

## HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE PROTECTED?

The confidentiality of any information provided as part of the SED is safeguarded under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the National Science Foundation 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. In addition, the processing facilities and computer equipment used to store or access data are designed and maintained to ensure confidentiality.

## WHY DOES THE SED NEED THE PARTIAL SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN)?

We use the last four digits of the SSN for two reasons:

- to identify duplicate records for doctorate recipients in historical SED data files; and
- to match SED data to information on federal funding support for graduate education.

We will safeguard your partial SSN with the utmost security, and it will not be used for any purpose other than those listed above.

## SURVEY SPONSORS



## HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You can complete the SED at:



<https://sed-ncses.org> 877-256-8167

## IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE 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  
5265 Capital Blvd.  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
877-256-8167  
[sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org)



# YOUR PARTICIPATION COUNTS



## WHAT IS THE SED?

The Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) is an annual census of individuals who were awarded a research doctorate from an accredited U.S. institution.

## WHY AM I BEING ASKED TO PARTICIPATE?

As a recipient of a research doctorate, your participation is essential to the federal agencies who sponsor this study to learn more about those who graduate with a research doctoral degree.

## WHO IS SPONSORING THE STUDY?

The study is being conducted on behalf of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics of the National Science Foundation; the National Institutes of Health; the U.S. Department of Education; and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

SED data are being collected under contract by RTI International,<sup>1</sup> a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina.

## HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE USED?

Your information will be combined with that of approximately 50,000 other research doctorate earners from your academic year. These combined data will be used by various entities (e.g., universities, federal and state agencies) to inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make labor force projections. Additionally, graduate deans may receive data on their own graduates, which they agree to use for statistical purposes only.

Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Only data aggregated to levels that will not allow the identification of individual respondents are released for publication.

## FOR EXAMPLE, RECENT SED RESULTS REVEALED:

- Women earned the majority of research doctorates awarded in education, psychology and social sciences, life sciences, and humanities and arts in 2016. Women earned just under one-third of the 2016 research doctorates awarded in physical and earth sciences and less than one-fourth of the research doctorates in engineering.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2016, about half of black or African American research doctorate recipients and more than 40% of Hispanic or Latino and American Indian or Alaska Native research doctorate recipients were from families in which neither parent had earned a bachelor's degree. Fewer than 30% of Asian and 25% of white research doctorate recipients came from families in which neither parent had been awarded a bachelor's degree.<sup>3</sup>
- Nearly 63% of 2016 research doctorate recipients in life sciences took postdoc positions after graduation, followed by 59% of research doctorate recipients in physical and earth sciences. In other fields, fewer than 40% of 2016 research doctorate recipients took postdoc positions.<sup>4</sup>
- Data from the survey are available on the NSF website and in annual reports published online (<http://nsf.gov/statistics/sed/>).



<sup>1</sup> RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

<sup>2</sup> National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. 2018. Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: 2016. Page 4; page 5, figure E. Special Report NSF 18-304. Arlington, VA. Available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2018/nsf18304/>.

<sup>3</sup> See (NSF/NCSSES 2018, p. 6; p. 7, fig. B).

<sup>4</sup> See (NSF/NCSSES 2018, p. 9, fig. D).