

Appendix A: Technical Documentation

The major data sources used for this report were obtained from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. Specifically, data from two surveys – which are part of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) – were downloaded and merged for each academic year between 2008 and 2017: (1) *Completions* and (2) *Institutional Characteristics*.

The IPEDS Completions Survey collects data on the number of postsecondary degrees awarded each year in the U.S. The data can be broken down further by academic field of study, with each field assigned a Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code. For this report, the data were filtered by master's and doctoral degrees awarded in the field of *psychology* (CIP = 42).

The Institutional Characteristics Survey collects information on academic institutions awarding these degrees, such as type of academic institution (i.e., private not-for-profit, private for-profit, public) and the state in which the academic institution is located.

Each academic year refers to the period between July 1 and June 30. For example, academic year 2017 includes degrees awarded between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. The academic years analyzed for this report ranged from 2008 (July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008) to 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017).

For each academic year (2008-2017) these two data sources were merged into one file to determine the number of psychology master's and doctoral degrees awarded by year, psychology broad fields (as defined in this report), subfields, and institutional characteristics.

Definitions of terms and the variable taxonomy used in this report are documented below. They were retrieved from both the data dictionaries that accompanied the downloaded data for each year¹ and the IPEDS glossary.²

¹ To retrieve IPEDS data dictionaries, go to <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/DataFiles.aspx>, select "Complete Data Files," and choose the year and survey of interest.

² IPEDS glossary: <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary>.

Completions Survey

CIP CODES

For this report, only degrees awarded in psychology were analyzed. Every degree awarded in psychology is assigned a CIP code of 42, followed by a 4-digit code, which distinguishes one psychology subfield from another. For instance, a degree awarded in clinical psychology is assigned a CIP code of 42.2801. In 2017, there were 27 subfields of psychology reported in the IPEDS database.

CIP Code	Psychology Subfield	Broad Field
42.0101	Psychology, General	Research
42.2701	Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics	Research
42.2702	Comparative Psychology	Research
42.2703	Developmental and Child Psychology	Research
42.2704	Experimental Psychology	Research
42.2705	Personality Psychology	Research
42.2706	Physiological Psychology/Psychobiology	Research
42.2707	Social Psychology	Research
42.2708	Psychometrics and Quantitative Psychology	Research
42.2709	Psychopharmacology	Research
42.2799	Research and Experimental Psychology, Other	Research
42.2801	Clinical Psychology	Health Service Psychology
42.2802	Community Psychology	Research
42.2803	Counseling Psychology	Health Service Psychology
42.2804	Industrial and Organizational Psychology	Research
42.2805	School Psychology	Health Service Psychology
42.2806	Educational Psychology	Research
42.2807	Clinical Child Psychology	Health Service Psychology
42.2808	Environmental Psychology	Research
42.2809	Geropsychology	Health Service Psychology
42.2810	Health/Medical Psychology	Health Service Psychology
42.2811	Family Psychology	Health Service Psychology
42.2812	Forensic Psychology	Health Service Psychology
42.2813	Applied Psychology	Research
42.2814	Applied Behavior Analysis	Health Service Psychology
42.2899	Clinical, Counseling and Applied Psychology, Other	Health Service Psychology
42.9999	Psychology, Other	Research

Classification of Broad Field

For the purpose of this report, subfields in psychology were sorted and recoded into two broad fields: either *health service psychology* (HSP) or *research*. This variable is not found in the IPEDS database, but is a distinction made by the American Psychological Association. Subfields in HSP and research broad fields can also be found in [Table 3](#) of the 2017 American Psychological Association Member Profiles.³

³ American Psychological Association (2017). APA Member Profiles. Washington, DC: Author

AWLEVEL

AWLEVEL refers to the level of the degree granted for any particular academic year. IPEDS distinguishes between 11 different types of award levels:

AWLEVEL	Award Level Code
1	Award of less than 1 academic year
2	Award of at least 1 but less than 2 academic years
3	Associate's degree
4	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
5	Bachelor's degree
6	Postbaccalaureate certificate
7	Master's degree
8	Post-master's certificate
17	Doctor's degree – research/scholarship
18	Doctor's degree – professional practice
19	Doctor's degree – other

For this report, psychology master's (AWLEVEL=7) and doctoral degrees (AWLEVEL=17, 18, 19) were analyzed exclusively.

Classification of Doctoral Degrees (AWLEVEL = 17, 18, 19)

Prior to 2008, all doctorates awarded in psychology were classified as “Doctor’s Degrees” (AWLEVEL=9). No distinction was made between research degrees versus professional practice degrees. Beginning in 2008, IPEDS began to divide doctorates further into three distinct categories: *research/scholarship*, *professional practice*, and *other*. IPEDS defines a research/scholarship doctor’s degree as a “PhD or other doctor’s degree that requires advanced work beyond the master’s level, including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial artistic or scholarly achievement.” A professional practice doctor’s degree includes degrees that are “...conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice.”⁴

Between 2008 and 2009, there was a transition period where institutions were allowed to choose between reporting doctorate degrees using the old degree classification (i.e., Doctor’s degree) or the new degree classification (i.e., research/scholarship, professional practice, and other). Beginning in 2010, all institutions were required to use the new degree classification system. Table 1 shows the number of psychology doctorates awarded from 2008-2017 by degree classification.

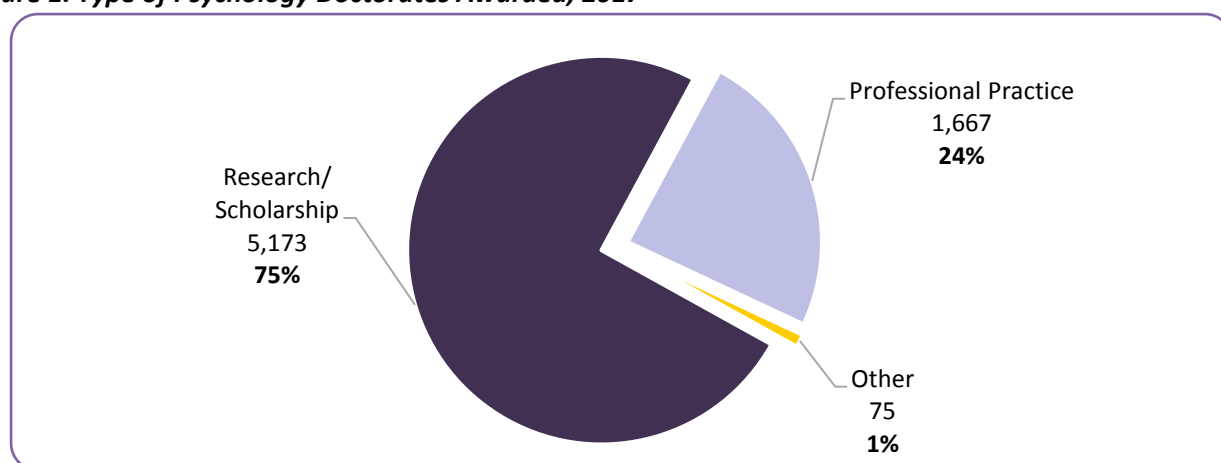
⁴ Knapp, L.G., Kelly-Reid, J.E., and Ginder, S.A. (2010). *Postsecondary Institutions and Price of Attendance in the United States: Fall 2009, Degrees and Other Awards Conferred: 2008–09, and 12-Month Enrollment: 2008–09*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

Table 1. Psychology Doctorates Awarded by Degree Classification and Year

	Old Degree Classification- Doctor's Degree		New Degree Classification – Doctor's Degree:					
			Research/Scholarship		Professional Practice		Other	
Year	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2008	4516	81.8%	791	14.3%	162	2.9%	55	1.0%
2009	2918	51.2%	1844	32.4%	883	15.5%	52	0.9%
2010	NA	NA	4362	76.3%	1312	22.9%	45	0.8%
2011	NA	NA	4635	76.9%	1313	21.8%	79	1.3%
2012	NA	NA	4594	75.2%	1439	23.5%	80	1.3%
2013	NA	NA	5013	77.1%	1406	21.6%	80	1.2%
2014	NA	NA	5281	77.5%	1440	21.1%	94	1.4%
2015	NA	NA	5228	77.0%	1515	22.3%	51	0.8%
2016	NA	NA	5189	76.5%	1530	22.5%	66	1.0%
2017	NA	NA	5173	74.8%	1667	24.1%	75	1.1%

Figure 1 illustrates that in 2017, 6,915 doctorates in psychology were awarded by U.S. academic institutions. The majority of these doctorates fell within the research/scholarship category (75%), followed by professional practice (24%) and other types (1%).

Figure 1. Type of Psychology Doctorates Awarded, 2017



Doctoral degrees in psychology include the PhD or PsyD (Doctor of Psychology). These degrees differ in history, emphasis, and logistics. Traditionally, the PhD places greater emphasis on research, while the PsyD focuses more on practice. As such, institutions participating in the IPEDS Completions Survey should report PhDs as research/scholarship doctorates, while PsyDs should be identified as professional Practice doctorates. However, institutions do not always report their PsyDs as Professional Practice, instead reporting the degree in the Research/Scholarship category.⁵ Because a one-to-one correspondence cannot be made between PsyD and professional practice or between PhD and research/scholarship, this report collapsed across doctoral degree classifications and discusses the classifications in aggregate.

⁵ There are examples within the IPEDS database of where academic institutions known to award the PsyD exclusively that identify their doctoral degree as research/scholarship.

Institutional Characteristics

CONTROL

This variable refers to the type of institution or institutional “control.” IPEDS classifies academic institutions as one of three types:

1. *Public* – An educational institution whose programs and activities are operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and which is supported by public funds.
2. *Private not-for-profit* – A private institution in which the individual(s) or agency in control receives no compensation, other than wages, rent, or other expenses for the assumption of risk. These include both independent not-for-profit schools and those affiliated with a religious organization.
3. *Private for-profit* – A private institution in which the individual(s) or agency in control receives compensation other than wages, rent, or other expenses for the assumption of risk.