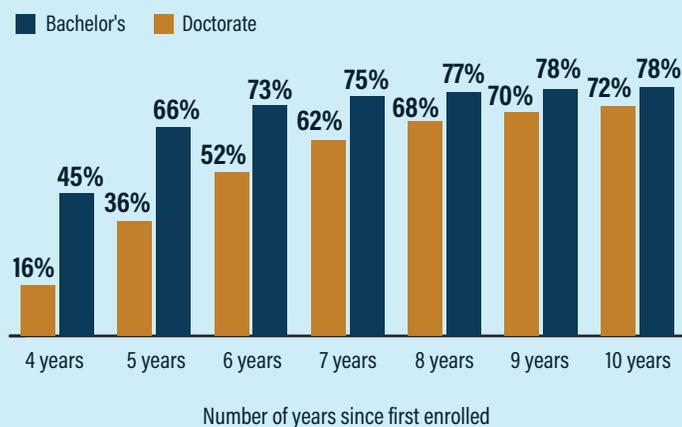


# The doctoral degree experience in Canada:

## THE ROAD TO GRADUATION

The graduation rate of doctoral students rises continuously for up to 10 years after they first enrol, while for bachelor's degree students it levels off sooner.

Cumulative percentage of graduates, by degree



### Percentage of students who graduated within 10 years after first enrolling



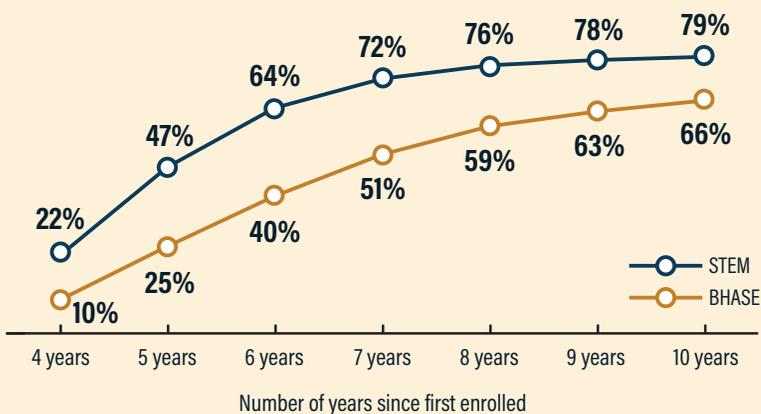
### Extended breaks were associated with a lower graduation rate

Overall, close to **one-fifth (18.7%)** of doctoral graduates<sup>1</sup> took at least one year off during their studies. The longer the break, the lower the graduation rate.

Of those who did not take a break, just over **two-thirds (66.9%)** earned their doctorate in six years or less.

### Doctoral students in STEM are more likely to graduate sooner and at a higher rate than BHASE students

Cumulative percentage of doctoral graduates, by type of program and number of years since first enrolled



**STEM** includes fields of study in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and computer and information sciences.



**BHASE** includes fields of study in business, humanities, health, arts, social science, and education, as well as legal studies, trades, services, natural resources and conservation.

**Note:** This infographic examines entry cohorts in the 2011/2012 academic year enrolled in doctoral programs at public postsecondary educational institutions in Canada. Graduation is determined through enrolment status as of September of the following school year. For more information on the methodology, please consult the technical reference guide *Persistence and graduation indicators of postsecondary students, 2011/2012 to 2022/2023* (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/37-20-0001/372000012024003-eng.htm>).

1. Among individuals who graduated within 10 years after first enrolling.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Student Information System, 2009/2010 to 2021/2022.

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