, by major field of study, 1996 and 2006

Field of study	1996 ^a		2006 ^b		Change in percentage earned by females, 1996-2006
	Number of doctorate recipients	Percent of doctorates to females	Number of doctorate recipients	Percent of doctorates to females	
All fields	42,240	40.1	45,525	45.1	12.4
Life sciences	8,304	43.5	9,668	51.6	18.6
Agricultural sciences/natural resources	1,286	26.5	1,146	39.0	47.1
Biological/biomedical sciences	5,702	42.4	6,621	49.3	16.3
Health sciences	1,316	65.3	1,901	67.5	3.4
Physical sciences	6,542	20.8	7,449	27.7	33.1
Chemistry	2,131	28.4	2,358	34.4	21.0
Computer & information sciences	914	15.2	1,451	21.4	40.5
Earth, atmospheric, & marine sciences	717	21.2	755	35.4	66.8
Mathematics	1,112	20.8	1,327	29.6	42.6
Physics & astronomy	1,668	14.0	1,558	18.1	29.0
Social sciences	6,804	51.7	6,867	57.4	11.0
Anthropology	397	53.9	472	57.0	5.7
Economics	1,001	22.6	1,027	30.1	33.3
Political science/international relations	718	30.4	729	38.5	27.0
Psychology	3,491	66.7	3,259	71.4	7.0
Sociology	512	53.5	578	62.5	16.7
Other social sciences	685	37.2	802	48.9	31.3
Engineering	6,265	12.4	7,176	20.2	63.1
Aerospace/aeronautical engineering	286	8.4	236	10.6	26.2
Chemical & related engineering	796	18.0	891	25.9	44.3
Civil & related engineering	695	11.4	802	21.9	93.1
Electrical & related engineering	1,725	9.8	2,128	14.9	52.1
Industrial engineering	259	19.7	235	28.5	44.8
Materials/metallurgical engineering	567	14.8	623	25.4	71.2
Mechanical & related engineering	1,041	7.5	1,146	13.9	85.2
Other engineering	896	16.6	1,115	28.6	72.0
Education	6,766	61.9	6,115	65.2	5.4
Education administration	2,160	55.5	2,051	59.1	6.5
Education research	2,695	66.9	2,748	68.6	2.5
Teacher education	371	69.0	251	74.9	8.5
Teaching fields	861	58.4	705	64.8	11.0
Other education	679	62.9	360	68.3	8.7
Humanities	5,096	49.9	5,570	50.6	1.5
American literature	314	62.1	382	53.9	-13.2
English language & literature	698	60.0	572	61.9	3.1
Foreign language & literature	602	60.5	614	61.6	1.8
History	854	41.6	973	40.9	-1.6
Other humanities	2,628	46.1	3,029	49.0	6.4
Other fields	2,463	38.7	2,680	47.9	23.8
Business & management	1,269	30.0	1,304	38.8	29.2
Communications	389	50.6	507	56.6	11.8
Fields not elsewhere classified	805	46.7	869	56.6	21.2

^a 1996 field total excludes 197 individuals for whom sex was not reported.

^b 2006 field total excludes 71 individuals for whom sex was not reported.

NOTES: Major field of study definitions are detailed in Appendix E. Change in percent to females computed as (2006 percent - 1996 percent) / 1996 percent. See Appendix Table A-1.

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