

Characteristics of US science and engineering doctorates detailed in new report

December 10 2012



NSF data serves as a leading indicator for knowledge creation and innovation for doctoral education. Credit: Thinkstock

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) yesterday released a report titled *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: 2010* that unveils important trends in U.S. doctoral education.

The report calls attention to the changing characteristics of U.S. doctorate recipients over time, including the increased representation of women, minorities and foreign nationals; the emergence of new fields of study; the time it takes to complete doctoral study; the expansion of the postdoctoral pool; and employment opportunities after graduation.

Understanding connections among these characteristics is of paramount

importance to improving U.S. doctoral education and helping the system maintain its [leadership role](#).

This annual count by the National Science Foundation (NSF) is a direct measure of the human resource pool that is on a path to careers in [science](#), engineering, mathematics and research, and these data can serve as leading indicators of U.S. capacity for knowledge creation and innovation.

Trends in the report can be examined in greater depth through accompanying [online resources](#) including an interactive version of the [report](#) and 70 detailed data tables available as PDF and Excel files.

More information: www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed/

Provided by National Science Foundation

Citation: Characteristics of US science and engineering doctorates detailed in new report (2012, December 10) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-12-characteristics-science-doctorates.html>

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