

TABLE 44

Postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1997–2017

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment, plan, 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 definite commitments (number)									
1997	25,541	5,424	2,867	1,251	4,119	3,643	4,156	2,668	1,413
2002	26,144	5,704	2,716	1,217	4,495	3,222	4,167	3,156	1,467
2007	29,812	6,524	3,253	2,018	4,713	4,505	4,147	2,854	1,798
2012	30,656	7,011	3,357	2,212	5,333	4,945	3,058	2,968	1,772
2017	33,023	7,541	3,707	2,536	5,804	5,729	3,005	2,719	1,982
Reported type of plan									
1997	24,987	5,329	2,843	1,229	4,033	3,596	4,001	2,583	1,373
2002	26,037	5,691	2,709	1,212	4,478	3,213	4,144	3,140	1,450
2007	29,399	6,456	3,224	2,001	4,629	4,443	4,068	2,811	1,767
2012	28,749	6,638	3,249	2,101	4,978	4,667	2,800	2,734	1,582
2017	32,239	7,401	3,672	2,488	5,670	5,603	2,863	2,624	1,918
Employment (%) ^c									
1997	71.6	39.0	43.0	76.9	79.0	79.4	96.3	93.5	97.0
2002	69.5	40.5	42.6	67.6	74.0	75.2	94.4	90.0	93.8
2007	63.8	34.5	33.3	68.4	67.4	68.3	94.1	88.0	92.5
2012	59.8	34.0	31.8	64.3	63.1	65.2	92.6	84.4	93.1
2017	60.9	40.5	40.8	68.9	61.3	62.6	91.5	79.0	91.2
Postdoctoral study (%) ^c									
1997	28.4	61.0	57.0	23.1	21.0	20.6	3.7	6.5	3.0
2002	30.5	59.5	57.4	32.4	26.0	24.8	5.6	10.0	6.2
2007	36.2	65.5	66.7	31.6	32.6	31.7	5.9	12.0	7.5
2012	40.2	66.0	68.2	35.7	36.9	34.8	7.4	15.6	6.9
2017	39.1	59.5	59.2	31.1	38.7	37.4	8.5	21.0	8.8

^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 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, Survey of Earned Doctorates.