

TABLE 42

Postgraduation commitment of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1997–2017

(Number and percent)

| Commitment status and year | 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 doctorate recipients (number) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 42,539 | 8,421 | 4,550 | 2,032 | 7,369 | 6,114 | 6,577 | 5,285 | 2,191 |
| 2002 | 40,031 | 8,478 | 3,875 | 1,729 | 6,925 | 5,081 | 6,508 | 5,297 | 2,138 |
| 2007 | 48,132 | 10,702 | 4,956 | 3,042 | 7,309 | 7,749 | 6,448 | 5,085 | 2,841 |
| 2012 | 50,944 | 11,964 | 5,419 | 3,496 | 8,498 | 8,469 | 4,803 | 5,561 | 2,734 |
| 2017 | 54,664 | 12,592 | 6,081 | 3,843 | 9,079 | 9,843 | 4,823 | 5,290 | 3,113 |
| All responses to postgraduation commitment | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 37,872 | 7,631 | 4,109 | 1,815 | 6,411 | 5,576 | 5,701 | 4,706 | 1,923 |
| 2002 | 36,058 | 7,746 | 3,567 | 1,600 | 6,227 | 4,632 | 5,552 | 4,860 | 1,874 |
| 2007 | 43,369 | 9,832 | 4,525 | 2,766 | 6,499 | 6,966 | 5,788 | 4,543 | 2,450 |
| 2012 | 46,544 | 11,156 | 5,015 | 3,152 | 7,603 | 7,726 | 4,415 | 5,072 | 2,405 |
| 2017 | 49,598 | 11,687 | 5,655 | 3,492 | 8,041 | 8,953 | 4,332 | 4,760 | 2,678 |
| Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) ^c | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 67.4 | 71.1 | 69.8 | 68.9 | 64.2 | 65.3 | 72.9 | 56.7 | 73.5 |
| 2002 | 72.5 | 73.6 | 76.1 | 76.1 | 72.2 | 69.6 | 75.1 | 64.9 | 78.3 |
| 2007 | 68.7 | 66.4 | 71.9 | 73.0 | 72.5 | 64.7 | 71.6 | 62.8 | 73.4 |
| 2012 | 65.9 | 62.8 | 66.9 | 70.2 | 70.1 | 64.0 | 69.3 | 58.5 | 73.7 |
| 2017 | 66.6 | 64.5 | 65.6 | 72.6 | 72.2 | 64.0 | 69.4 | 57.1 | 74.0 |
| No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) ^{c,d} | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 32.6 | 28.9 | 30.2 | 31.1 | 35.8 | 34.7 | 27.1 | 43.3 | 26.5 |
| 2002 | 27.5 | 26.4 | 23.9 | 23.9 | 27.8 | 30.4 | 24.9 | 35.1 | 21.7 |
| 2007 | 31.3 | 33.6 | 28.1 | 27.0 | 27.5 | 35.3 | 28.4 | 37.2 | 26.6 |
| 2012 | 34.1 | 37.2 | 33.1 | 29.8 | 29.9 | 36.0 | 30.7 | 41.5 | 26.3 |
| 2017 | 33.4 | 35.5 | 34.4 | 27.4 | 27.8 | 36.0 | 30.6 | 42.9 | 26.0 |

^a Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.^b Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.^c Percentages based on number responding to the survey item on postgraduation commitment.^d Includes respondents who indicated "other" in all years, respondents who indicated "do not plan to work or study" in 2004 and later years, and respondents who indicated definite plans for "other full-time degree program" in 2007 and later years.**Source(s)**

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