

Episode 55: Five New PhD Programs for 2026

Welcome to Grad-post! Despite the recent cuts to [research funding](#), [suspended admissions to doctoral programs](#), and [flight of PhDs from the federal workforce](#), there are new PhD programs being launched in 2026 that are worthy of note. Here are just five.

1. [Northwestern is offering a new track in computational biology](#) under its graduate program in life sciences. According to their website, this additional doctoral program strengthens Northwestern's offerings in interdisciplinary life sciences.
2. Not so much a new PhD program as a repackaging of existing programs, [the combined PhD program in Computer Science at New York University](#) will be offered through the new Courant Institute School of Mathematics, Computing, and Data Science.
3. The new [Biophysics track at Northeastern University](#) is a new emphasis area in the novel [Connected Science Community PhD program](#) which trains doctoral students in a cross-disciplinary scientific environment.
4. At Boston University, a new [PhD in Community Health Sciences](#) will emphasize social justice and community engagement to help foster community wellbeing.
5. Not every new program is in the sciences. The new [doctoral program in African American and African Diaspora Studies at Columbia University](#) is a new interdisciplinary program representing the first of its kind in New York City.

Although applications for Fall, 2026 admissions are mostly closed, keep these programs in mind if you are looking to apply to graduate school this fall!

Visit my website at grad-post.com for more information on applying to grad school, and remember, every degree counts!

Links

<https://www.nature.com/immersive/d41586-026-00088-9/index.html>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelnietzel/2026/01/29/hard-times-have-come-for-the-phd-degree/>

<https://www.science.org/content/article/u-s-government-has-lost-more-10-000-stem-ph-d-s-trump-took-office>

<https://sais.jhu.edu/academics/degree-programs/doctoral-programs/doctor-philosophy-phd>

<https://chicagomaroon.com/48307/news/uchicago-to-cut-some-ph-d-masters-admissions-for-2026-27/>

<https://www.bu.edu/cas/admissions/phd-mfa/apply/>

<https://news.feinberg.northwestern.edu/2026/02/05/new-computational-biology-track-added-to-phd-graduate-program/>

<https://cs.nyu.edu/dynamic/phd/index/>

<https://www.bu.edu/sph/news/articles/2025/sph-debuts-new-phd-in-community-health-sciences/>

<https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/news/columbia-university-launches-groundbreaking-phd-program-african-american-and-african-diaspora>