



Council of Graduate Schools

Open Doors with a Doctorate

Higher education in the United States is arguably the best in the world, with doctoral education the “jewel in the crown,” attracting the best and the brightest domestic and international students. The doctorate recipients emerging from our graduate schools become the world’s leading researchers, experts, and innovators in the 21st century, working in universities, industrial enterprises, national governments, and many other areas around the world. If you would like to lead efforts to conduct cutting edge research, educate the next generation of students, explore new frontiers, discover new vaccines and cures, explore alternative energy sources, promote global civil and cultural interchange, or improve your community, then consider a doctoral degree. You will be at the forefront as we enrich the arts and literature, develop climate solutions, improve global communications and health care, document history, strengthen the global economy, and develop new technologies. It will be you – our doctorate recipients – who will lead us out of the “now” into a better future.

Doctoral students are typically funded through a combination of fellowships, tuition waivers, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, loans, and other sources of financial aid. Nearly two-thirds of all doctoral students in 2007-08 received financial

WITH A DOCTORATE YOU CAN:

- Do cutting edge research
- Become a professor
- Explore new frontiers – discover/invent/improve the “now”
- Advance the knowledge of your discipline
- Hone independent thinking
- Be intellectually stimulated and challenged
- Become a leader in your field
- Advance your career
- Enhance your problem-solving talents
- Maximize your earning power
- Grow professionally

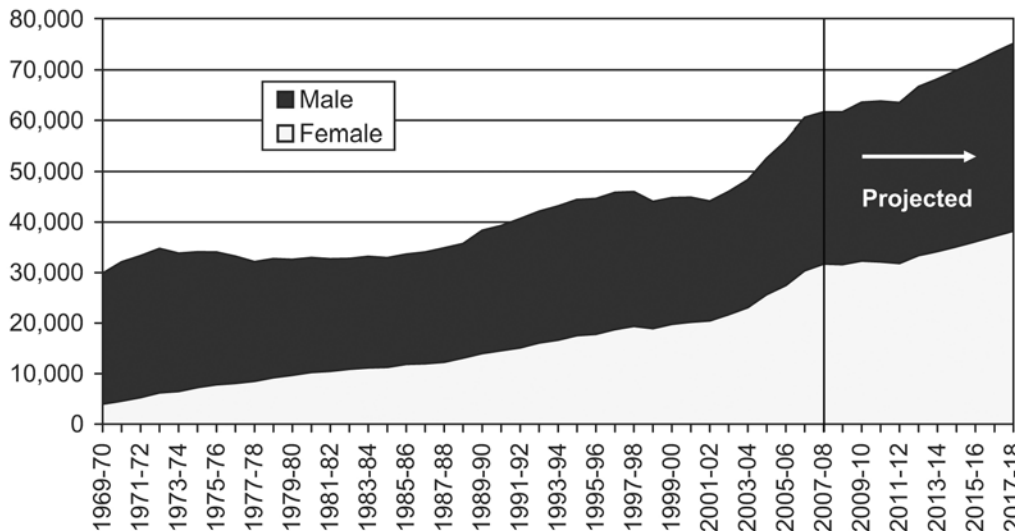
support from their university. Among those who received aid, the average amount was \$19,377.¹ See the “Additional Sources of Information” section at the end of this flyer for more information about sources of financial support.

The number of doctorates awarded in the United States more

than doubled between 1969-70 and 2006-07, increasing 103% from 29,866 to 60,616 (see chart), primarily because of the increasing numbers of women who earned doctorates. By 2017-18, a projected 75,000 doctorates will be awarded annually.²

Doctorates are key for future employment and career advancement. The number of occupations that typically require a doctorate will increase by nearly 22% between 2006 and 2016, more than twice the rate of growth expected for all occupations.³ Although occupations requiring

Doctorates Awarded in the United States by Gender, 1969-70 to 2017-18



Note: Excludes professional doctorates in fields such as medicine and law.
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, 2008

