

TABLE 52

Definite postgraduation commitments of doctorate recipients, by sex and major field of study: 2017

(Number)

Sex and major field of study	All recipients	Recipients with definite commitments	Location of definite commitments						
			United States					Abroad	Unknown
			Total	Postdoctoral study	Academic employment	Industry employment ^a	Other ^b		
All doctorate recipients ^c	54,664	32,239	29,155	11,412	8,237	6,160	3,346	3,076	8
Life sciences	12,592	7,401	6,868	4,177	1,092	1,011	588	533	0
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	1,606	872	743	350	154	149	90	129	0
Biological and biomedical sciences	8,477	4,997	4,705	3,362	433	676	234	292	0
Health sciences	2,509	1,532	1,420	465	505	186	264	112	0
Physical sciences and earth sciences	6,081	3,672	3,270	1,866	331	873	200	400	2
Chemistry	2,697	1,554	1,443	777	153	461	52	110	1
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	1,165	736	638	384	79	86	89	97	1
Physics and astronomy	2,219	1,382	1,189	705	99	326	59	193	0
Mathematics and computer sciences	3,843	2,488	2,214	631	491	958	134	273	1
Computer and information sciences	1,987	1,321	1,202	226	256	642	78	118	1
Mathematics and statistics	1,856	1,167	1,012	405	235	316	56	155	0
Psychology and social sciences	9,079	5,670	5,040	2,032	1,720	590	698	629	1
Psychology	3,960	2,561	2,478	1,463	491	249	275	83	0
Anthropology	455	234	194	84	73	13	24	40	0
Economics	1,237	910	657	91	274	187	105	252	1
Political science and government	752	476	408	116	216	25	51	68	0
Sociology	689	417	371	91	215	20	45	46	0
Other social sciences	1,986	1,072	932	187	451	96	198	140	0
Engineering	9,843	5,603	5,059	1,897	426	2,326	410	542	2
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	378	225	211	58	16	82	55	14	0
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	1,041	554	499	302	35	143	19	55	0
Chemical engineering	936	523	486	222	18	228	18	37	0
Civil engineering	741	416	361	146	49	139	27	55	0
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	1,900	1,161	1,047	288	57	624	78	112	2
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	253	127	106	18	36	39	13	21	0
Materials science engineering	958	515	476	220	19	214	23	39	0
Mechanical engineering	1,409	766	702	256	69	321	56	64	0
Other engineering	2,227	1,316	1,171	387	127	536	121	145	0
Education	4,823	2,863	2,684	225	1,487	134	838	179	0

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			Total	Postdoctoral study	Academic employment	Industry employment ^a	Other ^b		
Education administration	1,023	588	567	18	274	23	252	21	0
Education research	2,405	1,444	1,350	140	761	81	368	94	0
Teacher education	112	74	D	0	40	D	27	D	0
Teaching fields	908	552	501	42	321	13	125	51	0
Other education	375	205	D	25	91	D	66	D	0
Humanities and arts	5,290	2,624	2,334	439	1,462	104	329	289	1
Foreign languages and literature	624	317	284	44	210	6	24	33	0
History	1,066	554	472	122	252	11	87	82	0
Letters	1,465	775	719	123	503	38	55	55	1
Other humanities and arts	2,135	978	859	150	497	49	163	119	0
Other ^d	3,113	1,918	1,686	145	1,228	164	149	231	1
Business management and administration	1,522	1,043	893	31	713	99	50	149	1
Communication	626	359	332	41	258	21	12	27	0
Non-S&E fields nec	965	516	461	73	257	44	87	55	0
Male	29,146	17,694	15,719	6,271	3,667	4,228	1,553	1,969	6
Life sciences	5,629	3,415	3,151	2,040	413	496	202	264	0
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	809	470	401	193	66	96	46	69	0
Biological and biomedical sciences	4,014	2,448	2,300	1,657	206	335	102	148	0
Health sciences	806	497	450	190	141	65	54	47	0
Physical sciences and earth sciences	4,068	2,527	2,250	1,323	202	600	125	277	0
Chemistry	1,669	988	918	536	82	273	27	70	0
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	645	426	375	228	45	51	51	51	0
Physics and astronomy	1,754	1,113	957	559	75	276	47	156	0
Mathematics and computer sciences	2,866	1,920	1,710	485	342	788	95	209	1
Computer and information sciences	1,540	1,067	971	172	187	554	58	95	1
Mathematics and statistics	1,326	853	739	313	155	234	37	114	0
Psychology and social sciences	3,693	2,346	1,955	647	737	291	280	390	1
Psychology	1,135	727	697	367	162	89	79	30	0
Anthropology	158	76	59	27	D	D	7	17	0
Economics	812	621	426	64	175	123	64	194	1
Political science and government	454	283	240	67	D	D	28	43	0
Sociology	267	170	142	43	75	6	18	28	0
Other social sciences	867	469	391	79	177	51	84	78	0
Engineering	7,389	4,362	3,926	1,461	284	1,855	326	434	2

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			Total	Postdoctoral study	Academic employment	Industry employment ^a	Other ^b		
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	334	201	D	D	D	71	50	D	0
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	612	342	310	186	16	98	10	32	0
Chemical engineering	663	380	352	175	11	153	13	28	0
Civil engineering	520	299	D	111	D	96	16	D	0
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	1,541	975	873	239	43	527	64	100	2
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	169	90	D	D	21	28	10	D	0
Materials science engineering	706	391	366	170	11	165	20	25	0
Mechanical engineering	1,168	659	601	216	57	278	50	58	0
Other engineering	1,676	1,025	913	298	83	439	93	112	0
Education	1,521	922	824	58	448	44	274	98	0
Education administration	372	224	212	5	88	11	108	12	0
Education research	768	455	395	33	236	25	101	60	0
Teacher education	22	11	11	0	8	D	D	0	0
Teaching fields	256	167	146	11	92	D	D	21	0
Other education	103	65	60	9	24	D	D	5	0
Humanities and arts	2,581	1,274	1,109	200	664	62	183	164	1
Foreign languages and literature	239	118	107	15	79	D	D	11	0
History	596	309	254	63	128	D	D	55	0
Letters	591	314	287	52	193	23	19	26	1
Other humanities and arts	1,155	533	461	70	264	29	98	72	0
Other ^d	1,399	928	794	57	577	92	68	133	1
Business management and administration	846	617	518	20	406	63	29	98	1
Communication	198	122	113	13	86	10	4	9	0
Non-S&E fields nec	355	189	163	24	85	19	35	26	0
Female	25,495	14,544	13,436	5,141	4,570	1,932	1,793	1,106	2
Life sciences	6,958	3,986	3,717	2,137	679	515	386	269	0
Agricultural sciences and natural resources	795	402	342	157	88	53	44	60	0
Biological and biomedical sciences	4,461	2,549	2,405	1,705	227	341	132	144	0
Health sciences	1,702	1,035	970	275	364	121	210	65	0
Physical sciences and earth sciences	2,011	1,144	1,020	543	129	273	75	122	2
Chemistry	1,026	565	525	241	71	188	25	39	1

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			Total	Postdoctoral study	Academic employment	Industry employment ^a	Other ^b		
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	520	310	263	156	34	35	38	46	1
Physics and astronomy	465	269	232	146	24	50	12	37	0
Mathematics and computer sciences	976	568	504	146	149	170	39	64	0
Computer and information sciences	447	254	231	54	69	88	20	23	0
Mathematics and statistics	529	314	273	92	80	82	19	41	0
Psychology and social sciences	5,381	3,324	3,085	1,385	983	299	418	239	0
Psychology	2,824	1,834	1,781	1,096	329	160	196	53	0
Anthropology	297	158	135	57	D	D	17	23	0
Economics	423	289	231	27	99	64	41	58	0
Political science and government	298	193	168	49	D	D	23	25	0
Sociology	421	247	229	48	140	14	27	18	0
Other social sciences	1,118	603	541	108	274	45	114	62	0
Engineering	2,448	1,241	1,133	436	142	471	84	108	0
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	44	24	D	D	D	11	5	D	0
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	429	212	189	116	19	45	9	23	0
Chemical engineering	272	143	134	47	7	75	5	9	0
Civil engineering	219	117	D	35	D	43	11	D	0
Electrical, electronics, and communications engineering	359	186	174	49	14	97	14	12	0
Industrial and manufacturing engineering	83	37	D	D	15	11	3	D	0
Materials science engineering	252	124	110	50	8	49	3	14	0
Mechanical engineering	241	107	101	40	12	43	6	6	0
Other engineering	549	291	258	89	44	97	28	33	0
Education	3,300	1,941	1,860	167	1,039	90	564	81	0
Education administration	651	364	355	13	186	12	144	9	0
Education research	1,636	989	955	107	525	56	267	34	0
Teacher education	89	63	D	0	32	D	D	D	0
Teaching fields	652	385	355	31	229	D	D	30	0
Other education	272	140	D	16	67	10	D	D	0
Humanities and arts	2,708	1,350	1,225	239	798	42	146	125	0

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			Total	Postdoctoral study	Academic employment	Industry employment ^a	Other ^b		
Foreign languages and literature	385	199	177	29	131	D	D	22	0
History	470	245	218	59	124	D	D	27	0
Letters	874	461	432	71	310	15	36	29	0
Other humanities and arts	979	445	398	80	233	20	65	47	0
Other ^d	1,713	990	892	88	651	72	81	98	0
Business management and administration	675	426	375	11	307	36	21	51	0
Communication	428	237	219	28	172	11	8	18	0
Non-S&E fields nec	610	327	298	49	172	25	52	29	0

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

nec = not elsewhere classified; S&E = science and engineering.

^a Includes doctorate recipients who indicated self-employment.^b Includes doctorate recipients who indicated government, nonprofit, elementary or secondary school, or other employment and those with unknown employment.^c Includes respondents who did not report sex.^d Includes other non-S&E fields not shown separately.**Note(s)**

See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields. Definite postgraduate commitment includes doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation commitments for employment or postdoctoral study.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2017.