



APPENDIX TABLE 3-10 

Postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1975–2015

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment and plan	All fields	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Education	Humanities	Other ^b
All definite commitments (number)									
1975	22,925	3,713	2,564	755	4,458	2,050	5,286	2,937	1,162
1985	20,951	4,043	2,476	689	3,818	1,983	4,665	2,057	1,220
1995	24,977	5,141	2,686	1,275	4,095	3,068	4,374	2,749	1,589
2000	26,868	5,797	2,736	1,337	4,692	3,374	4,355	3,107	1,470
2005	27,416	5,999	2,863	1,565	4,649	3,732	4,049	2,979	1,580
2010	29,841	6,908	3,314	2,102	5,077	4,551	3,357	2,748	1,784
2015	30,393	6,679	3,271	2,376	5,408	5,168	2,920	2,723	1,848
Reported type of plan (number)									
1975	22,709	3,686	2,550	749	4,419	2,040	5,230	2,882	1,153
1985	20,867	4,037	2,469	686	3,801	1,977	4,639	2,044	1,214
1995	24,821	5,126	2,677	1,265	4,063	3,060	4,328	2,721	1,581
2000	26,744	5,765	2,724	1,332	4,676	3,358	4,329	3,096	1,464
2005	27,086	5,906	2,847	1,556	4,594	3,702	3,978	2,943	1,560
2010	28,995	6,768	3,268	2,063	4,900	4,445	3,213	2,644	1,694
2015	27,787	6,154	3,092	2,207	4,949	4,758	2,612	2,402	1,613



Definite commitment and plan	All fields	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Education	Humanities	Other ^b
Employment (percent ^c)									
1975	83.0	53.0	52.6	89	91.4	88.6	98.1	96.3	98.4
1985	77.7	44.8	51.8	85	85.4	85.1	96.9	94.8	97.6
1995	70.3	35.6	35.2	76	78.7	75.1	96.1	93.0	96.5
2000	71.4	39.8	44.0	77	76.2	78.9	95.2	91.9	95.4
2005	64.5	33.1	33.3	65	70.7	67.2	93.8	88.9	94.4
2010	57.1	30.0	26.9	58	65.6	54.9	93.2	84.7	92.1
2015	60.3	36.7	35.7	66	62.5	64.4	91.2	79.9	91.1
Postdoctoral study (percent ^c)									
1975	17.0	47.0	47.4	11	8.6	11.4	1.9	3.7	1.6
1985	22.3	55.2	48.2	15	14.6	14.9	3.1	5.2	2.4
1995	29.7	64.4	64.8	24	21.3	24.9	3.9	7.0	3.5
2000	28.6	60.2	56.0	23	23.8	21.1	4.8	8.1	4.6
2005	35.5	66.9	66.7	35	29.3	32.8	6.2	11.1	5.6
2010	42.9	70.0	73.1	42	34.4	45.1	6.8	15.3	7.9
2015	39.7	63.3	64.3	34	37.5	35.6	8.8	20.1	8.9

^a Life sciences includes agricultural sciences and natural resources, biological and biomedical sciences, and health sciences.

^b Non-S&E fields are not shown separately.



^c Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation commitments with response to type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study).

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, 2015 Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), special tabulation (December 2016).

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