

Table 44. Postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1996–2016

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 and arts	Other^b
All definite commitments (number)									
1996	26,077	5,435	2,841	1,240	4,235	3,655	4,484	2,711	1,476
2001	27,052	5,630	2,873	1,259	4,702	3,643	4,215	3,283	1,447
2006	30,106	6,474	3,152	1,929	4,902	4,353	4,226	3,273	1,797
2011	29,295	6,684	3,379	2,095	5,077	4,693	2,893	2,754	1,720
2016	30,771	6,944	3,566	2,419	5,464	5,018	2,990	2,576	1,794
Reported type of plan									
1996	26,031	5,427	2,837	1,238	4,226	3,649	4,477	2,705	1,472
2001	26,906	5,612	2,866	1,255	4,677	3,629	4,183	3,246	1,438
2006	29,501	6,334	3,118	1,902	4,809	4,292	4,107	3,183	1,756
2011	27,744	6,367	3,272	2,007	4,796	4,441	2,721	2,554	1,586
2016	29,300	6,660	3,466	2,330	5,175	4,846	2,787	2,386	1,650
Employment (%) ^c									
1996	70.5	35.2	39.8	73.7	78.1	77.6	97.2	92.8	96.4
2001	71.0	39.1	47.6	73.0	73.9	81.1	94.1	90.4	94.1
2006	66.1	35.5	35.7	68.5	71.1	70.4	95.1	89.4	94.1
2011	57.3	30.7	30.9	58.9	63.1	59.0	92.1	83.2	92.1
2016	61.2	38.3	38.9	68.1	63.1	66.6	92.1	78.4	92.1
Postdoctoral study (%) ^c									
1996	29.5	64.8	60.2	26.3	21.9	22.4	2.8	7.2	3.6
2001	29.0	60.9	52.4	27.0	26.1	18.9	5.9	9.6	5.9
2006	33.9	64.5	64.3	31.5	28.9	29.6	4.9	10.6	5.9
2011	42.7	69.3	69.1	41.1	36.9	41.0	7.9	16.8	7.9
2016	38.8	61.7	61.1	31.9	36.9	33.4	7.9	21.6	7.9

^a Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.

^b Non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

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

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.