

Table 299. Master's and Doctoral Degrees Earned by Field: 1980 to 2008

[The new Classification of Instructional Programs was introduced in 2002–2003. Data for previous years has been reclassified where necessary to conform to the new classifications. Based on survey; see Appendix III]

Field of study	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2008
MASTER'S DEGREES						
Total ¹	298,081	324,301	457,056	574,618	604,607	625,023
Agriculture and natural resources	3,976	3,382	4,360	4,746	4,623	4,684
Architecture and related services	3,139	3,499	4,268	5,674	5,951	6,065
Area, ethnic, cultural, and gender studies	852	1,191	1,544	1,755	1,699	1,778
Biological and biomedical sciences	6,322	4,906	6,781	8,199	8,747	9,565
Business	55,008	76,676	111,532	142,617	150,211	155,637
Communication, journalism, and related programs ²	3,082	4,353	5,525	7,195	7,272	7,546
Computer and information sciences	3,647	9,677	14,990	18,416	16,232	17,087
Education	101,819	84,890	123,045	167,490	176,572	175,880
Engineering and engineering technologies	16,765	25,294	26,726	35,133	32,162	34,592
English language and literature/letters	6,026	6,317	7,022	8,468	8,742	9,161
Family and consumer sciences/human sciences	2,690	1,679	1,882	1,827	2,080	2,199
Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	3,067	3,018	3,037	3,407	3,443	3,565
Health professions and related clinical sciences	15,374	20,406	42,593	46,703	54,531	58,120
Legal professions and studies	1,817	1,888	3,750	4,170	4,486	4,754
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	2,646	1,999	3,256	3,680	3,634	3,797
Library science	5,374	4,341	4,577	6,213	6,767	7,162
Mathematics and statistics	2,860	3,624	3,208	4,477	4,884	4,980
Multi/interdisciplinary studies	2,494	3,182	3,487	4,252	4,762	5,289
Parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies	647	529	2,322	3,740	4,110	4,440
Philosophy and religious studies	1,204	1,327	1,376	1,647	1,716	1,879
Physical sciences and science technologies	5,167	5,410	4,810	5,678	5,839	5,899
Psychology	9,938	10,730	15,740	18,830	21,037	21,431
Public administration and social services	17,560	17,399	25,594	29,552	31,131	33,029
Security and protective services	1,805	1,151	2,609	3,991	4,906	5,760
Social sciences and history	12,176	11,634	14,066	16,952	17,665	18,495
Theology and religious vocations	3,872	4,941	5,534	5,815	6,446	6,996
Visual and performing arts	8,708	8,481	10,918	13,183	13,767	14,164
DOCTORAL DEGREES						
Total ¹	32,615	38,371	44,808	52,631	60,616	63,712
Agriculture and natural resources	991	1,295	1,168	1,173	1,272	1,257
Architecture and related services	79	103	129	179	178	199
Area, ethnic, cultural, and gender studies	151	125	205	189	233	270
Biological and biomedical sciences	3,527	3,837	5,180	5,578	6,354	6,918
Business	767	1,093	1,194	1,498	2,029	2,084
Communication, journalism, and related programs ²	193	272	357	468	480	496
Computer and information sciences	240	627	779	1,119	1,595	1,698
Education	7,314	6,503	6,409	7,681	8,261	8,491
Engineering and engineering technologies	2,546	5,030	5,421	6,601	8,123	8,167
English language and literature/letters	1,196	986	1,470	1,212	1,178	1,262
Family and consumer sciences/human sciences	192	273	327	331	337	323
Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	857	816	1,086	1,027	1,059	1,078
Health professions and related clinical sciences	821	1,449	2,053	5,868	8,355	9,886
Legal professions and studies	40	111	74	98	143	172
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	192	63	83	109	77	76
Mathematics and statistics	724	917	1,075	1,176	1,351	1,360
Multi/interdisciplinary studies	318	442	792	983	1,093	1,142
Parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies	21	35	134	207	218	228
Philosophy and religious studies	374	445	598	586	637	635
Physical sciences and science technologies	3,044	4,116	3,963	4,114	4,846	4,804
Psychology	3,395	3,811	4,731	5,106	5,153	5,296
Public administration and social services	342	508	537	673	726	760
Security and protective services	18	38	52	94	85	88
Social sciences and history	3,230	3,010	4,095	3,819	3,844	4,059
Theology and religious vocations	1,315	1,317	1,630	1,422	1,573	1,446
Visual and performing arts	655	849	1,127	1,278	1,364	1,453

¹ Includes other fields of study, not shown separately. ² Includes technologies.

Source: U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, annual and unpublished data. See also <<http://www.nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>>.