



## SURVEY SPONSORS



## SURVEY DATA COLLECTION

SED data are being collected under contract by RTI International,<sup>4</sup> a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina. NSF monitors the contract with RTI. Data from the survey are available on the NSF website and in annual reports published online (<http://nsf.gov/statistics/sed/>).

<sup>4</sup>RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

## YOUR INSTITUTION'S PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL

To maintain statistical integrity of the SED dataset and ensure that analyses performed on data are representative of the graduating class of research doctorates, we maintain a very high response rate. Your participation ensures that policy decisions based on SED data are representative of your institution's graduates.

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**National Science Foundation  
National Center for  
Science and Engineering  
Statistics**

**Attention: SED**

2415 Eisenhower Ave.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**RTI International –  
Project: SED  
Research  
Operations Center**

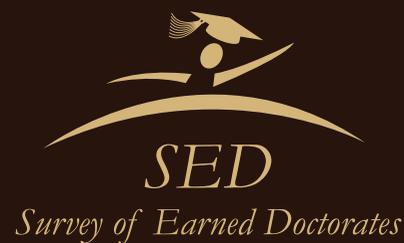
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# INFORMATION FOR INSTITUTIONS ABOUT THE SURVEY OF EARNED DOCTORATES

## A NOTE ABOUT PRIVACY

Confidentiality of any information provided as part of the SED is safeguarded under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the NSF Act of 1950, as amended. Staff working with data are required to sign binding confidentiality affidavits with fines up to \$250,000 or imprisonment as punishment for disclosure. The processing facilities and computer equipment used to store or access the data are designed and maintained to ensure confidentiality.



*The Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) is an annual census of students who were awarded a research doctorate from an accredited U.S. institution during the academic year.*

## PURPOSES INCLUDE:

- Measuring the incremental investment in human resources devoted to science, engineering, research, and scholarship through annual counts of doctorate recipients, which serve as leading indicators of the capacity for knowledge, creation and innovation
- Analyzing the changing characteristics of doctorate recipients over time—including increased representation of women, minorities, and foreign nationals; the emergence of new fields of study; and postdoctoral employment opportunities
- Using the numbers and characteristics of doctorate recipients to make informed improvements in this country’s doctoral education system

## TYPE OF INFORMATION:

Doctoral graduates provide information on their educational history, sources of financial support during graduate school, plans after graduation, and demographic information.

## WHO USES THE DATA?

- Federal agencies, including SED’s sponsors
- Federal and state governments
- University administrators and faculty engaged in researching higher education
- Equal Opportunity offices
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine
- Professional associations (e.g., Modern Language Association, American Sociological Association, American Psychological Association)
- Research organizations (e.g., Educational Testing Service, American Council on Education, National Bureau of Economic Research)

## HOW ARE THE DATA USED?

- To assess the availability of doctorate recipients entering the nation’s workforce
- To provide an objective basis for policy decisions on doctoral education (e.g., allocate resources to current programs; develop new programs)
- To make decisions about financial commitments that affect graduate education (e.g., fellowship programs, research assistantships)<sup>1</sup>

## HOW CAN THE DATA HELP MY INSTITUTION?

*Data from the SED can be used by institutions to compare their graduates with national statistics. Using recent data, researchers have learned:*

**1** In 2016, 46% of all research doctorates were awarded to women. In each year since 2002, women earned a majority of all research doctorates awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Women earned more than one-third of all research doctorates awarded to temporary visa holders in each year since 2006.<sup>2</sup>

**2** The proportion of 2016 research doctorate recipients who relied primarily on their own resources—loans, personal savings or earnings, and the earnings or savings of their spouse, partner, or family—to finance their doctoral studies has remained near 15% after several years of decline. In 2016, research assistantships and fellowships or grants were the most common primary sources of financial support during graduate school.<sup>3</sup>

**3** Over the past 20 years, the median length of time to earn a research doctorate has fallen in all fields of study, particularly in education. Despite these declines, earning a research doctorate still takes years longer in non-science and engineering (S&E) fields than it does in S&E fields.<sup>4</sup>



## WHY IS MY INSTITUTION'S PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?

A high response rate among institutions and graduates is essential to the statistical integrity of the data. High-quality data ensure that analyses and policy decisions are based on all research doctorate recipients. Further, participation in the SED ensures your institution’s doctorate recipients are represented in the Doctorate Records File, a data bank on U.S. doctorate recipients reaching back to 1920. In addition to contributing to an accurate and complete data resource, participation in the SED gains your institution access to an institution profile (containing summary information) and an institution dataset.

<sup>1</sup> National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. 2018. Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: 2016. Special Report NSF 18-304. Arlington, VA. Available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2018/nsf18304/>.

<sup>2</sup> (NSF/NCSES 2018, p. 3, fig. D).

<sup>3</sup> (NSF/NCSES 2018, p. 6; p. 7, fig. C).

<sup>4</sup> (NSF/NCSES 2018, p. 6; p. 7, fig. F).